



1943



1972



THE BANG GANG NEWSLETTER

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

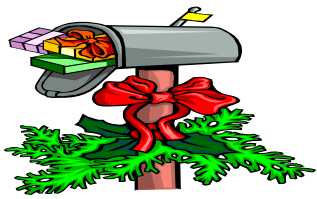
PRESIDENT - Bill Fenton 4422 Organ Mesa Loop Las Cruces, NM 88011-8403 (575) 639-4655 ss385@ussbang.com
VICE PRES - Paul Schramm 3402 Onondaga St Kalamazoo, MI 49004-1636 (269) 345-0859 inkazoo@hotmail.com
SECRETARY - Harry Ross 2882 W 232nd St Torrance, CA 90505-2855 (310) 612-6629 harrypross@gmail.com
TREASURER - Issac (Ike) Cohen 26 Rossetti Ct. Brick NJ 08724-2426 (908) 334-0027 ikecohen415@gmail.com
EDITOR - Eric H. Ericson, III 926A Savannas Pt. Dr. Ft. Pierce, FL. 34982 (978-491-0114) eric735244@aol.com
CHAPLAIN—David Smith 318 N Catherine St. Middletown, PA 17057 (717-944-4393
WEB MASTER - Bill Fenton 4422 Organ Mesa Loop Las Cruces, NM 88011-8403 (575) 639-4655 ss385@ussbang.com
STOREKEEPER-Isaac(Ike) Cohen 26 Rossetti Ct. Brick NJ 08724-2426 (908) 334-0027 ikecohen415@gmail.com

Winter/Spring 2021 WWW.USSBANG.COM WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/USSBANG ISSUE-96



**WELL, LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN!
USS BANG REUNION
AUGUST 25-AUGUST 28TH 2021**





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.

Ahoy shipmates and friends,

As the cover page said, lets try this again. It has been a heck of a year, and I, for one, could use a drink in the hospitality room. Well good news, we seem to be on track to realizing that goal. This quarters newsletter is a little late getting out, end of March for the digital users, April for the snail mail readers. The reason are these:

I was waiting for the Covid-19 information from the hotel and the Commonwealth of Virginia guidelines. Well, the wait was worth it! I received notice from the hotel that we are still good to go and we can start to book reservations now! The info is on the next page, basically the same as last year with the dates one date later. The dates and rates are good for three days before and after the reunion dates. The only change is that if you must cancel, please do so **THREE DAYS** before the date you have reserved for. When you call, make sure you tell the operator that you are with the USS BANG reunion group.

Now a couple of things to remember. It has been over a year since anyone in the USA has been out and about. The Doubletree at Crystal City once had Fifteen (15) full time employees working in the catering/convention department. They now have three (3) part timers. This is not unusual industry wide. So when you call you may have some wait time, if you experience any problems, get in touch with me by email or telephone, my contact Connie has promised me to make everything right. After a year of no business they want take care of us. So that is the good news...now for the not so good news.

While we have the hotel and transportation all set, our tour venues are still in flux. The only venue we still have on schedule is Mt. Vernon. In fact they advertise that they are experts on social distancing. The Marine Museum is closed as is the Capitol, and the Pentagon, (a back up venue), has opened and closed as the virus ebbed and flowed.

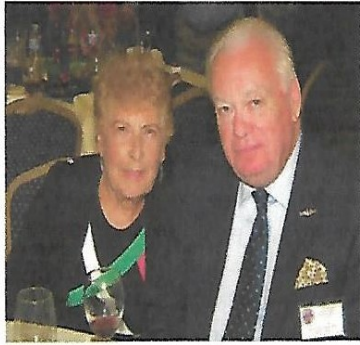
So that is the reason I don't have a page to register. I don't want to make everyone book and find we don't have the venues we advertised. So this is what we are going to do:

The next Newsletter will be out. The second week of June. By that time we should know how this covid situation is working out. With the increased vaccinations there *should* be herd immunity and everyone should feel safe. If the scheduled venues aren't there, I'll find others. We may have to charge more, which is why I am not going to send out a final registration page. A point to consider, right now the registration page is on the website, albeit one day earlier.

