



1943



1972



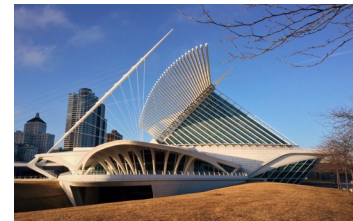
THE BANG GANG NEWS LETTER

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 - Alan Thole 11337 205th Ave, Elk River, MN 55330 (612) 281-3333 alanthole@yahoo.com
TREASURER - Isaac (Ike) Cohen **CONTACT FOR SLUSH FUND DONATIONS** (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—J Len Sciuto 1408 Course View Dr. Fleming Island, FL 32003 (603) 903-5575 mobypequod@hotmail.com
WEB MASTER - Bill Fenton 4422 Organ Mesa Loop Las Cruces, NM 88011-8403 (575) 639-4655 ss385@ussbang.com
STOREKEEPER- Isaac (Ike) Cohen **CONTACT FOR SMALL STORES ORDERS** (908) 334-0027 ikecohen415@gmail.com

WINTER /SPRING 2019 WWW.USSBANG.COM WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/USSBANG ISSUE-
 Winter/Spring 2026 WWW.USSBANG.COM WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/USSBANG ISSUE-115

**AHOY SHIPMATES, SPOUSES, AND GUESTS
 GET READY FOR THE 2026 USS BANG REUNION!
 JULY 27-30 2026
 MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN**



**HOLIDAY INN PEWAUKEE WEST
 N14 W24140 TOWER PLACE PEWAUKEE, WI 53072
 1-262-506-6300
 CALL HOTEL DIRECT FOR RESERVATIONS
 MENTION USS BANG GROUP**



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,

Well, as you can plainly see, this issue's cover page is a lot cheerier than last quarter's! I must admit it was a little shocking to say the least, but it worked! There were as many slush fund donors this quarter alone than almost all of last year! Plus, we had fourteen converts to the e-edition! Based on the costs of last issue, (we won't know the cost of this issue until I bring it to Staples), we would have saved close to \$100.00. So, a tremendous thank you for the shipmates who converted and those who stepped up and donated to the slush fund. In a couple of cases, readers contributed AND converted. I also received a couple of phone calls from loyal readers where worried about the imminent demise of the newsletter. All said they enjoyed getting the issue and were happy when I told them that both myself and the newsletter aren't going anywhere for a long time!

The big news for this quarter is the upcoming reunion in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I am very great full that shipmate John Kraft and wife Darlene stepped up and volunteered to host this year's reunion. If you haven't been to Milwaukee before, you are in for a great time! Having lived in Milwaukee, I can say without hesitation, it is one of my favorite small cities. The particulars of the reunion are on the next three pages, and I'll have an extra overview on page five that will have some insights on the visit.

The last newsletter had a total of sixteen pages, a lot for a newsletter, and which also contributed to a slight logistical problem. The fasteners I've used in the past were not long enough to hold the newsletter together, so I fixed that by getting longer fasteners, so hopefully that little snag will be resolved. We still have the "Rule of Four" guiding the overall length of the newsletter, but judging by the response, I won't be limiting the size of the newsletter by leaving out valuable and I hope, entertaining features. This is where you can help by sending to me pieces of interest to put in the newsletter. They can be stories of family, memories of past deployments on the BANG, (med trips are always entertaining), and any tidbits, Navy wise, of interest. I will have an article each issue of Naval interest that has gone unnoticed. In this issue we will have the first installment of a three part serial of the German WWII submarine U-505. Also, if any important notices come from USSVI, I'll include them. As always, the Fall/Winter fourth quarter issue will contain a story about the Pearl Harbor attack. I have a lot of material saved "for a rainy day" waiting for the space to include, and that day, thanks to you shipmates, and loyal readers, we have the means, and I have the inspiration!





