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1972



THE BANG GANG NEWS LETTER

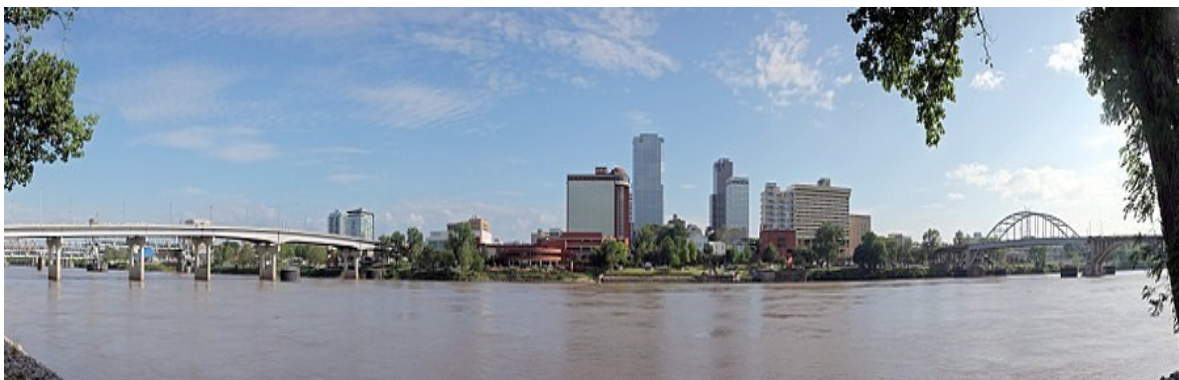
Published to perpetuate the memory of USS BANG (SS-385) and her Crew

PRESIDENT - Bill Fenton 4422 Organ Mesa Loop Las Cruces, NM 88011-8403 (575) 639-4655 ss385@ussbang.com
VICE PRES - Paul Schramm 3402 Onondaga St Kalamazoo, MI 49004-1636 (269) 345-0859 inkazoo@hotmail.com
SECRETARY - Harry Ross 2882 W 232nd St Torrance, CA 90505-2855 (310) 612-6629 harrypross@gmail.com
TREASURER - Isaac (Ike) Cohen **CONTACT FOR SLUSH FUND DONATIONS** (908) 334-0027 ikecohen415@gmail.com
EDITOR - Eric H. Ericson, III 926A Savannas Pt. Dr. Ft. Pierce, FL. 34982 (978)-491-0114 eric735244@aol.com
CHAPLAIN—J Len Sciuto 1408 Course View Dr. Fleming Island, FL 32003 (603) 903-5575 mobypequod@hotmail.com
WEB MASTER - Bill Fenton 4422 Organ Mesa Loop Las Cruces, NM 88011-8403 (575) 639-4655 ss385@ussbang.com
STOREKEEPER- Isaac (Ike) Cohen **CONTACT FOR SMALL STORES ORDERS** (908) 334-0027 ikecohen415@gmail.com

Winter/Spring 2024 WWW.USSBANG.COM WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/USSBANG ISSUE-107

**TIME TO LITTLE ROCK AROUND THE CLOCK!
 USS BANG (SS 385) 81st ANNIVERSARY REUNION
 LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

**MONDAY, 30 SEPTEMBER 2024 THROUGH THURSDAY 03 OCTOBER 2024
 HOLIDAY INN AIRPORT
 3201 Bankhead Drive
 LITTLE ROCK, AR 72206
 (501) 490-1000**





FPO



This column is dedicated to all the letters we receive from you. Any info about yourself or others you want to share with your shipmates will be published here. Think of this as a combination of the bulletin board in the Crew's Mess and the IMC.

Hello once again, shipmates, friends and faithful readers!

It's newsletter time again, and before I get to the big news, one thing I have to explain. I hope all you "Snail Mail" recipients enjoyed the holiday and reunion recap issue. The "full color" issue. I wish I could take credit for it, but thank Staples. It seems at the printing station the project right before ours was in all color. The technician, instead of switching to B/W, kept the color "switch" on and the result is you have a full color issue at no extra cost, courtesy of Staples. Enjoy it while you can as I don't think it will happen again.

Now for the big news. This year's reunion will be in Little rock Arkansas! After a long and I'm sure arduous search by several shipmates, including yours truly, Little Rock proved to be the winner! It checked all the boxes, and the hotel and Chamber of Commerce people went out of their way to make us feel welcome. Little Rock has been the sight of quite a few military reunions in the past and they know how to put one on.

