

THE BANG GANG NEWSLETTER

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

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WWW.USSBANG.COM

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The only thing we can't provide is the time to see it all!





LOST AND FOUND



This column 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.



Tony Skrzat, TM (69-70) John N. Collins, RM (45-46) Allan V. Miles, QM1 (57-58) Robert F. Shirer, QM (53-55) David A. Zemske, TM (57-60) Henry C. Malinofski, GM (45-46) Blazie A. Santoriello, GM2 (45, WP6) William P. Pilitowski, EM3 (44, WP2)



SHIPMATES, REST YOUR OARS!

The following shipmates have changed their mailing address.

Please let us know when your address has changed or you may not receive the next Newsletter.

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LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIPCODE	PHONE	<u>Y-O-B</u>
Cellupica	Robert V	153 Parade Rd #14 Manor	II Meredith	NH	03253-5401	(603) 279-4534	44-46
Evins	Richard	9000 W Center St	Milwaukee	WI	53222-4625		68-69
Fenton	William J	4422 Organ Mesa Loop	Las Cruces	NM	88011-8403	(505) 532-5830	68-71
Findly	Lee Bert	6251 Old Dominion Dr #14	44 McLean	VA	22101-4805	(703) 970-3767	52-54
Howard	John E	2451 Freeland Dr	Coeur D Alene	ID	83815-8566		66-68
Keane	Michael E	909 Foyer Ave	Cheyenne	WY	82001-1147	(910) 612-7327	58-59
Major	Richard L	17420 Birchwood Ln Apt	2 Fort Myers	FL	33908-7118	(239) 267-2200	61-65
McDermott	Kenneth R	670 Baber Circle	Scottsville	VA	24590-5533		61-62
Whittet	Robert J	14A Lafayette Dr	Whiting	NJ	08759-1608	(732) 350-7467	53-55

The following shipmates are new (found) additions to our roster. Your committee is thankful for all your help in locating them and we will continue our search until we have attempted to locate everyone.

LASTNAME	FIRSTNAME	ADDRESS	CITY	ST	ZIPCODE	PHONE	<u>Y-O-B</u>
Barham	Bruce	507 Edith St	Burbank	WA	99323-9622		68-71
Carlson	Fritz J	12473 Arrowwood Ln	Belvidere	IL	61008-9607		62-63



THANK YOU!

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

Niles Cheney Conyal Cody Rocco DeLeo Jim Klein Ed Kracker Al Mace Jim Maxwell Andy McKaye Merle Meyer Ray Moore Bob Morrison George Schmid Ed Schovajsa



Lou Ulrich Bill VonDerLieth Bob Whittet



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.

FP()

Editor's Notes and Ramble: Hi Shipmates!

In April of this year I attended the FL Submariners Memorial Service held annually in Brandon. Our USSVI Base (TANG) has the honor of conducting this service and the turnout is usually good. This year the FL Submarine Veterans of WWII coincided their State Convention with our Memorial Service so, our attendance was greater and USS BANG was well represented. From beginning to end and some of the vears in between. Daniel "Rosie" wife. Rosenfeld and Goldie were there representing the beginning as a member of the first commissioning crew in 1943. Rosie also stayed aboard BANG as a motor machinist for all of her six war patrols. Dave Harriss represented the end. He BANG's last CO and part was of the decommissioning crew that reluctantly turned her over to Spain. For the in between years we had Charlie Miles and yours truly. Charlie came aboard BANG as a torpedoman in 1945 for her sixth patrol and then, with Rosie, brought her back home to Portsmouth and stayed until 1946. Needless to say, the day was that much better because BANG shipmates were present.



FRONT: Goldie Rosenfeld, Charlie Miles REAR: Dave Harriss, Dan Rosenfeld, Phil Beals

"If It Weren't For The United States Military" "There Would Be NO United States of America" "Home of The Free, Because of the Brave"



THE FIGHTING FORTIES



1943-1972

Leigh Salmon, a Sonarman (55-57), lets us know that he is enjoying his move to FL and is keeping busy by doing craft work and playing golf twice a week to keep fit.

Frank Walker, Officer, (53-55), suffered a stroke last April due to a blockage in a Carotid Artery. In June they "roto-rootered" it out and, as of his last writing, he is well and on the mend.

Two things come to mind about **Allan "Smiley" Miles**. He received his nickname during a 1958 Atlantic cruise. While visiting Vigo, Spain Allan got into an altercation at a local bar after attending a bull fight and had the upper hand of the situation until his opponent bit him on the cheek leaving a 'smiley face' scar. The word was that the opponent was Spain's national boxing champ. I guess the champ must have contributed to Mike Tyson's skills in his latter years.

The other thing about Smiley was that upon awakening, he would serenade his Hogan's Alley bunk mates with a grand rendition of "God Bless America". No Kate Smith but still inspiring.

Allan's daughters, Elizabeth and Michelle sent me the following notification of their father's demise. After 29 years of service, they expected the Navy to handle the military burial. Instead it was guys from the National Guard and American Legion that performed the ceremony.

GARDINER, ME -- Allan Vance Miles was born in East Millinocket and died peacefully in Augusta early Thursday morning, surrounded by family.

Before entering the Navy in 1945, Allan lived on Verona Island, near Bucksport, and Long Island in Casco Bay. While in the Navy, Allan served as a Chief Quartermaster on various submarines. Allan began his military service at the end of WWII, served through the Korean War, and was honorably discharged during the Vietnam conflict in 1965. Post active service, Allan served in the reserves for another nine years, and was employed for various companies before retirement, including Honeywell Computers.

Allan is survived by his wife, Viola Miles of Gardiner; daughters Michelle Miles of Gardiner and Elizabeth Miles of Portland; stepdaughters Debbie Sirois Fortin of Brunswick and Rose Sirois Royer of Augusta; son-in-laws Todd Lesser of Portland, Nelson Royer of Augusta and Richard (Sonny) Fortin of Brunswick; brother Robert Miles of Dover-Foxcroft; aunt Betty Cohen of Millinocket; nieces Susan Lovely of Portland and Sandra Green of Cumberland; nephew Dana Lovely of Scarborough, as well as many cousins, friends, neighbors and two step-grandchildren. Allan was loved and will be deeply missed by all.

