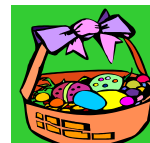




1943



1972



THE BANG GANG NEWSLETTER

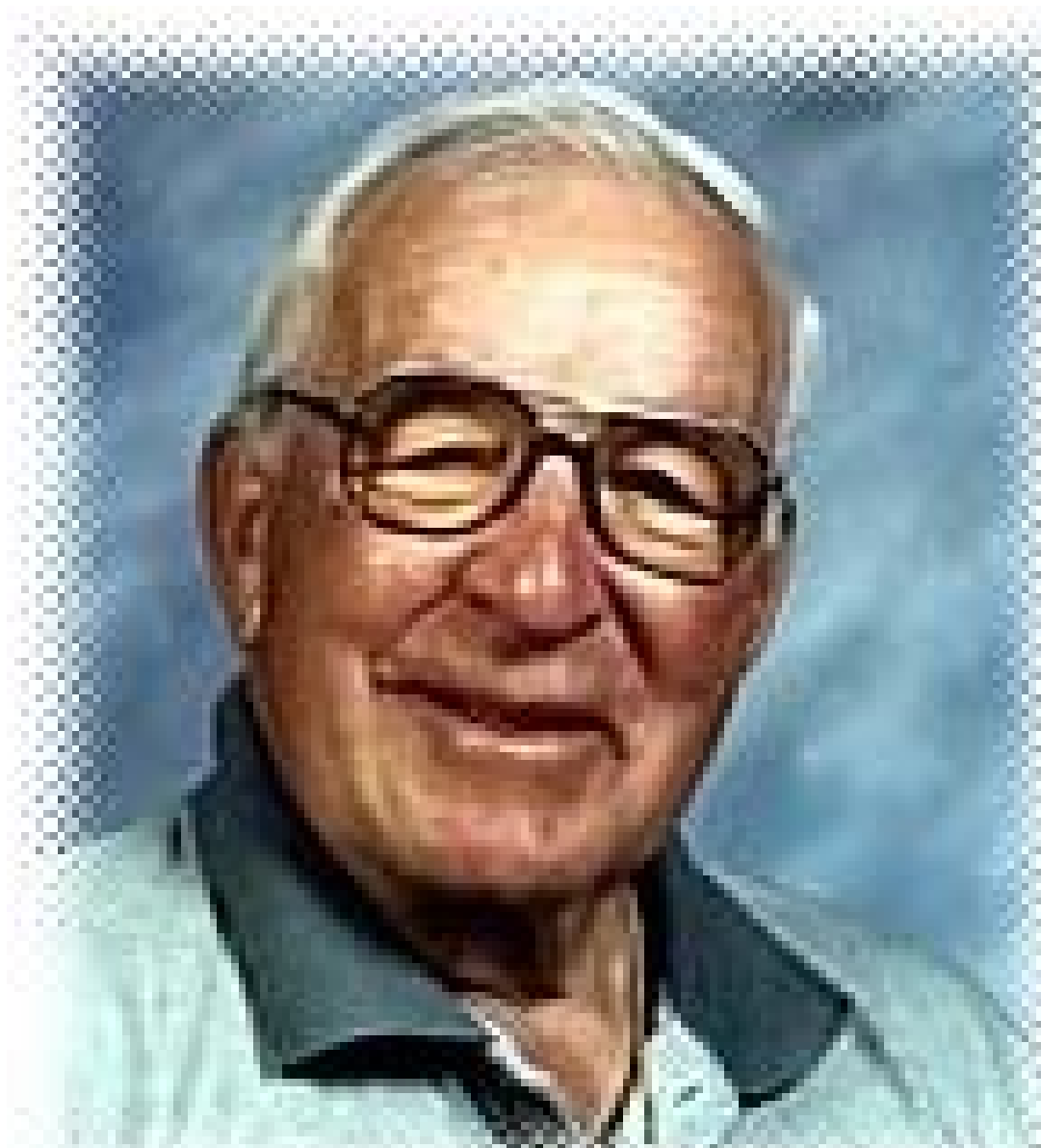
Published to perpetuate the memory of USS BANG (SS-385) and her Crew

PRESIDENT - Bill Fenton	4422 Organ Mesa Loop	Las Cruces, NM 88011-8403	(575) 532-5830	ss385@fastwave.biz
VICE PRES - John Kraft	N49 W28619 Chardon Dr	Hartland, WI 53029-9161	(262) 538-4218	jkraft1@wi.rr.com
SECRETARY - Harry Ross	2882 W 232nd St	Torrance, CA 90505-2855	(310) 539-2935	harrypross@gmail.com
TREASURER - Gene Lockwood	512 Windsor Gate Cir	Virginia Bch, VA 23452-2129	(757) 340-8488	gvlockwood@cox.net
EDITOR - Phil Beals	2127 Oahu Dr	Holiday, FL 34691-3625	(727) 934-9665	pebeals385@juno.com
WEB MASTER - Bill Fenton	4422 Organ Mesa Loop	Las Cruces, NM 88011-8403	(575) 532-5830	ss385@fastwave.biz

WINTER/SPRING 2008

WWW.USSBANG.COM

ISSUE-47



1925 Robert V. Cellupica 2008



LOST AND FOUND



This column 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.



Robert V. Cellupica, MoMM (44-46) WP5,6
Raymond F. Bensen, RT (43-45) WP1,2,3,4,6



SHIPMATE, REST YOUR OARS!

The following shipmates have changed their mailing address.

Please let us know when your address has changed or you may not receive the next Newsletter.

LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIPCODE	PHONE	Y-O-B
Cheney	Niles	PO Box 465	Buckner	KY	40010-0465	(805) 651-9844	66
Ireland	David J	1345 Idaho St PMB 145	Elko	NV	89801-		66-69
Horton	Leroy J	118 E Elm St	Brazoria	TX	77422-8712	(979) 798-2918	61-67

The following shipmates are new (found) additions to our roster. Your committee is thankful for all your help in locating them and we will continue our search until we have attempted to locate everyone.

LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIPCODE	PHONE	Y-O-B
McHale	Peter J	121 Muirfield Dr	Daytona Beach	FL	32114-7128		54-56



THANK YOU!

Since our last publication, the following shipmates have generously donated to our slush fund.



Richard Barringer
Rich Bartoline
Dan Casey

Conyal Cody
Bill Fenton
Floyd Gardinier

Bob Gunny
Charlie Heater
Fred Helfers

Tom Hill
Rose Jarvies
Bob Jutstrom

Andy McKaye
Lamarr Seader



THE INTERNET CONNECTION **CHANGES SINCE LAST PUBLICATION**

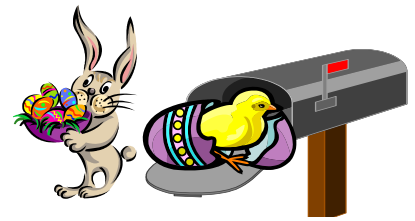


Paull Anderson usa@entrenous.uscom
Dan Casey argyllmastiff@embarqmail.com
Leroy Horton ljhorton33@yahoo.com
Dave Ireland dndireland@tmail.com

Ben LaPorte..... portewine610@gmail.com
Peter McHale mchale@bellsouth.net
Tom Register peggyntom@comcast.net



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.

Editor's Notes and Ramble: Hi Shipmates!

I think the Grim Reaper took the Holidays off to sharpen his scythe or maybe he just misplaced it. Whatever the reason, it was great to enjoy the festivities without the merriment being broken by the notification of a shipmate passing. We even were able to finish out 2007 with a 'BANG' by taking two shipmates off the 'DECEASED' rolls.

Sorry 2008 couldn't be as promising but, as you read the following, you'll see that the Reaper didn't waste any time to get back to his intended duty and try out his newly sharpened scythe.

Bob Cellupica was a MotorMachinistMate who served aboard BANG from 44 to 46 including the last two War Patrols (5&6). He kept in close touch with his shipmates through the years and later on he was a good supporter of the Bang Gang. Until recently, he attended most Reunions and sometimes brought his brother and grandson along. About a year ago Bob was moved into a Nursing Home. **Carl Weber** informed me on 1/8 that Bob had passed away. He was a good shipmate and friend and he will be missed dearly.



Laconia-----Robert Victor Cellupica, 82, of 15 Elizabeth Terrace died at the St. Joseph Hospital, Nashua on Thursday, Jan. 3, 2008. He had been a resident of Forest View Manor, Meredith since April, 2007.

Mr. Cellupica was born November 4, 1925 to Francesco and Vincenza (Girardi) Cellupica in Gorham, (Cascade) N.H. He attended St. Benedict Parochial School in Cascade and

graduated from Gorham High School in 1942. He earned letters in football, basketball and baseball. Following graduation, he worked in Portland, Maine at the Todd-Bath and South Portland shipyards and also at the Brown Co. Tube Mill in Berlin, then worked at the Portsmouth Shipyard as a blueprint clerk and enlisted in the Navy in 1943 at age 17. He attended Boot Camp in Newport, Rhode Island and volunteered for Submarine duty. He served in the Pacific aboard USS Bang (SS385) and took part in successful patrols in the Yellow Sea and western Pacific participating in the Iwo Jima and Okinawa

campaigns. On April 21, 1945, Bang rescued a downed flyer, **Don Corzine**, a graduate of Brown University, off the island of Ishigaki in 1945. His service medals include American Theater, Pacific Theater with two stars and the WWII Victory Medal. He qualified in submarines allowing him to wear the twin dolphins. He earned the Submarine Combat Insignia with one star.

Following discharge, he worked in the Brown Co. Woods Dept. as a clerk in lumber camps in East Bethel and on Lower Richardson Lake in Maine and Bog Brook camp in N.H. and on a log drive at Upper Dam between Lake Mooselookmeguntic and Richardson Lake in Maine.

He attended Burdett College and graduated in the Accounting-Business Administration course. He worked for Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. in Woodsville and Lancaster and was employed for more than thirty years as an Outside Plant Engineer with New England Telephone and retired from Verizon in 1986.

Mr. Cellupica served as a Selectman in Lancaster, moved to Laconia in 1959 and served two terms as Councilman in Laconia's Ward II. He was a former member and Junior Vice Commander of Ross-Wood Post American Legion Post #20 and a former member of the Lions Club in Woodsville and a former member of Mahaney-Brisson, American Legion and the VFW in Lancaster. He was a member of Wilkins-Smith American Legion Post #1 of Laconia. He was a past president of Lancaster Kiwanis Club, a 3rd Degree member of the Knights of Columbus since 1951 and was a Past Grand Knight. He served as secretary of the International Brotherhood of Telephone Workers and had been a member of the Elks since 1947 and was a life member of Laconia Lodge #876. He was a member of Squalus Chapter, Submarine Veterans of WWII. (Maine and New Hampshire.)

Survivors include, son, Robert Cellupica, and his wife, Ellen (Sevigny), of Hopkinton, MA; a daughter, Denise Cellupica-Bourgoine and her husband, Dustin, of Laconia; a son, Peter Cellupica, and his wife, Joan (Trainor), of Laconia; a son, Gerard Cellupica, and his wife, Elaine (Corriveau), of Colorado; six grandchildren; two step grandchildren; a brother, Anthony Cellupica, of Berlin; a sister, Mary Bosa, of Berlin; a brother, Francis, of Dover; and several nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by his wife, Laurette (Montminy) Cellupica in October, 1999.

Internment will take place in the Columbarium at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen at the convenience of the family.

Raymond Bensen was an original plankowner, commissioning BANG in 1943 and bringing her back to Portsmouth in 1945. He was aboard for all of BANG's patrols except #5. Word of his demise was passed on to us by the SubVets WWII organization and the following obituary is all that was posted in his hometown paper.

Since Robert was not an attendee of our Reunions, I know little about him other than he was a shipmate and, because of that, we all will miss him.



