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1972

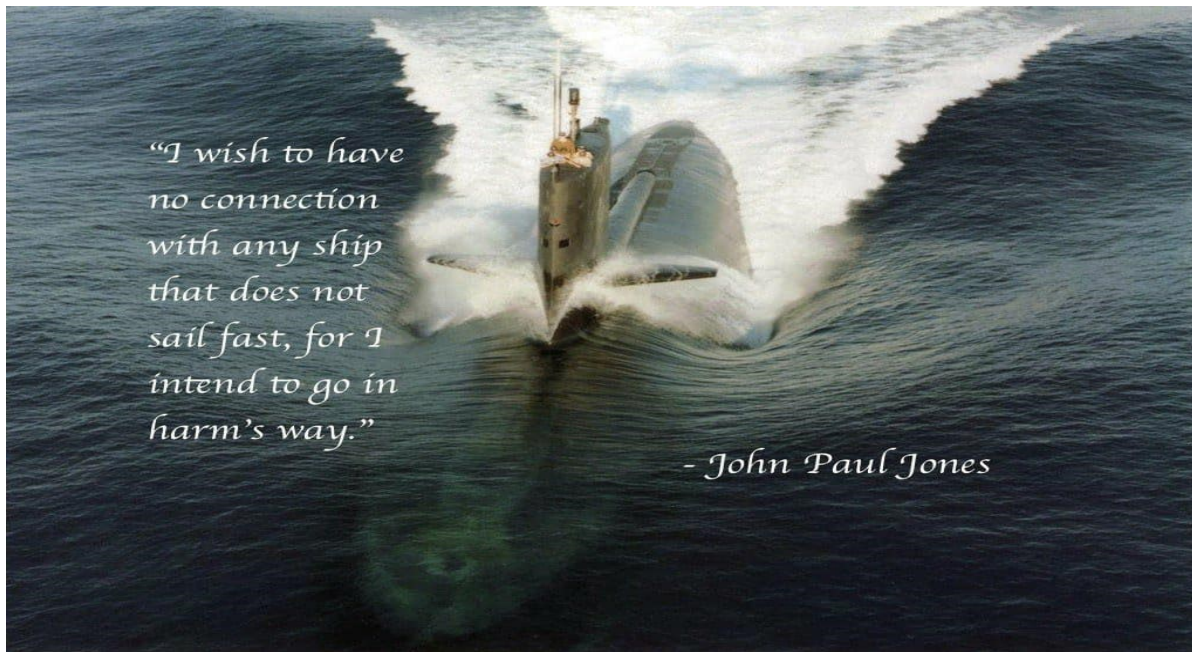


THE BANG GANG NEWS LETTER

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

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HAPPY 250TH BIRTHDAY TO THE UNITED STATES NAVY
AND
HAPPY 125TH BIRTHDAY TO THE WORLD'S BEST SUBMARINE FORCE

BE SURE TO LOOK INSIDE FOR THE LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER
FOR THE 82ND ANNUAL BANG GANG REUNION!
EXCITING AND EXTREMELY IMPORTANT INFO AWAITS!





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

Hello Shipmates, friends and loyal readers!

I know what you're thinking, "didn't we just get the Spring/ Summer issue of the newsletter? Yes, you did, but with the 2025 Bang Gang reunion fast approaching, it might be a good idea to make sure everyone gets a chance to register both for the hotel and the reunion festivities. Here is quick day by day rundown of what to expect.

Monday October 13th, the first official day of the reunion. Check-in to the hotel and pick up the goodie bag. Get settled in and explore the Doubletree Hilton, our home for the week. That evening starting at 4PM and lasting until 6PM, there will be a get together on the hotel grounds with a cash bar and, I've been told, some interesting entertainment and trivia contests. It is the Navy's 250th anniversary so I'm sure some questions will of that nature. After the get together, we will retire to the hospitality room where, as always, our shipmate Rob Bridle will serve pizza for everyone. This will be followed by a dessert of sheet cake half chocolate and half vanilla, with a cream cheese icing. Just the sugar rush we'll need after a long day of travel!

