



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 - Gene Lockwood	512 Windsor Gate Cir	Virginia Bch, VA 23452-2129	(757) 340-8488	gvlockwood@verizon.net
SECRETARY - Harry Ross	2882 W 232nd St	Torrance, CA 90505-2855	(310) 612-6629	harryross@gmail.com
TREASURER - Ed DeLong	894 Indian Creek Rd	Harleysville, PA 19438-1005	(267) 614-9575	Elk308@comcast.net
EDITOR - Phil Beals	2127 Oahu Dr	Holiday, FL 34691-3625	(727) 934-9665	pebeals385@juno.com
CHAPLAIN - Lenny Sciuto	PO Box 477	Spofford, NH 03462-0477	(603) 903-8100	mobyquod@hotmail.com
WEB MASTER - Bill Fenton	4422 Organ Mesa Loop	Las Cruces, NM 88011-8403	(575) 532-5830	ss385@fastwave.biz

FALL/WINTER 2014

WWW.USSBANG.COM

ISSUE-74

MERRY CHRISTMAS



Remember those who gave their all for us
and those doing so today!



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.



Burt L. Conger, EM (52-53)

Paul M. DeGal, TM (51-52)

Jack E. Manning, EM (58-59)



SHIPMATES, REST YOUR OARS!

The following shipmate is a new (found) addition to our roster. Your committee is thankful for all who helped in locating him and we will continue our search until we have attempted to locate everyone.

LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIPCODE	PHONE	Y-O-B
----------	-----------	---------	------	----	---------	-------	-------

NONE TO REPORT!!!

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
Bunkley	Charles J	13618 N Florida Ave Lot 84	Tampa	FL	33613-3257		53-55
Jorge	Pacifico L	1805 Endicott Ln	Virginia Bch	VA	23464-7860		70-72



THANK YOU!

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



John Andersen
Charles Bunkley
Al Cadenhead
Ike Cohen

Burdell Clark (Roger)
Gary Dannenbaum
Doc Dougherty
Dan Dudley
Cris Gurion

Carl Hagenkotter
Charlie Kimball
John Knubel
Henry Kozloski
Dale Larson

Gabe Lewis
John Murray
Judy Myers (Jack)
Jack OConnor
Bill Powell

Paul Salow
Len Sciuto
Larry Schafer
Tex Schovajsa
James Schultz



THE INTERNET CONNECTION CHANGES SINCE LAST PUBLICATION

Charles Lepine ...charleslepine36@hotmail.com



**HAPPY
CHRISTMAS, HANUKKAH, KWANZAA.**

Feliz Navidad!





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 received a very nice letter from **Cris Gurion**, SD (58-59) updating us on his life after BANG. Shortly after BANG returned from her "Northern Run" in '59, Cris transferred back to Harder where he changed his rate to EN and forged his future on the West Coast aboard Wahoo, Tang, Carbonero, and Grayback before making ENC (ss) and reporting aboard the seventh fleet flagship, USS Blue Ridge (LCC-19) in 1974 to serve as "A" Division Chief. After 3 years, Cris transferred to Tunny. Because she was SSN, Cris also had to change his rate to MMC and eventually MMCS. He retired from the Navy after 30 years of service - all on submarines except for the 3 years aboard the target. After retirement, Cris packed up his wife and 5 children and returned to his homeland in the Philippines for an extended stay before returning to CA and starting his new career with the US Dept of Transportation as a mechanic for the next 16 years. Now, fully retired, Cris' children have grown and "left the nest" giving him 7 grand children to keep him occupied - but not for long. One of them enters West Point next fall. Recently, Cris was aroused by a 6.2 earthquake that shook northern CA. He reports that he experienced very minor damage but his town, Vallejo, had major damage to some of its older buildings. Thank you Cris for your bio update, the photos, and your contribution. Enjoy the rest of your life and, if boredom starts to set in, remember you will always find shipmates and friends at a Bang Gang Reunion.

.....
Delphine Bensen suggests, elsewhere in this issue, that we show recognition of some sort to our shipmates that are 90+ years old. I know I have recognized, in the past, a few shipmates who had 90+ birthdays but, since our database doesn't include date-of-birth, I guess the best way to recognize these shipmates is with a

yearly generic Nonagenarian Group Birthday Wish:



Happy Birthday Shipmates!

May you have many more 90+ birthdays. I remember a few years back shipmate **Charley Odom** celebrated his Centenarian (100) birthday and he died shortly afterward. I think the cause of death might have been attempting to blow out 100 candles all at once.....

.....
I received an email from **John Caldwell**, ShipsCook (43-44, WP1), sending us his "REGARDS TO ALL FROM THE OLD SENIOR CHIEF RETIRED". John is one of our nonagenarians whom we wish the best in his continued retirement.

.....
Joe Peluso, SOnarman (59-62), informs us that one of our Memorial Sites took a hit when the San Diego Base USSVI recently decommissioned the replica BANG sail parade float, which was on display for us during our Reunion there a couple of years ago. After extensive yard work, they recommissioned it as a scaled down replica of a Los Angeles 688 boat. Yet, another takeover of a Diesel Boat by Rickover's Navy. I guess the "F" in DBF doesn't mean forever - at least not in the eyes of the shipmates at San Diego Base. Again, I wish to thank **Frank Walker** for the major part he played in the initial setup of our Memorial at San Diego Base and also to Joe for bringing this loss of one of our memorial sights to our attention..

