



1943



1972



# THE BANG GANG NEWSLETTER

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

SUMMER/FALL 2016

WWW.USSBANG.COM

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/USSBANG

ISSUE-81

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**Richard T. Taylor 1924 - 2015**



# 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.



**Merrill E. Carr, EN (54-55)**  
**George G. Schmid, FN (51-52)**  
**Richard T. Taylor, MoMM (44-46) WP5,6**



**SHIPMATES, 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 shipmate has changed his mailing address.

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

LASTNAME    FIRSTNAME    ADDRESS    CITY    ST    ZIPCODE    PHONE    Y-O-B  
Wuebker    Gilbert S    2067 Shafer Ave    Morgan Hill    CA    95037-7200    45-46



## THANK YOU!

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



John Caldwell

Andy McKaye  
Ernst Raspe

Ralph Sheffel

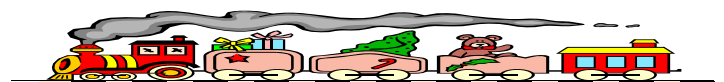


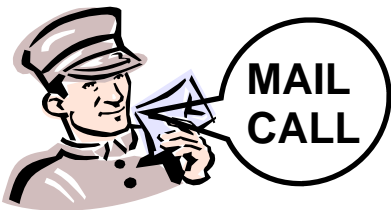
THE INTERNET CONNECTION  
CHANGES SINCE LAST PUBLICATION

**NONE TO REPORT!**



TRACK 29





# 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 write this our Reunion is but a month away. I hope by now all of you have made your room reservations and have mailed your registration form in to Dick as this will be your last reminder to do so. Looking forward to see ALL of you.

.....  
A while back I received the following email from Sue Groh who happens to be the daughter of **James Warden, Ltjg, (43-44, WP1,2,3,4).**

“My father, James ES Warden (1917-2010), served on the Bang for 4 war patrols during WW2. He wrote a diary during that time of his training and the patrols he experienced as an officer. I took that diary and pictures I had and created a digital scrapbook. I think you would love to see it and read it for its authentic capturing of the sentiments, emotions, excitement and pride of being part of history at a time of great uncertainty but profound necessity. I can send a hard copy and also DVD for your enjoyment and any other use. I feel it belongs to the family of those who served and persevered within the Bang community.”



Since then, I have received the 162 page hard bound copy for our memorabilia collection and the DVD file to make PDF copies. Contact me if you would like a copy. THANK YOU, again, Sue for sharing the commendable job you did in compiling your

father's notes into booklet form and honoring him by telling his story - something he was unable to do himself due to government restrictions.

.....  
**Richard T. Taylor**, MoMM, (44-46, WP5,6) transferred from CSD 202 Relief Crew to BANG on Christmas Day 1944. He remained part of BANG's Crew for its successful 5th and 6th war patrols and then her return to Portsmouth, NH for overhaul. After a short period of peace time activity, Dick disembarked BANG for ComSubLanTAD on February 15 1946. Dick and Ara were regular attendees of our Reunions but hadn't been to one in a while. Dick's son, Richard, notified us of his father's death and also of his mother's (Ara) demise two months hence on October 26, 2015.

Augusta, Maine - Richard Thomas Taylor, 91, died Wednesday, August 19, 2015, at Maine Medical Center in Augusta.

He was born in St. Louis, MO, on January 30, 1924, to the late Earl and Aileen Taylor. As a young man he served his country in its time of need, 1943-1946, well and with honor as a submariner, motor machinist, 3rd class, in the American and Asiatic Pacific theatres. He spent many years working as an operating engineer for construction companies building dams and roads throughout New England and ended his working years as deputy chief of the Hartford Vermont Fire Department. He loved his family, skiing, the ocean, his pets, and had a wide range of other interests, in particular, building. He lived for 48 years in the White River Junction, VT area before moving late to Northwood, NH and then to Randolph, Maine. He was a devout catholic and member of St. Anthony's Parish in White River Jct., VT from 1964 - 2010 and St. Joseph's in Northwood, NH until his passing.