Tuesday, October 14th, the first tour day. Our tour bus will pick us up at the hotel and drive us to St. Augustine, America's oldest city, and one of it's most picturesque. The bus will drop us off at Red Line tours for the hop on tour of this beautiful city. Hop on, because we'll stay on the bus while the driver gives us a running description of St Augustine. Finally, no on and off, and then more on and off! After the tour we'll stop off at St. George Street, the heart of Old St. Augustine. This is a pedestrian street that has more restaurants and shops, of any city this size. As I said in an earlier newsletter, if you can't find it on St. George Street, you don't need it or they haven't invented it. Then we break for lunch on your own. While there are, as mentioned, a glut of eateries, our host Lenny Sciuto has arranged a 10% discount for us at Harry's restaurant a couple streets over. I'd suggest going as a group so that we may be seated together and will be insured of our discount. I'm sure the discount applies to food only. Now the Most Important News comes in. So important that it has it's own paragraph!

ATTENTION TOUR PARTICIPANTS!

THE BUS BACK TO THE HOTEL WILL BE OUTSIDE OF HARRY'S RESTAURANT

THE BUS BACK TO THE HOTEL LEAVES AT 2:15PM! NOT A SECOND LATER.

EVERYONE, AND THAT MEANS EVERYONE, WILL BE ON BOARD AND SEATED BY 2:15PM!

IF YOU ARE NOT ON THE BUS WHEN THE BUS LEAVES,

YOU WILL HAVE TO FIND YOUR OWN WAY HOME, AND IT WILL BE EXPENSIVE!

Wednesday, October 15th, We will journey to the Trident Missile Training Center in King's Bay Georgia. Those not taking the training center tour will have the choice to tour the beautiful Cummer Art Museum & Gardens. After the tour we will stop at the Riverside Café in St. Mary's, for lunch on our own. There is a submarine museum next door to the café where can tour on our own, and the bus, miraculously, will be right outside the Riverside Café! I will have more info for those attending the Alhambra theater Tuesday night in the Lucky Bag. So that should give us a good overview of our tour days, it promises to be a great reunion, Lenny, Rob, and Jennifer, have done lot of hard work to make this reunion extra special, and by the stuff they have planned, it looks like a job well done!

One last thing, you may be asking just how expensive is our way home if we miss the bus?

Think re-enlistment bonus expensive!

**SAILING LIST FOR THE 82ND BANG GANG REUNION
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA
OCTOBER 13-17 2025**

**FRANCIS & CANDI FERGUSON 58-61 IC
ROBERT SAWYER 58-61 TM
ROBERT HECHT 61-63 YN
JIM & CAROLYN ANDEE 62-64 ETR
ROCCO & NANCY DeLEO 63-66 TM
LEN FAGOTTI & MARILYN BARRATT 63-66 EN
JOE & CATHY BURDESHAW 64-65 FTM
JIM & YOLANDA KLEIN 64-66 EN
HARLEY & JENNIFER WILSON (HOSTS)
MARK & ESTELLE WALERZAC (GUESTS)
JACK & DIANE O'CONNOR 64-67 MM
FRANK & CLAUDIA STEINMETZ (GUESTS)
RALPH & CLAIRE GATES 65-67 SN
ROLAND & AUDRY DAIGLE 66-67 ET
GABE & PAM LEWIS 66-68 FTGU
KARLA LINDQUIST (GUEST)
ESTHER HAMPTON
ERIC & SALLY ERICSON 67-68 TM
DENIS O'BRIEN & GUEST DENISE HANSEN 67-68 TM
JAMES & HARRIET SCHULTZ 67-68 TM
ROB BRIDLE & PAULINE RONDO 67-70 EN (HOSTS)
BILL & JOAN FENTON 67-71 LT
TOM & ROSE HILL 68-69 MM
ALAN & LINDA THOLE 68-69 IC
JOHN & DARLENE KRAFT 68-70 RM
LEN & SHARON SCIUTO 69-71 QM (HOSTS)
HAL & EDITH WILKINS 69-72 ET
IKE COHEN & MICHELLE OSTAPIEJ 70 SK
PAUL SCHRAMM 70-71 ET
MARK & ANELISA & GUEST KIRK HEIMAN
HARRY & JoANN ROSS 64-67 STS & ED ROSS (GUEST)**

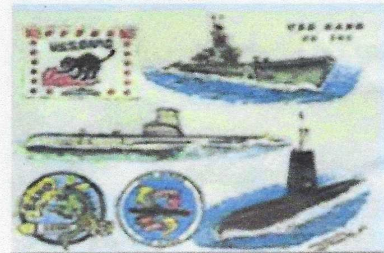
Top Quality BANG Merchandise at Rock Bottom Prices!

Orders are normally sold at our reunions or shipped via USPS Priority Mail. Send your order to Isaac Cohen with your check payable to **USS BANG** and be sure to add extra bucks to cover the postage. Please include your phone number in case of discrepancies.