Holiday Inn Pewaukee- Milwaukee West

Amenities

- Indoor Pool
- Parking Included
- Health/Fitness Center
- In hotel restaurants
- Business Center
- Wireless Internet
- Kids Eat Free
- No Pets Allowed

**DATES: JULY 27TH THRU THE
30TH, 2026**

ARR. MONDAY & LV. FRIDAY

BANQUET THURSDAY

ROOM RATE: 129.00 + 13% TAX

= 145.77 ALL IN

BREAKFAST INCLUDED

Parking Information

Free Parking directly at the hotel

N14 W24140 Tower Place,
Pewaukee, Wisconsin 53072 Unit-
ed States

HOTEL DIRECT PHONE LINE:

262-506-6300

**MENTION USS BANG
GROUP**

**MILWAUKEE ART MUSEUM/
WISCONSIN WAR MEMORIAL**

(Where we will hold our
memorial service)



DEAD LINE TO REGISTER FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS IS JULY 13, 2026



2026 REUNION SIGN- UP SHEET

WHO'S COMING? ADVANCE & BE RECOGNIZED!!!

NAME _____
ADDRESS: _____
STATE/ZIP: _____
PHONE/E-MAIL: _____
YRS ON BOARD/RATE: _____
GUEST(S): _____

TOURS: Taste of Milwaukee No. _____ @110.00 = _____
Milwaukee, a Great... No. _____ @140.00 = _____

BANQUET ENTRÉE CHOICES:

1.) Honey Madeira Salmon No. _____ @43.00 = _____
2.) Chicken Paillard No. _____ @38.00 = _____
3.) 6oz. Filet Mignon No. _____ @ 52.00 = _____
4.) Duo - Crusted Top No. _____ @ 51.00 = _____

Sirloin & Chicken Champagne

HOSPITALITY DEFRAIMENT: No. _____ @ 20.00 = _____

TOTAL: _____



Your hosts are John & Darlene Kraft. Paul Schramm got the word out, publicity, that is. Pls complete the above form and send all checks, monies, coins of considerable worth (but NO Bitcoin or crypto of any type) etc. payable to:

John Kraft

N49 W28619 Chardon Dr., Hartland, WI 53029

Questions?: 414-975-5951; jkraftus@gmail.com

DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS 7/13/26

Tuesday, July 28

TASTE OF MILWAUKEE TOUR

This guided tour gives you a great overview of Milwaukee learning about the city's history as well as the current progress. We'll see the major influence the European immigrants had on the city's architecture, business, and culture earning nicknames such as "Brew City", "Machine Shop to the World" and "City of Festivals". As we travel throughout the city, we will see some of the iconic Milwaukee sites such as City Hall, the many architecturally significant churches, the former breweries that made Milwaukee famous, and the magnificent Milwaukee Art Museum. We'll make a stop at the Milwaukee County War Memorial overlooking Lake Michigan for a Memorial Service. We'll also travel along the Lake Michigan shoreline seeing the beautiful waterfront views and Lake Drive mansions. We'll make a stop at the Milwaukee Public Market for an opportunity to pick up Milwaukee area treats and our guide will also provide each of us with a "Milwaukee Goodie Bag" of tasty Milwaukee treats that define the city's different neighborhoods which can be enjoyed along the way or taken home to savor later. Lunch will be provided at the Lakefront Brewery's Beer Hall, considered Milwaukee's most fun brewery tour started by two brothers in 1987, followed by an abbreviated brewery tour which includes beer samples, or soda, and a souvenir glass.