Allan was pre-deceased by his father, Allan George Miles, mother Lala Vance, stepdaughter Patricia Sirois, brothers Emmett Daly and George (Buddy) Miles and sister Laila Lovely.

In memory of Allan's love and commitment to animals, please send donations to the ASPCA or your local humane society. Louis Ulrich, a FiremaN (59), sent us the following on Tony Skrzat's passing. He also states that he purchased a copy of Don Kamuf's book, *"Tales From Da Bronx Submariner"* and agrees that Don wrote it as he lived it.

Red Hill, PA: Anthony J. Skrzat Jr., 60, of Red Hill, died February 21, at Lehigh Valley Hospice in Allentown. He had been in failing health.

Born in Lansdale and raised in North Wales, he was the son of Anthony J. Skrzat Sr., a lifelong resident of the North Penn area and the late Mary Schlosser Skrzat. Mr. Skrzat graduated from North Penn High School, class of 1964 and attended Drexel University for two years. He was a Navy veteran serving on submarines in New London, CT and in the Mediterranean. Tony qualified on the USS Irex (SS-482) in 1968 and also served aboard USS Bang (SS-385). He was a TM2(SS) when he left the Navy. He was the founder and owner of Penn Valley Restoration, a home improvement company. He was a Catholic. One of his greatest pleasures was deep sea fishing. Survivors: Son, Daniel Skrzat of Allentown; three daughters, Heidi Stickney and her husband Kent of Cincinnati, Rebecca Skrzat of Allentown, and Theresa Jo Skrzat of Cincinnati; two grandchildren, Riley and Grady Stickney; two sisters, Abigail Smith and her husband Lawrence Floyd LF of Moran, WY and Mary Hutchins and her husband William of Hockessin, DE; five brothers, Theodore Skrzat and his wife Lana of Harleysville, Timothy Skrzat and his wife Sadie of Souderton, John Skrzat and his wife Diane of Lansdale, Michael Skrzat and his wife Denise of Harleysville, and Philip Skrzat and his wife Stacy of Telford; many nieces and nephews and his former wife, the former Mary Jo LaMantia. Interment, Towamencin Mennonite Cemetery.

The following was sent in by a relative of **Henry Malinofski**, Warren Malenofski, ET1(ss).

I was searching the web and came across your Bang site and found my Father's cousin listed as a crewmember. The reason I am so keen to point out that he is deceased is (1) because he is kin, and (2) because I am a brother of the phin. I served onboard the USS Groton (SSN-694) from 1982-1988.

Henry C. Malinofski was my fathers cousin and he died not long after letting me know he was a submariner. He wrote me a lengthy letter explaining how proud he was of me and I could tell he was proud of the Silent Service. He was mostly passionate about how the crew, no matter what, looked after each other. He told me how the ships "Slush fund" helped send a guy home when his mother was sick. He then graciuosly donated 100 dollars to my boats "rec fund".

I never met the man. My father had, but it was many years before, and my father lost contact with him.

Anyways, I just wanted to let you know and to say "Bravo Zulu" on a job well done for your website!

David Santoriello sends the following notification of the death of his father, **Blazie Santoriello**.

It is with a saddened heart that I must report to you the passage of my father, **Blazie A. Santoriello** GM2 (March 11, 1925 - March 1, 2007) (WP 6) onto Eternal Patrol, March 1, 2007, in Freeport, Pennsylvania.

As you may remember, I sent you pictures of him in Australia 1945 and a modern photo of him taken in 2004, which you graciously inserted into the Winter/ Spring 2005 newsletter.

My father was pretty secretive of his wartime service until his later years when he would answer all my questions about his time in the Navy. For hours at a time, he would tell me of the entire process of how he got into the Navy, into the gunners mate rating, into the school at New London, and finally into the submarine service. He traced his time from graduation at New London, then to San Francisco, where he boarded a converted Italian cruise ship that transported him to Pearl Harbor. From there to Milne Bay, New Guinea, stationed on the tender USS Euryale.

He made several patrols on the **USS Narwhal** (SS-167) (most likely WPs 14 & 15) on special missions to transport supplies and arms to the Philippine guerillas in preparation for the US assault on the Philippines, but was never made part of that ships company. He also made patrols on other submarines, but the names of them escape me at this time.

He also related about how he got onto the Bang; when the Narwhal was retired in 1944 and was being sent back to the States, he almost went with it, but because he was the only Gunner's Mate who was trained on the new wet mount 5-inch deck gun, when the Narwhal reached Pearl Harbor, he was turned around and was ordered back to the front, while the Narwhal headed home.

Of his time on the Bang, he vividly remembered War Patrol Six, and the rescue of the downed pilot. Ten minutes after being brought aboard, the pilot started to give all his equipment away to the sailors including his service pistol! Twenty minutes later, the order came to bring the revolver up to the captains quarters, and my dad figured Captain Bagby got it in the end.

My dad's favorite story began on the troop transport to Pearl, when he met a young good-looking guy who always had a deck of cards and would do magic tricks with them. He claimed to live in Hollywood and knew all the hottest movie stars of the day, to which he was severely chided by all. That was until the day that the letter and signed photo from Rita Hayworth arrived in the kid's mail. Dad said that pretty much shut everyone up. My dad and this young kid served together on the Euryale in Milne Bay, and my dad related that this kid always wanted in my dad's work crew. "Come on gunny, get me in" he always begged my dad. Dad said the kid didn't know one end of a wrench from the other, but would let him occasionally tag along. They parted ways not long after and that was the last my dad thought he would ever see the kid again. However, after the war, in 1947 or 1948, he and my mom, then newlyweds, went to the movies. As the leading man was in a close-up shot, my dad excitingly said to my mom that he knew that guy on the screen. Mom thought he was crazy and he said, "That's Benny, no, that's Bernie.....Schwartz!!. Yeah Bernie Schwartz". Dad said he didn't care what his name was then, he was Bernie, the young man on the USS Euryale. And as we now know, it WAS Tony Curtis, then Bernie Schwartz." He got onto the USS Dragonet, and my dad disdainfully added, "a zero boat, no kills, delivered mail in the back waters of the war, nice and safe".