Finally once the newsletter comes out, that will be the **ONLY** registration time. I will **NOT** cash any checks (made out to Eric H Ericson) until we are sure we are going to DC. That way if worse comes to worse, I can just send your check back to you.

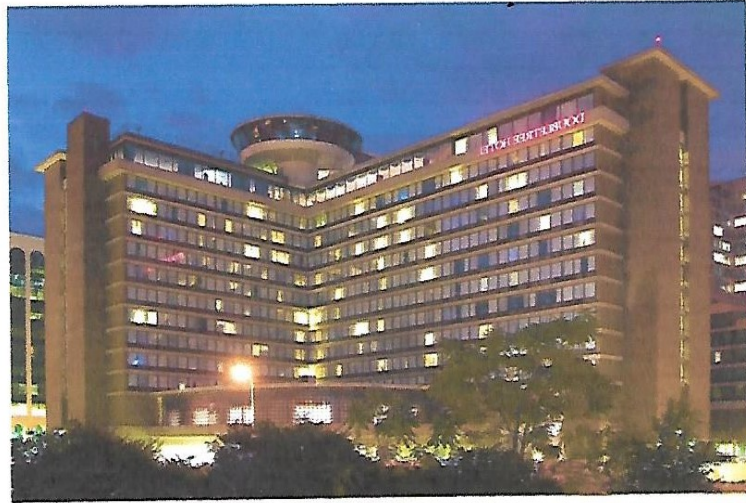
This probably seems like a lot, so I'll do a quick check list in the Lucky Bag. So we have good news and some things to worry about. But don't worry, as they say we will get through this together.

YOUR HOSTS



ERIC AND SALLY ERICSON
JENNIFER WILSON

HEADQUARTERS



HILTON DOUBLETREE CRYSTAL CITY
300 ARMY NAVY BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA 22202
1-703-416-4100

USS BANG (SS385)
77TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION
WASHINGTON, D.C.
WEDNESDAY AUGUST 25TH 2021
through
SATURDAY AUGUST 28TH 2021
Rate is \$119.00 nt./pl tx
Rate includes Breakfast for Two
Daily

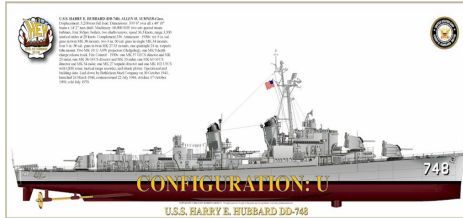
**CALL THE HOTEL DIRECTLY AND BE SURE TO SAY YOU'RE WITH THE BANG
REUNION GROUP**

- Tuesday August 24th—Early Bird Arrivals Hospitality room opens 12 Noon**
Wed. August 25th— Check-in— Get “Welcome” Envelope Hosp. Room opens
at 10am
- Thurs. August 26th—9:30 am Bus leaves for Marine Corps Museum and**
Mt. Vernon tours
- Fri. August 27th—9:30am Bus leaves for Washington Navy Yard and**
Nation’s Capitol tours
- Sat. August 28th— 9:00am-Business meeting/Ladies 50’s 60’s trivia**
6:30pm-Cocktails, pictures, Banquet, Guest speaker
VADM Richard P. Breckenridge to follow