8:30am - Depart Hotel

9:45am - Milwaukee War Memorial

12:00am - Lunch at Lakefront Brewery & Lakefront Brewery Tour

2:45pm - Milwaukee Public Market

4:00pm - Return to Hotel

COST: 110.00 EA

TOURS WE WILL TAKE LED BY OUR TOUR GUIDE,

KAY COLLINS OF CHEERS MILWAUKEE



Wednesday, July 29

MILWAUKEE - A GREAT PLACE ON A GREAT LAKE

Our day begins with a home tour of one of Milwaukee's beloved beer barons. We'll learn about Captain Frederick Pabst, one of the men who made Milwaukee famous, seeing his beautiful Flemish Renaissance Mansion. Next, we'll enjoy a German Sampler Plate lunch at Mader's German Restaurant, a favorite on Milwaukee's Old World Third Street since 1902, before boarding the Edelweiss Sightseeing Boat. Some say the name Milwaukee derives from a Native American word meaning "Gathering Place by the Waters" and a great way to see Milwaukee is via the waterways. We'll sail through downtown Milwaukee and the revitalized Historic Third Ward neighborhoods on the Milwaukee River and the Port of Milwaukee into Lake Michigan with beautiful views of the Milwaukee skyline. The boat offers indoor and outdoor seating. Cash bar available on the boat.

9:30am - Depart Hotel

10:00am - Captain Frederick Pabst Mansion

11:30am - Lunch at Mader's German Restaurant

1:30pm - Sightseeing Cruise

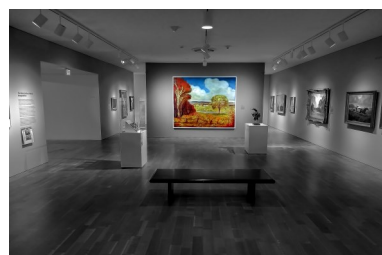
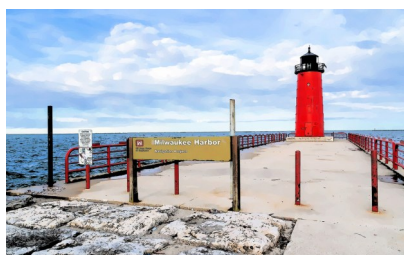
3:30pm - Return to Hotel

COST: 140.00 EA

As promised, here is a little introduction on a couple must see attractions in and around Milwaukee and surrounding suburbs. First, how do I get there? Those who live in Ohio and east, probably the best route is I-80 west to I-94. Then north on I-94/43 (part of this is a toll road) and turns into I-43 and takes you through east Milwaukee. As a little side trip if you want to take a break is just over the Illinois border on I-94, bang a right on exit 344E to Kenosha, (don't you know eh?) and stop at the world famous Brat (as in bratwurst) Stop. It is a funky little place that has, at least it used to, live music on the weekends and a great bar atmosphere. How do I know? Shipmate Tom "Lurch" Prendergast and I tended bar there a long time ago, longer than it took me to qualify! Continue north on I-43, then take a left on exit 76 which put you on state road 190 which will bring you into Pewaukee. From the West, take I-94 east to exit 293A onto state road 16, straight in Pewaukee. I'd also have your GPS guide you and inform you of traffic conditions.

I'd recommend coming in a couple of days early to explore the country side in southern Wisconsin. The area around Milwaukee and South is some of the most beautiful in the US. Lakes, rivers, and forests abound, and there is even a ski resort there, Mount Wilmot, not Everest but tall for the Midwest. Although skiing will be limited when we hold the reunion. As you saw on the preceding pages, we will be taking a tour of Milwaukee itself, but if you get the chance, take a self guided tour of the Museum of Art, it is very beautiful and one of the best in the Midwest.

