

Radar Picket Ships



YAGR'S Association

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YAGRGRAM #62 - Spring 2012

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REGISTRATION - As of February 13, the hotel reports 74 people have registered to attend the reunion in Lancaster. If you have not registered and plan to attend please register. The EARLIER you register HELPS with planning and deciding on logistics (number of buses, tour numbers, etc.). Even if you are doubtful about attending, go ahead and register. You can always cancel if circumstances arise that prevent you from attending.

Host hotel is: Double Tree by Hilton, 2400 Willow Street Pike, Lancaster, PA 1702
Call 1-717-464-2711 for reservations. As always, make sure you tell them you are with the YAGRS military group to get the group rate. The rate is \$99.00 a night (plus 11%

room tax) for a single or double room. The rate is good for 5 days prior and 5 days post reunion dates. The hotel has blocked off 100 rooms for our group. They have a website (doubletree1.hilton.com/lancasterpa) which you can check to see what the hotel rooms, lobby, restaurant, etc. look like and what accommodations are available. If you have trouble booking let me know. Sorry, no pets.

A registration form and schedule of events can be found on the last page of this YAGRGRAM.

Dues Notice

Dues are \$17 per year. The current membership year runs from June 1, 2011 - May 31, 2012. The highlighted date above your name on the address label is the date your membership is currently paid to. Future YAGRGRAMS will be mailed only to current members. If your membership expires 5/31/12, your next dues payment will bring you to 5/31/2013. If your membership expired 5/31/2011 or before, your next dues payment will bring you to 5/31/2012.. You may pay for more than one year. Use the form below. Make checks payable to YAGR'S Association, and mail to Donald Baldwin, Treasurer, 4365 Angie Drive, Tucker GA 30084.

Name: _____ Ship: _____

amount enclosed: _____

Address: _____

phone: _____

Message from Lee Doyel, Chair

AIRPORT SHUTTLE TRANSPORTATION, LANCASTER PA REUNION

As you know there is no regular scheduled shuttles from Harrisburg airport to hotels in Lancaster. YAGRS has made arrangements with Schultz Transportation to provide shuttle service for the following times:

Wed: 10am, 2pm & 6pm (pickup airport to hotel)

Thur: 10am & 2pm (Pick up airport to hotel)

Sun: 9am (pick up hotel to airport)

The shuttles are yellow school buses and will be at the pickup area at the above times. It cannot wait for you to gather your luggage. You must be ready to board at the above times. As you see the schedule does not cover the "early days" for the reunion. At present it looks like the Association will be able to fund this. However it won't be known for sure until the men's business meeting. We may have to ask for donations to help offset some of the costs. I would encourage attendees to communicate with friends/acquaintances (via phone, facebook, twitter, etc.) and arrange to share rental cars, taxis, limos, etc. It would also be nice if those driving could volunteer to go over/stop by the airport and pickup attendees. If the above schedule does not meet your needs, A-AAA Alpine Taxi, 717-238-2020 charges \$60 for a one way trip to Lancaster. Harrisburg City Cabs Inc. charges \$80 for a one way trip to Lancaster. These also take reservations for the trip. There are other transportation companies (check the internet) but the fares are much higher. It takes approximately 45 minutes for the 40 mile trip between the airport and the hotel.

REFUND POLICY

The refund policy for YAGRS remains the same. If you pay for a reunion registration/tour and have to cancel a refund may be made if it doesn't cost the Association. To put it simply, "If YAGRS doesn't pay then you don't pay."

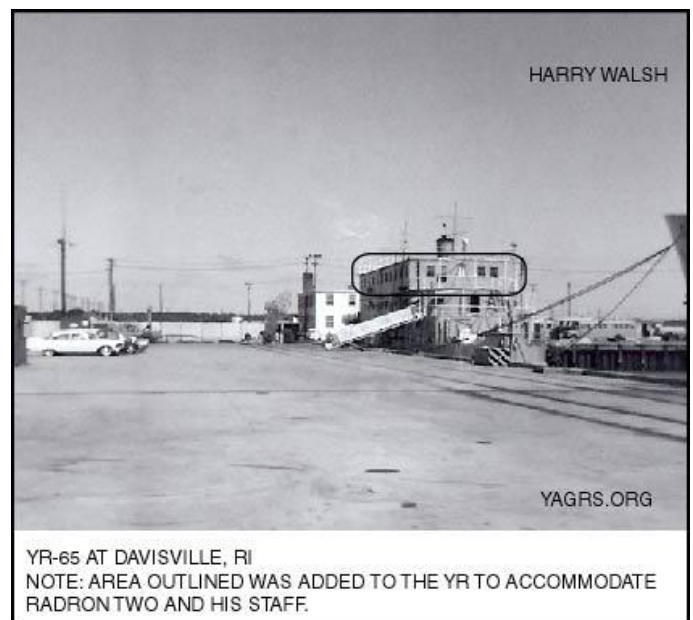
PAST NEWSLETTERS

I have copies of all past YAGARGRAMS published. If any one wants a past copy (or two) I will be glad to copy and mail it to you. Let me know the newsletter number or at least the year and time frame (fall, spring, summer, etc.) so I can locate it. If you want more then a couple of issues, it will be on a cost basis to include mailing.

