



1943



1972



# THE BANG GANG NEWS LETTER

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

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**2023 USS BANG 80TH REUNION**  
**OCTOBER 2-5 2023**  
**CROWNE PLAZA HOTEL**  
**801 GREENWICH AVE. WARWICK, RI**

*Welcome Aboard*



THE WORLD'S FIRST NUCLEAR POWERED SHIP

**USS Nautilus**  
**SSN 571**



**START PACKING FOR OUR 80TH REUNION**



# FPO



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

**Hello once again shipmates, friends and significant others!**

Well, we are very close to our 80th reunion date, and from the sailing list, it looks like a very lively week in store. The sailing list is on the next page, and several shipmates we haven't seen in a while are shoving off with us this year.

The weather here in sunny Florida has been hot, as usual, and I for one am looking forward to some nice New England Fall weather. There has been some unusual hurricane weather up the Atlantic Coast, but it looks like it will be gone when we arrive in Providence. Speaking of hurricanes, we did have one slide up the Gulf Coast this Summer, and I called Editor Emeritus Phil Beals to see how he made out as the track was going over the Tampa area. He said he did evacuate, but the hurricane went over a little North of him and Dot, and there was not much damage at all. I'm sure we're all thankful for that. While we were on the phone, Phil asked that when we were on the NLON base tour and in the museum, if we could ask if they wanted our collection of memorabilia. I said I would bring it up before we left on the tour so we could ask the museum people while we were there. I'm sure they'd like the silver set, along with other memorabilia we have stored. I also said we'd look into the Washington Navy Yard, as they are expanding along the lines of the Marine and Air Force Museums. Those of us who were on the tour of the Navy Yard last year, could see the expansion is way overdue. Plus, the submarine section while okay, needs to be updated and the WWII section definitely enlarged. I think we are just the boat to do it!

I received an email from shipmate Gerald Maly, who was on the BANG from September '65 to February '66 and said of all the five boats he served on, the BANG was by far the best. He, Billy Bang Cromie, Woody Heywood, "Animal" Andy Anderson, and a few others started the famous, (or infamous) "Snake Ranch". I was a frequent visitor, (while I should have been qualifying), and my memory is a little fuzzy; (hey, it was the 60's) I can say many a sea story, suitable for adults only, was spawned there. We'll have to ask shipmate Harry Ross, another "denizen" about some of the stories that filtered back to the civilian world. Good Guy O'Malley as he was known on the boat has had some sick bay issues including a triple by-pass, but he says he's doing fine and would like to hear from his former shipmates. I'll have his info at the reunion for anyone who would like it. He says he has written a few stories, and I'm sure he'd be happy to fill you in.

I'll have some reunion info at the back of the newsletter, to help when you get to the hotel so be sure to read it!

Finally, a bit of trivia you won't find on Jeopardy. If you take the tour of the USS NAUTILUS (SSN 571) You will see a Shadow Box shelf that holds the plaques, awards and other memorabilia earned by the world's first nuclear powered submarine. That shadow box was constructed by our own shipmate George Le Blanc during one of his reserve weekends in Groton. Even the nuclear Navy has an imprint of the BANG!

# SAILING LIST USS BANG (SS 385) PROVIDENCE REUNION 20OCT-5OCT23

56-58 MARVIN & JOAN CHRISTENSON	ET	66-69 CHARLES DOUGHERTY	MM
56-59 GARY & DAE PROBST	EN	CHRISTINA ZIESMER	GUEST
57-60 WAYNE & ELAINE THALASINOS	TM	67-68 ERIC & SALLY ERICKSON	TM
57-60 DEANE & CONNIE HADFIELD	EN	67-68 JAMES & ESTHER HAMPTON	ET
58-61 BOB SAWYER	TM	67-68 DENIS & MAUREEN O'BRIEN	TM
60-61 JOHN STEWART	MM	67-68 JAMES & HARRIET SCHULTZ	TM
62-65 CHUCK & PATRICIA ARCHER	RM	67-69 ALAN & LINDA THOLE	IC
63-66 ROCCO & NANCY DELEO	TM	67-70 ROB BRIDLE	EN
64-66 JIM & YOLANDA KLEIN	EN	PAULINE RONDO	GUEST
HARLEYIII & JENNIFER WILSON	GUEST	67-71 BILL & JOAN FENTON	LT
JIM, JR & LAURA KLEIN	GUEST	69-71 LEN & SHARON SCIUTO	QM
HARLEY, SR & KATHLEEN WILSON	GUEST	69-72 LEO GIBSON (LAST COB)	EM
GERALD & JUDITH HOLMBERG	GUEST	LAURIE KOTFER	GUEST
MARK & ESTELLE WALERZAK	GUEST	69-72 HAROLD & EDITH WILKINS	ET
64-67 JACK & DIANE O'CONNER	MM	70 ISACC COHEN	SK
FRANK & CLAUDIA STEINMETZ	GUEST	MICHELLE OSTOPIEJ	GUEST
64-67 HARRY & JOANN ROSS	SOS	70-71 PAUL SCHRAMM	ET
65-67 RALPH & CLAIRE GATES	SN	LARRY SCHRAMM	GUEST
LEONARD & PAULINE SANTOS	GUEST	71-72 LUIS ARELLANO	STS
66-67 ROLAND & AUDRY DAIGLE	ET	WENDI KINKSBAUER	GUEST
66-68 GABE & PAM LEWIS	FTGU	71-72 MARK & ANELISA HEIMAN	EN
66-68 GERALD & CONNIE SIMPSON	TM		
DEBBIE PROULX	GUEST		