USSVI informed us of the passing of **Burt Conger** on 11/06/2014. I was unable to find an obit in the newspapers on him.

Burt was born on 11/26/1925. He reported to BANG at PNS on 10/21/52, shortly after her third commissioning, and transferred to Nuke School, Pittsburgh, 07/13/53.

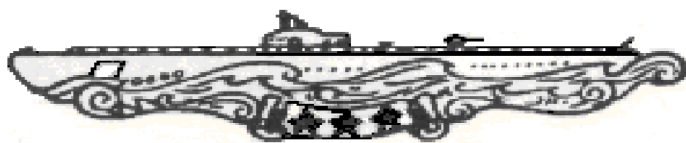
He also served aboard Flounder SS251, Sea Leopard SS483, Nautilus SSN571, Nathanael Greene SSBN636, and Atule SS403 before retiring as EMC(ss).



.....

Ken Henry informed us of **Paul DeGal's** demise on 5/16/2014. Paul had an impressive war record. He came to BANG from Bowfin SS287 on 9/14/51 and decommissioned BANG in PNS on 4/4/52.

DeGAL, Paul Murray, of Hamburg, NY, died May 16, 2014. He was born December 8, 1924. Paul was a retired Buffalo Police Officer, a US Navy submarine veteran of WWII and Korea serving aboard Haddock SS231 - Plank owner, WP1,2,3; Nautilus SS168; Salmon SS182; Seadragon SS194; Seal SS183 - WP9,10; Cavalla SS244; Hawkbill SS366 - WP1; Catfish SS339; Puffer SS268; Archerfish SS311; Entemedor SS340; Sea Dog SS401; Bowfin SS287; Bang SS385, and a founding member and past Commander of VFW Post #1419. He qualified in submarines on the USS Haddock (SS-231) in 1942 and was a TMT1(SS) when he left the Navy in 1953. Husband of the late Ann E. (nee Klink) DeGal; father of Michelle Zielinski, Carol (Thomas) Hesketh, Paul Murray (Linda), Thomas (Kimberly), Norinne (Benjamin) DeGal-Posen and Diane Jordan; grandfather of John, Caitlin, Brendan, Gabrielle, Patrick, Alexander, Owen, Henry and Ian; brother of Fred, Jean and the late David. Interment in Lakeside Memorial Park Cemetery, Hamburg, Erie County, NY.



.....

Jack Manning came to BANG from SubRon10 on 9/2/58 and served as an Electrician until he transferred to USS Northampton (CLC1) on

7/30/59. The following obit was located on-line: **Jack E. Manning** 75, a 50 year resident of Irvington, passed away at his home in Irvington on December 5, 2014. He was born November 11, 1939 in Rushville to William E. Manning and Thelma M. (Holding) Hardwick. Jack was an E3 in the U.S. Navy, serving from 1957-1960. He served on the USS Bang and was a member of the USSV1 Submarine Group. He was a 1957 graduate of Rushville High School. Jack married Betty Riggs on July 2, 1961. Jack worked for and was a member of the Local #440 Union in Indianapolis as a Mechanical Contractor/refrigeration pipefitter for 40 years. He and his wife also owned and operated T & M Associates for 5 years. Jack was the #11 Contractor in the State of Indiana at one time. Jack was a member of the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Irvington, the SAS and the NRA. He was an avid outdoorsman, marksman and expert fly fisherman. He is survived by his wife, Betty, of Irvington; his mother, Thelma Hardwick of Indianapolis; a son, Craig and wife Sharon Manning of Farmington Hills, MI; daughters, Kimberly and husband Dan Petry and Laurel and husband Dan Pritt all of Indianapolis; grandchildren, Michael Petry, Sarah Pritt and Amelia and Lorelai Manning. Jack was preceded in death by his father; a brother, Fred Manning; and step father, Vernon Hardwick. Burial with military honors will be in the Arlington East Hill Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church.

Anyone wishing to send condolences to Jack's family may do so to the following address:

Betty Manning
5421 University Ave
Indianapolis, IN 46219-7010



*Lord these departed Shipmates
with Dolphins on their chest,
Are part of an outfit known to be the best.
Please welcome them and offer them your hand,
As you no doubt know they're the best in the land.
And also heavenly Father add their name to the roll
Of our departed shipmates who serve on Final Patrol.
Assure them all that we, who still survive
Will always keep their memory alive.*



SICK BAY



The following shipmates and wives are currently in need of our well wishes and prayers.



Marge Heater - Dementia - Charlie called last week to report that Marge passed away a few days hence. He said that even though they gave her excellent service at the nursing home, after 4 years she just got too weak to fight back any longer.

Marge, and Charlie, started attending our Reunions in the mid 90's and were regulars until 5 years ago when Marge became unable to travel any longer. They both were a joy to have in attendance. So much so that people would ask me at Reunions if the Heaters had arrived yet - or specifically, had Marge arrived. Her hospitality room antics were classics. When she walked into the room everyone would yell "Marge" but in reality, she was our "Mame" and it was a pleasure to have know her.

Anyone wishing to send condolences to Charlie may do so to the following address:

Charles Heater
221 Holly Hill Rd
Urbanna, VA 23175-2464

.....
Ron Gecks - ElectriciansMate (66-70) "Hello everyone! Thought I would take a minute and tell you I have just completed my 42nd radiation treatment for Prostate Cancer. Now I have to wait 6 weeks before they do a PSA test and then I go back a week later to get the results. I am feeling fine - no problems right now." ...*The news sounds good, Ron. We will continue to pray for your complete recovery.*

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

Bill Powell, RadioMan (69-70), "Two short sea stories: One at sea and one on the pier at Subase Nlon.