REUNION LOCATIONS

Of the 17 reunions, which includes Lancaster, that we have held, 12 have been east of the Mississippi River and 5 west of the river and two of those were at the same place. Granted most of us live east of the Mississippi as is most of the country's population. It would be nice if we could have a few more west of the river. Possible cities include Salt Lake City, UT, Phoenix, AZ, Tucson, AZ, Denver, CO, Albuquerque, NM, Kansas City, MO, Seattle, WA, San Antonio, TX, Dallas, TX, Oklahoma, City, OK, Memphis, TN, Branson MO, etc. I know we have members that live in these cities and could host a reunion. Cities with casinos are not acceptable as they are not conducive to reunion camaraderie. The main requirements are full service hotels and being able to have liquor in the hospitality room.

Other possible locations: Cincinnati OH; Atlanta GA; Asheville NC; Orlando FL; New Orleans, LA.



Lee Doyel cont.

BUSINESS MEETING AGENDA ITEMS

REUNION CYCLE

I would like to return to a two year cycle of scheduling reunions. After this years experience it would make the effort a lot less hectic and easier to coordinate particularly since the responsibilities are divided among three of us.

SHIPS COORDINATOR

Early on at the start of the Association Harry tried to use email for distribution of the newsletter and promulgating Association information. However too many of us for various reasons, changed our email addresses like underwear. I would like to propose a modified version of this. I would like to have an individual from each ship that would voluntarily take it upon himself (or herself) to act as a funnel for information (besides the newsletter) regarding the association between reunions. Some ships may already have someone that does this. On my ship, USS Tracer (AGR-15), I act as a funnel/outlet for distributing information and items of interest to the ships e-mail list. This list has approximately 65 names and I purge it annually. Some attend reunions, some do not, some receive newsletters and some are paid members of YAGRS. When the reunion date and place is set I distribute it on the Tracer list. A number of recipients appreciate this particularly those that due to medical reasons cannot attend reunions. As a result several from my ship have over the years decided to attend reunions as a result of the information and urging to attend.

The way it would work would be that I would have the email address of the coordinators in a group address and would send information to the individual coordinator for further distribution to members of their individual ship. Ideally there would be 16 coordinators but I realize that may not end up being the case. The only duty of the coordinator would be to acquire and maintain email addresses from members of his ship and forward any Association information and activities. It could also be a means of feed back and suggestions relating to the Association activities.



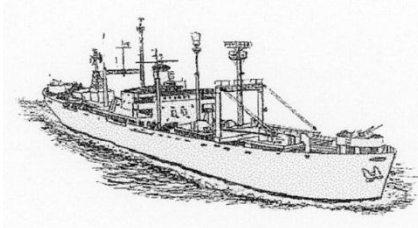
USS INTERDICTOR AGR-13



USS Investigator (AGR-9) at Davisville, RI

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Presently membership in YAGRS runs from 1 June to 1 June on an annual basis and as you know there is no reminder sent out to a member that he is overdue and has not paid. Payments by members vary from paying by the due date to several months after to completely forgetting /overlooking payment by some. This year we are including in the registration packet a dues reminder/payment form. What I would like for future consideration is to include the annual dues in with the reunion registration fee. That way all reunion attendees would automatically be paid for the next year and their membership card would be in the registration packet. The non attendees would (hopefully) pay as in the past. This would greatly simplify and reduce the work load for the Secretary and Treasurer and level out income for the Association. I realize some members pay for more than one year at a time and this would have to be taken into account and worked out. The expiration date on the address label would stay.



Sea Stories

From Mel Harder, RD3, USS Investigator AGR-9



This would have been in 1963 or 1964. We were on station. A bunch of us were hanging out at the fantail gun, enjoying the calm seas, nice weather and sunset. We could see the sail boat off in the distance. One of the officers from the bridge came down and told us it was the 295' Barque Eagle, U.S. Coast Guard training ship out of New London CT. I had a small camera on me so one of the guys cranked the gun around until the crosshairs were on the Eagle. I simply put the camera lens up to the gunsight and clicked. I don't know if the Barque Eagle has ever been put in the crosshairs before, but I bet this is the only photo.



left: archive photo of Barque Eagle

gunsite photo by Mel Harder

Pete Bowman, AGR-11 (USS Protector) 1960-1962, EM2

I served in the engineering group headed by Strafford Morse from 1960 –1962. After all these many years, there is an event that is important to me. I have read that there are about 10 things that occur in one's life that are significant enough to not only remember but that have an important impact. Lieutenant Morse was involved in one of my 10 and I wanted to share this with my fellow YAGR mates.