If you were a shipmate headed to "A" school for RM, IC, TM, EM, ST, and any other rate that had an electrical or electronics MOS, you probably went to BE&E (basic Electricity and Electronics) school in Great Lakes and probably traveled to Milwaukee or Chicago on the weekends. I know I did. The people were very friendly, the USO was huge and you didn't have to go far to find adult refreshment. One of my favorite stops was the Safe House Bar and restaurant. A funky place that opened in 1966 and is still going strong today. Modeled after the Spies, James Bond craze that was sweeping the nation at the time, you needed a password to get in, "I need a safe house" was the secret phrase that gained you entrance in those days, but I don't know what it is now. But I have a feeling they'd let you in if you sang a few bars of the Mickey Mouse Club song. It is an experience to say the least, and one you can tell your Grandkids about when you get home. Then there is the Harley Davidson factory, which should be a must see, even you don't ride a "hog". So, all in all, Milwaukee is a fabulous city and a reunion venue we can all be sure to enjoy! Oh, and by the way, the Brewers will be home the weekend before the reunion starts, so another reason to come early and stay late. You're sure to understand why the locals say, "Hold My Beer"



U-505—GERMANY'S CURSED U-BOAT

First of three installments of Nazi Germany's Kriegsmarine U-Boat 505

On August 26, 1941 the German Kriegsmarine U-Boat 505 was commissioned at Deutsche Werkt Shipyard in Hamburg. a Type IXC she was larger than the preceding Type IXB, with greater fuel capacity and range. She was fitted with six torpedo tubes, four forward, two aft, and had a complement of between 48 to 56 crew depending on the mission. She completed twelve patrols, sinking eight ships total. Her first patrol was out of Kiel, Germany where she circumnavigated the British Isles and docked in Lorient, France. She engaged no enemy vessels and was not attacked. On her second patrol, she left Lorient France under the command of Kapitanleutnant (Lieutenant Commander) Olaf Loewe, and traveled 86 days to the west coast of Africa , where she sank five ships in less than one month. On April 18, she was attacked by Allied aircraft but suffered little damage.

U-505 left on her third patrol, commanded by Kptlt. Peter Zschech on 7 June 1942, and sailed to the east coast of South America. Here she sank two American ships, Sea Thrush, and the Thomas McKean and the Colombian Urious. Here is where her bad luck began. The Urious was a sailing ship belonging to a Colombian diplomat, and her sinking was the beginning a long series of incidents that gave Colombia political grounds to declare war on Nazi Germany.

U-505 left Lorient on 4 October and on sank the British vessel Ocean Justice off the coast of Venezuela on 7 November. On 10 November near Trinidad, U-505 was attacked on the surface by a Lockheed Hudson maritime patrol aircraft on a low level run. The Lockheed dropped a 250 pound bomb that hit the U-505 on the deck just above water level and aft of the conning tower. The explosion killed one lookout, and wounded another. It also tore one anti-aircraft gun off its mounting and damaged the pressure hull. The explosion and resulting shrapnel hit the Lockheed and caused her to crash, killing the pilot and the entire Lockheed crew. With the pumps inoperable, and water flooding the engine room, Kptlt Zschech ordered "abandon ship". The engineer, Chief Petty Officer Otto Fricke insisted on saving U-505, and with the help of the crew the U-505 was made water tight, repairs made, and the wounded watch officer was transferred to U-462, which had responded to U-505's SOS. The U-505 them limped back to Lorient on reduced power.

In Lorient for six months repairs, the now restored U-505 left on her fifth patrol. It lasted thirteen days. She was attacked by three destroyers that had stalked her for over 30 hours. She escaped with minor damage and returned to Lorient for yet another repair session. The next four patrols were all aborted after just a few days at sea due to equipment failure. This was in part by sabotage by French dock workers in the French Resistance. Holes drilled in fuel tanks, faulty electrical and radar equipment. This became a habit, and soon the U-505 was the brunt of jokes and derision on the Lorient base. One hurtful sign was hung above U-505's berthing pen. It read, "U-505's hunting ground." Another even more hurtful joke was that the 505 had the Kapitan that would always return....Zschech.

