



1943



1972



# THE BANG GANG NEWSLETTER

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

---

<b>PRESIDENT</b> - Bill Fenton	4422 Organ Mesa Loop	Las Cruces, NM 88011-8403	(575) 639-4655	ss385@ussbang.com
<b>VICE PRES</b> - Paul Schramm	3402 Onondaga St	Kalamazoo, MI 49004-1636	(269) 345-0859	inkazoo@hotmail.com
<b>SECRETARY</b> - Harry Ross	2882 W 232nd St	Torrance, CA 90505-2855	(310) 612-6629	harrypross@gmail.com
<b>TREASURER</b> - Ed DeLong	894 Indian Creek Rd	Harleysville, PA 19438-1005	(267) 614-9575	Elk308@comcast.net
<b>EDITOR</b> - Eric H. Ericson, III	926A Savannas Pt. Dr.	Ft. Pierce, FL 34982	(978-491-0114)	eric735244@aol.com
<b>CHAPLAIN</b> —David Smith	318 N Catherine St.	Middletown, PA 17057	(717-944-4393)	
<b>WEB MASTER</b> - Bill Fenton	4422 Organ Mesa Loop	Las Cruces, NM 88011-8403	(575) 639-4655	ss385@ussbang.com
<b>STOREKEEPER</b> -Isaac(Ike) Cohen	137 Fairview Ave.	High Bridge, NJ 08829-1214	(908) 334-0027	ikecohen415@gmail.com

---

FALL/WINTER 2019 [WWW.USSBANG.COM](http://WWW.USSBANG.COM) [WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/USSBANG](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/USSBANG) ISSUE-91

---

**SPECIAL BONUS DOUBLE  
REUNION HOLIDAY ISSUE!  
TWICE THE CONTENT  
SAME LOW PRICE!**



**MERRY CHRISTMAS**





# FPO



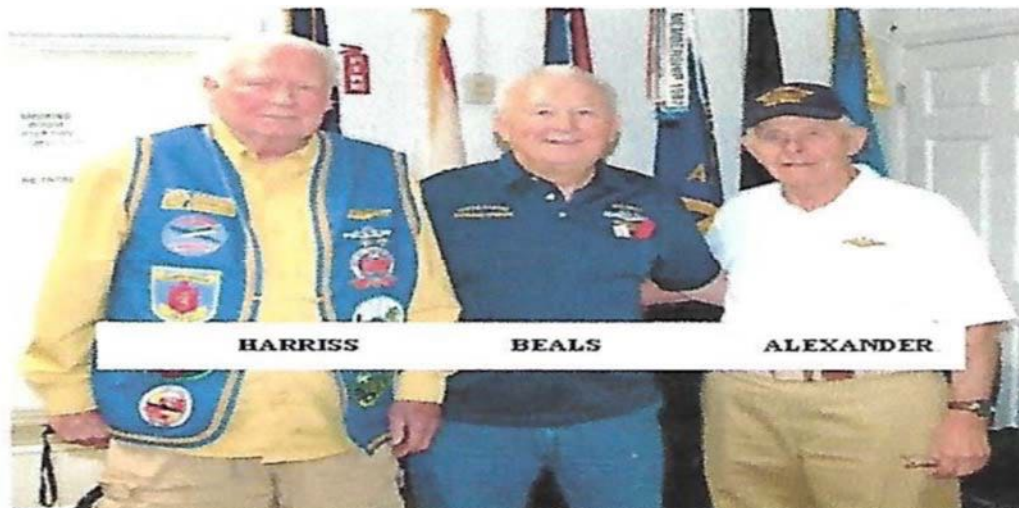
This column is dedicated to all the letters we receive from you. Any info about yourself or others you want to share with your shipmates will be published here. Think of this as a combination of the bulletin board in the Crew's Mess and the 1MC.

Ahoy Shipmates!

Once again it's time for the holidays and the year end "festive" newsletter. The last issue was a little thin as we wanted to give everyone one last chance to register for the Myrtle Beach reunion. And while it was short it turned out to be very sweet as this years attendance was one of the largest ever! Kudos go out to Vice President Paul Schramm and Jennifer Wilson for putting on a great reunion in Myrtle Beach, SC. The weather was fantastic, the tours very enjoyable and informative, we traveled along the low country rivers, while the guides regaled us with stories from the Revolutionary War, Civil War, and pointed out the Summer homes of Presidents and Captains of Industry and all the stories, tall and otherwise connected with them. The next day we traveled to the Alabama Theater where were regaled with a fantastic night of variety. Country Music, Rock n Roll, Comedy, and Dance ensembles, were on display, and I have to admit, that while I'm not a big fan of Country that show was one of the best shows of any kind I've seen in a long time! The best part of the show, however, was when our own WWII plank owner Ed Kracker was recognized with a standing ovation by the entire audience. Well deserved Ed!