After the end of the war, he rode the Bang through the Panama Canal, but was ordered to leave the boat in Florida, where he served on skeleton crews on both a captured Italian and a captured German submarine (he even remembered the U-boats number, 999). He was finally transported with about twenty others to New York via train, where they were mustered out, and discharged in 1947.

My father always liked getting the Bang Gang Newsletters and his enthusiasm prompted me to also begin reading it. He was always a little disappointed that there weren't many of his wartime buddies left to reunion with, and said he couldn't really remember their names anyway, because at the time, they were just Lefty, Sparky, Red, Whitey, or some other nickname.

My father was my hero, my connection to the 'Greatest Generation'; the one that won the Second World War for us, and the members of the 'Silent Service' he served with are owed a great debt, one in which eternal remembrance of their dedication and sacrifice will only provide partial repayment.

SANTORIELLO, BLAZIE A. Age 81, formerly of Penn Hills on Thursday, March 1, 2007. Beloved husband of Gloria (Patrono); father of Blase (Noreen), David and Drew (Debra) Santoriello; grandfather of Blase, Jr., Amy, Andrew and Corey Santoriello; also survived by 5 great grandchildren; brother of Phyllis Maida, Jack, Neil and Sam Santoriello and the late Mary Buxton. Blazie was an avid bowler, instructor and Pro Shop Owner. Friends received in the WILLIAM F. GROSS FUNERAL HOME, LTD. 11735 Frankstown Rd. (at Rodi Rd.) Penn Hills Friday 2-4, 6-9 PM Funeral Prayers Saturday 9:30 AM, Mass of Christian Burial in St. Gerard Majella Church 10:00AM.

I received a short note from **John Collins'** wife, Joan informing us that John passed away October 30, 2005.

Also, **Robert Shirer**'s wife, Mary Jo, informed us that Bob passed away peacful in his sleep on Saturday, June 16, 2007. **William Pilitowski**'s son e-mailed the following: "My Dad served aboard Bang in 1944. Picked up Bang on his 20 birthday May 28 1944 in Midway. He was always so proud of Sub service as I was of him. He passed away November 25, 1998. Sorry it took so long to respond. Now you can update your records."

And, lastly, **David Zemske**'s wife, Edie recently notified us that David passed away on June 28th. His obituary follows:



David A. Zemske, age 68 of Oshkosh, died at his home on Thursday, June 28, 2007. On July 14, 1938, David was born into the family of John and Helen (Braun) Zemske. David's older brothers were Arthur and Kenneth Zemske. He married Edith Paulick on March 20, 1976.

David joined the Navy and served for 16 years as a torpedoman aboard submarines. He served on USS Bang (SS385) and then went on to commission USS Ethan Allen (SSBN608). After his time in the Navy, David began working at SNC where he stayed until retirement. David was a talkative, friendly man, who loved to be outdoors. He loved NASCAR, fishing, making model ships and growing flowers.

David is survived by his wife of 31years, Edith; son, David Zemske Jr.; daughters: Lynn (Doug) Kerst and Elonda (Tom) Adie; special nephew: Randal (Sheila) Spear who was like a son; grandchildren: Jessica and Kimberly Zemske, Keri and Garth Hand, Megan Robinson, and Bryce Adie. He is further survived by many other family members and friends. David was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Dorothy Ketchum.

A memorial service for David, with full military honors, will be held at 7:00 P.M. on Monday, July 2, 2007 at Seefeld Family of Funeral Chapels, 1025 Oregon Street. Memorials may be given in David's name to the "Fields of Honor" Military Veterans Museum in Oshkosh. Condolences may also be shared with David's family online at **www. seefeldfuneral.com**

TOLL THE BELL By Bob Harrison

Toll the bell you submariners, for your brethern of the deep, Who went to sea so long ago and still their constant vigil keep. Tell the nation who they are and where they lie beneath the sea, Keep the faith with those brave comrades who patrol eternally. While you strive to save Cavalla and the Torsk in Baltimore, Ever mindful of the sailors who will plumb the depths no more. Inform the world of all our losses and the sacrifices made, By the men who manned the warships and the awful price they paid. Toll the bell for Shark and Grunion, gallant warriors of the sea, Toll the bell for brave Pompano, Grenadier, and Tullibee. Toll the bell for Skate and Runner, Argonaut and Albacore, Tell the story of Robalo; she was lost in forty-four. Sing your praises for the Thresher, Grayling and Amberjack, For all the men who perished, mother's sons who won't come back. Oft times we must be reminded to look deep within our souls, To proclaim to all the people for whom it is the death bell tolls.





John Murray, an ENgineman (46, 56-59), phoned to inform me that his wife, Mary passed away in March after a lengthy illness. Mary was a frequent attendee of our Reunions and always a pleasure to greet. Her presence will be missed.

Carl Weber, a RadioMan Chief, COB (62-63), sends us an update on **Bob Cellupica**, MoMM (44-46, WP5,6). Bob had a bit of a set back and has been moved to an "assisted living center". Carl visited him and says he looks pretty good, but is using a cane to walk.

> Forestview Manor 153 Parade Rd. Manor II, RM 14 Meredith, NH 03253 603 279 4534 (Room phone) 603 279 0254 (Nurse station)

Our Treasurer, Gene Lockwood, requests that when mailing a check for any reason—Small Stores, Slush Fund, Newsletter or just because you have too much money—**Please try to remember to make it payable to** <u>"USS BANG"</u>. NOTHING ELSE! Otherwise he will not be able to deposit it into our account. He will accept cash also but advises you to use a check whenever possible.

The writings and material within this Newsletter are the sole responsibility of its Editor and in no way reflect the opinion of its readers, the Bang Gang.*Phil Beals*



Bob Swank, a YoemaN (53), "It has become very difficult for me to plan ahead and the ' 07 reunion is now questionable. Shirley started treatment for a non operable tumor in May 06. Her only options were radiation and chemotherapy. She finished treatment in March 07 and started taking the new anti cancer drug Traceva - it does have side effects. Her last CT scan in May 07 was clear!

She has been fighting lung cancer since August 2002. Five long years and eight surgery's has taken it's toll. She is very weak, lost weight, and had a near fatal infection called ARDS. Her oncology doctor said she is a miracle. I believe it!

I hope we can get our life back as we once knew it. I am her care giver and I know it will take time.

I miss the reunion's and seeing the 'gang' but, under the circumstances, Reunion plans remain on hold.