We will be staying at the Holiday Inn Airport, which has a free shuttle, not only to the hotel, but to the Market Square downtown. The rate is \$107.00 per night plus tx. This rate does not include breakfast, but the hotel is providing a full buffet breakfast for \$12.60 PP/inc. tx. You can pay at the restaurant or charge it to your room. So, if you do the math, it is \$132.20 per night, pls room tax and breakfast for two. Which is about what we have paid in the past for the same set-up. Our hosts, Alan and Linda Thole, along with help from Paul Schramm have put together a great venue and I'm sure this reunion will be enjoyed by all attendees. As I mentioned we had a very extensive search committee for this year's get together. The cities scouted out were Pittsburgh, Nashville, Seattle, and Jacksonville. All had good points but also had one or two deal breakers. My city search was Nashville, and while it had many good points, the only hotel that had a hospitality room and a decent room rate, also did not have ice service for the hospitality room. Little Rock is also closer to the Western part of the US, so I hope many shipmates who could not attend in the past due to distance and other reasons will be able to join us this year!

Also, we will be able to sample some great BBQ, both during lunch in one of the tours, and as our banquet meal on Thursday night! But that's not all! We will be able to tour the USS Razorback SS394, (her picture is on the cover). A fully restored to original design Balao Class boat. All the information you'll need is on the next two pages and here is the schedule for the week, including the tours:

SUNDAY 9/29 EARLY BIRD ARRIVAL HOSPITALITY ROOM OPEN 1PM
MONDAY 9/30 CHECK IN GET WELCOME PACKAGE HOSPITALTY ROOM 10AM
TUESDAY 10/1 9:30m BUS LEAVES FOR ARKANSAS INLAND MARITIME MUSEUM
BARBECUE LUNCH WILL BE SERVED AROUND 12:30pm
WEDNESDAY 10/2 9:30am BUS LEAVES FOR ARKANSAS FINE ARTS MUSEUM & THE
MCARTHUR MILITARY HISTORY MUSEUM
THURSDAY 10/3 BUSINESS MEETING/LADIES TRIVIA
5:30pm COCKTAILS, PICTURES, BANQUET, SPEAKER
10/4 CHECKOUT

Let's see as many people as we can attending!

CLIP AND SEND THIS PAGE WITH YOUR CHECK BY AUGUST 30, 2024 TO:

Alan Thole
11337 205th ST NW, Elk River, MN
55330

MAKE ALL CHECKS OUT TO Alan Thole

YES! I/WE PLAN TO ATTEND THE REUNION _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____, ST _____ ZIP _____ EMAIL _____

SPOUSE/GUEST NAME _____

RATE/RANK _____

YRS ON BANG _____ TO _____

PHONE#(_____) _____

ARRIVAL DAY _____ DEPARTURE DAY _____

NUMBER ATTENDING ARKANSAS INLAND MARITIME MUSEUM _____ @\$42.00PP TOTAL _____

NUMBER ATTENDING ARKANSAS ART/MACARTHUR MUSEUMS _____ @ \$18.00PP TOTAL _____

HOSPITALITY ROOM STIPEND PER ADULT _____ \$35.00 TOTAL _____

NUMBER ATTENDING BANQUET @ \$58.00PP _____ TOTAL _____

Back Yard Barbeque Buffet

Tossed salad with Tomatoes, Cucumbers, Red Onions, Choice of Two Dressings
Cole Slaw, Potato Salad, Sliced Red Onion, Dill Pickle Spears, Beef Brisket,
Baked Beans with Onions, Fried Catfish, Hushpuppies, Tarter Sauce, Fried
Chicken, Potato Logs, Green Beans, Apple Cobbler, Peach Cobbler
Iced Tea, Water

GRAND TOTAL _____

SPECIFY ANY SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS, _____

PLEASE WRITE YOUR FAVORITE ADULT BEVERAGE AND SNACKS HERE:

ANY ADDITIONAL GUESTS?

**USS Bang (SS 385)
81st Anniversary Reunion
Little Rock, AR
Monday, September 30, 2024
Through
Thursday, October 03, 2024**

**Holiday Inn Airport
3201 Bankhead Drive
Little Rock, AR 72206
Phone 501 490 1000**

www.holidayinn.com

[When making your reservations you can call 888 465 4329](tel:8884654329)

Or use WEB:

https://www.holidayinn.com/redirect?path=hd&brandCode=HI&localeCode=en®ionCode=1&hotelCode=liteb&_P_MID=99801505&GPC=uss&cn=no&viewfullsite=true

Make sure to put the correct date you are arriving and leaving to get the correct room rate of
\$107.00 plus tax.

The rates are honored three days before and after the reunion dates.

If calling, tell the reservationist you are with the Bang Reunion.

Our contact person for reservation issues is Tonya Flemons 501 235 2004.

Or call me

A full breakfast buffet is included at \$10.99 + tax =~ \$12.60 per ticket.

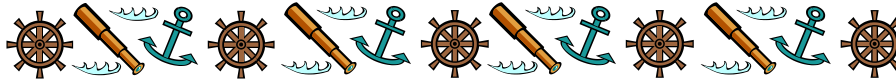
See the Hostess and identify yourself with the Bang Reunion.