British destroyers spotted her east of the Azores on 10 August, and she was forced to submerge. U-505 suffered a massive and depth charge attack. This was the final straw, after the depth charging ended, Kptlt Zschech pulled out his luger pistol and committed suicide in front of his crew. The XO, Oberleutnant zur See (Lieutenant) Paul Meyer took command and returned to Lorient. Meyer was absolved of all blame and the U-505's command was transferred to Oblt.Z .S. Harald Lange. The eleventh patrol began on Christmas day 1943 and returned to Lorient on 2 January 1944, after rescuing the crew of 33 from the German torpedo boat T25, sunk by British cruisers in the Bay of Biscay. U-505 had some repairs made, resupplied, and received the brand new 4 dial enigma machine, and code books,.

U-505 departed Lorient on 16 March 1944, for her twelfth patrol.

It would be her last voyage.

Next Chapter...The Hunter becomes the Hunted



Submarine Story

Explanation of Secret Missions by a Sub Vet

*******WE DIDN'T*******

On my submarine, we did some of the stuff we did. We didn't do the other stuff we did because if we did do it, it was a secret. So, we didn't do it. Even though we did, but not really.

The medals my shipmates and I didn't earn for doing what we didn't do, we did receive, except we didn't, because we never went where we were and weren't there when we were, but we did the stuff we didn't do while we weren't there not doing it."

As far as what boat I was on we didn't go where we went and didn't do what we did while not doing it,

So, the bottom line, we weren't on a boat that I won't mention, not doing what we did, where we weren't.

I hope that clarifies things.



6 comr

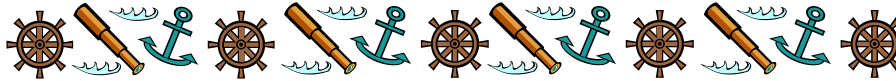
As submariners we are often asked many questions when people ask us about life in "The Silent Service." We use the answer that is a catch all to the uneducated about our time in the "boats."

Still, many citizens, mainly "skimmers" are still puzzled, so I have passed along a definitive explanation on why we were in the Submarine Service and what we did ...or didn't do.

You're welcome, Carry on



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.

**ROBERT ASHLEY ETR 64
WINTHROP S KNOX III QM 70-72
PAUL E. SALOW EN 53-55
JOSEPH BYRNE EN 70-72**

THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE HAVE GENEROUSLY DONATED TO THE BANG GANG SLUSH FUND



**TOM AND ROSE HILL
WILIAM (BILL) ANDERSON
WARNER(ANDY) ANDERSON
RICHARD PETRINO
JOHN BUSER**

**CHUCK SHELLEY
ISAAC (IKE) COHEN
ERIC ERICSON
BARBARA PANKEY
(IN MEMORY OF RUSSELL PANKEY)
HOWARD BYRNE III
(IN MEMORY OF HOWARD BYRNE II)**



I WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING SHIPMATES AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE CONVERTED TO THE E-EDITION OF THE BANG GANG NEWSLETTER

**JERRY PRICE
CHUCK SHELLEY
ROCCO De LEO
DAVID BOLDEN
RICHARD PETRINO
BARBARA PANKEY
DAVID KOTTKE**

**MARK HEIMAN
KEVIN O'NEIL
HOWARD BYRNE
BRIAN IPEMA
RAYMOND MOORE
JULIEANNE HARVEY
JI M KLEIN**

THE FOLLOWING SHIPMATE HAS CHANGED HIS ADDRESS

**DON CARTER
26007 10TH STREET WEST
ZIMMERMAN MN, 55398**



ETERNAL PATROL

**There is a port of no return where ships may ride at
Anchor for a little space, and then some starless night
The cable slips, leaving only an eddy at the mooring place.
Gulls veer no longer. Sailor rest your oar.
No tangled wreckage will be washed ashore.**

JOSEPH HAROLD BYRNE-Our shipmate Joe singled his lines and set sail for Eternal Patrol on 27 October 2024. Born in 1948, Joe graduated from Conception Catholic High School in 1966. He attended Wayne State College in Nebraska from 1966-1968. He enlisted in The US Navy in 1968, and served as an EN3 on the BANG from 1970-1972 and was Honorably Discharged in 1972. Joe was a trained auctioneer, having graduated from World Wide College in Mason City, Iowa. Joe was a “jack of all trades” working several construction jobs, as well as welding. Joe was an ardent reader and collector. He had many books from all genres and rocks from all over the United States.