MAKE SURE TO CHECK THE NEW DATES



TARGET FOR TODAY



NOVEMBER



TANGO



ROMEO



DELTA

RADIO CALL SIGN PLYMOUTH ROCK

This installment of “Target” is the Sumner Class Destroyer USS HARRY E. HUBBARD (DD-748) Launched 24 March 1944 and Commissioned 22 July 1944. The Hubbard was a veteran of WWII, Korea, and the Viet Nam Wars. Our shipmate John Kraft was on board in the radio gang from 66-68. Harry Hubbard graduated from the Naval Academy class of ‘25 and was initially in submarines. He took command of the destroyer Meredith (DD 434) on 1 March 1942 and was part of the force that provided escort service for the carrier USS Hornet for the famous Doolittle raid on Tokyo. Later, he was tasked to escort transport vessels bringing much needed supplies to the troops on Guadalcanal. During one such op, the Meredith came under attack by Japanese carrier based aircraft and was mortally damaged. The Meredith continued to fight off the attack and no transport ship was lost. Finally, knowing the end was near a severely wounded Captain Hubbard gave the order to abandon ship and was the last one over the side just as his ship went under. Captain Hubbard later died in the rescue dinghy.

During the Vietnam Campaign, The Hubbard, with John aboard made a WESTPAC cruises escorting carriers as a plane guard. On one such duty, they were 2000 yards off the Port bow of the USS ENTERPRISE(CVN-65) when for some reason the ENTERPRISE’S CO decided to do a 165 degree change course and increase speed from 10 to 25 knots. Needless to say, CDR Bush, the Hubbard’s CO was not pleased, and since was a “Mustanger” and had spent more than a few hours in the Bosun’s locker, he made his displeasure known to the powers that were! I’m sure the language was not “Approved Officer Country” vernacular. By that time the Hubbard was an old ship, badly in need of refurbishing, you can see from the picture above she did not get the usual FRAM modernization so on 17 October 1969, she was decommissioned and stricken. I’m sure she was a true “home and a feeder” and took care of all her “boys” right to the end.



CAPT Philip Roderick Bush
Photo thanks to Joe Myles.

**JOHN'S CO ON THE HUBBARD
"MUSTANGER"**

Photo # KN-4113 USS Kitty Hawk refueling destroyers, September 1962



**USS KITTY HAWK (CVA-63) REFUELING DESTROYERS
USS HUBBARD DD-748 (L) AND USS MCKEAN DD-784**



STEAMING ON WESTPAC



MANNING THE RAILS PEARL HARBOR IN THE 60'S



**STEAMING OFF THE COAST OF OAHU 1967
"SPARKS" KRAFT MUST BE ON DUTY IN THE SHACK**



FORWARD OFFICERS BERTHING

**PICTURES, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, ARE COURTESY OF NAVSOURCE .ORG
SHIPS PATCH COURTESY OF MIKE SMOLENSKI**

**THE NEXT SERIES OF PICTURES SHOWCASES THE JOYS OF REFUELING A TIN CAN IN HEAVY SEAS
THE HUBBARD REFUELING IN THE SOUTH CHINA SEA WINTER OF 1961**



HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE THE OFFICER OF THE DECK AND THE FUEL KING ON THAT LITTLE INTERLUDE?

HOPE THEY REMEMBERED THEIR GREEN STAMPS!

Hello again shipmates and friends,

As promised here are a few things sent in by your fellow shipmates,

First and VERY important, Our treasurer and storekeeper Issac (Ike) Cohen is going to join me in sunny Florida! He is still in New Jersey but will be moving down later this year. From now until October 15th 2021 Ike will be at his New Jersey address:

26 Rossetti CT
Brick NJ 08724-2426

From October 15th on he will be in his new Florida abode:

776 Grand Rapids Blvd
Naples, Florida 34120-4469

So for now keep sending your slush fund donations and storekeeper requests to New Jersey, but remember after October 15th, send them down to Ike's luxurious villa (LOL) in Naples, FLA

This in from Bill Kielbasa :

"I was in a hotel in Annapolis MD when Neil Armstrong walked on the moon. Not sure if the BANG was assigned by the brass or Capt. High volunteered, but the BANG took Midshipmen on a "Dive" in Chesapeake Bay . Now the "BAY" wasn't more than a puddle and for the Sonar Gang the prospect of planting the chin mounted sonar array into the mud was NOT a good idea. But there we were on July 20th 1969. Half the crew had "basket leave" on each of the two day ops...I was lucky enough to be on shore to watch the moon landing that morning and share some National pride with my shipmates. The fathometer got a work out, we survived and the BANG advanced another step to another "E" on the sail.