"1969 or 70 (unsure), BANG was at sea with another sub from our squadron (cant remember which sub) and, once again, I was on the helm in the Conning Tower. The exercise (as I remember after 45 years) was to fire "dummy" torpedoes, while submerged, at each other (maybe I should say - toward each other) and the torpedo depth was to be set to run underneath or over the top of each other. We kept contact with each other by the underwater telephone. I believe "BANG" fired first and after several attempts to make contact with the other sub, we decided to come to periscope depth to see where our exercise partner was. There they were on the surface going all ahead full towards New London leaving a long black trail behind them. It seems someone's fuel tank was punctured by a dummy torpedo. I never heard anything further about it but, either our aim was off or their depth was."

Bill, could it have been that one of BANG's FTs just wanted some early liberty???

"Second story was during one of those weeks when BANG was tied up at the sub base. I am not sure if I was working topside or just goofing off when Halfbeak SS352 came up the Thames and turned to tie up on the other side of the pier from our berthing. Several BANG crew members came topside to handle lines or just watch the maneuver.

I was only 20 at the time and a non-qual seaman but, I was smart enough to see something bad was going to happen. Too fast and nowhere to go, Halfbeak smashes bow first into the head of the pier. Her nose was bent like she just lost a prize fight. From that day on she was known as the "HalfBENT". Some of the Bang Gang had some laughs but I am pretty sure that no one was laughing on the 352 that day."

The Thames had a treacherous tidal current that dented many a Boat that tied up to the Nlon piers. But, did you know that it also claimed a skipper's fancy sports car??? The insurance had a field day with the claim - Hit By Submarine.....



Lamarr Seader, SignalMan (62-65), "Kathy and I want to thank the Bang Gang for the get well card and all their thoughts and prayers. Sorry we couldn't make the reunion in Cleveland. We had our plans made, our reservations at the hotel, and reunion registration form mailed in.

In June I went to see my primary care physician at the Naval Hospital Pensacola because I had some poison oak on my left arm from string trimming at our place in the mountains of NC. To my and my doctor's surprise when they took my blood pressure with one of those BP cuffs they said I had a low heart rate of 43 and it should of been about 78 or 80. They did a quick EKG and determined I actually had a heart rate of 78 but I had an irregular heart beat. I was referred to the cardiac dept. and went through a sonogram of the heart and about a week later they had me all wired up with a Hanson monitor for a 24 hour period over the 4th of July. When those results were read they referred me for a heart stress test about a week later. Meanwhile I never had no pain or other symthoms associated with a heart problem or artery blockage.

Once they got those results the referred me out to a cardiac specialist at the civilian hospital in Pensacola as they had two test results, one of which said I had a strong heart and one said I had a weak heart. In early Oct I went in for a heart catherization - done through the right wrist. The results were less than 10% blockage (which the heart specialists don't even consider a matter of concern) of the four main arteries and my heart was pumping as normal. I still have an irregular heart beat about every 5th or 6th beat but the civilian cardiac specialist said I have a strong heart and to go on with my regular activities.

I have a follow up appointment with him at the end of Oct. Meanwhile, I have the little bottle of nitroglycerin tablets I have to keep with me as I travel around daily and I'm taking medicine for high blood pressure and also cholesterol, even though I have never had high blood pressure or high cholesterol, until I see the cardiac specialist again.

I told the cardiac specialist that I learned a lesson: "Don't go to the doctor for poison oak. Go to the drug store instead and get some ointment."

We plan on being at the Michigan reunion in

2015." ... *Lamarr, better yet, teach the neighbor's kid how to operate that weed whacker and you sit on the porch with a cool one and supervise. But, maybe the poison oak was a good thing. It got you to the doctors and they nipped a minor problem before it became a major one. Happy to hear that your health is better and we will see you and Kathy in Troy.*

Paul Anderson, Firecontrol Tech (62-63), "Many thanks for the great pictures you posted on the BANG site of what was obviously a terrific reunion. It was so good to see pictures of a few of the old sea dogs I still recall from The Gang and past reunions - bless their fine hearts!! And, I chuckled over the shot of Bill in the rack; bet that brought back many memories. I can recall "hotbunking" on one of our Northern Runs when we had a few "spooks" on board that worked in the radio shack trying to gather info off Mermansk from the Ruskie transmissions, etc. and two of us third class po's were sharing our "nests". And seeing the shots inside that CODfish brought back many great memories - the old fire control system, etc. I had to maintain, the attack scope, controls, etc. pure soul candy to an old sea dog. June also enjoyed the "trip" via the pix and my memories and remarks. Everyone looked just great!! Bravo Zulu for a reunion well done!!

Unfortunately, June's dementia and my bad back have pretty much curtailed any traveling beyond local shopping. The "kids", family, and friends have to come to us to visit and they do as frequently as practical. So unless another Gang reunion is once again in VA we will not be able to even consider attending.