## SUBMARINES AND TARGETS



# 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.

**CHARLES D KIMBALL EN 53-55  
JOHN MORRIS DOUGLAS ET 61-62  
EDWARD WILSON ENCS 71-72  
DARRELL ROBERT ROBLEE EN 62  
BOB LaAPORTE IC 57-60**

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

**JULIE LARSON HARVEY  
DALE "SWEDE" LARSON  
LEO AND CATHERINE GIBSON  
JIM AND HARRIET SCHULTZ  
FRANK AND CLAUDIA STEINMETZ  
JOHN P STEWART  
LARRY MEAIKE  
BILL ANDERSON**



**BARBARA GALLAGHER  
IN MEMORY OF WADE EICHORN**

**KATHLEEN SEADER  
IN MEMORY OF LAMARR SEADER**

**BARBARA PANKEY  
IN MEMORY OF RUSS PANKEY**

**James Morris Douglas**—Our shipmate deployed on Eternal Patrol on 5 September 2023. John served on the BANG from 1961-62 as an ETR. After leaving the Navy John worked as a tool and die maker for General Electric until his retirement.

**Darrell R Roblee**— Shipmate Roblee deployed on Eternal Patrol 26 July 2023. Born in Milwaukee WI on 15 January 1936. Darrell enlisted in the Navy after High School and served exclusively on Diesel Boats, serving on the BANG as an EM in 1962. After the Navy Darrell worked as an IBEW electrician in and around the Milwaukee area.

**Charles D Kimball**—One of our oldest and most liked shipmates, “Charlie” Kimball deployed on Eternal Patrol on 12 July 2023 in Rochester, NH. Growing up in the family home on Sandown Road, he attended the Ellis school and graduated from Sanborn Seminary in Kingston. He enlisted in the Navy in 1953, and volunteered immediately for submarine service. He served aboard the PICUDA (SS382), the SEA WOLF (SSN575) the SCORPION (SSN 589), the GEORGE WASHINGTON (SSBN598). Charlie served on the BANG (SS385) his qual boat from 1953-1955. He retired from the Navy as an EMC in 1973. Charlie attended many, if not all, the BANG reunions and his signature “down east” drawl, in addition to his trademark suspenders will be missed at every reunion from now on.



**Edward Wilson**—A veteran of the cold War, our shipmate Edward Wilson deployed on Eternal Patrol on 18 August 2023 in Hartford Ct. Shipmate Ed served on mostly Nuclear Boats from 1958-1974, however he



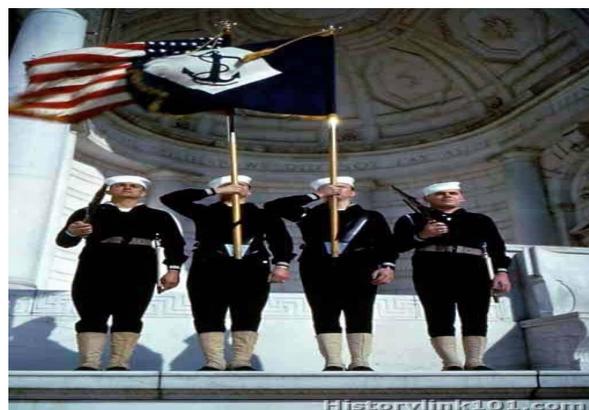
served on the BANG from 71-72, and qualified on the RAZORBACK (SS 394) in 1957. Upon retirement from the Navy Ed was a machinist at Electric Boat in Groton, where was a life member of the

Groton Fire Department. Ed was a member of the BANG decommissioning crew in 1972.