April 14, 1914-March 23, 2007

Raymond Frank Bensen Sr.

92, the last of four close brothers, died peacefully in Davis, his daughter at his side and family near by. He came with his wife to Davis in 1980, to live near his daughter and to help with her two young daughters when she was accepted to the School of Veterinary Medicine at UCDavis.

He is survived by Delphine, his wife of 59 years; daughter Billie **Bensen** Martin and her

husband Barry; granddaughters Sherri Cowden and husband Ron, and Amy Bisek and husband Don; greatgrandchildren Kevin and Ross Cowden and Bradley and Claire Bisek; step-granddaughter Ann Martin and husband Steve Olney; and step-greatgrandchildren Tanner, Hunter, Garrett, and Wyatt Olney — all of Davis.

He is also survived by his son Jeffrey A. **Bensen** and his wife Lydia, and step-grandson Seph McCarty of Lompoc; and son Raymond F. **Bensen**, Jr. and his wife Nancy and granddaughter Meghan **Bensen** of Aptos; grandson Chris **Bensen**, his wife Tara, and greatgranddaughter Maya of Scotts Valley; and step-grandson Robert Martin, his wife Lisa and step-greatgrandchildren Josh and Madelyn of Sutter.

He joined the U.S. Navy during WWII and volunteered for submarine duty. He served on the U.S.S. Bang as a radio/radar technician, earning a Silver Star and two Bronze Stars during combat in the South Pacific. He was a member of U.S. Submarine Veterans WWII San Francisco Chapter, a member of the Bang Gang and life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars, Aptos Post 10110.

After the Navy, Ray worked as an electronics engineer for Lockheed Missiles and Space Company, beginning in Van Nuys in the 1950s; Santa Cruz Test Base; Sunnyvale; and Vandenberg Air Force Base in Lompoc. In 1978 he retired to pursue his favorite pastime, the game of golf.

Ray was an avid golfer, appreciating sanctuary on the "green grass" at Davis Municipal Golf Course. He

played nine holes of golf on his 90th birthday, but by far his greatest joy was spending time with his family. He often commented, "These are the best years of my life."

A memorial service was held Saturday, March 31, at Wiscombe's Davis Funeral Chapel, 116 D St. in Davis. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Davis Junior Golf Program, c/o Jerald Lilliedoll, P.O. Box 928, Davis, CA 95617.

*There is a port of no return where ships
may ride at anchor for a little space.
And then some starless night the cable slips
leaving only an eddy at the mooring place.
Gulls veer no longer. Sailor rest your oar.
No tangled wreckage will be washed ashore.*



I no sooner sent the last Newsletter to the printers when I received this e-mail from a friend of a shipmate requesting that he be taken off the 'Deceased' rolls on our internet page.

"My friend Pete Mchale told me about the sub he was on. When we looked it up you had him listed as deceased. He is definitely alive and well and living in FL. Please correct your records with this updated information."

Peter J McHale was a Sonarman aboard BANG from 1954 to 1956 before being transferred to Halfbeak. He was still aboard for a short while after I arrived and probably helped me with my Quals. I have listed Peter's USPS and email addresses on the Lost and Found page.

At a time when it seems like all we are doing is adding shipmates names to the Deceased Rolls, it's a pleasure to reverse that procedure. And to do it twice in the same month — what are the odds?

Like Yogi says, "It's déjà vu all over again". Welcome aboard Pete!

Since my last writing I am pleased to announce that ten more of you have stepped forward and requested to start receiving this Newsletter via e-mail. Though this still leaves us about 20 short of our goal of 100, I still feel it is obtainable.

Also, a big THANK YOU goes out to all who sent in donations to our Slush Fund. Your generosity has re-righted its keel and steadied its course to solvency. Our Treasurer, **Gene Lockwood**, will continue to stand by to accept donations from anyone else who wishes to contribute. Please make all checks payable to **USS BANG**.

Our Web Master, **Bill Fenton**, continues to enhance our web site with his untiring changes and additions. His current project is to list all COs of BANG along with photos and their biography. He is having some problem in locating bios. If anyone can assist Bill in this project please contact him. His address is on the front page of this issue.

I received this email from George Boyle, USSVI Base Development Chairman. Perhaps those of you who are retired from the Service should look into what George has discovered.

Subject: Military Retiree Account Statement
Just wanted to let you know that the same as many of you I recently received my Military Retiree Account Statement.

Please review the back of your statement and verify who you have designated as the beneficiary in case you die.

Mine has changed to someone I don't even know (Cathy J. McMillin "wife") as getting 100%. Based upon the fact that recently the VA had their military retiree personnel information compromised it is interesting that somehow my beneficiaries have changed.

If you look at the broader picture of what this means is that many veterans probably wouldn't catch this and as we lose more of our fellow service men and women each day this would leave their dependents without the benefit they deserve.

I called 1-800-321-1080 on 1/15/2008 and they will send me another beneficiary form to fill out within 7 business days. When I read her my e-mail she just blew it off.

Please send this out to the retirees you know and alert them to check who their current beneficiary is. Ask them to pass it along.

The writings and material within this Newsletter are the sole responsibility of its Editor and in no way reflect the opinion of its readers, the Bang Gang.Phil Beals

Bob Jutstrom, a MotorMachinistMate (43-46, WP1,2,3,4,6), "I read that you need some cash to keep the Newsletter going. I will send Gene a check today. You do a great job for the Bang Gang Newsletter, but maybe you should consider reducing the number of copies per year?

I wish all a Healthy New Year. I think there are only six original plank owners left and about 15 WWII shipmates all together just waiting for our lottery numbers to appear.".... *Bob, thank you for your contribution and your suggestion on how to cut back on expenses. I will bring it up at the next board meeting. I did a quick head count on our mailing list and found that*

we still have 13 plank owners and 37 war patrol shipmates that are still active. And, I wish all of you the same luck with lotteries that I have—so be prepared for a long, long wait.