Mail to Isaac (Ike) Cohen
CALL OR EMAIL ME TO GET MY ADDRESS SINCE I AM A
SUNBIRD (OPPOSITE OF SNOWBIRD!)
908-334-0027
ikecohen415@gmail.com



\$25.00 ea
Solid or Mesh Top



6" decal: \$6.00



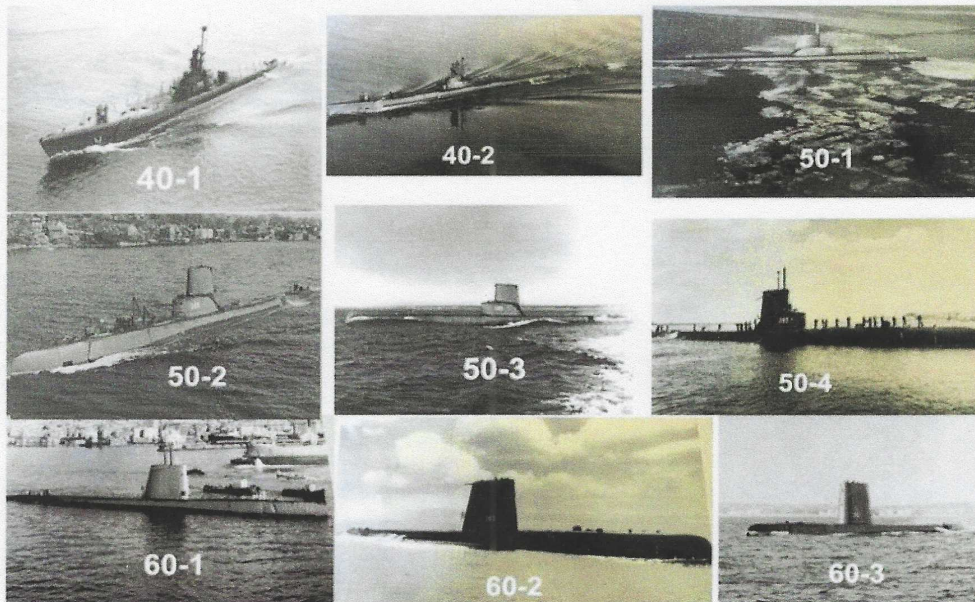
Challenge Coins: \$15.00 ea
Order By Number



5" Embroidered Patches: \$5.00 ea
1" Lapel/Hat Pin: \$6.00 ea



75th anniversary
Hat/Lapel Pin
\$5.00



11x17 (some 11x14)
Black & White Photos
40's 50's 60/70's
\$5.00 ea



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.

JOHN MONROE CS 69-72

DALE LARSON IC 55-57

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE HAVE GENEROUSLY DONATED TO THE BANG SLUSH FUND

FRANK STEINMETZ

JIM AND HARRIET SCHULTZ

ERIC AND SALLY ERICSON

**EDITOR'S NOTE : LAST QUARTER RICK PETRINO GAVE GENEROUSLY TO THE FUND
NOT HIS EVIL TWIN RICK PETINO**



**CHANGE OF ADDRESS
HAL AND EDITH WILKINS
387 PINNACLE DRIVER, SWANTON, MD 21561**

ETERNAL PATROL

John William Monroe— Our shipmate “Johnny” shoved off on Eternal Patrol 19 January 2025 after a long illness. John was born in Piqua, Ohio on 10 May 1948. Growing up he enjoyed biking, swimming, reading, (especially Tarzan books) creative writing, and learning to play the drums.



John attended Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio for one year, then decided to travel in South America, as he had participated in a Travel Exchange program in high school. It is here that John got the travel bug. He returned home and enlisted in the Navy to “see the world”. John was Culinary Specialist on the USS BANG (SS 385) from 69-72. John completed his college career earning a BA in English from Worcester State University, Worcester, Ma. He continued his writing and worked as a Sous Chef at an historic hotel and later at a casino. John continued his love of collecting Tarzan books, some of which were first editions. He also kept copious diaries of his travel adventures. I personally did not serve with “Johnny”, but we would hook up at several reunions and our discussions always returned to his boss and our shipmate, George Fydena. We would laugh for hours recounting each other’s “adventures” with George, not all of them “G” rated. If you didn’t have the

pleasure of meeting Johnny, all you have to do is look at his picture, and that’s all you need to know. Like all our departed friends and shipmates, he will be missed.