While we're on the subject of reunions, we have the 2020 reunion coming up next year, with yours truly and Sally as hosts, along with the more than capable Jennifer Wilson, showing us how it is done! During this years business meeting we presented the Comfort Inn in Fairfax, VA. as our host hotel. Well, that has changed. Jennifer and I visited the hotel in November and decided that it wasn't the right fit for us. Details of the decision will be revealed later on in the newsletter. Suffice to say the new venue will be much better both in price and location, lower room rates and free shuttle to and from the airport are two of the plusses.

I'd like to see some more cards and letters from the crew, because I have always said we all like to hear from our running mates and shipmates. Speaking of shipmates, I received an email from Editor Emeritus, **Phil Beals**, recounting a recent Florida gulf coast Submarine Veterans meeting, where three decades of Bang crew members were represented. **Phil Beals**, Commissaryman, representing the 50's, **Sherman "XO" Alexander**, Executive Officer from the 60's, and finally **Capt. Dave Hariss**, The BANG'S last Commanding Officer, from the 70's. Great to see they are still carrying on the proud tradition of the "Sentry of the Seas". They all look like they could stand a watch tomorrow! While I'm on a roll here, I was very glad to see **Walter and Becky Cederholm** at the reunion, we need more wardroom presence, because as we all know, the BANG had the best officers on the river!





# 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.

**Graham “Gray” Mead SOC 57-58    Wade Eichorn SOC 44-45    Frank A Walker Jr. LTJG 52-55**

**Robert E Hall RMCS      George Fedyna CS2 66-69      Lawrence O Harjehausen LTJG 57-60**

**Gary Dannenbaum RMC      Ralph E Chidley LT 58-59      Frank Volonino SO 48-53**

**Daniel O Dudley TM 45-46 Edward J Gurren Jr. CMoMM 43-44 John Ogden SM2 43-45**

## SHIPMATES, REST YOUR OARS!

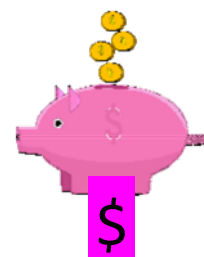
**The following shipmates are new (found) additions to our roster. Your committee is thankful for all who helped in locating them and we will continue our search until we have attempted to locate everyone.**

**NONE TO REPORT**



# THANK YOU!

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



Jim and Esther Hampton  
Harry Ross  
Al Rush  
Bill Fenton  
Jim Schultz  
Wayne Thalasinios  
Rocco DeLeo  
Ray Moore  
Barb Pansky

Alan Thole  
Dean Hadfield  
Theresa Kozloski  
John Regish  
Len Fargo Hopeti  
Joe Leonard Jr.  
Rob Bridle

Eric Ericson  
Guy Medaglia

## THE INTERNET CHANGES SINCE LAST

**CONNECTION  
PUBLICATION**

**Kdannendaum228@gmail.com**





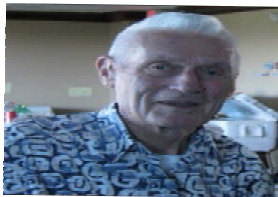
**Carroll Graham "Gray" Mead** passed away peacefully at the Vernon Green on Saturday September 14, 2019. When Carroll became a teenager he decided it would be easier to go by his nickname "Gray".

With the commencement of WWII Gray enlisted in the Navy. Before shipping out he married his sweetheart Nancy. They were married for 61 years. During his 31 years in the Navy, Gray served as a sonarman and served on destroyer escorts, submarines, sub tenders and ice breakers. Gray served aboard the BANG as Chief Sonarman from 11 March 57 to 22 April 58 when he transferred to BLENNY (SS 324)

**George E Fedyna**-Shipmate George E Fedyna deployed on eternal patrol 6 October 2019 at the Veterans Administration Center in Dover Wisconsin. George served on the BANG as a commissaryman from 1966-1969, where he gained fame for his innovative soupdowns. After mustering out, George worked in Real Estate and as a sales representative for home health care.



**Wade Eichorn**-Shipmate Wade Eichorn deployed on Eternal Patrol on 14 August 2019 at the Clyde W Co-sper Texas Veterans Home. Wade was cremated and his ashes were interred, along with his wife's ashes at the DFW National Cemetery. Wade served on board the BANG in 1944 and was on three war patrols that ended on 5 December 1944. Wade was the designer of the BANG's first battle flag.



