

Winter

1943



1972



THE BANG GANG NEWS LETTER

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

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Winter/Spring 2025 WWW.USSBANG.COM WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/USSBANG ISSUE-111



**GET READY FOR THE 82ND USS BANG (SS385) REUNION IN JACKSONVILLE, FL
 OCTOBER 13-OCTOBER 17, 2025
 DOUBLETREE BY HILTON
 1201 RIVERPLACE BLVD. JACKSONVILLE, FL 32207
 1-904-396-8844
 YOUR HOSTS**



LENNY & SHARON SCIUTO



JENNIFER WILSON



ROB BRIDLE



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.

Hello Shipmates, friends, and loyal readers,

Well, it's another year and with it comes another reunion! This year's get together will be at the home of the Jaguars, Jacksonville, Florida! Our hosts will Lenny and Sharon Sciuto, Rob Bridle, and back from sick bay, and for which we are all happy, Jennifer Wilson.

The reunion will take place at the Doubletree by Hilton, 1201 Riverplace Blvd. right on the St. Johns river, and easily accessible off of I-95.

The particulars are:

Dates: October 13-17th

Room Rate: 112.00/per day/plus 13.5% tax and fees With free continental breakfast and parking, with a hospitality room. This rate is good for the weekend before and after.

Menu for the Banquet:

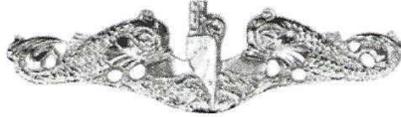
Chicken Marsala, Salmon, @ \$60.00pp and Filet Mignon @ \$75.00pp

There will be tours on Tuesday and Wednesday. Tuesday is a tour of St. Augustine, by tour trolley. In view of past tours, this will be a non stop tour, so no getting off or on. St. Augustine is America's oldest city, and one of it's most beautiful. After the tour, we will have time to shop on St George Street, the main drag, so to speak, of old St. Augustine. You can find anything you would want on St. George street. If you can't find it, it hasn't been made yet. We will stop for lunch at Mojo's restaurant, a BBQ and Mexican restaurant then wend our way back to the Doubletree.

Wednesday we will be heading to Kings Bay Georgia to visit the Submarine Base. Lenny has requested a tour of a "Boomer" but like all things military, it is in flux . In case we can't tour a boat, we will tour the Trident Training Center on Base. For the ladies and others who have seen enough submarines to last two lifetimes, there will be a tour of the Cummer Art Museum and Gardens. I'm told it is one of the oldest and best art museums in the East Coast. But, as they say in late night commercials "That's not all!"

On Monday afternoon, there will be a gathering outside the hotel overlooking the St. John's river celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States Navy. I'm told there will be entertainment and a cash bar, sounds like fun! Be there or be square!

That's it for now, there are reunion registration forms and hotel reservation instructions on the next two pages. They are pretty self-explanatory, so read them carefully, any questions, get in touch with Lenny, and he'll set you on the right path. Also in the FPO page is a pictorial gathered by our esteemed President, Bill Fenton, on the BANG's days after decommissioning. It is very interesting, so thank you Mr. President



-----Complete form, print and mail to:-----

Len Sciuto -- 1408 Course View Drive -- Fleming Island, FL -- 32003

YES!, I/we plan to attend the reunion! YEARS ON BANG: TO RANK/RATE:

FIRST NAME: LAST NAME: # YEARS IN USN:

ADDRESS: PHONE: ()

CITY: ST: ZIP: E-MAIL:

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

ARRIVAL DATE: DEPARTURE DATE:

TUESDAY

NUMBER ATTENDING ST AUGUSTINE TOUR: @ \$55 PER PERSON.

NUMBER ATTENDING ALHAMBRA DINNER THEATRE: @ \$75 PER PERSON.

WEDNESDAY

Note: Chose Kings Bay or Cummer Art Museum.

NUMBER ATTENDING KINGS BAY TOUR: @ \$45 PER PERSON.

NUMBER ATTENDING CUMMER ART MUSEUM & GARDENS: @ \$15 PER PERSON.

BANQUET DINNER CHOICES: CHICKEN MARSALA @ \$60 PER PERSON.

SALMON @ \$60 PER PERSON.

FILET MIGNON @ \$75 PER PERSON.

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS:

HOSPITALITY ROOM STIPEND PER PERSON: ; @ \$35 PER PERSON.