Dale “Swede” Larson— Our shipmate Dale singled all lines and deployed on Eternal Patrol on 26 July 2025. Born on April 28, 1936 in Stillwater, MN, shipmate Larson graduated from Stillwater High School in 1954. He enlisted in the Navy and reported aboard the USS BANG and served as an IC man from ‘55 to ‘57. After mustering out, he began his career as an elementary school teacher before transitioning to a successful career in industrial sales. In 1992, Dale and his beautiful wife Rosemarie, “Rosie” retired to the lake home he built



with his own hands, a place that became the heart of many treasured family memories. Dale was a passionate outdoorsman through and through. Whether building a tundra buggy to drive from Minnesota to Alaska in pursuit of moose, patiently waiting in a deer stand, teaching his daughters, nieces and nephews how to water ski, or casting a line off the dock at sunset, the wilderness is where Dale felt most at home. He instilled in his children and grandchildren a lasting love for the outdoors and lake life, a legacy that lives on with every sunrise paddle, every fireside story, and every cast into still waters-where his spirit will always be felt. I’d like to take this opportunity to thank Dale’s daughter, Julie Harvey for provid-

ing this heartfelt and moving tribute to her father and our shipmate. Thank you Julie, and John Monroe’s sister Susan Fain for their kind and moving tributes to our Shipmates “Swede” and “Johnny”. It can be said that because of these departed but not forgotten shipmates and all the others who sailed on the “Sentry of The Seas”; it is no wonder why we were considered the best boat on the river!



THE LUCKY BAG

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



Well, now that we have discussed the main features of the reunion, let's go over some activities that are sure to peak the interest of even the most jaded attendee.

We are going to have a reunion long silent auction, to raise money for the slush fund. Our hosts have asked that you bring something of Naval, Military, handicraft, or other interesting gifts that will entice our attendees to purchase them and treasure them as fond memories of this week with our shipmates and friends. We have had silent auctions before and it has been a hit with the attendees. Let's continue the tradition.

As I mentioned before, one of the attractions that will be a dinner theatre production at the Alhambra dinner Theater in Jacksonville. The performance that those who sign up for is called "The Murder of Edwin Drood." It is based on the unfinished works of Charles Dickens and is a hilarious musical whodunit that was the first Broadway musical with multiple endings that allowed the audience to choose the murderer. These types of musicals are very popular and they really get the audience into the action.

The tickets are \$75.00 p/p and it will include dinner. At the time of this writing, the menu has not been provided but we will have it by next newsletter. We will use buses and personal transportation to get to the theatre, and we need to get to Alhambra by 5:40PM. The doors will open at 5:45 for seating, menu confirmation and cocktail time with a cash bar. The dinner is from 7PM to 8PM, and then the show starts and runs up to two and a half hours. You can expect to be back at the hotel between 11:00 and 11:30PM. It sounds like a whole lot of fun, something we usually don't do on reunions. One caveat though, Lenny MUST have your answer soon, because seating is limited and it will be first come first admitted. The reunion registration has the information, or you can contact Lenny if you've already sent in your reunion registration and pay later. I think it will be a lot of fun and another facet of why we in the Bang Gang have the best reunions. So make your reunion and hotel reservations now, if you haven't already and get ready to have another great week! To help to get everyone in the mood, here is the sailing list of those who have already signed up to see everyone in Jacksonville.

One last thing not reunion related, but will be discussed at the reunion is the large amount of returned hard copies. Each hard (paper) copy costs us anywhere from \$3.00 to \$5.00 depending on the number of pages in each issue. Just this year alone I have received over 50 returned issues. At \$3.00 apiece that's \$150.00! Reasons vary from people moving and not telling me, the P.O. stops forwarding mail one year after change of address notification, death of the recipient, and again next of kin not notifying me. BANG crew members who are on Eternal Patrol are notified by the Navy Department. However, those issues that are sent to loved ones after the BANG crewmember has passed sometimes fall through the cracks. So, please make sure all the addresses on your newsletter are current. And we can save some money. Thanks!

So, in closing, if you haven't registered yet, do it now! You'll be missing all the fun with all your old shipmates! See you in Jacksonville!

One last mention...the Skipjack class submarine on the cover is the USS Scorpion (SSN 589) declared overdue presumed lost 5 June 1968. "Rest your oars Sailors, we have the watch."

Eric H. Ericson, III-Editor
Bang Gang Newsletter
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Ft. Pierce, FL 34982-5163



**FIRST – CLASS MAIL
FORWARDING SERVICE
REQUESTED**



PRAISE OUR MILITARY! - AND PRAY FOR THEM TOO.

