



1943



1972



# THE BANG GANG NEWSLETTER

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

SUMMER/FALL 2015

WWW.USSBANG.COM

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/USSBANG

ISSUE-77

**PRESIDENT** - Bill Fenton  
4422 Organ Mesa Loop  
Las Cruces, NM 88011-8403  
(575) 532-5830  
ss385@ussbang.com

**VICE PRES** - Gene Lockwood  
512 Windsor Gate Cir  
Virginia Bch, VA 23452-2129  
(757) 340-8488  
gvlockwood@verizon.net

**SECRETARY** - Harry Ross  
2882 W 232nd St  
Torrance, CA 90505-2855  
(310) 612-6629  
harryross@gmail.com

**TREASURER** - Ed DeLong  
894 Indian Creek Rd  
Harleysville, PA 19438-1005  
(267) 614-9575  
Elk308@comcast.net

**EDITOR** - Phil Beals  
62 Kells Ln  
Valatie, NY 12184-3934  
(518) 784-2376  
pebeals385@juno.com

**CHAPLAIN** - Lenny Sciuto  
PO Box 477  
Spofford, NH 03462-0477  
(603) 903-8100  
mobyquod@hotmail.com

**WEB MASTER** - Bill Fenton  
4422 Organ Mesa Loop  
Las Cruces, NM 88011-8403  
(575) 532-5830  
ss385@ussbang.com

## SALUTE TO OUR VETERANS



Designed by Kenneth Bush FTLN (61-62)



# 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 shipmate has passed away and will be placed on Eternal Patrol.



**Owen B. O'Neil, ETR (59-61)**



**SHIPMATE, REST YOUR OARS!**

**The following shipmate is a new (found) addition to our roster. Your committee is thankful for all who helped in locating her and we will continue our search until we have attempted to locate everyone.**

LASTNAME FIRSTNAME ADDRESS CITY ST ZIPCODE PHONE Y-O-B

**NONE TO REPORT!!!**

**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.**

<u>LASTNAME</u>	<u>FIRSTNAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>CITY</u>	<u>ST</u>	<u>ZIPCODE</u>	<u>PHONE</u>	<u>Y-O-B</u>
Chiarito	Michael	180 Decatur Dr	Summerville	SC	29486-5332		71-72
Eichhorn	Wade	1235 County Road 389	Marquez	TX	77865-4003		44
O'Brien	Denis	404 Nightingale Dr	Milford	DE	19963-6459		67-68



## THANK YOU!

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



**Ike Cohen**

**Rocco DeLeo**

**Rita Dixon (Dallas) Larry Meaike  
Andy McKaye**

**Bill Powell**



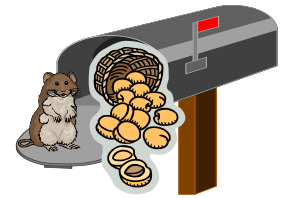
**THE INTERNET CONNECTION  
CHANGES SINCE LAST PUBLICATION**

**Michael Chiarito ...terp1984@comcast.net**





# FPO



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

## Editor's Notes and Ramble: Hi Shipmates!

As I reported in the last Newsletter, **Owen O'Neil**, ET (59-61) sent me an email stating that he was in hospice due to a losing battle with multiple myeloma cancer and had about 2, maybe 3, weeks left to live. His predictions were pretty close as he was called to "Eternal Patrol" on July 7th.

Owen became a member of BANG's crew in September 2, 1959 as an Electronics Technician striker. While aboard he not only qualified in Submarines (ss) but, also increased his rank to Petty Officer 2nd Class. Owen departed BANG for Entemedor (SS340) on July 30, 1961.