Floyd Gardinier, a CommiSsaryman (60-61), "I never saw BANG with the North Atlantic sail as I was transferred to Patrick Henry before the conversion. I spent 9 1/2 years aboard Patrick Henry. While on board BANG, **Jim Bunch** gave me the nickname 'Sarge'. This nickname stayed with me from Boat to Boat for 15 years. I also spent so time in the South Pacific during WWII with the Amphibious Force pushing boats with Marines on board.".... *Sarge, good to hear from you. I hope you noticed Jim's photo in the last Newsletter. Thank you for your Slush Fund donation*

Ralph Sheffel, an ENgineman (58-61), "Greetings from Oregon! I can't remember when I last contributed to the Slush Fund so, it must be time. I'm one of the 'dinosaurs' that don't have e-mail so please keep sending it by Pony Express. Your Newsletters are great and I certainly appreciate your fine efforts. It's hard to believe that it has been almost 47 years since I last walked across BANG's gangplank. The last time was July 1961 while the Boat was in Portsmouth. We had some good time and some that weren't so good. Keep up the good work."....*Good times and bad times indeed, Ralph, but at our age the bad ones seem to slip away and we only remember the good ones. I guess it's because they make better sea stories. Thanks for helping to keep our Slush Fund solvent.*

Andy McKaye, HospitalMan (54-57), "Jean and I just returned from a lengthy cruise so, only yesterday, did I get around to read your latest Newsletter. I particularly appreciated the rogues gallery of photographs—except for the one of me. Am I really that old?

Your plea for more use of e-mail distribution is sound but long ago I declared war on the electronic age. Therefore, keep me back in the mid-twentieth century and on 'snail mail'. Enclosed is a contribution to help with the finances.

In March, Jean and I will be cruising again. This time to the WWII island battlefields in the Western Pacific and the surrounding waters that **Kracker, Gunny**, and the rest of our WWII shipmates became acquainted with while on BANG war patrols.

We plan to see you all in Green Bay." *No, Doc, I don't think you are really that old. Older maybe. It must be the salt air that is toughening your skin. At the rate you and Jean are taking sea cruises, I don't think you will ever lose your sea legs. Thank you for your donation and I look forward to see the both of you again in Green Bay.*

Rose Jarvies, widow of **Jack Jarvies**, an Officer (56-57), "The on-line Newsletter is great. I encourage everyone who can, to switch from 'snail mail'. Think color! The Technicolor layout, and thus colored photos, a huge plus. I have enclosed a donation to the Slush Fund in memory of Jack. I keep involved with SubVets through USSVI Base in New Paltz, NY. My 'hello' to all." *Thank you, Rose, for your continued support. Hearing from you always brings fond memories of Jack to mind.*

Fred Helfers, a TorpedoMan (71-72), "Just to let you know, since printing my name in the Newsletter I had an old shipmate, **Dan Casey**, send me an e-mail. It felt good to reminisce old times with him. Still would like to locate my old friend, **Bob Cassidy**. I recall that he came from New York City. Bob and I went through Torpedoman's School together and then were both assigned to BANG. Thanks for your time and work. I look forward to the Newsletters." *Fred, thanks for your small stores order and Slush Fund donation. Happy to hear that the Newsletter is paying off for you. I didn't have much luck in locating Bob Cassidy for you. Just too many in New York with that name.*

Stu Savage, CO (56-59), "Sidney and I plan to attend the Reunion in Green Bay and know that if we make it we'll see you and Dot there. We plan to drive to Virginia Beach to enjoy Christmas with our daughter, son, two granddaughters, and four great grand kids. So, this week thanks to modern medicine, we're in great shape." *Stu, I hope you and Sidney had a happy Holiday gathering with your family in Virginia Beach. Dot and I are making plans for Green Bay so we'll see you there.*

Rich Bartoline, a ENgineman Chief (53-58), "We always seem to plan for the next Reunion but I guess I am making up for all the good health I enjoyed while with you guys aboard BANG. The doctors visits have been continuous with always hope of delaying the 'Hereafter'. I am in good shape again—for now. At least good enough to start buying green bananas again. Hope to see you all in Green Bay. In the meantime, if you happen to find yourself in the Cape Coral area, please call me (239) 549-0484 for a visit." *Rich, thanks for the 'heads up' on what I got to look forward to. Being a few years younger I have still been able to work my doctor's visits around my ball playing time. But, the calendar continues to fill up. Welcome to the Golden Years. Here's hoping that we both make it to Green Bay.*

Niles Cheney, a Firecontrol Tech (66), "The

Newsletter received by e-mail just fine ... this will work much better for me since we are on the road most of the time ...

We have sold the boat we lived on for almost 8 years and acquired a motor coach. We are now full-timing on the road and enjoying life traveling our country. Since we are moving at least monthly (seeking warm weather) we have our mail forwarded from the Buckner address.

Maybe we can even be able to attend a Reunion in the future! I have attached a picture of our current vessel ... non-submersible, by design.".... *Niles, thanks for switching to e-mail delivery. And, by all means, (now that you are land-lubbers) set you GPS for Green Bay and join us in July.*



Mona Knight, widow of **Ralph Knight**, a MotorMachinistMate (43-46, WP1,3,4,5,6), "I thought you might be interested in this booklet. Ralph wrote to the Governor of NH for assistance on getting information about BANG and he replied with this booklet on its turnover to Spain.

You do wonderful work on the paper and I enjoy receiving it. There was a time after Ralph's death that so many others kept passing away—it was sad. The only one I still hear from is **Lloyd Fogelsong** in California. I never met him but I get a Christmas card every year.

All of my relatives have died except for my two sons. The youngest lives in Vermont but is in real bad condition. He can't leave to see me and I have no way of getting there. The other boy recently retired from his job in DC and now does a lot of traveling. He is in poor health also from his contact with Agent Orange during the war.

I have had trouble with my heart and have had the shingles since June. They have let up some but not before affecting my good eye. There is a lot of pain around the eye and its sight isn't good. The doctor told me last week that there is nothing he can do. It is in the nerves around the eye. I didn't notice it two years ago when it was in the other eye because that

eye is blind.