**Ben Laporte**—Shipmate Ben deployed on Eternal Patrol 7 September 2023 in Savannah Georgia. Born 2 February 1938, in Providence RI, he graduated from High School in Burrillville, RI in 1956 and joined the Navy. He



served on the BANG as an IC from 57-60. Ben went a couple of Med cruises, a Northern run and was stationed in San Diego during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He worked as an electrician at Portsmouth Navy Yard for 35 years. Ben is survived by his four daughters, Diane, Suzanne, Karen, and Melissa. Ben attended several BANG reunions, the last one in Boston.





# THE LUCKY BAG

As we prepare to close out another newsletter quarter, just a couple of house keeping items to attend to.

In the last issue I made a plea for slush fund donations and the shipmates and friends came through with a flying 4.0 effort. We had quite a few donations, and our duty Chancellor of the Exchequer, Ike Cohen thanks you very much. Ike will also be bringing some small stores to the reunion, so make sure you bring your “liberty stash” with you to purchase some world famous BANG covers, and challenge coins so you won’t be stuck buying a round for some “skimmers”.

I have received quite a few newsletter hardcopy returns from the post office lately. They are marked “undeliverable” which means the recipient has passed, or the post office does not deliver after a year on change of address. So, if you have changed your permanent address and it has been a year since you have notified me, you may want to contact me with the new address.

As you may have noticed the last two newsletters have been near the minimum in size. This is because we want to save money, and the Spring and Summer months are “slow” news times. However the next issue is going to be a large one, what with the reunion, Christmas, and a new Pearl Harbor feature I hope to continue every year in December. Also it is also the 80th anniversary of the BANG’s commissioning so we’ll have a little blurb on that. You may want to think about another slush fund donation just to pay for the postage.

I know many of you will be taking pictures and I would love to put them in the newsletter. Just make sure you use the JPEG setting, as this works the best in transferring the pictures to Publisher. IPHONE pictures are good but they have to be converted to JPEG. Most cameras have JPEG as their default setting.

Finally, as we all know the Christmas season is also a season where many of us were deployed away from our loved ones. If you in the past were deployed when Santa visited your house, please take a few minutes and tell me about it. We had a couple of stories last year, one from Bill Fenton and another from a member of the Marblehead Base SubVets, who told of his deployment on the USS SEAHORSE while in England.

Well, now that we have just about singled our lines and are about to shove off, here are a couple of things that may be of help to you as you make all preparations to get underway for Providence, RI in the Ocean State.

The Crowne Plaza, as we have mentioned, provides a shuttle service to the hotel from Providence/Warwick Airport (PVD). However it is not a continuous shuttle, you have to call the hotel and request it. To request the shuttle: retrieve your luggage and then:

Call the Crowne Plaza 401-732-6000 and press 0  
this will get you the front desk, ask for the shuttle  
tell them what terminal you are at, and the shuttle  
should be there within ten minutes. (all this from  
the front desk person) .

If you are driving to Providence, you'll be on RTE. 95. Take Exit 28B, you will then be on East Ave. (RTE. 113), take the right onto Greenwich Ave. And then a right on Crossings BLVD, which leads you to the entrance.

Remember the hotel has an indoor pool, so bring a bathing suit or two.

Paul tells me that the Hospitality room will be open on Sunday for the early birds. If you arrive early, I'm sure Paul would appreciate any help in setting up, he said he'd buy all those a drink afterwards. Ha Ha!

In the last newsletter, I said I would be going to the Greenhouse Restaurant in Newport. I lied. I won't be going because it closed last year, another victim of the Covid crisis. However, if there is one, maybe two things Newport is famous for they are restaurants and bars. You won't go hungry or thirsty in Newport.

In talking to the folks at Destination Newport, the restaurant and hotel division of the Newport Chamber of Commerce, I was told (one) they are very happy that we will be visiting them, "good to have the Navy back here again, even for one day" and (two) the cruise ship, MSC *Meraviglia* will be in Newport for the day also. The *Meraviglia* holds about 6,000 of your closest friends, so we may have company.

That's it! It will great to see many of our old shipmates again! Bring plenty of money, clothes and film for the camera. It should be a great time for all. In case of inclement weather, uniform of the day will be undress blues with ribbons.

Take care, see you in Providence!

Oh, and one last thought...Remember how we seemed to keep losing our patience when we had kids, and then we found how it magically reappeared when we became Grandparents?

Straight Board, zero bubble, fair winds and following seas to all!

Eric

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PRAISE OUR MILITARY! - AND PRAY FOR THEM TOO.