**Frank A Walker, Jr.**-Frank A Walker shipped out on eternal patrol on 7 August 2019. Frank qualified in submarines aboard BANG as an Lieutenant JG in 1952 until 1955. He also served aboard SPIKFISH before being

released in 1956 as a LT.

**Lawrence O. Harjehausen**- Cast off all lines and deployed on eternal patrol on 31 July 2019. Larry enlisted in the Navy in 1946 and spent 28 years as both enlisted and Officer. Larry transferred from



OCS Newport in 1957 and reported as an Ensign to the BANG. He disembarked from the BANG on 26 August 1960 for ComSubDiv 21 Phila. Larry was a veteran of the Korean, Vietnam, and Cold wars. He was part of the initial crew of the USS NAUTILUS (SSN571) and was Commanding officer of the submarine rescue vessel USS TRINGA (AS16). He retired in 1974 with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Of special note, while assigned to the BANG, Lieutenant (JG) Harjehausen was the designer of the BANG's "Sentry of the Seas" ships patch.



**Gary Dannenbaum**—Gary Dannenbaum Deployed on Eternal Patrol September 19, 2019. Gary was a plank owner of the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSBN598) Blue Crew. Gary served on the BANG under Commanding Officer Stu Savage 58-59. Gary also hosted the BANG reunion in Albuquerque, New Mexico. After retiring from the Navy with the rate of Chief RadioMan, Gary taught school, and even tried a little acting, appearing in several movies and commercials. Gary attended several reunions and regaled all those present with his seemingly endless sea stories delivered in his trademark booming voice.

**Ralph E. Chidley**— Deployed on Eternal Patrol on October 22, 2019. Ralph graduated from Annapolis in 1954 and became one of the early personnel selections of ADM Rickover to be a part of the Nuclear Navy. Ralph served on board BANG from 3Jan58 to 3Dec59 where he achieved the rank of Lieutenant. He then transferred to USS GROUPER (AGSS214). Ralph went on to command two SSBN's the Ethan Allen and the Henry L Stimson. He was promoted to Captain in 1975 and was stationed outside Washington DC to take part in the development of the OHIO class "Trident" submarines. Ralph was the principle designer of that class of control room and led the development of the initial training programs



**Herbert R. Ogden**—Deployed on Eternal Patrol in May 2019. He was a member of the Commissioning Crew in DEC43. After leaving the Navy, Herbert became a Commissioned Officer in the Air Force and became a pilot. He retired from the Air Force he worked in Federal Civil Service

**Dominic Frank Volonino**—Deployed on Eternal Patrol November 11, 2019. Dominic was part of BANG's third commissioning crew in 1953. After leaving the BANG, Dominic was employed by IBM as a customer service representative. He transferred to the Tucson IBM plant in 1982 as a technical writer. He retired from IBM, but continued work as a contract technical writer until the end December 2000. Not one to stay idle, Dominic volunteered at the Tucson VA for 18 years. He said he worked in "transportation" meaning he pushed the gurneys and wheelchairs of patients far younger than he.



**Robert E Hall**— Robert E "Bob" Hall passed away in his hometown of Ledyard CT. September 4, 2019. Bob joined the Navy at age 17 and served on PT boats in the Pacific. His Navy career spanned over 23 years during which he also served on anti-submarine patrol aircraft in Oakland, California, destroyers in San Diego, California, and submarines in New London, CT. During this time he served on the BANG.



**Daniel O. Dudley, SR**— Deployed on Eternal Patrol on February 2, 2018. Daniel reported on board BANG 21NOV45 from S/MB NLC. He disembarked BANG 3FEB46 to PROTEUS (AS19) Other boats Daniel served on were O-3 (SS64), and PIKE (SS173)

**Edward J Gurren Jr.**— Deployed on Eternal Patrol September 24, 2011. Edward was a plank owner, putting the BANG into commission 4DEC43 at PNS. He was a veteran of war patrols 1,2,3, Daniel served on submarines SS201, SS392, SS313, SS329, and SS393