Notwithstanding, we will always be there in spirit and with our kindest regards and affections for all of our wonderful (ss) shipmates. God bless and protect one and all."... *Paull, sorry to hear that your declining health problems have limited the both of you to just short trips. We will continue to post/print Reunion photos so shipmates, like yourself, will be included in the festivities.*

Al Cadenhead, Seaman (44-45, WP3,4,5,6), "I came across an interesting article in the VFW Magazine that was titled "The most highly decorated servicemen of WWII". The article listed the top 42 of them and 13 of those were submariners including the top 3. And, low and behold, number 34 was **Anton Renkl Gallaher**

my first skipper. I was a green 18 years old then and he impressed me as a great skipper being very unassuming and humble that was extremely liked by all serving aboard. He also was a prolific mathematician who liked to race the TDC for solutions to an attack and usually equaled its time (sometimes he won).

I send my blessings and love for all my shipmates of USS BANG." ...*Al, an impressive record for you WWII submariners indeed. It was a pleasure to see you again at the Cleveland Reunion and hope you and Kurt enjoyed your trip afterwards.*

Bill Hopkins, CommiSsaryman (64-67) "Happy to receive your latest BANG Newsletter! Unfortunately I'm unable to make the Ohio Reunion so I thought I'd share an old sea story and a quick cartoon. **Ralph Gates** is the character. I loved Ralphie, he was always a great mate! Following is the story that goes with the cartoon.



"RALPHIE, NO SOCKS GATES"

BANG was tied up to the Tender in Groton. Ralphie, **DaisyMae (David) Doucette**, and myself were going ashore (liberty). In order to reach the pier we had to pass inspection by the OOD on the Tender - a really hard-headed guy. We dressed in our blues and were ready to head topside and cross over to the Tender. At that moment Ralphie discovered he had no black socks. Ralphie always borrowed stuff... but rarely returned it. DaisyMae and I hesitated loaning socks to Ralph, knowing we both had been victims of his borrowing habits in the past. "No, can't help ya, Ralph" we both said in unison. Ralphie's eyes sparkled, he had an idea. (Been there before too!) He reached

under his bunk pad and pulled out a bottle of black liquid shoe polish and began painting his ankles down to his shoe tops. And, it worked... it looked as though he did have on black socks!! WOW! Such deception!

When we all reached the OOD, he gave us a careful look over. We saluted, said "Permissiom to go ashore, Sir" and he said (as we held our breath) "Permission granted, Men".

Nervous back then, looking back now it was all great fun!! Lots of stories I could share."...*Bill, great sea story! Just like a true Diesel Submariner - making due with what is available and always ready to improvise. Your character sketch of Ralph displays some fine talent.*

Burdell Clark, widow of **Roger Clark**, a SignalMan (44-46, WP3,4,5,6), "Thank you for sending the BANG Newsletter. I am sending a little for the Slush Fund in memory of Roger. Thanks to all who sent a letter or card after his passing. Your support was greatly appreciated." ... *Burdell, we are always pleased to hear from the wives and thank you for your continuing support of the Bang Gang.*

John Anderson, QuarterMaster (66-68) "I reported aboard BANG in September 1966, just a few months before the battery overhaul in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. George LeBlanc's discussion of Philadelphia liberty brought back memories.

I began as a QM striker with **Roy Chamberlain** and went on to become a QM2 (even passed the QM1 exam but did not have a full year left). I served on BANG through the 1968 Med Cruise and discharged the Navy after two and a quarter years of active duty (I served almost four years in the Reserves before dropping out of college). I recall serving with **George LeBlanc, John Howard, Paul Carter, John Hazen, George Fedyna, Denis O'brien, and Eric Erikson** among many others.

I am proud to have served on BANG and to have been a part of such a great crew. As I slow down at work, I hope to be able to attend more of our Reunions and renew some great friendships."... *Thanks, John, for writing and your donation. I am happy to hear that George LeBlanc's letter aroused your memory and encouraged you to write in. Hopefully, your letter will encourage other shipmates to do the same.*

Paul Salow, ENgineman (53-55), "I would like to purchase one of the new Ballcaps - solid top. Put the remainder in the Slush Fund. Keep up the good work!!" ...*Hope you are enjoying your new ballcap, Paul. And, thank you for your Slush Fund donation.*

Carl Hagenkotter, YoemaN (52-54, ComCrew3) "I certainly do appreciate your Bang Gang Newsletter. It does bring fond memories of my second Boat and her great skipper, **Perry Hall**. There were quite a few other subs in my 20 years with the Force but, recalling them all, USS BANG was definitely my favorite." ...*Carl, thank you for your small stores order and contribution. I hope you are still able to do some sailing now and then. BANG always was blessed with great crews throughout her history.*

John Knubel, Ensign (62-63), "Thanks for your work. I will never forget the leadership of **Capt. Alex Sinclair and George Bailey** on the Barents Sea run - Winter 1963. I'm currently working on a book addressing what Admiral Mullen, while he was Chairman of the JTS, called the next U. S. national security threat - the large and accelerating national debt and [sic] unfunded (unfounded) promises. Do you think any of the Bang Gang would be interested in knowing more? If so, they can contact me at **jcknubel@aol.com**".,.,*Thank you for writing John and updating us on your latest literary endeavor. Good luck! I hope I interpreted your letter correctly.*