I am very pleased to have been the plank owner Secretary since we started in '95. I would love to continue but with elections due this year, I feel it's time for me to be relieved due to my questionable attendance. I know you understand.

Hope you have a great reunion this year. And I still hope to co-host the Reunion in San Diego..".... Bob, thank you for the update on Shirley. The outlook sounds promising and we pray that it stays the course. We thank you for your past services to our Organization and look forward to the day when you and Shirley start attending reunions again.

Bob Morrison, an Officer (59-60), "Here is a contribution for the Slush Fund. Keep up the good work. The BANG Newsletter is by far the best of any of the ships I served in.

We had a great visit with **Ralph and Margaret Chidley** out here last fall. I also hear from **Larry Harjehausen** frequently by e-mail.

I just noticed that the next BANG Reunion will be in Branson, MO October 7-11. I will try to get there perhaps on the 10th as I have another reunion scheduled in Hilton Head October 7-10 and then a USS Benjamin Franklin reunion in Branson on October 10-14. I am committed to the Franklin Reunion as I was a former CO but it would be good to reunion with my first and last Boats.".... Bob, your schedule looks busy but manageable. No matter how short, it is quality time when it's spent with ol' shipmates. Thanks for your contribution and looking forward to a great reunion in Branson.

Bill VonDerLieth, an IC Electrician (52-57, ComCrew3), "Just got the new newsletter and the first thing I saw was the brick at the Lapon Sail, reminding me to do something about getting the pictures of the brick at the Submarine Memorial in Arco. I took the pictures last month and never sent them off to you. Enclosed find a couple of the pictures of the brick and of the Memorial, I have a brick there also. The one picture of me I am pointing to the brick location.

Things have been busy since Margie's passing. Our oldest son came down with West Nile Virus the day after we buried Margie. The type John has is very similar to Polio. He lost the use of both legs, left arm, and some hearing. Spent six weeks in hospital and then sent home in a wheelchair. I had the time to take him to therapy three days a week and doctors appointments and, I built several pieces of equipment for home use - the usual ramps and even an elevator to get him into my home. Thanksgiving time the doctors, and all of us, didn't expect him to ever walk again, but he has proved all of us wrong. He can walk on level ground, no stairs yet but that win come. It is amazing to watch a man have to learn and develop all his muscles. All of this from a mosquito bite. The only good thing out of this, was I had a full time job and no time to feel sorry for myself.

I recently got word that the tornado that hit Holly, CO just missed **Bob 'Frosty' Ice's** house and he is OK but is down to 75 pounds. The tornado did take down the big tree in their yard and buildings 300 feet from them.

I am still considering making the Branson Reunion. I will be going to the USSVWWII Regional in Oregon the end of May, and the National in Billings, MT the end of August.

My oldest grandson and bride-to-be are living in the big old barn so there is lots of company here for me. I got my driver's license for another year - daylight driving only but the eye doctor gave me an ok. I wondered about that. Enclosed is something for the slush fund."Von, sometimes when you get dumped on the worst way it takes a while to see the reasoning behind it all. We all pray for John's complete recovery. I too never gave much thought to a mosquito bite other than it itched. I know **Dan Rosenfeld** is planning to be in Billings. Not sure whom else. Maybe **Bob Gunny** or **J T Murray**. Sure hope you can make it to Branson.

Andy "Doc" McKaye, a HospitalMan (54-57), "Nothing special to write. Looking forward to seeing all the 'Gang' in October. Also something to help with the postage." *Thanks Doc. Looking forward to seeing you and Jean as well.*

Fritz Carlson, an IC electrician (62-63), "When I served aboard BANG we went to Cuba in the fall of '62. While there, we experienced a battery well explosion, and wound up in Portsmouth, NH for new batteries and a berthing alongside Thresher. Later, transferred to Tusk and then to Skipjack." *Fritz, thanks for the memories and welcome aboard.*

Stu Savage, CO (56-59), "I just received the Bang newsletter by e-mail and thank you. Also I was reminded that I didn't get off my duff some time ago and respond about the 1957 sonar test. I had just taken command of Bang and we got the special sonar equipment installed and set off for the Bermuda area for the tests. Bell Labs technicians installed the equipment and rode with us and manned the equipment for the tests. One of the K boats, I believe the K-1, and another smoker took part in the tests as targets, but we had the tested equipment. One of the Bell Lab guys who slept in the forward torpedo room closed the stop valve when the pit log line broke while we were submerged. I don't remember his name, but I knew him well at the time from having worked with him in Pearl before I came to Bang. Sidney often reminds me of the Bermuda cruise, because we arrived in New London in late December from duty in Pearl, and I took off in early January for it seems like a month or more for the Bermuda area and left her with our three small children in Aloha shirts or equivalent and the need to find a permanent place to stay. I do recall the cruise and the sonar tests and am willing to correspond with the person requesting the information and apologize for being late." Stu, thanks for your recollection of the '57 Sonar test. I'm sure Donald Ross will be happy to hear from you. His email address is: donaldnmiross@mac.com Hope to see you and Sidney in Branson.

Bert Findly, XO (52-54, 3rd Commissioning Crew), "Moving and down-sizing after 41 years in the same house is not easy. In fact it is a really unreal event, but the time is right and the correct thing to do.

I very much enjoy The Bang Gang Newsletter and look forward to its arrival - keep up the good work. As soon as our move is completed, and the dust has settled, I'll send the Slush Fund something. Incidentally, I was most pleased to see **Ray Asselin**'s name in the last newsletter. His remark as we were entering port (Algiers) in 1954 is one of my favorite stories and always gets a lot of laughs.

We are leaving mid May for 22 days in China and Tibet. The **Ellis's (George and Carol**) are traveling with us on a tour. Remember George was CO after **Perry Hall**." Bert, I know you are amazed at all the possessions you have held on to for 41 years—and can't remember why. Hope you, and the Ellis's have an enjoyable and safe trip to the Far East.

Bob Whittet, a CommiSsaryman (53-55), "Thank you so much for having the Newsletter forwarded to me. Here is our new address and phone number. Also, a check to help with the Slush Fund." *Thanks Bob for sending your new mailing address. Better* late than never. Also, thanks for your Slush Fund donation.

