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Armand Lamarche, Treasurer - arlamarche@verizon.net
Mel Harder, Secretary - mel.harder@snet.net

YAGRGRAM #65 - February 2013

Lee Doyel, 2315 Bavarian Court, Pensacola FL 32503 (850) 433-6930



YAGRS 18TH ANNUAL REUNION - TUCSON AZ - APRIL 18-20 2013 **DETAILS AND REGISTRATION FORM IN THIS YAGRGRAM** **REGISTER BY MARCH 18, 2013**

Message from Lee Doyel, Chair

NORAD VISIT

After an almost year of dead ends we got lucky when a new member, Hank Ragsdale, saw on the web site we were making an effort to get a tour of NORAD. He lives in Colorado Springs, CO and on his own initiative contacted the NORAD at Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs. He was received favorably and informed a possibility might exist later as NORAD tour schedules developed in the coming months.

NORAD has always given VIP tours of the "Mountain", but due to budget cuts and 9/11 stopped giving tours to military reunion groups. NORAD is not the NORAD we knew and associated with when the ships reported to it. NORAD has now moved to Peterson AFB leaving Cheyenne Mountain as "backup" for NORAD. Additionally

other commands now occupy portions of the space. Some non VIP tours are still being conducted but are limited to 10 to 12 persons and the tour inside is rather limited. So even if regular tours were still being given our size would probably prevent a tour. So while progress has been made, the possibility of our tour of the "MOUNTAIN" is not encouraging.

SHIP'S STORE

As some of you know it is my intention to try and have more YAGR memorabilia available for purchase by members. I presently have ships hats, ships pins, YAGR coffee cups and cigarette lighters available. As a convenience I make it a practice to include with your order a stamped envelope addressed to Armand Lamarche, our Treasurer, for payment. All prices quoted or billed will include shipping.

SHIP'S STORE CONT.

Patches are still in process. Art work still has to be done on some of the ship logos and a supplier located. Unfortunately I did not receive any art work on transfer of duties. If anyone out there has any art work or a good sharp clear copy (computer generated, graphics work, etc) of ships logos, etc, please send them to me. It would be a great help. The YAGR hat was to be available by now but the vendor had a problem with the art work and embroidery and could not produce it. A new graphics artist is now on the project and hopefully they will be available by the reunion. Charles Coons (AGR-13) was the person responsible for the 3" logo patch I used on the hats at the Lancaster reunion. Unfortunately he has passed on. I contacted his widow but she has been unable to find where he had the patches made. If anyone out there has any information regarding where he may have procured the patch please contact me at yagrs16@cox.net or 850-433-6930.

Cigarette lighters are available if you want one. What I have been able to do is have a ships pin superglued to a Zippo lighter. If you have a ships pin you will know what will be on the lighter. If interested let me know. I have sent several out to interested persons at a cost of \$16.00 each. That cost could vary (as with any store item) due to vendor and price fluctuation.



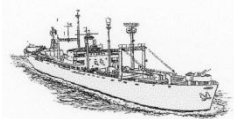
SHIPS COORDINATORS

When you change your email address please add your ships coordinator to your change notification list. I still need coordinators for ships 7,8,11,13 and 14. It takes little effort and time to be a coordinator. Just maintain an email list of person on your ship and relay messages from me to them. An advantage to being a coordinator and on a distribution list is they learn what hotel will be used at the next reunion before it is published in the newsletter as well as new additions the ships store, web site, etc. Following is a list of current ship's coordinators.



SHIP'S COORDINATORS, YAGR ASSOCIATION

AGR-1 : Maureen Monks, jwmonkssr@aol.com
AGR-2: Ralph Rappuhn, rappuhn@aol.com
AGR-3: Chuck Parker, chuckparker@gmail.com
AGR-4: Steve Mierzejewski, smjm@bex.net
AGR-5: Bob Werstler, rdwerst@sbcglobal.net
AGR-6 : Lee Doolittle, tleedoo@u.washington.edu
AGR-9: Frank Mahaffey, bnf@att.net
AGR-10: Paul Langenus, plangenus@cox.net
AGR-12: Jesse Germany, jgermany31@gmail.com
AGR-15: Lee Doyel, mldoyel@cox.net
AGR-16, Frank McNamara, ec2sc1@comcast.net



Sea Stories

Submitted by Walt Hartfield, USS Investigator AGR-9

I'm Walt Hartfield. I was on the original crew of the Investigator (AGR-9). I went aboard in October 1956. We put the ship into commission in January of 1957. We took a cruise down to Jamaica and then back up to Newport.