ROBERT ASHLEY- Shipmate Robert reported for Eternal Patrol on 1 October 2025. Born in Tupper Lake, New York, Bob served honorably in the United States Navy beginning in 1959, with service aboard the USS CAVALLA (SSN244) and USS JACK (SSN 605) at the , as a nuclear reactor operator. Bob was stationed on The USS BANG (SS385) as an ETR in 1964. Upon his separation, Bob started ABL Construction Company in Pittsfield, MA. Upon moving back to Clifton Park, NY he became a real estate broker and Vice President with Realty USA until his retirement to the Villages in Florida.



PAUL E. SALOW- Shipmate Paul was deployed on Eternal Patrol on 2 June 2024. Born on 6 December 1936, Paul served as an EN from 1953-55. Paul attended several reunions and loved each and every one of them his daughter Sharon says. Paul was laid to rest at the Mira Mar Veteran’s Cemetery.



WINTHROP S KNOX III- Trip, as he was known to his shipmates, departed on Eternal Patrol on 9 December 2025. Born on 22 April, 1946 in Malden MA. Trip had a deep love for anything nautical, and felt most at home on the open sea, Trip served on the BANG as a QM from 1970-1072. After the Navy, Trip graduated from Bryant College with a Bachelor of Science degree, and later graduate study in Engineering from Brown University. He became the first certified pool expert in the US, and contributed to thousands of Aquatic facilities across the country. Among his clients were Waly Disney, Universal Studios, SeaWorld Parks, and Lego Land to mention a few. During the course of his career he was involved in Walt Disney World’s Typhoon Lagoon and Blizzard Beach. Lake Placid’s 1980 Olympic Luge and Bobsled Runs. US Navy Training Center, Florida, and countless water parks, hotels, beach clubs, and my favorite, Margaritaville in Turks and Caicos. His free time passions were Golf, fishing, skiing, and boating. Trip also held a US Coast Guard 100-Ton Captain’s License and was the owner-operator of Aquatic Charters. He captained several of his own vessels, ranging from 45-100 feet, operating out of Charlestown, MA. and Miami Florida.

THE LUCKY BAG

JUST WHEN YOU THOUGHT IT
WAS SAFE TO GO TOPSIDE !



Hello Shipmates, and loyal readers,

Another quarter, another newsletter. With the inclusion of the e-edition converts, I was trimming down the mailing list and hoping to make it more manageable. I made so “manageable” that I lost my place many, many, times and had to start over. I wanted to make sure that the e-edition people didn’t get lost and in the process I got lost myself! But everything is sorted out now and we are starting a chapter in the Bang Gang Newsletter.

One thing I’d like to address is the problem we keep having with newsletters being returned by the Post Office with “undeliverable” on the address space. I think most of this is a result of readers who have moved and have not given me the new address. The Post Office only forwards to a new address for one year, and then ceases delivery. I’ve had two recipients who have moved a couple of times and have just informed me of the new address. So if you have moved in the past year and not informed me of the new address, please do so now, I would appreciate it.

On a happy note our shipmate Lenny Sciuto has published his fourth novel entitled Hades Crypt. It’s another thriller and is doing well in sales, it has been #1 for several weeks. You can purchase it at your local bookstore, Amazon, and Barnes and Noble.

Remember to make your hotel reservations and send in your reunion sign up sheet to John Kraft by July 13, 2026. You don’t want to miss out on a great time!

On a sadder note, I just came back from the doctor and he gave me some bad news, apparently Scotch is NOT an antibiotic. Have a good end of Winter and I’ll see you in the future with the last chance to sign up for the reunion and some more interesting news and new features!

Take care, and as always, 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.