Owen's daughter-in-law, Allison mailed us the following email and obituary:

*We've just received your recent Bang Gang, and see that Owen updated his friends of his decision for hospice after a long battle with multiple myeloma. Below is his obituary for publication. I have also attached a photo.*



**Owen B. O'Neil**, 77, of Coach Lane died peacefully July 7, 2015 in his home, surrounded by family, with full confidence that he would soon be in Heaven for eternity because of his trust in the atoning death and resurrection of his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Born September 22, 1937, Owen was the youngest son of Eugene J. and

Lillian M. (Bligh) O'Neil of Chicopee, MA. He joined the US Navy in 1958 and served for four years as a submariner on USS Entemedor and USS Bang, mostly patrolling the north Atlantic under the ice above the Arctic Circle. He married his beautiful bride, Carole Ann (Roberts) O'Neil of Springfield, MA, in 1962. Following the Navy, Owen received his Bachelor's Degree from the University of

Massachusetts while also raising a family and working two jobs. Always a hard worker, Owen spent his career as a technical writer in the computer industry.

Owen was a follower of Christ, a devoted husband, and a loving father, grandfather, uncle, cousin and friend to many. In his younger years, among his many hobbies, Owen loved to be outdoors fishing and duck hunting. In his retirement, Owen became a passionate amateur radio enthusiast, enjoyed trips to the range, rode around on his antique scooter, joined friends for golf in sunny Florida, and watched the Red Sox with his lovely wife, who was quite the Sox fanatic! A member of Faith Community Church of Hampton, NH, Owen also enjoyed participating in Bible study and growing in his faith. Owen was a lover of history and a voracious reader, and all who knew him enjoyed listening to him share stories in his rich, soothing bass voice.

Owen is survived by: his wife of 53 years, Carole Ann of Hampton Falls; son Owen O'Neil of Laconia; daughter, Deborah O'Neil and her husband, Mark Bradford of Newmarket; and son Kevin O'Neil and his wife, Allison of Hampton Falls; six granddaughters including Kelsi and Kristen O'Neil, Adeline & Emma Bouras, and Paige & Carys O'Neil; and numerous beloved nieces, nephews, and cousins. Owen was predeceased by his siblings Lillian M. Diven, Adeline L. Donohue, and Eugene J. O'Neil.

A memorial service with full military honors was held at Hampton Falls First Baptist Church. A private burial will be held at a later date in the New Hampshire State Veteran's Cemetery in Boscawen, NH.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Faith Community Church, 122 High Street, Hampton, NH 03842; or Boy Scouts of America, C/O Cathy Golas, Treasurer, 177 Kensington Road, Hampton Falls, NH 03844. Please include "In Memory of Owen O'Neil" in the memo. Memorials made to Faith Community will help support Owen's home church, and memorials made to the Boy Scouts will be earmarked for youth interested in pursuing amateur radio.



*Lord this departed Shipmate  
with Dolphins on his chest,  
Is part of an outfit known to be the best.  
Please welcome him and offer him your hand,  
As you no doubt know he's the best in the land.  
And also heavenly Father add his name to the roll  
Of our departed shipmates who serve on Final Patrol.  
Assure them all that we, who still survive  
Will always keep their memory alive.*



**SICK BAY**



**Wade Eichhorn**, Seaman (44), served aboard BANG for her 2nd, 3rd, and 4th war patrols and during that time designed and created BANG's battle flag. Now, he is battling a different kind of deadly predator called dementia. Wade was holding his own living at home under the watchful eye of his wife, Mirian. But now, Wade must leave the security of that home because Mirian, his wife for 72 years, suddenly passed away. Wade's daughter, Linda, and granddaughter, Jessica have sent me his new address. If you suddenly find yourself with some spare time, why not spend it on dropping Wade a line or two. I'm sure he could use some cheering up.

**Wade Eichhorn**  
1235 County Road 389  
Marquez, TX 77865-4003

**Rich Bartoline**, Chief Engineman (53-58), sent me the following sad news:

*"The experts say I will be in the hereafter within 4 months. I am not too concerned about this trip they are planning for me. Nothing special to crow about, as everyone gets to go sooner or later. I have been close so many times, you get to wonder how you can last for 92 years. I've had so many family members notify me of their last days. My oncologist asked me how many friends I have over 92 on E mail - I could only count two sub vets. He said they quietly disappear as the years go by.*

*Keep up your good work with the Newsletter, it brings a little happy nostalgia into shipmates lives. God Bless". - Rich*

Not everyone gets the chance to console a shipmate or friend before he departs on "Final Patrol". We usually have to settle for sending flowers and a card to his remaining family.