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: Len Sciuto

TOTAL: \$

MUST BE IN BY SEPTEMBER 1ST

GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE - WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE IN THE HOSPITALITY ROOM?

BEER BRAND

SOFT DRINKS

LIQUOR/WINE TYPE

SNACKS

MIXERS



Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 4:37 PM

To: jennifer@emergencyfleetservice.com

Cc: mobypequod@hotmail.com; Tracey Estep <testep@doubletreejax.com>

Subject: DoubleTree - Bang Gang LINK

Dear Jennifer and Lenny:

Hi, this is Karen; I assist the sales team here at the hotel. Your room block is open and ready for use.

Please share the following reservation information with your attendees:

By phone (available 24 hours a day) to **1-800-222-8733** and be sure to ask for “Bang Gang” or Group Code **91J** [nine-one-letter J]

By Internet—click on this link **Booking Link:** <https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?cityhcn=JAXJRDT&groupCode=CDT91J&arrivaldate=2025-10-13&departuredate=2025-10-17&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

Reservation Cut-off Date – as a reminder, reservations must be made before midnight on **Date 9/21/2025**.

****Be sure to copy and paste the entire link (it may be 2 lines long) in order for it to work properly****

*****The link lands on 10/13 departing 10/17. Once inside the link, use the calendar to adjust the arrival and/or departure date for a longer or shorter stay. Be sure to Click UPDATE and continue making the reservation.**

Please let me know if you need anything else regarding your guest rooms. Do you want a rooming list once a month starting in March? Also, who receives the comp Junior Suite is it one of you? We can do the other upgrades and earned comps later on. 😊

Thank you for your Service and for choosing the DoubleTree by Hilton Jacksonville Riverfront!

With hospitality,

Karen Padgett

Sales & Catering Coordinator

p. 904-398-8800 x 4110 | d. 904.396.8845 | f. 904.396.8844

Doubletree by Hilton Jacksonville Riverfront
1201 Riverplace Blvd. Jacksonville, FL 32207

Editor's Tip:

There is a another room registration booking link in the USS BANG website. Several shipmates have already used it to make room reservations. You might want to try it. Also, if you do not have access to the internet, use the the phone number assigned to the Bang Group, it is open 24 hours a day, and it also has been used by shipmates and works well. We also have a “fail safe” contact phone number, 1-904-396-8873. The contact's name is Terry Estep, she should be able to help you. When you call, make sure you get a confirmation number, and the days you'll be staying. To access the BANG website, go to USS-BANG.COM, click on 2025 reunion, scroll down to and click on reservation form, click on the booking link and follow the directions. Easy Peasy as they say in the Coast Guard, so I expect many shipmates at the festivities in Jacksonville!

USS BANG (SS-385) achieved a milestone by completing its 10,000th dive in August 1972

Following its transfer to Spain on September 28, 1972, the submarine served under the name Cosme Garcia (S-34) for the next decade. Her crew affectionately called her “Don Cosme”.

Along with USS PICUDA (SS-382) and USS RONQUIL (SS-396),



BANG was one of three Guppy IIAs transferred to Spain that year. These submarines were stationed in Cartagena, Spain, located on the Mediterranean coast, roughly halfway between Gibraltar and Barcelona. They became the pride of Spain’s submarine fleet and were affectionately known as “the guppies”.

The ship’s patch of Cosme Garcia closely resembled the USS BANG's patch, with the motto “Sentry of the Seas” replaced by the Latin phrase



“AD NAVEGANDUM PRESTIUS SUM,” meaning “I AM READY TO SAIL.”

On April 25, 1977, King Juan Carlos, Queen Sofia, and their son Christian boarded Cosme Garcia for a special demonstration cruise. During this event, the submarine submerged for 30 minutes, showcasing its snorkeling capabilities and firing a water slug.

Cosme Garcia completed her 11,064th and final dive on June 28, 1982, in the Alboran Sea, near the western end of the Mediterranean. This dive occurred as the submarine was returning from the Canary Islands to Cartagena for decommissioning. A farewell celebration was held while submerged on that final dive, with champagne and cake shared by the crew.

On September 30, 1982, Cosme Garcia was officially decommissioned from the Spanish Navy in Cartagena. She was scrapped in 1983.