Eric Ericson, a TorpedoMan (67-68), "Just a note to alert any of the shipmates who might not know that there is a web site **www.navsource.org** out there, that has pictures and descriptions of all US Naval ships that have been commissioned.

Just click on Submarines>Fleet submarines>USS Bang, and voila, pictures of our boat from original commissioning to the hand over to Spain. If any of you were on the second re-commissioning crew, your picture is there. Also, many pictures of the '68 Operation Springboard cruise. For an added treat, click on cruisers>Topeka CL67 (CLG-8)>scroll down to the last picture for an interesting view.

Well, my work here is done, take care and keep up the good work, we all owe you a sincere BRAVO ZULU for your fine work."*Thanks, Eric, for the "heads up" on the web site that definitely helps keep the memory of BANG alive.*

Raymond Moore, an ElectriciansMate (59-60), "Thanks for all the back newsletters. Getting the newsletters and visiting the web site and seeing crew member names brought back a lot of names I had forgotten. I only served on BANG for a little over a year. I still have a lot of memories from that that short time. We made a cruise to Bermuda with two other Guppy boats and one Fleet boat. We rode out a pretty bad storm on the way back to New London. After a short refit we went to the Gulf Of St. Lawrence with two Guppy boats and went under the ice. We stopped in Nova Scotia, again we were in a pretty bad storm in the North Atlantic. I qualified and made EM3 on BANG. I "volunteered" for Nuclear Power School and was in the first class of 61. I was in the gold commissioning crew of the USS Lafayette SSBN 616 and made 2 patrols. I was then in the gold commissioning crew of the Francis Scott Key SSBN 657 and made four patrols. Being away from home put a strain on my family so I "retired" from the Navy in 1968.

After the Navy I worked a few jobs, I ended up moving to North Carolina and worked in a nuclear power plant until I retired. My Navy experience and training made me successful in that career.

One of my BANG shipmates got a blind date for me in May of 1960 and we were married in December of 1960. I'm still married to the same lady and we have 17 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren." Raymond, thank you for bio update on your life after BANG. I know your shipmates who remember you will enjoy reading it. Especially, the one who "fixed you up" with the blind date. You didn't mention his name. I hope he is on our mailing list to read how things turned out. **Kenn McDermott**, a RadioMan (61-62), "My wife, Della, and I are committed to attending the next Bang reunion in Branson and we're really looking forward to it. I've never attended a Bang reunion before, and have only been to one full reunion of any kind – which was the boat I put in commission after I left Bang – the USS John C. Calhoun (SSBN-630) (Gold) – and that was in Louisville, Kentucky in 2004.

I'm still working full-time at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville so I've put in for annual leave to ensure we have plenty of time to drive out, attend the full reunion and drive back. I'll begin my leave October 4th so we can pack up and get ready and we'll leave early on Saturday morning, October 5th. We're going to take two days to get there since it is 1,029 miles from our house according to MapQuest. If we can log about 500 miles each day that should not stress us out too much. If the reunion finishes up on Thursday or Friday that still leaves the weekend for us to return home and I should be able to get back to work on Monday the 14th.

We have a bunch of questions, of course, and I've called the 800 number you put in the Bang Gang Newsletter and got a recording since it was on a weekend – but they gave the web address of www. explorebranson.com which I went to and printed out a bunch of stuff. I also signed up for them to mail us a full packet of information.

You can probably tell we're excited about this trip and really looking forward to it. Any advanced information you can give me would be appreciated and we look forward to what will be published in the next newsletter." Kenn, happy to hear that you and Della plan to join us in Branson. Hopefully by now you have received the packet you sent for and many of your questions have been answered about Branson. Everything you need to know about the Reunion is printed on the last couple of pages of this Newsletter. Ron's number is also printed there in case you need extra info. See you soon!

Merle Meyer, an IC Electrician (64-67), "I've finally decided that I've put this off long enough. First of all let me congratulate you on the most wonderful newsletter that I receive from any organizations I belong to. I especially enjoy seeing pictures and reading input from the guys that were on Bang while I was there. One of these days I'm going to dig out my photos and pass some along to you.

It is great to see what a wonderful camaraderie that develops between all of the shipmates that have served on Bang and the USSVI in general. I belong to the Western Lake Superior Submarine Base and try to make as many monthly meetings as possible.

I reported aboard Bang in the spring of (64), right out

of Sub School. Shortly after I reported aboard we were assigned the job of taking Sub School Students out into Long Island Sound for some "Hands On" training. While I was on board we made trips to Bermuda, the Med, and numerous trips to the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico with stops along the U.S. Coast, usually on our way back to New London. In (66) we went to Philadelphia for a one-year overhaul.

While there, some of my main memories are of our regular trips to the Packer Bar and down the main drag. One night a number of us had come out of the VFW and were waiting for a cab when suddenly we were surrounded by police cars. Our offence was that we were wearing white shirts. They put us in a paddy wagon with a bunch of other guys and hauled us off to jail where they put us in a line-up and when we were not identified as the culprits of a bank robbery, they let us go. When we finally got back to the main drag and hailed a cab it was about 5:30 AM. On the way back to base the cab driver broke the shift lever off of his cab and we had to get out and hail another cab, which was not easy at that hour of the morning. Another wonderful memory is the many trips a number of us single guys took each weekend back up to Westbrook, CT where we were renting a nice house with an adjoining Carriage House which had been converted into a residences. This was a beautiful spot on a point that jutted out into Long Island Sound.

After I got out of the Submarine Service I went back to Minnesota and went to work for Sperry/Univac. The first 2 years I worked in assembly and inspection and after I finished going to Brown Institute and had my First Class FCC license I decided to stay with Univac but went to work as a Field Rep working mainly on airline equipment for some of the airlines in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. After 11¹/₂ years with Univac my wife Marilyn and our three kids packed up and bought a Bar & Grill out in the woods of northern Wisconsin. We owned and operated that for 27 years and before that summer was out we ended up buying an Antique & Collectables complex in Webster, Wisconsin. We added a Luncheon in the main house, which is over 100 years old, and have had that for almost 2 years. We close that operation down from November until April and hope for snow so we can enjoy the winters. I hope things work out for us to start coming to some of the Bang Reunions. Until then, I'll anxiously await each issue of the Newsletter and will send an order for some items from the Ships Store and something for the Slush Fund.