That's enough of that. Old age isn't what you thought it would be when you were young. Hope you and your wife are well. Have a nice Holiday. We are covered with snow after two really bad storms. Don't know when I'll get to the Post Office." *Mona, thank you for sending the booklet and photos. I will make certain that they get added to our Book of Memories so the other shipmates can view them. Sorry to hear that you are once again stricken with shingles. I do hope that by now the pain has subsided and that ,along with Spring, better health awaits you.*

Anyone wishing to drop Mona a card I'm sure she will be happy to hear from you. Her address is:

**4 Packers Falls Rd
Newmarket, NH 03857-1406**

Sherman Alexander, XO (68-69), "I'm back from our trip/cruise to Australia and New Zealand and have just enjoyed reading the December Newsletter attached to your email. No problem with the download -- well done! So, please put me on email distribution.

In early January, we flew to Sydney (14 hours!) after staying overnight in Los Angeles. After a couple of days in Sydney to see the sights, we flew north to Cairns for two days there to experience the rain forest and snorkel at the Great Barrier Reef. Then, back to Sydney to board our cruise ship. The cruise was 14 days with port calls in Melbourne and Hobart, then east to New Zealand and cruising among the fjords prior to visits to Dunedin, Christ Church, Wellington, Tauranga and ending in Auckland. We were back home on 3 February in time to watch the Super Bowl. The countryside in New Zealand was beautiful and lived up to its reputation. The people in both countries were very friendly and hospitable -- both Australia and New Zealand were more like the USA than any other countries we have visited. Good trip! Thanks for the great job you are doing." *Bud, your trip sounds like it was worth the 14 hour flight. The 'Aussies' always were our best allies. Glad to hear you had no problems with the e-mail delivery. I will switch you over starting with the next issue.*

Dick Barringer, a SOnarman (52-55), "It looks like I'll be missing another Reunion. I'll be up in the mountains again from June thru September. There is no way that I could get away for the Reunion. I had my mind made up that I would not miss another, but the dates threw me off.

All is going well here.....no new Barringer Mishaps. I am very satisfied with my move to California from New York. I am located in Northern California on a mountainside with a little over two acres. Pine trees

and wildlife all over the place. So very relaxing after the hectic life in Rochester, NY. I get to Reno 2-3 times a month. In November, I hit the slots for over \$1600. Last time, I lost \$200, but I figure that I'm playing with their money.

I received the newsletter yesterday and after reading it cover to cover, as usual, I found that I hadn't sent in anything for the slush fund this year. I apologize for my oversight and will be sending a check to Gene today.

Hope everyone had a fantastic Christmas & New Years.".... *Congratulations on your good fortune in Reno, Dick. If the slots are that loose maybe we should hold a Reunion there. Sorry the summer months conflict with your Ranger work. We should be back on the fall schedule next year.*

Bob Swank, a YoemaN (53), "I Received the newsletter, looks like a good time was had by all in Branson.

Shirley is doing OK, but we still have a way to go. Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy new year.".... *Bob, the news about Shirley sounds encouraging. We will continue to pray for her complete recovery.*

Oliver Weis, a Firecontrol Tech (58-60), "Here is the latest scoop from Patrick AFB, FL.

The weapons department from USS Bang (SS 385) had a mini reunion here at the base on 1/9/08. The attendees were **Wayne "Greek" Thalasinis**, **George "Bud" Demmons**, and **O. T. "Ollie" Weis**. Lunch was had at a local seafood restaurant and then the sea stories started. What great fun!".... *What great fun indeed, Ollie. And to think at the time I was only about 50 miles North of you. Thanks for the picture.*



Ollie

Greek

Bud

Dan Casey, a Seaman (71-72), "I doubt that I'm the only BANG sailor to learn about a certain web site that other BANG sailors might like to join. In the latest Newsletter **Lou Arellano** asked if anyone knew when **Captain Harriss** got his patrol pin, and was wondering what other commands he was assigned. I can't tell him about Captain Harriss however this web site can tell him about thousands of other sailors. I only found out about it 3 months ago while attending a Reunion for U.S.S. U.S. GRANT. I've found a couple of shipmates from years ago.

The website is called "TOGETHER WE SERVED" <http://navy.togetherweserved.com> You can join for 30 days free and then it'll cost you \$20.00 per year. Membership includes WWII sailors up to today's active duty personnel. It's well worth looking into.

I'd like to hear from anyone who served with me aboard the 385, even **'Big Ed' Cirucci**. Back then he was too scary for us non-quals to go to for a check out. Remember, back then I was only 20 years old and weighed 135 pounds. Today I go 300 and 'Big Ed' would just be tall and not so big.

My e-mail is: argyllmastiff@embarqmail.com

Also, sign me up for the e-mail Newsletter.".... *Dan, thanks for switching to e-mail delivery and also for the info on the web site. It is indeed worth looking into as a tool to locate BANG shipmates. Captain Harriss' bio (and others) are now posted on our web site thanks to our Webmaster—Bill Fenton.*

Tom Regester, an IC Electrician (61-63), "Thanks for sending me the Bang News Letter by email. It works just fine. You can continue to send it to me that way.

By the way, I am now retired from the U.S. Air Force as a MSGT. I have a total of 34.4 years in and I have been getting my pension for quite awhile. Also enjoying my retirement from work as of 17 March 2007. Get to spend a lot more time with my family and grandchildren.".... *Glad to hear the on-line delivery works for you, Tom. Hope your able to enjoy your retirement for many years to come. How about you and Peggy attending our Reunion?*

Tom Hill, a MachinistMate (68-69), "I am sorry to be so tardy in writing to let you know what is going on with my life.

I retired from the Navy in Orlando in 1981 and went to work for the Post Office the same year. Worked 21-1/2 years in the PO and retired again in 2003. My father, a plank owner of USS Sea Owl (SS405) during the War and my first Boat (1961), moved to Orlando from Vermont in 2000. Rose and I have a summer home in the mountains of NC to escape the

summer heat of FL so I guess you'd call us 'Snowbirds'.