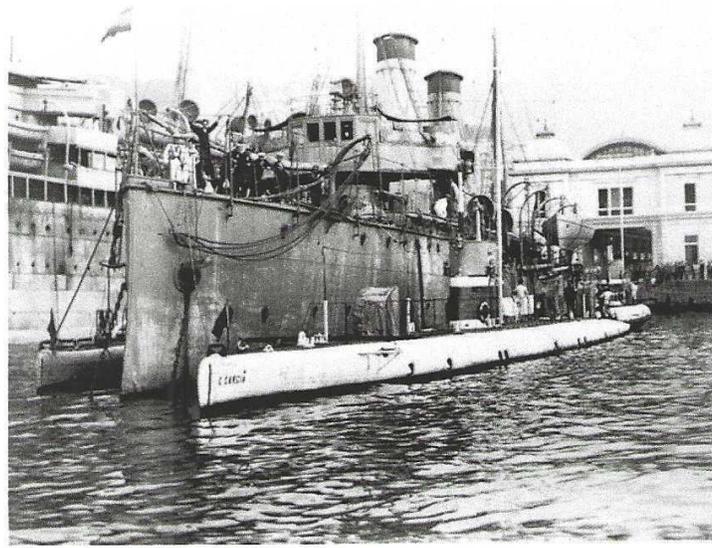
The name Cosme Garcia lives on in the Spanish Navy with a new submarine, the Cosme Garcia (S-83) currently under construction and scheduled for commissioning in 2026. This modern vessel is

a teardrop-hull diesel-electric submarine, the first in the Spanish



fleet to be equipped with Air Independent Propulsion (AIP).

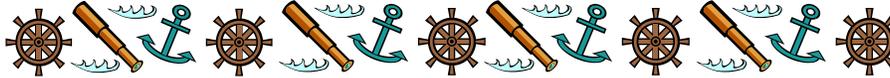
At 266 feet in length and with a submerged displacement of approximately 2,965 tons, the new Cosme Garcia boasts an impressive underwater speed of 19 knots and a surface speed of 12 knots, offering exceptional maneuverability and range. The AIP system will through the use of fuel cells will allow Cosme Garcia to remain submerged without surfacing or snorkeling for up to three weeks. It will be the third submarine in the S-80 class, with the first two (S-81 and S-82) planned to be retrofitted with the AIP system.



The original Cosme Garcia name dates back to 1917, when it was first used for a Spanish submarine (A-3). The name itself honors Cosme Garcia Saez (1818–1874), a visionary Spanish inventor.



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.

Wayne Thalasinis TMCM(SS) 57-60

John Andersen QM2(SS) 66-68

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE HAVE GENEROUSLY DONATED TO THE BANG SLUSH FUND

**JIM & HARRIET SCHULTZ
BARBARA PANKEY IN MEMORY OF RUSSELL PANKEY
ANNA DOCKERY IN MEMORY OF BILL DOCKERY
LARRY MEAIKE
ERIC H ERICSON III
KATHY SEADER IN MEMORY OF LAMARR SEADER**

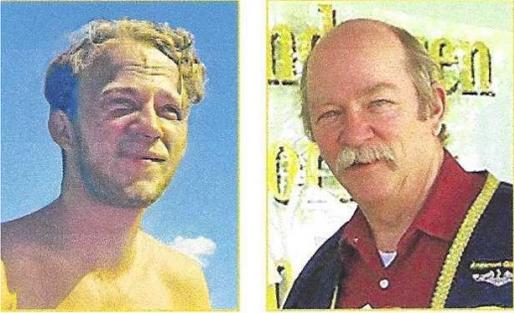


THE FOLLOWING READER AND SHIPMATE HAVE CHANGED THEIR ADDRESSES NEW ADDRESSES

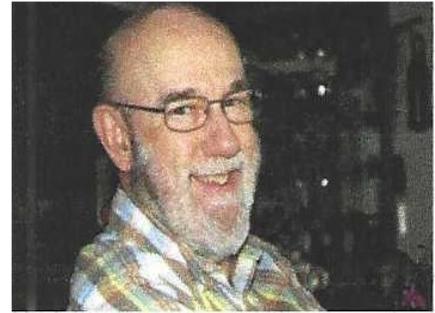
HAL WILKENS, 387 PINNACLE DRIVE, SWANTON, MD 21561