Anyone coming into the Duluth/Superior area wishing to visit, we have plenty of room." Thanks for your bio, Merle. Look forward to seeing you and Marilyn at the Reunions. **Larry Schafer**, an Electronics Technician (63-65), "Great article about the Branson area in the last Newsletter and I'd like to add another attraction which some may find interesting.

About 3 miles out of Branson is Point Lookout, MO. There you will find The College of the Ozarks, otherwise known as "Hard Work U". The campus is quite attractive with the newly renovated chapel and the Ralph Foster Museum. The museum collection contains a great deal of Americana, much of which is related to the Ozark area. I always visit this school when Liz and I make a trip to Branson." *Thanks, Larry for the "Heads Up" on another site to see while in Branson.*

Ed "Tex" Schovajsa, an ENgineman (55-57), "I thoroughly enjoy the Newsletter and, again, express my appreciation for it by sending a belated contribution to the Slush Fund. I am also including some info given to me by a neighbor about the USS Fulton (AS-11) Association.

I did not serve on Fulton but boarded it many times on my way to BANG. Actually found my way without help a few times." Thanks Tex for your always generous donation. I, too, recall Fulton. One of the most expensive gangways I ever used. Anyone interested in more info on the Fulton Association can contact their

> Emil A. Geffert 8907 Greiner Dr Houston, TX 77080-3006.

Treasurer,

Rocco DeLeo, an ElectriciansMate (63-66), "Please accept our very belated contribution to the Slush Fund. We look forward to the Newsletter. Keep up your great work!".... *Thanks Rocco and Nancy for the Slush Fund donation. Hope we get to see the both of you again at a Reunion soon.*

Jerry Lagestee, an ElectriciansMate (61-62), "A shipmate I sailed the Catfish with told me about this local outfit that sells photos of Navy ships. I know you have photos of BANG but for those shipmates who served on other Boats, this may be helpful. I was able to purchase photos of the other seven Boats I served aboard. Their address is:

Kevin Sheehan Maritime Museum of San Diego 1492 N Harbor Blvd San Diego, CA 92101-3397 Phone: (619) 239-9153 Website: www.sdmaritime.com

Eventually, I plan to acquire a computer with all the peripherals to speed up my correspondence whether it be on line or off.".... *Thanks for the "Heads Up" on*

the Boat photos Jerry. I'm sure there is at least one shipmate who is in need of a photo or two to complete his collection.

William "Billy Bang" Cromie, an ElectriciansMate (64-71), "Hope all are well. Do you remember the "no shitter" I told you about how I made Chief? I think my shipmates would like to know how the hell I made chief as my crow flapped its wing for twenty years. I did end up with all gold hash marks though, and as short as my arms are my entire left arm was covered in gold. When I was stationed in Italy every Italian sailor saluted me. When they saw my dolphins they were convinced I was a Pilot. I never tried to tell them the difference. I just made up these stories of daring aerial stunts and crashes that I walked away from." Billy Cromie, the man with the golden arm. If your arms are that short you must have been first in line for 'short arm' inspection. Your 'story' about making chief has changed so much I forgot which one was the real one so refresh our memories again. I'm sure it will be better this time.

Contributed by **Charlie Jones**, Engineman (56-61)

Just thought that I would pass on new legislation that clarifies allowing Veterans and service members to salute the flag while not in uniform.

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe (R-OK) today praised the passage by unanimous consent of his bill (S.1877) clarifying U.S. law to allow veterans and servicemen not in uniform to salute the flag. Current law (US Code Title 4, Chapter 1) states that veterans and servicemen not in uniform should place their hand over their heart without clarifying whether they can or should salute the flag.

"The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one's military service," Senator Inhofe said. "Veterans and service members continue representing the military services even when not in uniform.

"Unfortunately, current U.S. law leaves confusion as to whether veterans and service members out of uniform can or should salute the flag. My legislation will clarify this regulation, allowing veterans and servicemen alike to salute the flag, whether they are in uniform or not.

"I look forward to seeing those who have served saluting proudly at baseball games, parades, and formal events. I believe this is an appropriate way to honor and recognize the 25 million veterans in the United States who have served in the military and remain as role models to others citizens. Those who are currently serving or have served in the military have earned this right, and their recognition will be an inspiration to others."

REUNION SURVEY UPDATE

It has been brought to my attention that while compiling the results of our Reunion Survey I erroneously omitted **Cleveland**, **OH**.

Cleveland indeed garnered 5 votes plus a shipmate's offer to host the Reunion there. This puts Cleveland in 10th place—tied with Boston, New York City, and Savannah.

Sorry for the omission and we will definitely keep Cleveland in mind when we are deciding on future locations.

> *Bill Fenton* Committee VP



Shipmate needs some cheering up!

I recently received an e-mail informing that Alex Sinclair, CO, (62-64) was now homebound. Our Skipper has been fighting Parkinson's Disease for years now and it sounds like he may not be winning too many battles lately. Alex has been in continuing communication with us through the years and always stated how much he wished he could attend our Reunions. Whether or not you served under Alex's command, he is still a shipmate to all of us and deserves our support and cheer during his time of need. Just a short note to wish him well would go a long way into shoring up his defenses. Lets let the Admiral know that the "Bang Gang" is behind him 100%; just as we were back in 1962.

Captain Sinclair's address is:

RADM Alexander Sinclair, Ret.- USN 1101 Jonquil Circle Great Falls, VA 22066-1824

Alex, we want you to know that you will be missed at our Reunion in Branson this year and that you will also be remembered during the telling of our sea stories. Two years as our CO has spawned some fond memories. We pray for the return of your good health. **The Bang Gang**

RC POSTAL EMPLOYEE BACK PAY

As many as 100,000 National Guard and Reserve members who worked at the U.S. Postal Service between 1980 and 2000 could be eligible for thousands of dollars in compensation because they were improperly charged for military leave, under a new policy. The Merit Systems Protection Board decision greatly expands the scope of a larger back-pay issue that ultimately could cost the government a billion dollars, said Matthew Tully, a New York attornev who is representing affected Previous rulings have employees pro bono. held that between 150,000 and 200,000 Guard and Reserve members who worked for executive branch agencies between 1980 and 2000 are eligible for back pay because of an erroneous leave policy. In a 7 MAR ruling, Miller v. U.S. Postal Service, MSPB said Reservists who worked at the Postal Service also are covered because that agency used the same policy. Tully said, "Next to the Defense Department, the Postal Service is the largest single employer of Guard and Reserve members. Complying with the decision could cost the Postal Service upwards of \$200 million. They're probably going to have to jack up the price of stamps 3 or 4 cents just to pay for the outcome of this decision."