As of this writing, the following addresses are still valid for contacting Rich - drop him a line....

**Richard Bartoline**  
4310 SW 10th Ave  
Cape Coral, FL 33914-5755  
burrfish@embarqmail.com

**Lois Minor**, sister of **Billy Cromie**, notified us that Billy's wife, Jeannie suddenly past away recently. No details are available at this time other than she will be buried alongside Billy so he will have his Jeannie with him once more.

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



**Rita Dixon**, widow of **Dallas Dixon**, MachinistMate (62-65), "Thank you for putting Dallas' poem in the BANG Newsletter. It had been years since I seen or read it. I plan to put it in a picture frame and hang it, as I've done with other things of Dallas' that he had from BANG. I'd also would like to have any medals Dallas earned for his service aboard BANG so I hope congress passes the Cold War Bill.

I will send cards to Dallas' shipmates as he always made sure that he kept in touch with them.

Thank you for sending the Newsletter as I do enjoy reading it." ... *Rita, we are happy to hear that you are enjoying the Newsletter and thank you for supporting it.*

**Bill Powell**, RadioMan (69-70), "I will not be attending this year's Reunion. Maybe things will work out for us for next year.

Enclosed are funds for the Newsletter. Wishing all shipmates well!"... *Thanks for your ongoing support Bill. Hope all is well with you and Kathleen and that we will see the both of you next year.*

**Larry Meaike**, StoreKeeper (70-72), "Just a little check to add to the slush fund. I really appreciate the Newsletter and it gets passed around to a lot of military friends who enjoy reading it.

Nothing new from me. Hope everyone enjoyed the 4th of July.

God bless the flag and the USA!!!"... *Thanks Larry for the "little" check. Happy to hear that you, and friends, enjoy the Newsletter.*

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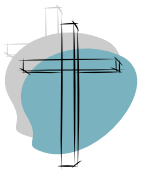
**Rocco DeLeo**, ElectriciansMate (63-66), "I will not make the Reunion this year due to health issues."... *Rocco, I hope the "health issues" are curable and that you and Nancy will be able to attend our future Reunions. Thank you for your donation.*

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**Andy McKaye**, HospitalMan (54-57), "Enclosed is a small contribution to the Slush Fund.

Jean and I were saddened to learn of the death of **Captain Savage**. He was a great skipper!

Sorry to say we won't make it to Detroit due to an important family reunion taking place at the same time. At age 91 there won't be many more." ... *Andy, thanks for your contribution. Have a great time at your family reunion and hopefully you and Jean can get together with your "Bang Family" next year.*



### **The Chaplain's Corner**

**Len Sciuto**  
BANG Gang Chaplain



I had no acquaintances here, when I first moved to my town. The town is quite small, population wise and it is very rural. As such, you have to go to the post office to pick up your mail.

Once we were settled in our new home, I went to get the mail. The car I was driving had a Silver Dolphins decal in the back window. As I was sorting out my mail, an older fellow (older than me) tapped me on the shoulder and introduced himself. He was stocky, short, and had a big grin on his face. *I'm Chickering and I'm off of the 'Terrible T'!* I laughed and said that I had done 2 weeks active duty for Reserve training on the TIRANTE quite a few years back.

We talked for a bit about where we were, what we did and when we served. It was nice to know that, although strangers, we were 'comrades in arms' so to speak.

We became close friends. I found an old Zippo lighter with the TIRANTE patch and hull number on it. I went by his home and gave it to him. You would have thought I had given him a Rolex watch!! That was 26 years ago in 1989. Since that time, I have lost my wife and he lost his wife as well as his son. All of our losses were from cancer.

I ran into him in the post office about 2 months ago. I hadn't seen him for a while. He looked tired and somewhat withdrawn but, he still managed a smile when he saw me. We shook hands and gave each other a hug. He stared at me and said he had something important to tell me so, we went and sat on the bench outside the post office where we would not be disturbed.