I was on board until August of '57, and then was discharged. I was an ET3. We had but two ET's on board. The other guy was from out in the mid-west somewhere and was in love with country music. While he was away on a weekend, I put a filter into our shop radio and it no longer played the country music he was in love with. It drove him crazy!! But I was in heaven. That's my story, and I'll stick to it.

Submitted by Donald L. Swanson, USS Skywatcher AGR-3

I served on the USS Skywatcher 55-June 58 when I was discharged as a RM2. I was going thru old boxes in my storeroom and found this poem written by a shipmate. I couldn't find him in the crew register so I figured that you could publish it with his name and someone would know him and let him know that he is remembered by at least one of his shipmates. I would really appreciate a copy of the YAGRGRAM for my records. Thanks and smooth sailing....Donald L. Swanson

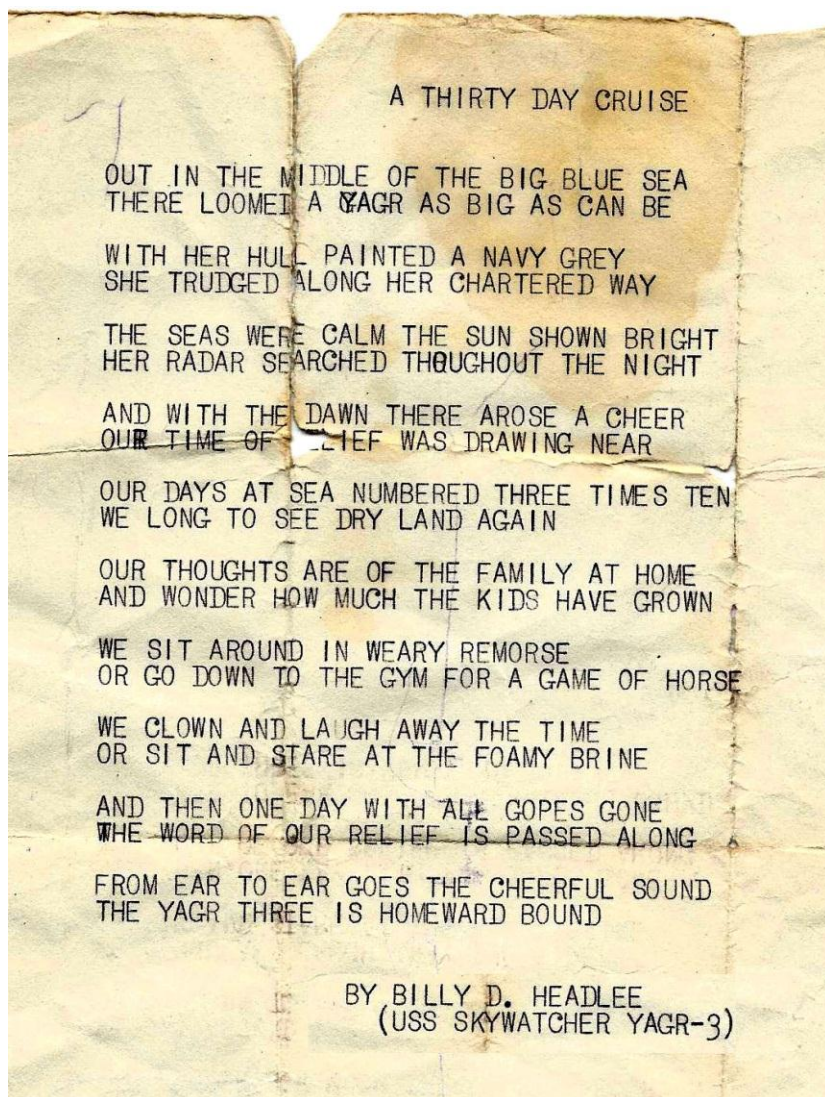


Donald Swanson - radio shack

Jan Murray and the Hot Pepper

Bill Ivie USS Vigil AGR-12

I had a shipmate on the USS Vigil AGR-12 named Jan Murray. I had an apartment in Providence, RI, with my new bride and Jan came for a visit. We had an ornamental pepper plant on the dining table with several very red peppers. Jan saw the peppers and said, "I love hot peppers" and before I could warn him he woofed down a whole pepper. I honestly believe I could see smoke coming out of his ears as he spent the next ten minutes drinking cold water to put out the fire.



sea stories cont.

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 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!