From Don Hall, Santa Cruz , CA

Not a crew member, just a friend. My interest in the USS Bang began many years ago when my close friend, RADM Alex Sinclair, was the CO 7/62-5/64. The notice of Lt. Michael Gothie 1963-1966 brought back a fine memory that Mike posted in the Sinclair Obituary Guest Book:

"Alex was a great officer and skipper. He presented me with his own Dolphins when I qualified on the Bang and I think of him often. He will be sorely missed." Mike Gothie.

This from **Lenny Sciutto**: I am writing to give you a brief update on my two books. My first book "THE DEVIL'S DELEGATION" is now being worked on by an editor. It is written in the 2016/2017 timeframe and has 40 chapters (94,000 words) and we are through the first 30 chapters. The basic theme is about a boy who becomes an orphan during Desert shield/Storm and blames the USA for the loss of his parents. Now as an adult, he devises a plan to steal an oil tanker, install a nuclear bomb in a cargo tank and sail the ship to Port Arthur Texas and detonate it , thus crippling the USA. Port Arthur is the #1 US port for the import/export of petroleum, chemicals and natural gases. The interaction between the good guys and bad guys make for an interesting story line, anyway that's what I've been told.

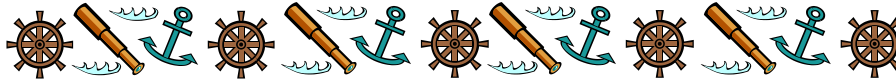
The second book "TANGO DOWN:CHINA SEA" IS A SUBMARINE STORY. It has 36 chapters(54,755 words). USS TAPRON lies deep and disabled in the China Sea, due to a new and unconventional Chinese mystery weapon. The race is on for the SSN CARDINALFISH to rescue the crew, if alive, and to identify the weapon. Will the Chinese reach the TARPON first, eliminate the crew, and steal her updated weaponry, or will the CARDINALFISH persevere and escape with any TARPON survivors. I have not been offered a contract on either book, but suspect the second one will get one. One company said it was worth considering for a movie, and four publishing companies are interested in TANGO DOWN.

Best to you and all our shipmates.

Both books sound great, Len best of luck to you on both of them.



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.

NICK KURKOSKI WP 2

WALTER FREISS RMC 69-71

BILL IBER CDR 72

JOSEPH GILBERT SN 52-53

JERRY CASEBOLT FT 64-65



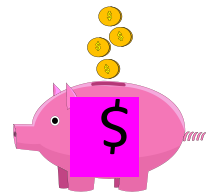
SHIPMATES, REST YOUR OARS

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.



THANK YOU!

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



JERRY PRICE ED MORAN
JOSEPH E BURDESHAW
RAYMOND MOORE
JIM HARMON

THE FOLLOWING SHIPMATES HAVE CHANGED THEIR ADDRESS

JAMES SCHULTZ 6496 ABERDEEN LANE MEDINA, OH 44256

ISSAC COHEN

5/15-10/15 26 ROSSETTI CT BRICK NJ 08724-2426

10/15/21-5/15/22 776 GRAND RAPIDS BLVD NAPLES FL 34120-4469



William Randolph "Bill" Iber– Departed on Eternal Patrol Wednesday March 3, 2021 in Fairfax Virginia. He began a 21 year in the Navy when

commissioned an Ensign at Auburn University NROTC. He graduated with a degree in mathematics. He spent his entire career in submarines and retired as a Commander. CDR Iber was the last duty officer on the BANG. upon her transfer to the Spanish Navy. CDR Iber earned a Masters in Communicatios from the Naval Post-Graduate School in Monterey, CA. He worked for McDonnell Douglas and Boeing as an engineer in the Defense Missile Program. CDR Iber attended our reunion in Detroit.

Walter Jacob Friess-Deployed on Eternal patrol on February 23, 2021 in Gales Ferry, CT. He was born on July 27, 1935 in Harvey, ILL. Walter was a 20 year veteran of the US Navy and served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He served on board the BANG as a Chief Radioman from 1969-1971. He and his family lived in Ledyard and Gales Ferry CT. for 50 years.