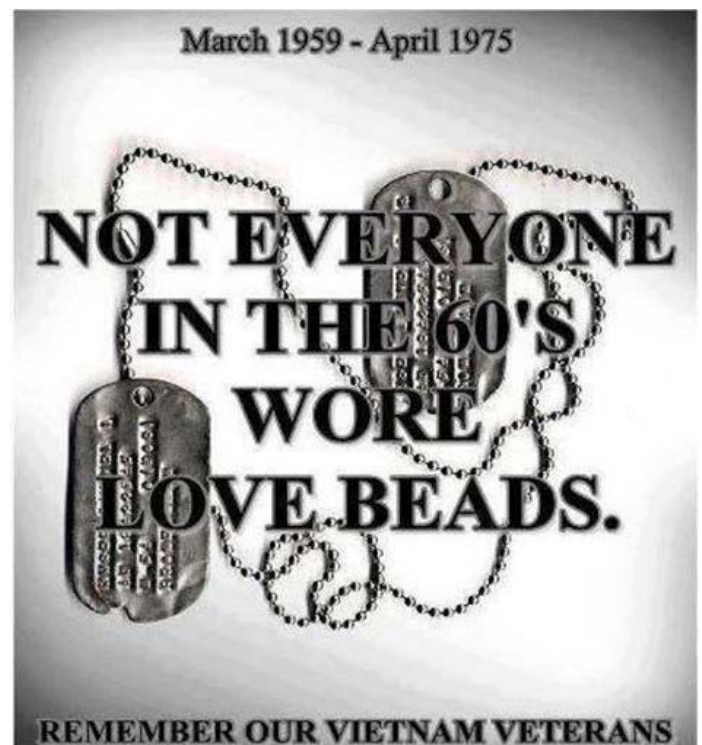
Delphine Bensen, widow of **Raymond Bensen**, a Radar Tech (43-45, WP1,2,3,4,6), "I wonder if you have thought about having a birthday edition of the Bang Gang Newsletter for all the seventeen year-olds who dropped out of school to join the Navy and turned, or will turn, ninety this year. **Bob Gunny** is one of them. I was seventeen myself in 1941, looking forward to graduating from Venice, CA High School." ...*Ninety! Delphine, you have the penmanship of a much younger person. Thank you for writing and sending the updates for my copy of your submarine book. I bring it with me to our Reunions and make sure that it gets properly displayed. Your idea of a birthday edition sounds intriguing. If not, at least recognition for those 90+.*

Judy Myers, widow of **Jack Myers**, a RadioMan (55-56), "I was so honored to be part of the Bang Reunion once again. I never thought about ever attending a reunion without Jack. But, I did and I am so very glad I was there. I saw many old friends and, before the week was over, I had made many new ones. It was a great week and now more wonderful memories. Thank you all for making me feel so welcome.

I will try for next year since it is so close to me and I'll try to talk **Alida Sivil** into joining me. Life is so short not to be with the people that mean so much to you ... The Bang Gang -- The Best!!!" ...*Judy, it was our pleasure to have you once again in attendance at our reunion. We are happy to hear that you enjoyed yourself equally as well. You will always be a member of the "Gang".*

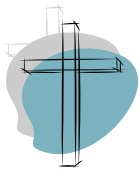
Charles Lepine, SeamaN (56-57), "Here is my new email address. Also want to tell you what an excellent job that you continue to do on the BANG GANG Newsletter. God bless."... *Thanks Chuck for updating your E address and for your kind comments.*

Charles Bunkley, FiremaN (53-55), "Enclosed is a donation to the Slush Fund. Thanks for your wonderful work."... *And, thank you Charlie for your donation and mailing address update. Both are greatly appreciated.*









**The Chaplain's
Corner**

Len Sciuto
QMC(SS), USNR
CDR, USCG, retired



Good Day,

We have all probably read or heard about this story before. But it is worthwhile mentioning again.

One day when I was a freshman in high school, I saw a kid from my class walking home from school. His name was Kyle. It looked like he was carrying all of his books. I thought to myself, "Why would anyone bring all of his books home on a Friday this early in the year? He must really be a nerd or something."

As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running towards him. They ran at him knocking his books out of his arms and tripping him so he landed in the mud alongside the road. His glasses went flying and I saw them land in the grass about 10 feet from him. He looked up at me and I saw this terrible sadness on his face and in his eyes. So, I jogged over to him as he crawled around looking for his glasses, and I saw a tear in his eye. As I handed him his glasses, I said "Those guys are jerks. They really should get a life." He looked at me and said "Hey, thanks." There was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude. I helped him up and asked him where he lived. He lived near me, so I asked why I had not seen him before. He said he had just moved into the neighborhood and that he had attended private school. We talked all the way home, and I carried some of his books. He turned out to be a pretty cool kid. I asked him if he wanted to play some football with me and my friends. He said yes. We hung out all weekend and the more I got to know Kyle, the more my friends and I liked him.

Monday morning came, and there was Kyle with the huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said, "Boy, you are gonna really build some serious muscles with this pile of books everyday." He just laughed and handed me half of his books. Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends and we did everything together.

We began thinking about college that last year of high school. Kyle decided to go to Georgetown and I was going to Duke. We both

knew that we would always be best friends and that the miles were not an obstacle. He wanted to attend Medical School and I wanted to play football and major in Business.

Well, it turned out that Kyle was our class Valedictorian and, as such, he had to speak at Graduation. Graduation came and he started his speech..."Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough teenage years. Your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach...but mostly your friends...I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. Now, I would like to tell you a story.