Lancaster Reunion Photos Available - received from Mike Nesmith, USS Investigator AGR-9

Mike here, just to let you know several have ask for pictures from Lancaster reunion. I will be more then glad to make them available. I just need a chip of no less then 4gb and a return address with a 65 cent stamp to mail. There are over 490 pictures to pick from. About 30 came out bad SORRY. If you do not have a computer, any Walmart or store like it can make prints. The store will also show you how to pick the ones you want. I also can put them on a DVD -R; again, I will need a return address and 65 cent stamp. Please feel free and call anytime if you should have a question or JUST TO SAY HI.

Mike Nesmith

4521 Trias St., San Diego, CA 92103

619 220-0553



YAGR Exhibit - USS Massachusetts
report received from Roland Cote (AGR-10),

USS Massachusetts – Battle Ship Cove, Fall River MA
location of YAGR'S Association special exhibit project

photo: A life preserver from AGR-10 (USS Outpost) installed in our Radar Exhibit.

photo: A revamp of an area in our exhibit that formally housed a display of "Ships lighters".

Due to vandalism problems--they were removed and put under safe keeping. In it's place--we are now displaying maps of Picket Ship Locations East Coast , Picket Ship Location West Coast and the Radron 1+2 emblem. Construction and planning by John Hemminger (AGR-2) and Roland Cote (AGR-10).



Message from the Secretary

Mel Harder, USS Investigator AGR-9

You may view and print this YAGRGRAM, in color, from the YAGRS website (www.yagrs.org).

Ship's Crew Lists

I maintain an excel database for each ship's crew list. Periodically I upload these files to Staples for printing. They are delivered stapled and tri-folded, ready for sending out to members. As I receive changes of address, phone etc. I update the crew lists as well as the active YAGR member list. These changes may not show up in the crew list you receive. Not until I send another print job to Staples will the changes show up in the printed copies. However, if you need a current crew list, send me an email at mel.harder@snet.net and I will email you back a crew list in pdf format. Also, if you have specific questions regarding the crew list and shipmates, your ship' coordinator may be able to help.

Dues Payment

Dues are \$17 per year. The current membership year ends May 31. The highlighted date on your address label is the date your membership is currently paid to. If you are registering for the Tucson reunion, you may send your dues payment at the same time. Please complete the information below and send with dues payment. You may pay for more than one year. Make checks payable to YAGR'S Association, and mail to Armand Lamarche, Treasurer, 3 Finnway St., North Billerica, MA 01862.

Name: _____

Ship: _____

amount enclosed: _____

Address: _____

phone: _____

email address: _____

Tucson 2013 Reunion Hotel Information

Double Tree Suites Hotel Tucson Airport.

7051 S. Tucson Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85756

Phone: 520-225-0800

The hotel has a 24 hour airport shuttle

Room rate is \$95.00 plus 13% room tax plus a \$2.00 a day city tax, and is good for 3 days prior and 3 days post reunion dates. Be sure to mention you are with YAGRS. To avoid registration problems, be sure you are talking to the hotel in Tucson and not a national call center. For online bookings go to their website:

www.tucsonairportsuites.doubletree.com. Put in your dates and above the **check availability button** click **add special rate code**, and then under group code enter **YGR**. If problems persist, call Brian Forrester at 1-800-998-1228. The hotel has set up a personalized web page for our group with the YAGRS logo where you can also register. The web address for this page is too long to include in this YAGRGRAM. Those wishing to utilize or see this web page can email me at **yagrs16@cox.net** and I will forward the page address to you.

Reunion and Tour Details

The reunion format will be the same as in past reunions. The men's business meeting and spouse's breakfast will be Saturday morning. We will have pre-reunion tours on Tuesday (Apr 16) and Wednesday (Apr 17). The Tuesday tour has been divided into two parts. This is to facilitate those persons coming into Tucson in the afternoon. You may sign up for one or both of the Tuesday tours.



The first Tuesday tour is the historic town tour which includes San Xavier Mission, historic

barrios, Snob Hollow, Old Town Artisans, shops and more. The time for this tour is from 12:00 pm (noon) to 4:00 pm and costs \$35.00 a person.

The second Tuesday tour is an evening at Traildust Town which is a charming lamp lite western town in the heart of Tucson which was once



a movie set for a Glenn Ford movie. It is filled with western shops, galleries, western memorabilia and home to the Pinnacle Peak Steakhouse where we will have dinner. You may select steak, salmon or chicken, all mesquite grilled over an open fire. A cash bar is available. Western reenactments and shootouts will occur throughout the evening. The time for this tour is 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm and cost \$62.00 a person.