Nick Kurkoski-Deployed on Eternal Patrol on November 6, 2019. Born on October 10, 1925, Nick was a member of War Patrol 2

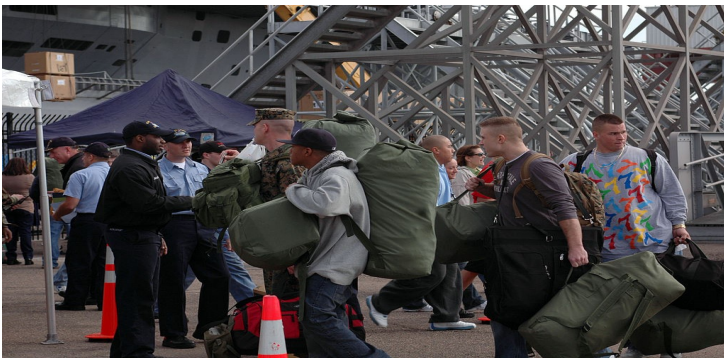
Joseph W Gilbert Jr-Deployed on Eternal Patrol February 5, 2021. Joseph was born on August 16, 1932 in Abington MA, and lived in Altamonte Springs



Florida and East Lyme CT. Joseph served as an Able Bodied Seaman aboard the BANG from 1952-53, and was a member of the BANG's second Commissioning Crew. An avid golfer, Joe had two holes-in-one to his credit. Joe was a member of the Groton Base Subvets. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Louise.

Jerry Casebolt-Shipmate **Joe Burdeshaw** reports that Jerry drew orders for Eternal Patrol on 24 January 2021. Born on September 26 1940 in Harrison AR Jerry was an FT aboard the BANG from 1964-65. Jerry was a chiropractor in Liberty Hill TX for 43 years. Jerry was very active in the Masons and was Past master of the Liberty Hill Lodge # 432





THE LUCKY BAG

To recap on where our plans are going so far for the reunion:

1. **The hotel is open to take our reservations! When you call please be patient, it has been a year since anyone has tried to make a reservation for a function so they'll be "rusty" to say the least. If you have any problems, call or email me and I'll get in touch with our contact person at the Double Tree.**
2. **I will include the registration form in the next newsletter, as some of the venues are still closed due to the Covid situation. I fully expect them to open once everyone gets a vaccination, but if not I'll have to do some fancy footwork. On the bright side, Washington DC has an oversupply of museums!**
3. **At the moment Virginia has no quarantine restrictions, meaning no one has to quarantine once they arrive in the state. However, this too can change and I'll keep checking**
4. **Once you send in your check for the reunion, (tours, dinner reservations, hospitality add-ons, etc.) I'll wait to cash it, just to make sure we finally going. So don't panic if you don't see the transaction in your check book for a while.**
5. **Remember the room rate is good for three days before and after our reunion, and remember to cancel, if you need to, at least three days before your first night in the hotel.**
6. **We are checking daily for all contingencies to make sure we can finally get together again !**

As always, just call or email me if you have any questions.

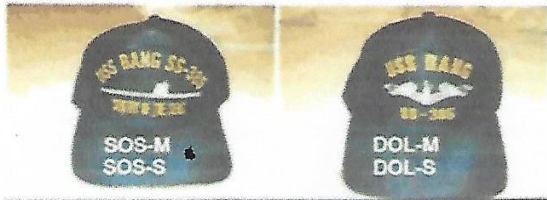
A couple of sad notes to pass along, I've learned just recently that our shipmate Gene Lockwood's beloved wife, Veronica "Ronnie" passed away in 2019. We all remember her from the reunions and was a big help to Gene in putting together the reunion in Norfolk.

Also Bob Gunny's wife Betty passed away on March 11, 2021. She also was a regular at our reunions, always with a smile. Both Ronnie and Betty will be missed, and I know you will all join me in extending our deepest condolences to Gene and Bob on their loss.