I just looked at my best friend with disbelief as he told the whole crowd about the first day we met. He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked about how he had cleaned out his locker so his Mom wouldn't have to do it later and carry it all back home. He looked hard at me and gave me a big smile. He went on. Thankfully I was saved from doing the unthinkable. My new found friend on that day saved me."

I heard a gasp go through the crowd as this handsome and popular boy told all of us of his weakest moment. Not until that moment when looking at his parents did I realize the magnitude of its depth. NEVER underestimate the power of your actions. With just one small gesture, good or bad, you can change a person's life forever.

Friends are Angels who lift us to our feet when our wings have trouble remembering how to fly. They are always there. They are a very special gift.

I am thankful for all of you and to all of you. You are my friends.

GOD bless.

Len



Christmas

REUNION 2014



Rob & Betty Bridle



Bill & Kathy Powell



Penny Gillis & Larry Buckmaster



Elvis & Sally Ericson

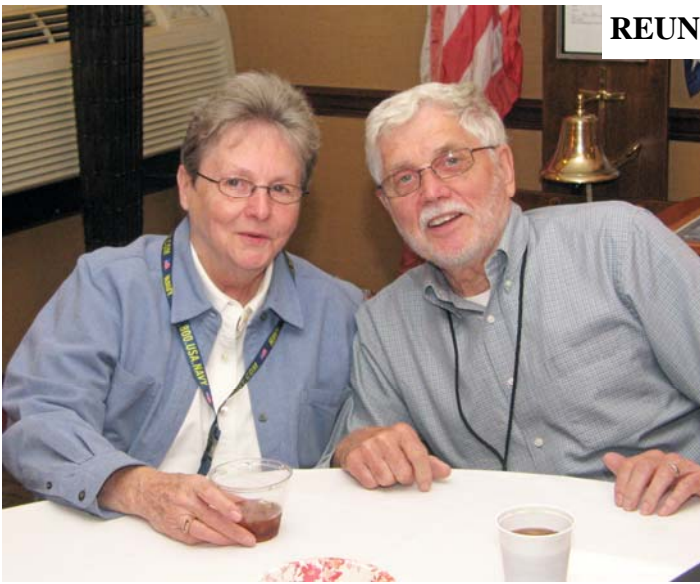


Henry & Teresa Kozloski



June & Ed Kracker

REUNION 2014



 **Connie & Gerald Simpson**



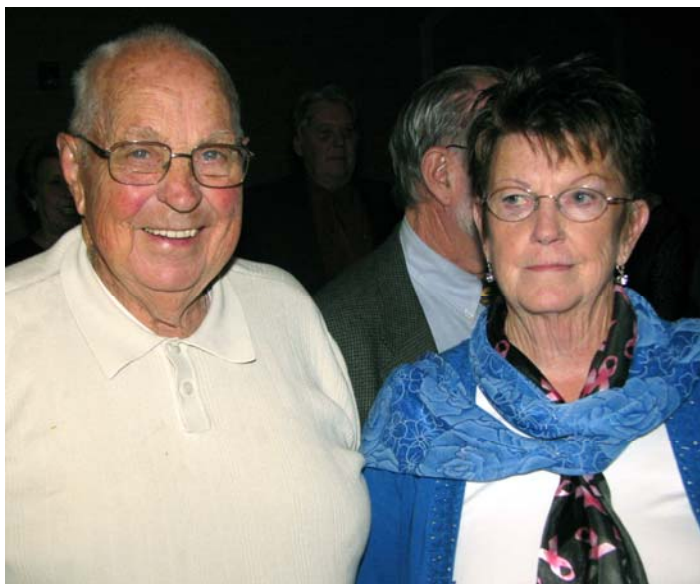
 **John & Lois Stewart**



 **Remembering Departed Shipmates**



 **Service Tribute**



 **Bill VonDerLieth & Lola Brower**



 **John O'Connor & Alan Forry**

REUNION 2014



Dom & Virginia Iammarino (Our Hosts)



Charlie "Doc" Dougherty (Our Photographer)



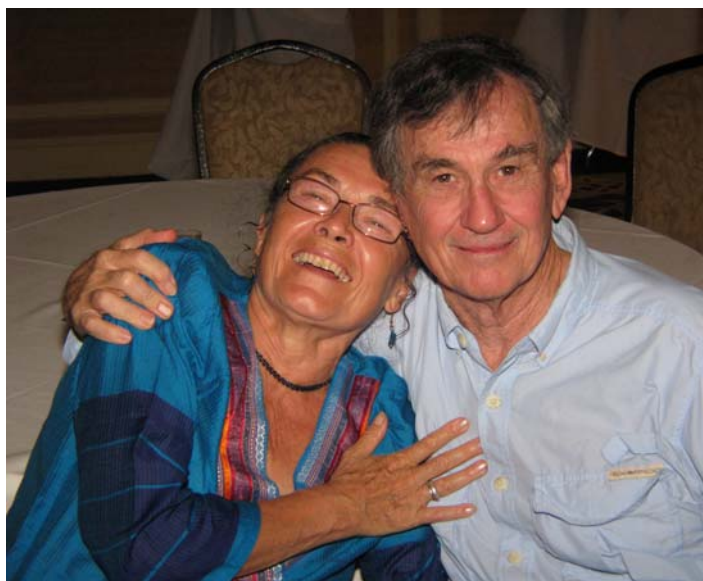
Murray, Cadenhead, Kracker (WWII Heroes)



June Kracker & Paul Schramm



Andy & Jean McKaye



Alison Wikhand & Ken McKaye (Guests)

USS BANG (SS385) MEMORIAL SITES

"Keeping The Memory Alive"

Albacore Park - Portsmouth, NH - Red Maple 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
New Mexico Vets Memorial - Albuquerque, NM - Engraved Walkway Brick
Nimitz WWII Museum-Fredericksburg, TX - Brass Plaque on Memorial Courtyard Wall
Submarine Library & Museum - Groton, CT - Engraved Walkway Brick



ITEM FOR SALE!