The Wednesday tour (April 18) will be to Tombstone, "The Town to Tough to Die," Boothill and the shootout at the OK corral. You will be able to visit the Crystal Palace, Bird Cage Saloon, the Tombstone Epitaph, Old Courthouse and many shops. Lunch will be on your own at one of the many cafes and saloons. The time for this tour is from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm which includes transit time. Cost of the tour is \$55.00 a person.

The Friday tour (April 19) will be of the Pima Air Museum and aircraft boneyard. The museum is the largest privately owned collection of historical aircraft in the USA. Over 200 are on display indoors and outdoors. Lunch will be on your own. At 1:15 pm we transfer to Davis Monthan AFB for a narrated tour of the Boneyard where more than 5,000 aircraft are stored and used to maintain and repair military planes. **A GOVERNMENT (federal, state, county, etc.), ISSUED PICTURE ID IS REQUIRED FOR ENTRANCE TO THE BONEYARD. NO ID NO ENTRANCE.** The time for this tour is from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm which includes transit times. The cost of this tour is included in your reunion registration fee.

YAGR'S 18th Annual Reunion - Tucson AZ

April 18-20, 2013

Return completed registration and check as soon as possible but no later than March 18, 2013 to Armand Lamarche, YAGR'S Treasurer, 3 Finnway St., North Billerica MA 01862. Print exactly as you want your name to appear on your name tag. Also, indicate your choice of steak, chicken or fish for the Saturday evening banquet.

Name: _____ banquet choice: _____
 Spouse/Guest: _____ banquet choice: _____
 Ship: _____ Date on Board: _____ Rate: _____

Reunion Registration - Tucson AZ - April 18-20 2013			
	cost/person	# of people	total
dues paying member, spouse/guest	\$75.00		\$
non-dues paying member	\$90.00		\$
pre-reunion tours			
Tuesday, April 16 2013 - Historic City Tour (12:00pm - 4:00pm)			
names of people on tour	cost/person		total
	\$35.00		\$
	\$35.00		\$
Tuesday, April 16 2013 - Evening Dinner at Traildust Town (6:00pm - 9:00pm)			
names of people on tour	cost/person		total
	\$62.00		\$
	\$62.00		\$
Wednesday, April 17 2013 - Tombstone (9:00am - 4:00pm)			
names of people on tour	cost/person		total
	\$55.00		\$
	\$55.00		\$
total amount due			\$

Reunion Shirts	# of shirts X cost	total
small @ \$15/each	\$	\$
medium @ \$15/each	\$	\$
large @ \$15/each	\$	\$
X-large @ \$15/each	\$	\$
XX-large @ \$18/each	\$	\$
total for all shirts		\$

Message from Nell Doyel

HELLO!!! ALL LADIES WHO WILL BE ATTENDING THE YAGR REUNION TUCSON AND THE LADIES SATURDAY MORNING BREAKFAST!

The ladies breakfast is the event when the YAGR men honor the women in attendance at their convention with a delicious full menu breakfast to enjoy while they hold their annual business meeting. We want to take this opportunity to thank them for their generous gift, all the while they enjoy only doughnuts and coffee. It is a special treat we all look forward to and includes and the fun and ingenuity only these women can come up with!

The breakfast fun includes the unique "Penny Auction" with colored money tickets for bidding issued in your registration packet. Remember to bring along with you something reflecting your own delight to place on the auction table. We do encourage the minimal amount of spending be done and suggest an appropriate limit would be close to the \$10 - \$15 dollar range. Often popular items are things hand made by our own ladies to be shared with the winning bidder! Everyone looks forward to this fun time and main event of our Saturday friendship affair. Another great fun time during breakfast this year will be the PARADE OF THE APRONS!! For all of us 2013 is THE YEAR OF THE APRON. For your own day of modeling fame bring your creation and model it in the YAGR LADIES BREAKFAST PARADE. This always proves to be the most fun so don't miss out on sharing your creativity and sense of humor



and bringing laughter and spirit to everyone! And even walking away with a prize!

REFER TO THE FALL 2012 YAGRGRAM for information on our donations program. We will be collecting all the warm items of most any kind for the military personnel at Landstuhl, Germany who are recovering from injuries and illnesses. You may request more information or send your items to Pat Reichling at pareichling@aol.com. Everyone looks forward to a way to help our servicemen and women and this will be meeting a great personal need they have in the cold German winter! If you have been saving the large white plastic mailing bags (for clothing) we will use them for overseas mailing. THANKS to everyone who helps with this project! See you shortly a way out WEST!

Nell Doyel