Have your name tag with you.

Pay with CC, cash, or charge to room.



LOST AND FOUND



This page is dedicated to informing you of any additions, deletions, or corrections to our active roster.
It has been brought to our attention that the following shipmates have passed away and will be placed on Eternal Patrol.

RICHARD WARE PLUMBLEY YN2 '69

ANDREW SPRAINIS EM3 70-72

**SINCE THE LAST NEWSLETTER THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE
HAVE GIVEN GENEROUSLY TO THE SLUSH FUND**

- BILL FENTON**
- COREEN COMEAU IN MEMORY OF RAY COMEAU**
- GABE LEWIS**
- ALAN THOLE**
- GERALD MALY**
- JIM & HARRIET SCHULTZ**
- DENIS O'BRIEN IN MEMORY OF MAUREEN O'BRIEN**



THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR CONTINIED SUPPORT



**CHANGE OF ADDRESS
RAYMOND OLSZEWSKI
160 MARWOOD ROAD
CABOT, PA 16023-2250**



ETERNAL PATROL



Richard Ware Plumbly Jr-Shipmate Richard Plumbly deployed on Eternal Patrol 25 December, 2023. Born in Santa Rita , New Mexico, Rick spent his childhood, along with his sister Hazel Eileen, between El Paso, TX and Ruidoso NM, where he spent his time at his Grandparents cabin, hunting and fishing. Rick attended Stephen F Austin High School where he was a stand out catcher and running back. He enlisted in the Navy in August 1965, and after basic training in San Diego he attended Yeoman “A” school and graduated first in his class. He spent three tours on Vietnam on the USS Tulare as a “Mike Boat” driver. Upon the suggestion of his CO, Rick enrolled in Submarine School, and upon graduation in 1968, was assigned to his qual boat, the USS Sablefish. He transferred to the Bang in 1968, and was honorably discharged in November 1969. Rick was awarded the Vietnam Service Medal (three stars), the Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the National Defense Medal. After the Navy, Rick moved back to San Diego, and enrolled in college and earned a certification in technical illustration. He worked as a commercial artist for years, ultimately ownibg his own commercial art studio with clients such as Travel Lodge, and local developers in San Diego County.



Andrew Sprainis- Shipmate “Andy” received his orders for eternal patrol on 11 January 2024. Born on August 5, 1951 in Cantonsville, Md he spent most of his life in Ellicott City and Mt. Airy, Md. A talented carpenter, Andy’s pursuits were real estate investment and development. A skilled golfer, impressive boogie boarder, passionate Harley-Davidson biker, and skier, Andy was a spirited soul with a wicked sense of humor, and a belief that anything was possible. He was a huge fan of the Orioles and Ravens.



THE LUCKY BAG

Well shipmates and loyal readers, another newsletter is off to the printers. We may get lucky again with the printer stuck on “color” but don’t bet the farm on it.

I received a letter from our esteemed President, Bill Fenton recounting several conversations he heard while at last year’s reunion. I’ll share it with you here.

“I was surprised to hear several shipmates at our Warwick, RI reunion say we should have a Bang website. Well, we do. In fact I have been the webmaster for our site for over 20 years! The site is loaded with all kinds of information including crew listings both alphabetically and by years on board. Biographies of all Bang’s commanding officers Bang photos, and videos, photos and sailing lists from past reunions going back to 2005, Bang newsletters, complete Bang war patrol reports and much, much more! It’s easy to find on ussbang.com if you haven’t seen it, check it out!

Yes Bill, it is a surprise to hear from shipmates inquiring about a website, especially since the website is listed ON THE FRONT PAGE of the newsletter, underneath the masthead!

On a somber note, Maureen, the beloved wife of our shipmate Denis O’Brien, (my leading petty officer) passed away recently. Maureen and Denis were frequent attendees to our reunions, and Maureen always contributed some vibrant conversation. She will be missed.

Finally, for those shipmates in the New England area, the Groton SubVets will be holding a 60th anniversary from 29May-1June this year. If you are interested, contact the Committee at anniversary@ussvigroton.org or the website, www.ussvigroton.org

Well, that’s it for another newsletter. Thanks for reading, and in closing, I saw a sign in my local watering hole that explained my entire college career. It read

Well that’s another day I didn’t use Algebra

Take care and remember to maintain the bubble!

Eric

Eric H. Ericson, III-Editor
Bang Gang Newsletter
926A Savannas Pt. Dr.
Ft. Pierce, FL 34982-5163



FIRST – CLASS MAIL
FORWARDING SERVICE
REQUESTED



PRAISE OUR MILITARY! - AND PRAY FOR THEM TOO.