After I retired I had plenty of time to go to reunions. That first year we went to a Sea Owl Reunion in Kings Bay, GA which was held in conjunction with the WWII SubVets Memorial Service. We attended the Memorial Service again in 2005. I believe I saw **Daniel 'Rosie' Rosenfeld** at that time but I didn't have the opportunity to talk with him. This past year, 2007, there was another Sea Owl Reunion at the WWII Memorial Service in Kings Bay. The Sea Owl decided to use the same Hospitality Room as the WWII SubVets so, my wife, Rose, and I spent quite a bit of time there. It was there that we met **'Rosie' and his wife, Goldie**. We talked for quite a while and he told me that BANG was quite active with reunions and had a Newsletter. Me being the dinosaur that I am, I don't have a computer, I started looking in my retired Navy publications for a BANG Reunion. I am thrilled that the connection has finally been made.

Since I started receiving the Newsletters I have talked with **Gene Lockwood and Jim Herward**. I am working on getting to the reunion in Green Bay and looking forward to meeting many more of my BANG shipmates. I have a couple of Sea Stories to relate about **Billy Cromie and 'Moose' Dunterman** while we were in the Philly Shipyard.

I am sending a check for a ball cap and something for the Slush Fund. Thanks for the great job you do on the Newsletter. It is much appreciated.".... *Tom, I am happy we were finally able to get connected and that you are now enjoying the Newsletter and making contact with your shipmates. Thank you for your donation. I'm looking forward to meeting you and Rose in Green Bay.*



The Old Submariner



**USS BANG (SS385)
BRANSON, MISSOURI - OCTOBER 11, 2007**



**USS BANG (SS385)
BRANSON, MISSOURI - OCTOBER 11, 2007**

AO Bulletin Update 1 January 2008

AID & ATTENDANCE UPDATE 02: This Special Pension (part of the VA Improved Pension program) allows for Veterans and surviving spouses who require the regular attendance of another person to assist in eating, bathing, dressing, undressing or taking care of the needs of nature to receive additional monetary benefits. It also includes individuals who are blind or a patient in a nursing home because of mental or physical incapacity. Assisted care in an assisted living facility also qualifies.

This most important benefit is overlooked by many families with Veterans or surviving spouses who need additional monies to help care for ailing parents or loved ones. This is a "pension benefit" and is not dependent upon service-related injuries for compensation. Most Veterans who are in need of assistance qualify for this pension. Aid and Attendance can help pay for care in the home, nursing home or assisted living facility. A Veteran is eligible for up to \$1,519 per month, while a surviving spouse is eligible for up to \$976 per month. A couple is eligible for up to \$1,801 per month. To be eligible the veteran must have served during one of the following periods:

- World War II: December 7, 1941 through December 31, 1946
- Korean War: June 27, 1950 through January 31, 1955
- Vietnam War: August 5, 1964 (February 28, 1961, for veterans who served "in country" before August 5, 1964), through May 7, 1975
- Gulf War: August 2, 1990, through a date to be set by law of Presidential Proclamation

The VA must determine that your net worth is such that it will probably not support you through the remainder of your life. The VA does not include primary residence or vehicles when determining net worth. To qualify you must have a "countable income" of less than the pension amount to be eligible for all or a portion of the pension. Countable Income is the amount of income a veteran or surviving spouse receives each year, AFTER deducting all unreimbursed, recurring health care expenses. This includes assisted living costs, home health care, insurance & Medicare premiums, on-going pharmacy costs and more. If you have dependents, their health care costs can also be used to reduce your countable income. However, their income must also be added into the equation. There are three levels to the Improved Pension program: Basic Pension, Housebound, or Aid & Attendance. Each tier has its own level of benefits and qualifications. If you or your loved one does not qualify for Aid and Attendance, you may want to check to see if you qualify for another level of the

Pension. For example the following would apply for eligibility to receive the Basic Pension:

- A veteran earns \$14,000 per year from Social Security. His wife earns \$9,000 per year. The veteran also earns \$5,000 per year from a small company pension giving the couple a total annual income of \$28,000.
- The couple has \$38,000 in net worth in CDs and savings and they still live in the home they bought in 1954. This is not enough to support them for the rest of their lives...
- The veteran pays \$1,800 per month for his wife's home health care, they each pay a monthly Medicare premium of \$93.50 (x 2 = \$187/mo), and he also pays \$149 per month for supplemental insurance. Thus, their total medical monthly expenses are \$25,632 per annum.
- When you subtract the medical expenses from their total income, you get a "countable income" of only \$2,368. The maximum benefit amount of \$14,313 minus the countable income amount of \$2,368 equals \$11,945 which would be paid by the VA if the veteran applies for it...

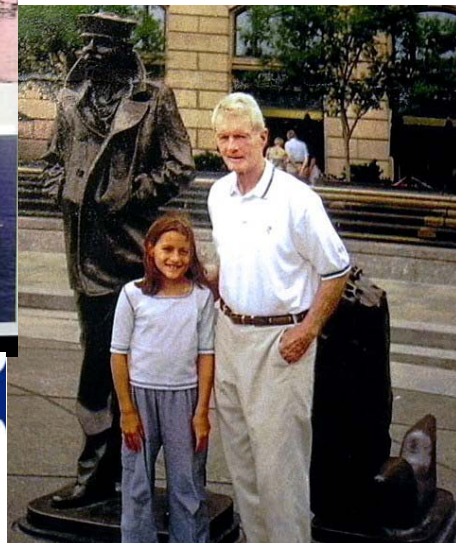
[Source: www.veteranaid.org/ Dec 07++]



Jean & Andy McKaye



Alex & Liz Taylor 1975



Alex & Katelynn 2000

*To Rear Admiral Sinclair
Through the years my thoughts have often flown,
To the Bang, the seas and adventures we have known,
Now, as our lives have matured and grown,
Your birthday is again a reminder that long ago, a special seed was sown,
Today, as you have warm remembrances of your own,
Remember, our spirits are with you and you are never alone.
Enjoy this special day.*