A friend of **Domenic Iammarino** is selling this watercolor print of a World War II submarine sinking a cargo ship that he purchased 25 years ago. It is overall 36 x 28-the picture is 27 x 19.

The artist, James Sessions, born in 1882 in Rome, NY, died in 1962 in Chicago. He was commissioned to create this print by Manitowoc Shipbuilding Co to honor the 28 submarines the company built during World War II.



Anyone wishing to make an offer, contact **Doug Baldwin**, 17112 Hawks Lookout, Strongsville, OH 44136, Phone: 440-238-0692 Email: grumpee0244@prodigy.net

STOCKING STUFFER SALE!!



Help Santa fill them up.....

All items are sold at our Reunions or shipped PBW. Send mail orders to **Phil Beals** with your check payable to **USS BANG** and be sure to include a few bucks extra to cover the postage.

Navy Blue Ballcap - Solid or mesh top - embroidered USS BANG SS385 + dolphins or Sentry of the Seas.
Please state your choice.....\$8.00

BANG Photos - 40's, 50's, 60's 11x14 black & white as shown on back page of Newsletter.
Please state your choice.....\$3.00

Jacket Patches - 40's, 50's, 60's 5 inch in full color as shown on back page of Newsletter.
Please state your choice.....\$5.00

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

1" Lapel/Hat pins - depict jacket patches & battle flag.
Please state your choice.....\$5.00

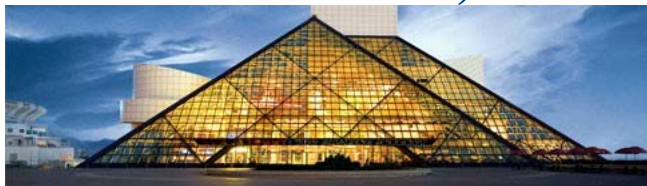
6" Trilogy Window Decal - depicts all 3 sail configurations and patches.
Please state your choice.....\$5.00

All proceeds from these sales are deposited directly into our Slush Fund.



REUNION UPDATE 2014

CLEVELAND, OH

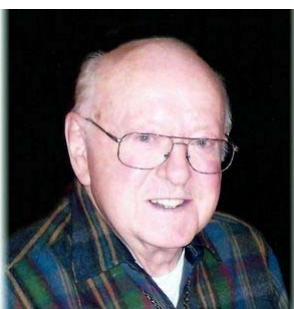


Hi Shipmates!

The Cleveland Reunion was another enjoyable one mainly due to the diligent preparation from our hosts, **Domenic and Virginia Iammarino**.

It was nice to welcome a few "first timers" amongst us and hope that we have encouraged them to join us again.

On the down side, the absence of "Uncle" **Ernie Hallman** was saddening. Ernie started coming



to our Reunions about 5 years ago as a guest of **Jim Klein** and, though not a submariner, he seemed to fit in well with the "Gang". Ernie continued attending our Reunions and made his plans to join

us again this year but, shortly before reunion time, GOD suddenly decided to call him home. Though not a shipmate, he was still a good friend that will be missed.

The USS COD SS224 is by far the most unadulterated US Submarine Museum I have toured to date. Most Boats have removed fixtures and made alterations to improve access - but not Cod. Its keepers have gone thru great pains to keep her as she was when commissioned so that visitors can see how submariners actually lived aboard a WWII Diesel Submarine. When my feet hit the deck in the FTR it was like I was returning from liberty. I have heard that Pompanito in San Francisco is good also but, I don't see how it could be any better than Cod.

Our next Reunion will be about 200 miles northwest in Troy, MI where plans are to see how Henry Ford revolutionized modern industry with assembly line technology and Berry Gordy created the music of the 60's and 70's with Motown. The dates are **9/14/2015 thru 9/17/2015** and our hotel is Embassy Suites. Full details will be published in the next issue.