He was married to Ara F. Taylor (deceased) his wife of 69 years and is survived by three sons, Robert F. Taylor of White River Junction, VT; Christopher P. Taylor of Stratham, NH; and Richard E. Taylor of Randolph, Maine; daughter-in-law Pamela T. Ford-Taylor; sister and brother-in-law Colleen and Jack



Byrne of Manchester, NH; sister-in-law Kathleen Taylor of St. Louis, MO; grandchildren, Frances, Elaina, Arthur, Lillian and Grace.

A funeral service was held Thursday, May 26, 2016 at St. Joseph's church in Northwood, NH for both Richard and his wife Ara F. Taylor followed by a graveside memorial service Friday, May 27, 2016 at the New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen, NH.

You may send your condolences to Richard and family at:

**26 Stevens Ave  
Randolph, ME 04346-5139**



.....  
**Merrill E. Carr**, EN (54-55) reported aboard BANG from USS Trumpetfish SS425 in April of 1954 and was transferred to Nuke Power Training - Idaho in December 1955. The USPS notified us of Merrill's demise.

Though we were unable to locate an obit for Merrill, **Paul Schramm** was able to come up with the following:

He was born on October 4, 1924 and died on November 6, 2015. He was a career Navy Veteran serving in the WWII, Korean, and Vietnam eras and obtained the rank of Senior Chief Engineman. He is buried at VA Veterans Cemetery at Amelia, VA.



.....  
**George G. Schmid**, FN (51-52) was a member of BANG's second commissioning crew. He reported aboard BANG from USS Sea Robin SS407 in January 1951 and transferred to ComSubRon 10 in February 1952 while BANG headed to the yards for a major overhaul.

George's widow, Irene, sent us notification of his death due to lung cancer.

George G. Schmid, 86 died on Saturday April 30th at his home in Hillsborough, NJ. He was born and raised in Kearney, NJ and had lived in Michigan and Bridgewater before settling in Hillsborough in 1954. George was a Navy veteran who served in the Korean War. George worked as a carpenter for many years for Taggart International. He was a member of the Hillsborough Senior Citizens Chapter B and the Hillsborough VFW. He enjoyed fishing and watching baseball especially his beloved Red Sox.

He was predeceased by his son in law Stephen. Surviving are his wife of 60 years, Irene M. (Viggiano) Schmid, his 2 daughters, Dawn Grippo of Maryland and Debbie Clogher and her husband Richard of Ireland, his grandchildren, Alanna, Richard and Ella. Cremation will be private.

You may send your condolences to Irene and family at:

**747 Mill Ln  
Hillsborough, NJ 08844-3320**



*Lord these departed Shipmates  
with Dolphins on their chest,  
Are part of an outfit known to be the best.  
Please welcome them and offer them your hand,  
As you no doubt know they're the best in the land.  
And also heavenly Father add their 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.*

**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**



**Ernst Raspe**, ENgineman (62-63), "I am sending you a couple of shekels for the "slush fund" to help defray the cost of publishing the Bang Gang Newsletter - I always enjoy reading it - brings back a lot of old memories. I was not on BANG for very long - from July '62 to May '63 - but did manage to go on a northern

run. I retired from the Navy in '86 and from the workforce in '02 at which time I moved south from VT to VA. We have a lot of military in this area, including three Navy Bases - Norfolk, Oceana, and Little Creek.

I am enjoying my retirement but not necessarily the hot, humid weather we are currently having. But, it beats 10 or 20 degrees below zero.

We will not be able to attend the Reunion in September due to a prior commitment, but maybe next time." ... *"Thanks for the donation, Ernst, and happy to hear you are enjoying your retirement. I must warn you that attending our Reunions can become addictive. Our next two have been reserved for FL and PA respectively.*

---

**John Caldwell**, Ships Cook (43-44, WP1), "Guess you can tell I can't write anymore. Even have trouble printing. My hands shake so bad. Last Christmas Day I turned 96 years old. I'm thankful that I am still hanging on."...*Thanks for writing John - please don't stop. Even if it is just an 'X' on a piece of paper. We love to hear from you. WOW! 96 years young. I hope I'm still around to wish you a Happy 100!*

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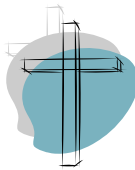
**Ralph Sheffel**, ENgineman (58-61), "I hope this finds all well. Thank you for all the work you do putting the Bang Newsletter together. I have enclosed a donation for the slush fund." ... *Ralph, thank you for the donation and hope all is well with you also.*

---

**Andy McKaye**, HospitalMan (54-57), "Sadly, Jean & I won't make it to Chattanooga as Jean's recovery from her nasty fall last Spring, which left her with a fractured left elbow & femur, is mending slower than first thought.