Dick Barbieri SOS3 (SS)
USS Bang, 1961-1964



*Happy Birthday, Alex!
From The "Gang"*





Jimmie Richey

Al Mace



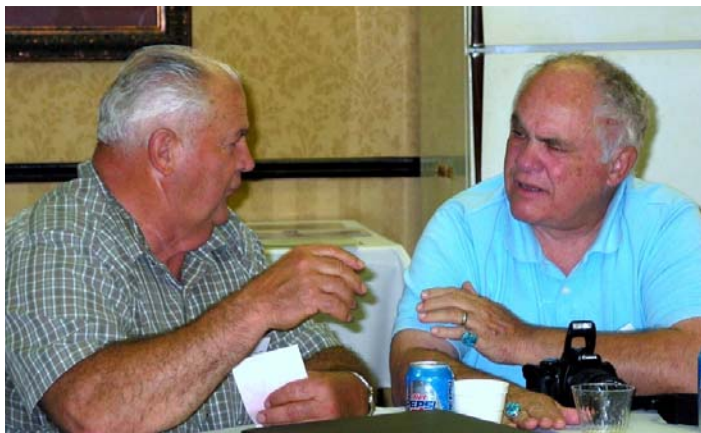
Henry Kozloski

Jim Bunch

Ron Athey



Paul Skahan



Ed Elliott

Gary Dannenbaum



The Heaters On A Road Trip...

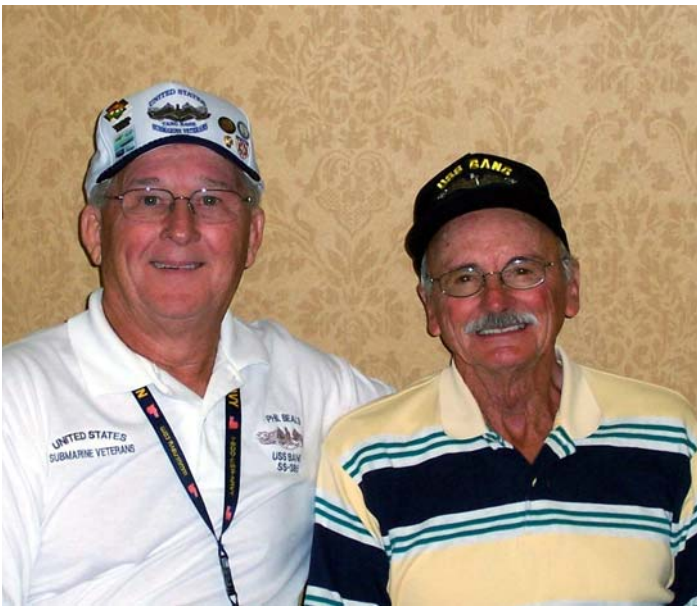


Stu Savage

Bob Morrison



Bill Fenton Charles Archer Harry Ross



Always Something Cooking When These Two Get Together



Al Mace

Jim & Yolanda Klein



Business Meeting



Tolling Of The Bell



The 60's Crew



Lapon Sail



Charlie Kimball

Ben LaPorte

Richy Gahan



And Its Only Got 8000 Miles On It



Honorary Bang Ganger



Marge Found Her Knight

USS BANG (SS385) MEMORIAL SITES

"Keeping The Memory Alive"

Albacore Park - Portsmouth, NH

Tree and Engraved Ground Marker

Battleship Park - Mobile, AL

Engraved Walkway Brick

Mathis Plaza Waterfront Park - S. Toms River, NJ

Engraved Walkway Brick

Deterrent Park - Silverdale, WA

Engraved Walkway Brick

Veterans Memorial Park - Pensacola, FL

Submarine Lifeguard League Memorial Stone

Idaho Science Center - Arco, ID

Engraved Bronze Plaque @ Hawkbill Memorial

Veterans Freedom Memorial - Tampa, FL

Engraved Walkway Brick

USS Lapon Memorial Sail - Springfield, MO

Engraved Walkway Brick

Clarion Hotel - Charleston, SC

Framed Trilogy Drawing on Lobby Wall

New Mexico Veterans Memorial - Albuquerque

Engraved Walkway Brick

HAPPY
ST. PATTY'S
DAY
SALE



SHARE'IN OF
THE GREEN



YOU DON'T NEED A
FOUR LEAF CLOVER OR A POT OF GOLD TO
TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THESE PRICES.
Purchase these items by mail or at our Reunions.
Send mail orders to **Phil Beals**.

Make your check payable to **USS BANG** and be
sure to add a few bucks extra to cover the postage.
All proceeds from these sales are deposited directly
into our Slush Fund.

Navy Blue Ballcap - USS BANG SS385 embroidered
in gold with silver dolphins and solid or mesh top.

Please state your choice.....\$8.00

BANG Photos - 40's, 50's, 60's 8x10 black & white
as shown on back page.

Please state your choice.....\$3.00

Jacket Patches - 40's, 50's, 60's 5 inch in full color
as shown on back page.

Please state your choice.....\$5.00

WWII Battle Flag Patch - 3x5 inch full color.....\$5.00

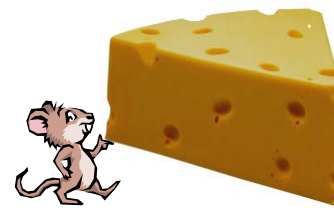
1" Lapel/Hat pins - depicting above jacket patches &
battle flag. **Please state your choice.....\$4.00**



GREEN BAY

REUNION UPDATE

Green Bay 2008



WISCONSIN

Hi! We're John and Darlene Kraft and we'd like to invite you to the 2008, USS Bang Reunion which will be located in Green Bay, WI.

We kick off with the Hospitality Room opening on Monday, July 28th and end with our banquet on Friday evening, August 1st.

Our Headquarters will be the Day's Inn City Centre. It is located in Downtown Green Bay only 3 miles from Packer Stadium and 6 miles from Oneida Bingo & Casino Hall. Complimentary airport and casino transportation is available. A continental breakfast is included in the main floor restaurant.