No it's not the time we sailed down to Key West to be the radar lookout during the Bay of Pigs (next sea story maybe). I had been on several picket cycles and the shipboard process was fairly routine. We sailed into our Davisville dock sometime during the day. I had drawn the midnight to 4 am watch. I was awakened and did my 4 hours. However, I did something that I had never done on all the watches. I had crawled down the ladder into the shaft alley many times and never found a thing wrong. So this night, I decided to skip that part of my watch duty. Apparently so did the people that had the 4 pm – 8 pm and the 8 pm to midnight. A very scared sailor sometime around 5 am awakened me. He told me the shaft alley was full of water. Apparently, the bearings had not been tightened after the ship made it into port. I got dressed and went to the forward shaft alley

Bowman cont.

door, opened it and found water almost to the top of the alley. For those sailors that don't know what a shaft alley is or how big it is, it is a very large compartment that runs from the exit point of the shaft to the prop and forward to the engine room. It also runs from the bottom of the ship to the lower deck (a tall height). I called for all the bilge pumps to be turned on and went out onto the dock. I saw that the ship was very low in the water. Actually it was extremely low, well below the line when the ship was full of supplies and fuel just before sailing. In the morning, I can't recall what actually happened. However, as the ranking member of the watch that night, I had to face Strafford and tell him what had happened. I assumed that I would be sent to Siberia or something worse. He crawled down into the shaft alley and surveyed the oil slick all over the walls and equipment. I recall that all he said to me was "make sure you get this mess completely cleaned up." That act of forgiveness and not throwing the book at my fellow watch people and me stuck with me all this time. I think I have "paid-it-forward numerous times." I have a related memory but can't be sure it is not just my imagination related to my own near-sinking experience. At some time when we were tied up at the dock in Davisville, a DE was docked across from us. In the morning, only some radio antennas were visible above water as it sank during the night. OY!



Bill Ivie, USS Vigil ARR-12

The SMQ Weather Receiver

The meteorologist on my ship launched a daily weather balloon to gather data used to forecast conditions. The balloon carried a transmitter which sent information back to the ship which was received by a SMQ radio receiver. As a Third Class Electronic Technician one of my duties was keeping the SMQ operating. I was working on the bench in the ET shop having just completed a repair on the SMQ when my division officer, the EMO, (Electronic Material Officer) opened the top portion of the dutch door to the shop and asked, "Did you get that SMQ up?" I answered, "Yes sir." He asked, "What was wrong with it?" He had very limited knowledge of electronics with a degree in "Animal Husbandry" and I was in a playful mood so I answered, "The fallopian tube was blocked." He responded, "Good man," closed the door and was gone. A short time later my chief came into the shop and asked, "What did you tell the EMO was wrong with that SMQ?" I sort of snickered and told him. He cracked up and said, "He went to the bridge and told the captain (who had a EE Degree) right in front of everyone, the helmsman, lookouts, and officer of the deck, and the captain restricted him to his stateroom for three days and told him to spend the time studying." The chief said, "I would steer clear of him when he gets off restriction if I were you. I was nervous, but when he had finished his time he came in the shop and never mentioned the incident. I guess we both learned from it.

YAGR'S 17th Annual Reunion - Lancaster PA

May 10 - May 12 2012

Return completed registration and check as soon as possible but no later than April 10, 2012 to Donald Baldwin, 4365 Angie Dr., Tucker GA 30084

Print exactly as you want your name to appear on your name tag

Name: _____

Spouse/Guest: _____

Ship: _____ Date on Board: _____ Rate: _____

Reunion Registration - Lancaster PA May 10 - May 12 2012					
	cost per person	X	# of people	=	total
dues paying member	\$98.00	X			\$
non-dues paying memers, spouses & guests	\$115.00	X			\$
Pre-Reunion Tours					
Tuesday, May 8 - Sight & Sound Millennium Theater & Hershey Resturant					
Name of People on Tour					total
	\$89.00				\$
	\$89.00				\$
	\$89.00				\$
Wednesday, May 9 - City Tour & Strasburg Railroad Train Ride					
Name of People on Tour					total
	\$50.00				\$
	\$50.00				\$
	\$50.00				\$
Total Amount Due					\$

Reunion Shirts					total
\$18.00 each	small	medium	large	X-large	
# of each x \$18	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
\$20.00 each				XX-large	
# of each x \$20				\$	\$
total for all shirts					\$

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The reunion format will be the same as past reunions. We will have pre-reunion tours on Tuesday, May 8th and Wednesday, May 9th. On Thursday, May 10, we will open the hospitality room at noon. On Friday, May 11, we will go on our group tour with the hospitality room opening on our return. On Saturday, May 12, the men's business meeting and spouses/guests breakfast buffet & raffle will be held in the morning. The hospitality room will open afterwards and the banquet will be Saturday evening. Sunday, May 13 is check out time.

GROUP TOUR - FRIDAY MAY 11th, 2012

The Friday tour is a 5 hour guided tour of Amish countryside/farms/quilt & craft shops/etc. with lunch at Miller's Smorgasbord.

PRE-REUNION TOURS

Tuesday tour May 8th, 2012

The Tuesday tour is the afternoon showing (3:45 pm) of "Jonah" at the Sight & Sound's Millennium Theater with a family style dinner at the Hershey Farm Restaurant afterwards.

Wednesday tour May 9th, 2012

The Wednesday tour is a tour of the city covering architecture, churches, historical points of interest, etc. with an afternoon ride on the Strasburg Railroad and subsequent visit to the Railroad Museum.