The Postal Service did not immediately respond to a request for comment. The Postal Service could appeal the ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, although that court in 2003 issued the landmark decision that employees were entitled to back pay because federal agencies improperly charged Reservists on military leave for days they were not scheduled to work at their federal jobs. The policy, which was changed in 2000, had charged reservists for every calendar day they were on military leave, instead of charging them for the actual work days they missed. Reservists who used their military leave because they were charged for weekends or other days they weren't scheduled to work had to use their own vacation days or take leave without pay to complete their annual training. [Source: Military Times Tim Kauffman article Apr 07]



Contributed by **Jordan Bolton**, Officer on second commissioning crew.

The Korean War, in which the Marine Corps fought and won some of its most brutal battles, was not without its gallows humor.

During one such conflict a ROK (Republic of Korea) commander, whose unit was fighting along with the Marines, called legendary Marine General Chesty Puller, to report a major Chinese attack in his sector.

"How many Chinese are attacking you?" asked Puller.

"Many, many Chinese!" replied the excited Korean officer.

General Puller asked for another count and got the same answer, "Many, many, many Chinese!"

"X*#-dammit!" swore Puller, "Put my Marine liaison officer on the radio."

In a minute, an American voice came over the air: "Yes sir?"

"Lieutenant," growled Chesty, "exactly how many Chinese you got up there?"

"General, we got a whole shitload of Chinese up here!" replied the Lieutenant.

"Thank God." exclaimed Puller, "At least there's someone up there who knows how to count."



THE INTERNET CONNECTION CHANGES SINCE LAST PUBLICATION

Herbert Andrews	herband383@verizon.net
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Bill Fenton	ss385@fastwave.biz
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Charlie Jones	ccjones385@nethere.com
Mike Keane	mkeane@bresnan.net
George LeBlanc	gleblanc@gsig.com
Matt Schmitz	mschss566@yahoo.com



USS BANG (SS385) MEMORIAL SITES

"Keeping The Memory Alive"

Albacore Park - Portsmouth, NH Tree and Engraved Ground Marker

Battleship Park - Mobile, AL Engraved Walkway Brick

Mathis Plaza Waterfront Park - S. Toms River, NJ Engraved Walkway Brick

Deterrent Park - Silverdale, WA Engraved Walkway Brick

Veterans Memorial Park - Pensacola, FL Submarine Lifeguard League Memorial Stone

Idaho Science Center - Arco, ID Engraved Bronze Plaque @ Hawkbill Memorial

Veterans Freedom Memorial – Tampa, FL Engraved Walkway Brick

USS Lapon Memorial Sail – Springfield, MO Engraved Walkway Brick

Clarion Hotel – Charleston, SC Framed Trilogy Drawing on Lobby Wall.



WEATHER IS COOLING DOWN. But, our prices are staying HOT! Never have they been lower.

These items may be purchased by mail or at our Reunions. Mail your order to **Phil Beals**.

<u>Make your check payable to **USS BANG**</u> and be sure to add a few bucks extra to cover the postage. All proceeds from these sales are deposited directly into our Slush Fund.

Navy Blue Ballcap - USS BANG SS385 embroidered in gold with silver dolphins and solid or mesh top.

Please state your choice.....\$8.00

BANG Photos - 40's, 50's, 60's 8x10 black & white as shown on back page.

Please state your choice.....\$3.00

<u>Jacket Patches</u> - 40's, 50's, 60's 5 inch in full color as shown on back page.

Please state your choice.....\$5.00

WWII Battle Flag Patch - 3x5 inch full color.....\$5.00

<u>1" Lapel/Hat pins</u> - depicting above jacket patches & battle flag. **Please state your choice**.....\$4.00



I hope this will answer some of your questions. If not, please contact Penny or I at the addresses and phone number listed below.

Hotel? The Settle Inn is our headquarters and USS BANG room rates are \$65.00 per night plus tax. This rate is good for 3 nights before and 3 nights after the reunion nights. A continental breakfast is included in this rate. The hotel will hold rooms for USS BANG attendees until September 30th. After that date, they will be released to the public. The hotel has a 24 hour in advance cancellation policy on all rooms. Their number is 1-800-677-6906.

Airport Shuttle Service? For those needing transportation from/to the airport, GRAYLINE OF THE OZARKS provides frequent service at reasonable rates. Call (800) 542-6768 for reservations at least one week in advance. All major rental car agencies are also at the Airport.

Welcome Aboard Reception? This is just an excuse to get all attendees together for a social time in the Hospitality Room. The charge is to cover the Hors d'oeuvres.

Yakov Smirnoff Show? America's favorite Russian comedian, Yakov delights audience's with his "Only In America" outlook on everyday life. His tall tales, witty perceptions, and funny facts, has been his theme during his many appearances on TV and live performances. What A Country! What A Show!

Plantation Restaurant? Voted "Branson's Best Restaurant" 3 years in a row and, one of Branson's largest buffets, you are sure to find something to satisfy your hunger cravings. Lunch here is Included in the Yakov show package.

Grand Country Buffet? An experience reminiscent of dinner at Grandma's house and more, it has over 125 items to choose from. Slow-roasted, succulent roast beef and ham is hand carved for you as you fill your plate from the vast selection of five food bars with even more meat choices, fruits, vegetables, salads, fresh baked breads, bakery desserts, ice cream sundae bar and more! A stop here for dinner is included in the Dutton show package.

Dutton Family Theatre? It's Mom, Dad, and the five children combining vocal harmonies,

instrumental virtuosity, high-energy dancing and heart-warming comedy that will keep everyone entertained and leave all who watch with a smile. The variety and versatility are astounding! Enjoy down home music family style.