Room rates for our Reunion are \$79.00 for a single (one queen bed) and \$89.00 for a double (two double beds). Please call 920-435-4484 ASAP to make your room reservations and mention "Bang Reunion". The hotel is holding 40 rooms for us until July 1st. **After this date there is no guarantee of room availability.**

We have planned three trips for those interested:

1.) Tuesday, July 29th - 30th Experimental Aircraft Assoc. Airshow/museum - (airventure.org)

We will leave at 8:15AM and travel to Oshkosh. (about 1 hour) Upon arrival you can tour the museum and walk the grounds checking out all of the aircraft. Typically about 2,500 show aircraft participate, including home built, antiques, classics, war birds, ultralights and rotorcraft. There are shuttles running up and down the flight line, so you don't have to walk everywhere. Lunch is on your own (think county fair food). The Air show starts at 3:00PM, though they really start flying about 2:00PM. Many, many war birds on display and flying. We can stay until air show ends at approx. 6:00PM or leave earlier if people desire. Forums, Exhibits, hands-on, aviation-based demonstrations - something for young and old alike.

2.) Wednesday, July 30th - Door County - (doorcounty.com) We leave about 9:00AM and travel to Eagle Bluff Lighthouse - located in beautiful Peninsula Park (eagleblufflighthouse.org) - for tour and lecture. We then proceed to the Old Post Office in Ephraim (oldpostoffice-doorcounty.com) and enjoy a famous Door County fish boil - including Door County cherry pie for dessert. After lunch there will be ample time for shopping in Sister Bay before heading back about 4:00PM.

3.) Thursday, July 31st - Wisconsin Maritime Museum (wisconsinmaritime.org) and tour of USS Cobia (SS 245). Memorial service to be held on board. This is the one tour I certainly hope most everyone can make.

We leave at 8:30AM and travel to Manitowoc. After touring the museum and Cobia we will hold a Memorial Service on deck of Cobia. The museum will light off one engine for us. This should bring tears to a lot of Engineman's eyes. After the Memorial Service we will travel to Two Rivers, Home of the Ice Cream Sundae, for a late sandwich buffet lunch at Lighthouse Inn (lhinn.com) while enjoying a beautiful view of Lake Michigan. We will return around 4:00PM.

I believe the Packers will be practicing at their facility on Oneida St. and a tour of the Packer Hall of Fame and Lambeau Field will be available. (packers.com) The National RR Museum is also located in Green Bay. More information on this will be in your packet.

Please, please register early!!! With the Packers starting training camp and all the people coming to Oshkosh for the Fly-In, hotels will book up quickly.

The cutoff date for registering for the trips is also July 1st in order to secure the buses. Please note that I need at least 30 passengers per bus or I will have to cancel the trip.

So come on, **Bill Powell** - I want to see your face again, **Glen Armbruster** - I'd like to hear the story of the bell over the side first hand, and it would be nice to see **XO Bud Alexander** as well. New faces are welcome too!!!

Darlene and I are pleased that the Reunion Committee chose us to host the 2008 Reunion. We will do our utmost to make this reunion as pleasurable as those in the past have been.

Please contact me for answers to any questions you may have about this Reunion. Thank you.

John Kraft RM (68-70)
N49 W28619 Chardon Dr
Hartland, WI 53029-9161
(262) 538-4218 (Home)
(414) 975-5951 (Cell)
jkraft1@wi.rr.com

U. S. S. BANG (SS - 385)

65th Anniversary Reunion

Green Bay, WI

Monday - July 28th 2008

through

Friday - August 1st 2008



Your Hosts

John & Darlene Kraft

HEADQUARTERS



Days Inn City Centre






406 N Washington St



Green Bay, WI 54301

For Reservations Call 1-(920) 435-4484

Room Registration must be made by

July 1, 2008

-  **MONDAY** JULY 28th - Check In – Hospitality Room opens at 12:00 noon.
-  **TUESDAY** JULY 29th - 8:15 - 6:00 Experimental Aircrafts Convention - Air Show.
-  **WEDNESDAY** JULY 30th - 9:00 - 4:00 Door County State Park - Lighthouse Tour - Lunch.
-  **THURSDAY** JULY 31st - 8:30 - 4:00 Wisconsin Maritime Museum - Memorial Service - Lunch.
-  **FRIDAY** AUGUST 1st - TBA a.m. – Business Meeting.
6:00 p.m. – Banquet – Cash Bar – Casual Dress

 **Clip & Mail to** 

John Kraft—N49 W28619 Chardon Dr—Hartland, WI 53029-9161

Yes, I/we plan to attend the reunion.

RATE/RANK: _____

NAME: _____ **YEARS ABOARD BANG:** _____ **to** _____

ADDRESS: _____ **PHONE NO:** (____) ____ - ____

CITY: _____ **ST:** _____ **ZIP:** _____

SPOUSE'S / GUEST'S NAME(S): _____

ARRIVAL DATE: ____/____/____ **DEPART DATE:** ____/____/____ **E-ADDR:** _____

NUMBER TAKING AIR SHOW TOUR: _____ **@ \$53.00 per person. =** _____

NUMBER TAKING DOOR COUNTY TOUR: _____ **@ \$47.00 per person. =** _____

NUMBER TAKING MARITIME MUSEUM TOUR: _____ **@ \$47.00 per person. =** _____

NUMBER ATTENDING BANQUET: _____ **@ \$29.00 per person. =** _____

Please specify entrée choice(s): _____ **- Chicken** _____ **- Beef** _____ **- Salmon**

(Indicate how many)

HOSPITALITY ROOM STIPEND PER SHIPMATE **+ 10.00**

Make check payable to John Kraft

TOTAL

PHIL BEALS, EDITOR
BANG GANG NEWSLETTER
2127 OAHU DRIVE
HOLIDAY, FL 34691-3625



**FIRST – CLASS MAIL
FORWARDING SERVICE
REQUESTED**



PRAISE OUR MILITARY! - AND PRAY FOR THEM TOO.