Sorry to read that you are ending your "twenty year career" as BANG Editor. You are the main glue that stuck us together all these years. You'll not get any retirement compensation however, I have enclosed a modest postage donation." ... *Doc, sorry to hear you and Jean will be absent in Chattanooga. Hopefully Jean's recovery process will allow the both of you to be with us next year in FL. Thanks for your postage contribution.*

*Submariners have learned long ago that "backup" is a necessary need in all phases of their operation. That is why I now look for a replacement - just to make sure that there is still enough of that "glue" around after I am gone.*



## Beauty, Wonder and Awe

On May 19th, Brennan Susan Sciuto was born. Yes, my family has a new addition. She is beautiful and perfect in every way. Although she is only a little over three weeks old, she is already smiling.

I thought back and remembered when my first child was born so many years ago. It seems like yesterday that I held him in my arms for the first time. He seemed so small, helpless and fragile. He was a wonder to behold. I remember thinking about all of those people in the world who do not believe that there is a God. How can you not believe in God when you hold your very own perfect child for the first time?

Think back to the very first time you saw a terrific sunrise or sunset and wondered at its ever changing colors in awe. Or the first time you saw and heard a humming bird going from flower to flower collecting and feeding on the nectar. How about when you saw an animal born and watched it stand up and take its first steps and think about how beautiful it was? How about sitting on a beach and watching the ocean place small waves on the shore and how calming that lapping sound was and how serene the beach seemed. Or even better, the roaring surf pounding the beaches after a storm. One of my favorites was watching the dolphins race in front of BANG's bow when we were running on the surface and how they moved back and forth playing and having fun.

I mention all of these things because it seems as we grow older, we fail to recognize all the wonderful and beautiful things around us. We seem to be beaten down by life. We seem to have to deal with more problems and issues as we grow older. And because of them, we forget about and fail to see the wonders that surround us. If we take the time and make the effort, we can find them and see them everywhere. These wonders are God's gifts to us. The reason is to make us realize that the beauty, wonder and awe is always there and in the eyes of the beholder.

*Len*

# REUNION UPDATE 2016



# CHATTANOOGA TENNESSEE

Hello Shipmates, We are awaiting your arrival in Chattanooga. Hope you can make it!

Our headquarters is the Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel (423-266-5000). If you haven't done so, please call and reserve your room NOW or you may miss out on staying with your shipmates. There is no penalty for canceling your reservation up to 24 hours before your arrival date so secure your room of choice now - you have nothing to lose. Our room rate is \$99.00 plus tax and is good for three (3) days before and three (3) days after the Reunion when you mention USS BANG.

Our **Wednesday Tour** sold out so quickly, we decided to add another bus so disregard any limitations on this tour. We should now have enough seats for everyone. But, to be on the safe side, I would recommend sending your Registration Form into me A.S.A.P.

We have also added a tour to our agenda and it will be given after our Business Meeting on **Thursday**. A local tire manufacturer has offered to give us a free tour of the operations of his business establishment and a viewing of his antique auto collection.

Any and all interested please enter the number attending in your party on the place provided on the Registration Form. A sign-up sheet in the Hospitality Room will also be provided for all those wishing to take this tour.

Please feel free to contact Beth and I with any questions you may have about the Reunion.