*Len,*" he said, wiping his eyes, *"I regret two things. The first is I only have 3 months to live - It's cancer. The second is I didn't take your advice and look up old shipmates that I sailed with for all those years in subs. I always intended to - I always thought I had time but, now I don't. I would have liked to have said good-bye to my shipmates."*

At first, searching for the right words to say, I looked at him and held his hand and then I said, *Chick, I can't do that for you but, know that I will see to it that your name gets back to the guys you sailed with. I will tell them you thought of them and wish them all well."*

He openly wept and squeezed my hand and said *Thank you, Shipmate. You're my true blue shipmate."* Well, Chick didn't make 3 months. He barely made 6 weeks. He passed away quietly in his sleep. I am sorry he is no longer here, and my town is smaller for it but, he reemphasized what I have been trying to say to all of our readers. And, that is, at our age you never know the when or the how. You only know that sooner or later, 'it' will happen. We leave this earth and enter "Eternal Patrol".

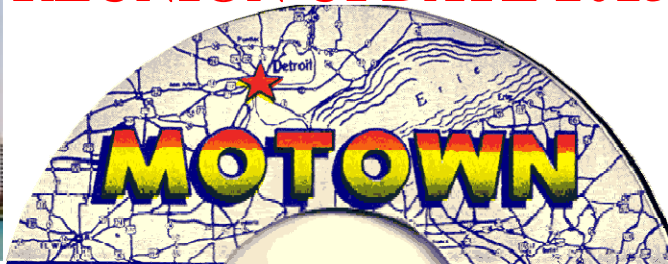
So, before it is too late for you, seek out and contact those shipmates you sailed with and let them know you care about them because, at one time, you shared the same trials and tribulations as well as victories and successes. And, try to attend one of our annual reunions that are hosted all over this GREAT country of ours by your shipmates who just want to see you again and show you their town.

If you don't, you may have regrets like my friend and shipmate Chick.

*Len*



# REUNION UPDATE 2015



Welcome Shipmates, Guests, and Spouses of our departed brothers.

It is almost time for our hotel to release our block of rooms to the public so, if you are planning on attending our Reunion this year, please call **248)-879-7500** and make your room reservation **now** so you don't miss out staying at the SMOKE-FREE Embassy Suites Hotel.

Don't forget to mention 'Bang Reunion' to get our discounted rate of **\$139.00 plus tax** which includes a FREE breakfast buffet and evening cocktail and hors d'oeuvre reception each and every day of your stay.

If you are arriving by vehicle, the Hotel affords free parking not only to cars but, trucks & RVs as well.

If you plan on arriving by plane (Detroit DTW) or Amtrak (Troy TRM), don't forget to include your Arrival / Departure Days & Times on the Registration Form and either fill in your Airline and Flight Number or check the Amtrak box to take advantage of **Jim's free 'Red Cap' shuttle service** (Tips Accepted).

There has been a slight modification to the "Henry Ford Tours" on **Tuesday, 15th**.

Everyone taking this trip will, first, go on the **ASSEMBLY LINE TOUR** and then proceed to the tour of their choice - **THE MUSEUM TOUR** or **THE VILLAGE TOUR**. Please make sure to indicate your Tour choice on your Registration Form. For those that have already mailed in their Form, please notify Jennifer or Paul of your choice upon arrival.

Please feel free to contact either Jennifer or Paul with any Reunion questions.