FINAL SAILING LIST FOR CLEVELAND

Ed & June Kracker 43-45
 Albert & Kurt Cadenhead 44-45
 John Murray 46 & 56-59
 Bill VonDerLieth & Lola Brower 52-57
 Charles Kimball 53-55
 Henry & Teresa Kozloski 54-57
 Andy & Jean McKaye (54-57)
 Ken McKaye & Alison Wikhand (Guests)
 Judy Myers (Jack) 55-56
 Marvin & JoAnn Christenson 56-58
 Phil & Dot Beals 56-59
 Wayne & Elaine Thalasinis 57-60
 Deane & Connie Hadfield 57-60
 Gary Dannenbaum 58-59
 Larry Buckmaster & Penny Gillis 58-61
 Dick Gahan 58-62
 Raymond & Nancy Moore 59-60
 John & Lois Stewart 60-61 **(First Timer!)**
 Larry Schafer 63-65 **(First Timer!)**
 Len Fagotti & Marilyn Barratt 63-66
 Ed & Jane DeLong 63-66
 James & Yolanda Klein 64-66
 Jim & Laura Klein (Guests)
 Jennifer Wilson (Guest)
 John & Diane O'Connor 64-67
 Frank & Claudia Steinmetz (Guests)
 Harry & Jo Ann Ross 64-67
 Ralph & Claire Gates 65-67
 Gabe Lewis 66-68 **(First Timer!)**
 Gerald & Connie Simpson 66-68 **(First Timer!)**
 Alan Forry 66-69
 Charles Dougherty 66-69
 James & Harriet Schultz 67-68 **(First Timer!)**
 Eric & Sally Ericson 67-68
 Denis & Maureen O'Brien 67-68
 Robert & Bette Bridle 67-70
 John & Darlene Kraft 68-70
 Bill & Joan Fenton 68-71
 William & Kathy Powell 68-70
 Lenny Sciuto & Teri Saran 69-71
 Hal Wilkins 69-72
 Paul Schramm 70-71
 Ike Cohen 70
 Domenic & Virginia Iammarino 71-72 **Hosts**
 Ronnie Navarra (Elvis Entertainer)

BANG GANG BUSINESS MEETING

Cleveland, OH —18 September 2014

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The diving alarm was sounded and President **Bill Fenton** called the meeting to order at 0830 hours and requested all present to stand and pledge their allegiance to our flag.

Bill then asked everyone present to introduce themselves by standing and giving their name and years aboard BANG. WWII shipmates and first time Reunion attendees were also recognized at this time.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR DEPARTED SHIPMATES

Tolling the Bell ceremony will be held at the Banquet to allow the ladies and guests to participate.

ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Bill Fenton - **PRESENT**

VICE PRES: Gene Lockwood - **ABSENT**

SECRETARY: Harry Ross - **PRESENT**

TREASURER: Ed DeLong - **PRESENT**

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Phil Beals made a motion to accept the minutes as posted in last Fall's Newsletter; (seconded); **MOTION CARRIED.**

TREASURER'S REPORT

Ed DeLong gave a detailed report on our organization's income and expenses as of 1 July 2014. A motion was made by **Charlie (Doc) Dougherty** and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report; **MOTION CARRIED.**

OLD BUSINESS

(1.) **Jennifer Wilson** and **Paul Schramm** gave a presentation on next year's Reunion, hosted by **Jim Klein**.

It will be held in Troy, MI from Sept 14, 2015 through Sept 17, 2015 at the Embassy Suites Hotel. Room rate is \$139.00 + tax for a full suite including made to order breakfast buffet, nightly reception (1730 to 1930) of cocktails and snacks, parking, and shuttle service. Tentative touring itinerary being considered includes Ford Factory Tour, Henry Ford Museum, Greenfield Village, Motown Museum and the Diamond Jack River Boat. All tours and Banquet bill of fare will be finalized during the first quarter 2015.

(2.) **Lenny Sciuto** stated he will continue his video interviews with WW2 veterans along with older or extraordinary Bang shipmates. **John Murray**, a WW2 veteran was interviewed this year.

(3.) **Henry Kozloski** stated he will continue to take orders for the USS BANG models for sale at \$40.00 each with half of the proceeds going to the Slush Fund.

NEW BUSINESS

(1.) **Bill Fenton** polled the room for hosts of future Reunions, **Dick Gahan** offered to host the 2016 Reunion in Chattanooga, TN. **Len Sciuto** and **Rob Bridle** offered to host the 2017 Reunion in Cocoa Beach, FL, and **Ike Cohen** offered to host the 2018 Reunion in Philadelphia, PA. A motion was made by **Gabe Lewis** and seconded to accept these future reunion sites; **MOTION CARRIED.**

(2.) The next E board elections will be held at next year's Business Meeting in Troy, MI. Anyone interested in running for any of the Board positions, please notify Secretary, **Harry Ross**.

(3.) A discussion opened up on what is going to happen to our memorabilia after the "Gang" disbands. **Phil Beals** stated a verbal agreement was made with the New London Submarine Museum in 2010. **Lenny Sciuto** stated he will contact the Museum to see if they will still take the memorabilia after the Bang Gang is on its final patrol.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

(1.) The "Gang" thanked **Domenic Iammarino**, even in his weakened condition, on a great 71th BANG REUNION with supporting help from his wife **Virginia**.

(2.) The Bang Gang recognized **Ed Kracker** and **Phil Beals** as the only shipmates who have attended ALL the reunions since 1993.

(3.) **Gabe Lewis** spoke about items (pictures) his son made and wanted to know if members were interested in purchasing such items. Gabe will contact his son to see if he was interested in making more to sell.

(4.) **Ike Cohen** announced he had a few submarine books and a USS Bang challenge coin for sale.

(5.) **Phil Beals** reminded all shipmates that haven't done so to sign our welcome Banner.

(6.) **Bill Fenton** spoke about the Banquet and advised all attendees to be in the Banquet room at 1730 for pictures.

(7.) At the conclusion of the Business meeting **Paul Schramm** and **Ike Cohen** will be selling the 50-50 and door prize raffle tickets

No further business, **Bill Fenton** declared that the 2014 USS BANG BUSINESS MEETING was officially adjourned at 0919 hours and will reconvene in Troy, MI in 2015.

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

Merry **CHRIST**mas



FIRST – CLASS MAIL
FORWARDING SERVICE
REQUESTED



PRAISE OUR MILITARY! - AND PRAY FOR THEM TOO.