# SAILING LIST

Ed & June Kracker  
Bill & Mollie Stirewalt  
Charles Kimball  
Henry & Teresa Kozloski  
Gary & Dae Probst  
Harley & Jennifer Wilson  
Harley & Kathleen Wilson Sr.  
Mark & Estelle Walerzak  
Gerald & Judith Holmberg  
Jack & Diane O'Connor  
Marvin & JoAnn Christenson  
John & Terri Regish  
Phil & Dot Beals  
Joe & Marion Leonardi  
Douglas Leonardi & Karen Tinlin  
Deane & Connie Hadfield  
Wayne & Elaine Thalasinis  
Dick Galen  
Ray & Nancy Moore  
Kathy Seder  
Anne Dockery  
Charles & Patricia Archer  
Albert & Deborah Rush  
Rocco & Nancy DeLeo  
Ed & Judy DeLong  
Len Faggotti & Marilyn Barrett  
Jim & Yolanda Klein  
Frank & Claudia Steinmetz  
Harry & JoAnn Ross  
Gabe & Pam Lewis

Walter & Becky Cederholm  
Eric & Sally Ericson  
Jim & Esther Hampton  
Denis & Maureen O'Brien  
James & Harriet Schultz  
Alan & Linda Thole  
Robert Bridle  
Tom & Rose Hill  
Bill & Joan Fenton  
Ike Cohen & Michelle Ostapiej  
Paul Schramm  
  
Dave Ireland





## REUNION 2019





## REUNION 2019





REUNION 2019





## REUNION 2019





## REUNION 2019





## REUNION 2019





## 2020 REUNION UPDATE

As was mentioned beforehand, the original reunion hotel, The Comfort Inn University Center in Fairfax Virginia has been cancelled. Due to some operational and functional deficiencies both Jennifer Wilson and I felt that the hotel would not provide the quality reunion experience we have all come to expect.

The Washington, DC area venue will remain the same, but we are in the process of securing a hotel closer to the center of DC and nearer to Reagan National, which was a point of contention beforehand. The tours will stay the same and I will be in touch with the various people to make sure we will have a very enjoyable two days touring our Nation's Capital. Right now the tours are tentively:

- The Washington Navy Yard
- The Capital building

- The United States Marine Corps Museum
- Mt Vernon and George Washington's home

We had hoped to include Arlington Cemetery and the Tombs of the Unknowns, however, we were informed from the tour bus company that there is a steep surcharge for busses idling on the grounds, plus the ground around the tombs may make walking difficult for some of our shipmates.

We will have the reunion particulars and pricing ready for the next Newsletter so stay tuned!

Thank you very much for your patience,

Eric

## 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



After heeding numerous inquiries from you about restocking USS BANG license plate frames, I finally have made contact with a vendor who will supply us with them - reasonably priced.

I have secured a minimal amount which I will have for sale at the Reunion and, if interest prevails, I will continue to sell them by mail.



This frame will fit standard 12" x 6" license plates and is made of high-impact black acrylic plastic and uses precision, computer-cut all weather vinyl for the text.



## Made in the USA



## SALE!!

....and No Sales Tax either.....

All items are sold at our Reunions or shipped PBW. Send mail orders to **Ike Cohen** 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**.....(40's Sold Out).....\$5.00

6" Trilogy Window Decal - depicts all 3 sail configurations and patches in full color.....\$5.00

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



## **USS BANG (SS385) BUSINESS MEETING 1OCTOBER 2019**

### **MYRTLE BEACH, SOUTH CAROLINA**

**President Bill Fenton called the meeting to order at 0902 hours and requested all present to stand and pledge their allegiance to our flag.**

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

#### **ROLL CALL OF OFFICERS:**

**President: Bill Fenton**

**VP: Paul Schramm**

**Secretary: Harry Ross**

**Treasurer: Ed DeLong**

**Newsletter Editor: Eric Ericson**

**Chaplain: Dave Smith**

#### **Secretary's Report:**

**Gabe Lewis made a motion to accept the MINUTES as posted in the Newsletter. Motion carried by the members.**

#### **Treasurer's Report:**

**Ed DeLong gave a detailed report on the organization's income and expenses for this year (2019). At the meeting all shipmates were reminded that they should not lose sight of the concept that all our funds, and all the help we receive, has only one (1) goal, which is to continue to perpetuate the BANG GANG. It was further reminded, when making a donation by check, "please make checks payable to the USS BANG." A Motion was made by Phil Beals to approve the treasurer's report. The motion was carried by the members.**

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Roll Call was conducted of all members in attendance, which included new members and members that haven't been in attendance for some time. They were asked to give their name, years on board the USS BANG, and rate. One new member was in attendance, A.J. Rush, it's great tpo have him join the BANG GANG.**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Eric Ericson will host the 2020 Reunion in Fairfax VA, at the Comfort Inn, University Center. The rate (good for 3 days prior and 3 days after will be \$129.00 plus tax, and includes breakfast and free parking. Restaurants within a 5 minute walk. Itinerary to be established at a later date when confirmed\*

(\* Editors note: Due to complications with the host hotel, the hotel and date have been changed. The venue will remain in Northern Virginia, but the hotel and dates will be different. All changes and prices will be in the next Newsletter)

2. Election for Board Members was held and was unanimously voted on to have the existing board remain. The next election will be held at the 2021 reunion.