**Jennifer Wilson**

**Jennifer@emergencyfleetservice.com**

**(313) 350-2037**

**Paul Schramm**

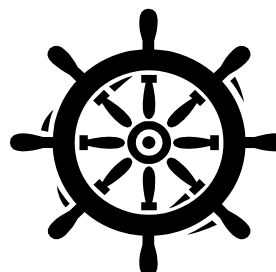
**inkazoo@hotmail.com**

**(269) 345-0859 or (269) 303-2108**

## SAILING LIST AS OF 08/15/2015

Ed Kracker, EM (43-45)  
Al Cadenhead, QM (44-45)  
Bill VonDerLieth, IC (52-56)  
Charlie Kimball, EM (53-55)  
Marv Christenson, ET (56-58)  
Phil Beals, CS (56-59)  
Gary Dannenbaum, RM (58-59)  
Dick Gahan, IC (58-62)  
Charles Anderson, MM (62-63)  
Dennis Kelly, YN (63-64)  
Ed DeLong, EN (63-66)  
Jim Klein, EN (64-66)  
Jack O'Connor, MM (64-67)  
Harry Ross, STS (64-67)  
Ralph Gates, SN (65-67)  
Charlie Dougherty, MM (65-68)  
Gabe Lewis, FTG (66-68)  
Alan Forry, EN (66-69)  
Eric Ericson, TM (67-68)  
John Kraft, RM (68-70)  
Bill Fenton, LT (68-71)  
Hal Wilkins, ET (69-72)  
Ike Cohen, SK (70)  
Paul Schramm, ET (70-71)  
Lou Arellano, STS (70-72)  
William Iber, CDR (71-72)  
Judy Myers, Widow - Jack Myers

**SEE Y'ALL SOON!!!**



**U. S. S. BANG (SS - 385)**  
 72nd Anniversary Reunion  
 Troy (Detroit), MI  
 Monday - September 14th 2014  
through  
 Thursday - September 17th 2014



**HEADQUARTERS**



**Embassy Suites Detroit-Troy/Auburn Hills**  
 850 Tower Dr, Troy, MI, 48098  
 (248) 879-7500

**ROOM RATE \$139 + tax**  
**(Must mention USS BANG REUNION)**

**HOSTS**

**COORDINATORS**



**Yolanda & Jim Klein**



**Paul Schramm**



**Jennifer Wilson**

**FREE BREAKFAST BUFFET 06:30 - 09:30 plus COCKTAILS & HORS D'OEUVRES 17:30 - 19:30 EVERYDAY!!!**

- MONDAY SEPTEMBER 14th - Check-In - Get "Welcome" envelope - Hospitality Room opens 10:00 a.m.**
- TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 15th - 08:30 a.m. - Bus departs for Henry Ford Tours.**
- WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16th - 11:45 a.m. - Bus departs for River Boat Cruise and Motown Tours.**
- THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 17th - 09:00 a.m. - Business Meeting - Ladies Bingo.**  
**05:30 p.m. - Photos, Cocktails & Banquet - Live Entertainment.**

✂️ ----- Clip Here and Mail by **AUGUST 15th** To: ----- ✂️

**JAMES KLEIN - 5243 HALE DR - TROY, MI 48085-3465**

**YES, I/WE PLAN TO ATTEND THE REUNION. RATE/RANK: \_\_\_\_\_**

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ YEARS ABOARD BANG: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_**

**ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE NO: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_**

**CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_**

**SPOUSE'S / GUEST'S NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_**

**ARRIVAL DAY: \_\_\_\_\_ ARRIVAL TIME: \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_ AIRLINE & FLIGHT # \_\_\_\_\_ AMTRAK**

**DEPART DAY: \_\_\_\_\_ DEPART TIME: \_\_\_\_:\_\_\_\_ AIRLINE & FLIGHT # \_\_\_\_\_**

**NUMBER TAKING HENRY FORD TOURS: ..... @ \$50.00 per person. = \_\_\_\_\_**

**ASSEMBLY LINE AND (Choose One) MUSEUM # \_\_\_\_\_ OR VILLAGE # \_\_\_\_\_**

**NUMBER TAKING RIVERBOAT AND MOTOWN TOURS: ..... @ \$40.00 per person. = \_\_\_\_\_**

**NUMBER ATTENDING BANQUET BUFFET: ..... @ \$45.00 per person. = \_\_\_\_\_**

**Please specify any DIETARY NEEDS: \_\_\_\_\_**

**HOSPITALITY ROOM STIPEND: ..... @ \$10.00 per adult. = \_\_\_\_\_**

**Make check payable to JAMES KLEIN**

**TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_**

PHIL BEALS, EDITOR  
BANG GANG NEWSLETTER  
62 KELLS LN  
VALATIE, NY 12184-3934



**GOD and Country!**

**FIRST – CLASS MAIL  
FORWARDING SERVICE  
REQUESTED**



**PRAISE OUR MILITARY! - AND PRAY FOR THEM TOO.**