**JEAN IPEMA, 16455 AVENUE OF THE FOUNTAINS, APT C133,
FOUNTAIN HILLS, AZ 85268**

ETERNAL PATROL



John Allan Anderson-Shipmate “QM Andy” singled all lines and reported for Eternal Patrol 10NOV2024. Andy was a member of the Bang Gang from ‘66-68. He own his own CPA business in Monrovia, and was instrumental in forming the LA/Pasadena SubVets base, where he was Commander and Treasurer. Andy and I were frequent visitors to New London’s favorite water holes, and after coming home from each “deployment” on weekly ops, we would make it a ritual to hit the bar at the Crocker House Hotel (now apartments) in New London, and do a quality control “recon” on several of their famous ice cold martinis. We mustered out together, and every once in a while he would head back East to see his daughter who was a student at BU, we’d meet up, and many sea stories, (and martinis) were on the agenda. I last saw him at our San Diego reunion in 2012. The picture on the left was taken during our mid Atlantic swim call enroute to our Med cruise in 1968. He was one of a kind shipmate, and I will miss him.



Wayne Thalasinios-Master Chief Thalasinios left on Eternal Patrol 11Feb2025 at the age of 86 after a long and active life. Born in Clermont, New Hampshire, the tenth of ten children, Wayne followed five of his World War II siblings by joining the Navy after high school in 1956. Wayne served on seven “smoke boats” and was COB on his last. A frequent, if not perennial, reunion attendee to the Bang reunions, he served on the BANG from 1957-60. Wayne’s last duty station was as Command Master Chief of Naval Training Center, Orlando until his retirement from the Navy in 1979. After retirement from Senco of Florida and Hermann Englemann Greenhouses, Wayne and his beloved wife Elaine fulfilled their life long dream of fifth wheel RV camping by traveling to 49 states, 8 Canadian Provinces, and over 80 National Parks. Master Chief Thalasinios embodied the very model of Chief Petty Officer of the Navy. At every reunion, he displayed what I came to call the aura of “Quiet Competence” We will miss his infectious smile and ever present beard at all reunions from now on.



THE LUCKY BAG

**JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT
WAS SAFE TO GO TOPSIDE !**



The end of another newsletter and the first of 2025. I was going to put in some new format changes in this issue but those will have to wait as we had a very on the ball trio of reunion organization “wizards” who made my life as an editor very easy. Lenny, Jennifer, and Rob put in a lot of time of expense and milage, both automobile and frequent flyer to prepare for this years reunion, and just by the look of all that we will be able to do, this looks like a very fun filled week.

In fact, there are so many things planned, I am forced to list them here as space wouldn’t allow in the FPO chapter. We will have an optional tour to the Alhambra Dinner Theater, to view “The Murder of Edmund Drood” by Charles Dickens. The price is \$75.00 in the reunion registration page. This price includes dinner and the show. Lenny says it is a very good night out. I will have more information in the next issue, and Lenny says if you plan to go he needs to know by July 4th at the latest. The show will be on the Tuesday night of the reunion.

Also, in addition to the usual prizes at the banquet we will have a silent auction, so feel free to bring in prizes and memorabilia that may be of interest to the Bang Gang!

As I stated, we are in Florida this year for our sea story sessions, and for those, like me, who live in the “sometimes” sunshine state, it is just a literal hop, skip, and jump from your house to the reunion. I live in Ft. Pierce and Jacksonville is only a three and a half hour drive on I-95. So there should be no reason why a lot of our shipmates cannot make it this year. I’ll be looking for you, because, as your editor, I know where you live, (just kidding)!

Now for a more serious paragraph, last issue we had a good return from the shipmates for our slush fund. This issue, not so much. We are quite low in the funds department, and we need more and more shipmates to step up and contribute. In this issue all the donors were past repeating donors. We need new blood! You are holding the biggest expense in your hands. I haven’t gone to Staples yet, but I estimate that each hard copy of this Newsletter will cost north of \$5.00 per issue. That’s all for the bad news, let’s all step up to the plate and make us proud!

I hope you liked Bill’s inclusion of the post NLON Bang, if you did send him a Bravo Zulu in the next issue! And last but certainly not least:

Muchas Gracias, Senor Capitain Benito Chereguini, por su servicio!

Speaking of Bill Fenton’s pictures of the Spanish Navy Cosme Garcia, yes it was quite a feat for Bang’s 10,000th dive, but not as memorable as the 10,000th surface. Just ask Capt. Harriss!

Take care all, see you ALL in Jacksonville! Until then, Straight Board, Fair Winds and Following Seas!

Eric

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.