On a happier note, Denis O'Brien reports that Maureen is cancer free and back on the mend. Denis wants to thank all his shipmates who were so supportive during Maureen's many months of Chemo and recovery.

Finally, with all this news of vaccinations, shipmate Willie Creel spoke with me a couple of weeks ago recounting the day the crew had to get an inoculation for something. Well the crew, as usual, lined up in the after battery and waited their turn. When all were "stuck", the eternal question came up: who is going to give Doc his shot? In this case it was Pharmacist Mate Andrew McKaye, who needed a volunteer. Willie stepped up, and after instructions from "Doc" McKaye, performed admirably. I asked why no Torpedo Man got the job as we were, as you know, the small arms petty officers. And, back in the day, those needles looked like bazookas! It must have worked as "Doc" McKaye is still around and is a frequent and generous slush fund donor!

Well that's it for now, make sure to read the next newsletter, as it is going to be a winner. (I hope!)



Navy Blue Ballcap - \$8.00 ea.
Solid or Mesh top State Your Choice



6" Window Trilogy Decal
\$5.00 ea.

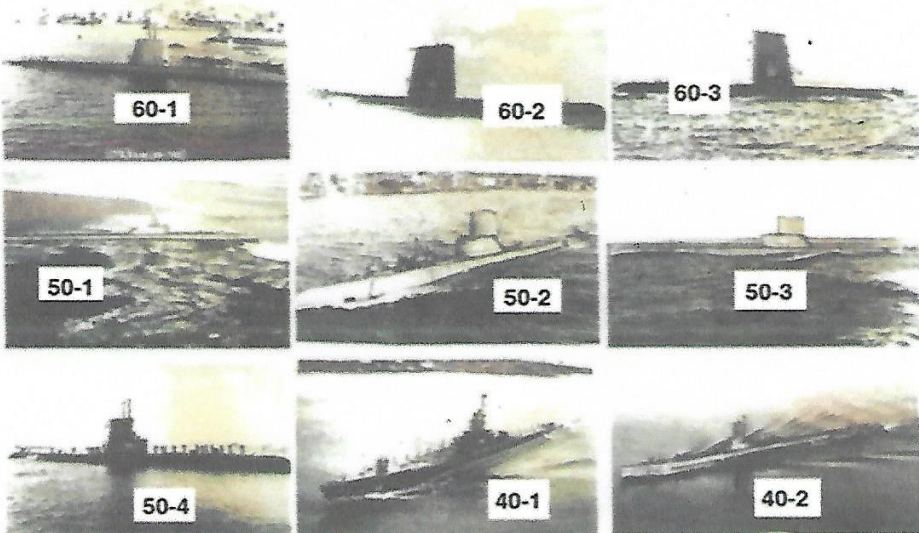


5" Jacket Patch - \$5.00 ea.
State Your Choice



1" Lapel/Hat pins - \$5.00 ea.
State Your Choice

11x14 BANG Photos - 40's, 50's, 60's - \$3.00 ea. State Your Choice



#3 40's



#4 40's



#5



50's



75th Anniversary
Hat/Lapel Pin
\$5.00



Bang Trilogy
Mouse Pad
\$12.00

All orders are normally sold at our Reunions or shipped via USPS Priority Mail. Send mail orders to Isaac Cohen with your check payable to USS Bang and be sure to include a few extra bucks to cover the postage.

Please include your phone number in case of discrepancies.
Mail to: Isaac (Ike) Cohen

MAY 15 THRU OCTOBER 15

26 ROSSETTI CT
BRICK, NJ 08724-2426

OCTOBER 15 THRU MAY 15

776 GRAND RAPIDS BLVD
NAPLES, FL 34120-4469

#1



50's

#2



60's/70's

Original Challenge Coins
(Pre 75th Anniversary - Different Backs)

\$15.00

**ORDER COINS
BY NUMBER**

75th Anniversary
Challenge Coins

\$15.00

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.