Submarine Lapon Memorial? The "USS LAPON Sail and Submarine Memorial" is located on the grounds of American Legion Post 639 in Springfield. The memorial consists of the USS LAPON's (SSN661) sail afloat in a sea of roses, surrounded by a memorial brick walkway. The "Bang Gang", having chosen this site as one of their memorial sites, has an engraved brick on the walkway.

"Dutch Treat" lunch at the Post will follow the Memorial tour.

Guided Branson Country Tour? This tour is offered as an alternative for those not wishing to view the Lapon Memorial.

Embark on a guided bus tour of the Branson area including, when available College of the Ozarks, the scenic overlook, the historic downtown area and the famed Highway 76 strip area. This tour has plenty of stops including lunch on your own.

Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede Dinner Show? Branson's "most fun place to eat". Dolly guarantees it! Featuring the beautiful "Dreams Take Flight", roping and dancing while riding 32 magnificent horses, ostrich and pig races, and "Buffalo Stampede" served with a fabulous four-course feast. Audience participation is encouraged. Food, Music, Laughter, and Fun!

Len Fagotti has e-mailed me the following list of shipmates he knows will be attending our Reunion: Al Mace, Harry Ross, Dick Cornell, Dallas Dixon, Ed DeLong, Dick Major, and Jim Klein.

To Contact You Hosts:

Ron and Penny Athey 803 S. 6th Ave Ozark, MO 65721-8618 1-417-581-1887 rondo_94590@yahoo.com

Put "Bang Reunion" on subject line or envelope.

Ron Athey TM (61-63)

U. S. S. BANG (SS - 385)

64th Anniversary Reunion Branson, MO Sunday - October 7th 2007 through Thursday - October 11th 2007



Your Hosts

Ron & Penny Athey Phone: (417) 581-1887

E-mail: rondo_94590@yahoo.com

HEADQUARTERS



3050 Green Mountain Drive Branson, MO 65616 For Reservations Call 1-(800) 677-6906 USS BANG Rate - \$65.00 + Tax / Night Rate good for 3 days before and 3 days after

Room Registration must be made by September 30, 2007

24 hr room cancellation policy Check-In: 3:00 p.m. – Check-Out: 12:00 noon website - <u>www.BransonSettleInn.com</u>

EVENT SCHEDULE

()	SUNDAY — OCTOBER 7th - NO SCHEDULED EVENTS. 12:00 noon — Hospitality Room opens. 03:00 PM — Check in to rooms. Free time to get reacquainted with old shipmates or, if you have Alzheimer's, meet new friends.
09	 MONDAY — OCTOBER 8th - Free day for site-seeing at your leisure. 05:30 PM <u>Welcome Aboard Reception</u> in Hospitality Room. Another great time to get reacquainted with old shipmates or, meet more new friends.
()	 TUESDAY— OCTOBER 9th - Trips #1 and #2. 08:30 AM — Motorcoach departs hotel for <u>Yakov Smirnoff Show</u>. 11:00 AM — Motorcoach departs theatre for lunch at the <u>Plantation Restaurant</u>. 01:30 PM — Motorcoach departs restaurant for hotel.
	 #2 05:00 PM — Motorcoach departs hotel for dinner at <u>Grand Country Buffet</u>. 07:00 PM — Motorcoach departs restaurant for <u>Dutton Family Theatre</u>. 10:00 PM — Motorcoach departs theatre for hotel.
	 WEDNESDAY — OCTOBER 10th - Trips #3, #4, and #5. 09:00 AM — Motorcoach departs for Submarine Lapon Memorial. 11:00 AM — Enjoy lunch on your own at Legion Post #639. 01:00 PM — Motorcoach departs Legion Post for hotel.
	 #4 09:00 AM — Motorcoach departs for <u>Guided Branson Country Tour</u>. 11:00 AM — Enjoy lunch on your own. 01:00 PM — Motorcoach departs for return to hotel.
	 #5 04:00 PM — Motorcoach departs for <u>Dixie Stampede Dinner Show</u>. 04:30 PM — Motorcoach arrives at theatre for dinner and show. 07:30 PM — Motorcoach departs theatre for hotel.
09 -•	 THURSDAY — OCTOBER 11th - Free day to spend as you wish. 09:00 AM — Business Meeting. Time subject to change. Election of Officers. Reunion 2009. 05:30 PM — Cocktail Hour/ Photo Session in Hospitality Room. 06:30 PM — Banquet – Cash Bar – Casual Dress.

Branson Registration Form

PLEASE NOTE: Your registration form and pay September 08th. I cannot guarantee a seat for sho Children age 12 and under pay \$40.00 for SHOW T I must have a minimum of 20 persons signed up otherwise, I will cancel the event and refund your mo If, for any reason, you are unable to attend an even your money for that event. You must cancel your own hotel reservations.	ws, busses, or banquet after this date. rips. Please indicate on form # of children. o for each show/tour event in order to book it oney.				
Please make your check payable to RON ATHEY and mail it along with this form to:	Ron Athey, Bang Reunion 803 S. 6th Ave Ozark, MO 65721-8618				
Yes, I/we plan to attend the reunion.	RATE/RANK:				
NAME:	YEARS ABOARD BANG: to				
ADDRESS: PHONE NO: ()					
CITY:	ST: ZIP:				
SPOUSE'S / GUEST'S NAME(S):					
ARRIVAL DATE:// DEPART DATE:// E-MAIL:					
NUMBER ATTENDING WELCOME ABOARD RECEPTION: @ \$10.00 per person. =					
NUMBER ATTENDING YAKOV SHOW AND LUNCH:@ \$65.00 per person. =					
NUMBER ATTENDING DUTTON SHOW AND DINNER: @ \$65.00 per person. =					
NUMBER ATTENDING LAPON MEMORIAL TOUR: @ \$25.00 per person. =					
NUMBER ATTENDING BRANSON COUNTRY TOUR: @ \$25.00 per person. =					
NUMBER ATTENDING DIXIE DINNER SHOW: @ \$65.00 per person. =					
NUMBER ATTENDING BANQUET: @ \$25.00 per person. =					
PLEASE SPECIFY YOUR ENTRÉE CHOICES PRIME RIB					
BY INDICATING HOW MANY OF EACH: BAKED SALMON					
-	CHICKEN MARSALA				

HOSPITALITY ROOM STIPEND PER SHIPMATE: + 10.00

Make check payable to Ron Athey

TOTAL

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