*Dick & Beth Gahan*  
2518 Henderson Mtn Rd  
Jasper, GA 30143-6052  
(770) 735-4278  
e-mail: [smsgtss@etcmail.com](mailto:smsgtss@etcmail.com)

## SAILING LIST AS OF 08/10/2016

Ed & June Kracker 43-45  
Albert & Kurt Cadenhead 44-45  
Bill & Mollie Stirewalt 52-53  
Charles Kimball 53-55  
Ed Schovajsa 55-57 & Alice Beeny  
Marvin & JoAnn Christenson 56-58  
Dick Flanagan 56-58  
Phil & Dot Beals 56-59  
Gary & Dae Probst 56-59  
Joe & Marion Leonardi 57-59  
Wayne & Elaine Thalasinis 57-60  
Deane & Connie Hadfield 57-60  
Larry Buckmaster 58-61 & Penny Gillis  
Dick & Beth Gahan 58-62  
Mike Hollingsworth (Guest)  
Raymond & Nancy Moore 59-60  
Ed & Sandra Moran 60-62  
Lamarr & Kathy Seader 62-65  
Chuck & Patricia Archer 62-65  
Len Fagotti & Marilyn Barratt 63-66  
Ed & Jane DeLong 63-66  
James & Yolanda Klein 64-66  
John & Diane O'Connor 64-67  
Frank & Claudia Steinmetz (Guests)  
Harry & Jo Ann Ross 64-67  
Ralph & Claire Gates 65-67  
Gabe & Pamela Lewis 66-68  
Charles Dougherty 66-69  
Eric & Sally Ericson 67-68  
Denis & Maureen O'Brien 67-68  
Robert & Bette Bridle 67-70  
Tom & Rose Hill 67-70  
Barbara Herring (Guest)  
Alan & Linda Thole 68-69  
John & Darlene Kraft 68-70  
Bill & Joan Fenton 68-71  
William & Kathy Powell 68-70  
Lenny Sciuto 69-71 & Sharon Steward  
Hal & Edith Wilkins 69-72  
Paul Schramm 70-71  
Ike Cohen 70  
Luis Arellano 71-72



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

73rd Anniversary Reunion

Chattanooga, TN

Monday - September 12th 2016

through

Thursday - September 15th 2016

# HEADQUARTERS



**Chattanooga Choo Choo Hotel**

**1400 Market St. Chattanooga, TN 37402**

**(800) TRACK29 - (423) 266-5000**

**ROOM RATE \$99 + tax  
(Must mention USS BANG REUNION)**

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**BETH & DICK GAHAN**



with assistance from "Doc" Dougherty

**MONDAY**      **SEPTEMBER 12th - Check-In - Get "Welcome" envelope - Hospitality Room opens 10:00 a.m.**

**TUESDAY**      **SEPTEMBER 13th - 11:00 a.m. - Bus departs for River Boat Cruise and Aquarium Tour.**

**WEDNESDAY** **SEPTEMBER 14th - 09:00 a.m. - Bus departs for Chattanooga Tour. (Second bus added)**

**THURSDAY**    **SEPTEMBER 15th - 09:00 a.m. - Business Meeting - Ladies Bingo.  
10:30 a.m. - Tire Mfg Plant / Car Museum Tour.  
05:30 p.m. - Photos, Cocktails & Banquet to Follow.**

✂️ ----- Clip Here and Mail by **AUGUST 5th** To: ----- ✂️

**USS BANG SS385 - PO BOX 1523 - JASPER, GA 30143-1523**

**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:** \_\_\_\_ **DEPARTURE DAY:** \_\_\_\_

**TIRE PLANT TOUR #** \_\_\_\_

**NUMBER TAKING RIVERBOAT / AQUARIUM TOUR:** ..... @ \$75.00 per person. = \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER TAKING RIVERBOAT TOUR ALONE:** ..... @ \$40.00 per person. = \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER TAKING CHATTANOOGA TOUR:** ..... @ \$40.00 per person. = \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Specify ENTREE choice(s):** PRIME RIB # \_\_\_\_ CHICKEN FLORENTINE # \_\_\_\_ SALMON # \_\_\_\_

**and any DIETARY NEEDS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**HOSPITALITY ROOM STIPEND:** ..... @ \$15.00 per adult. = \_\_\_\_\_

**Make check payable to RICHARD GAHAN**

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

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



FIRST – CLASS MAIL  
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REQUESTED



PRAISE OUR MILITARY! - AND PRAY FOR THEM TOO.