3. Ike Cohen is responsible for the small stores and memorabilia.

4. David Smith is our Chaplain only when he is at the Reunions, otherwise the host will act as Chaplain.

5. Members were reminded by Newsletter Editor Ericson, that not up to date address changes are lost time and money to the USS BANG Treasury. For information purposes, at present, 250 members receive the Newsletter by mail.

## **Good of the order:**

1. As in the past the Business Meeting Minutes will be posted in the Newsletter and on the website.

2. Jennifer Wilson volunteered to assist Eric Ericson with the 2020 reunion in Northern Virginia.

3. President Fenton acknowledged and thanked Jennifer Wilson and Paul Schramm for all they had done to make the Myrtle Beach, 2019 Bang Reunion, a memorable one.

4. President Bill Fenton adjourned the 2019 USS Bang Business Meeting at 1001 hours to reconvened in Northern VA in 2020.





## **T'WAS THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS, SMOKEBOAT SAILOR EDITION**

**T'was the night before Christmas, and what no one could see,  
The men with the dolphins were under the sea.  
Most of the crew was flat on their backs,  
Snoring and dreaming all snug in their racks.**

**Those men on watch were making their rounds,  
Some manning the planes or listening for sounds.  
Back in maneuvering or down in the room,  
They all hope the oncoming watch would come soon.**

**I'd finished some PM's whose time was now due,  
And hoped for some sleep, even an hour or two.  
Against better judgement I took a short stroll,  
And found myself wandering into control.**

**The Nav had the Conn, the COW was in place,  
The COB had the dive and a scowl on his face.  
The helm and the planes were relaxed but aware,  
And QM and ET were discussing a dare.**

**To comply with the orders the Nav told the Dive,  
To bring the boat up with minimum rise.  
The orders were given and soon they were there,  
At periscope depth with a scope in the air.**

**The QM confirmed our position with care,  
The broadcast was copied, we brought in some air.  
The Nav on the scope let out a small cry,  
He shook his head twice and rubbed his eyes.**

**He looked once again to find what it was,  
That interrupted his sweep and caused him to pause  
Try as he might there was nothing to see  
So down went the scope and us to the deep.**

I asked what it was that caused him his dismay,  
He sheepishly said, "I 'm embarrassed to say,  
It could have been Northern Lights or a cloud,  
Or a meteorite," He wondered out loud.

"But to tell you the truth I guess I must say,  
Whatever it was it looked like a sleigh.  
And though it passed quickly and never was clear,  
I almost believed it was pulled by reindeer."

We laughed and teased him and I got up to go,  
When our moment was broken by "Conn, Radio."  
They told us a message was just coming in,  
We looked at the depth gauge and started to grin.

"Radio, Conn, I feel safe to say,  
Your attempt at a joke is too long delayed.  
If it had been sooner it might have been neat,  
But I doubt we're receiving at four hundred feet."

"Conn, Radio, you can come down and see,  
We're not playing games to any degree."  
I headed aft with nothing better to do,  
Surprised by the fact it was still coming through.

It stopped and was sent to Control to be read,  
The Nav read it slowly and scratched at his head.  
Then again he began but this time aloud,  
To those that now waited, a curious crowd.

"To you Denizens of the Deep and men of the sea,  
Who risk your life daily so others stay free.  
I rarely have seen you on this my big night,  
For far too often you are hidden from sight."



**“But purely by luck I saw you tonight,  
As your scope coaxed the plankton to glow in the night,  
And lucky for me I’ve final won,  
The chance to say thanks for all you have done.**

**“I know that you miss your families at home,  
And sometimes it feels as if you are alone.  
But trust what I say and I’ll do what’s right.  
I’ll take something special to your families tonight.”**

**“Along with the gifts I’ll take to your kin,  
I’ll visit their dreams and leave word within.  
They’ll hear of your love, and how you miss them,  
I’ll tell them that soon you’ll be home again.”**

**“It might not be much I know that is true,  
To thank you for all the things that you do.  
But I’ll do what I can, while you do what is right,  
Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.”**

**By Sean Keck**

**From the entire “Editorial Staff” we wish you the Happiest of Holidays  
And the Healthiest of New Years**



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.**

