USS PIPER (SS409) 1944 - 1967

The Pi

FEBRUARY 2015



USS Piper (SS409) Keel laid by Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, Kittery Maine, 15 March 1944: launched 26 June 1944; commissioned 23 August 1944; decommissioned 16 June 1967.

Balao class; Length 311' 8"; Beam 27' 3"; Speed 20.25 knots surface, 8.75 knots submerged; Test depth 400 feet; Displacement 1526 tons (surface); 2401 tons (submerged); 21 inch torpedo tubes: 6 fwd, 4 aft; Propulsion: twin screw, diesel electric drive (Fairbanks Morse engines) with Guppy (snorkel) conversion in 1951. Design Complement: 6 officers, 60 enlisted men.

Although built late in World War II, Piper completed 3 successful war patrols in the Pacific, winning four battle stars before the end of hostilities. She was responsible for sinking more than 6000 tons of Japanese shipping.

After the war, Piper operated out of the U.S. Naval Submarine Base in Groton Connecticut until her decommissioning in 1967.

2015 Piper Reunion Set for July

3 February 2015

Dear Shipmates:

Our 2015 Piper Reunion is all set for this year. As planned, we will be holding it in Cleveland, Ohio.

The dates are Wednesday, 22 July through Sunday, 26 July. If you wish to arrive sooner of stay later, please do. I will likely arrive on Tuesday and stay until Monday.

Our collective thanks go out to Tom Kucharski for all his efforts. He has done his "shopping" and arranged a great deal for the hotel.

We will be staying at the "Hampton Inn Cleveland—Downtown". The name is very important when making your reservations. The number to call is 1-800-Hampton to reserve your rooms. When calling the hotel, refer to USS Piper SS 409 or use Group Code "USS". The rate is \$119.00 per night, which for a downtown location is very good. I hope you will choose to stay there so that we can be together as a group 24/7. In the past, when we stayed at different hotels, there was a disconnect among us. Please call in your reservations as soon as possible. Don't wait, as we need to know who and how many are going. SEE REGISTRA-**TION FORM**



The USS COD Submarine Memorial is a National Historic Landmark and is located on Lake Erie in downtown Cleveland, Ohio at the western edge of Burke Lakefront Airport and about one block east of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

See: http://www.usscod.org/

USS Cod (SS 224) *www.usscod.org/* is moored there, and I toured her with Kucharski a few years ago. Wow! You will feel like you're stepping onboard a functioning diesel boat...**because you will be.** The engines run and this boat is so well kept that it could get underway tomorrow. This is a boat you have to visit. Their crew is very enthusiastic about us coming there for our reunion. They Have Some special activities planned for us as well.

We don't have a fixed schedule yet, but a few of the activities will be (and these are all within walking distance of the hotel).

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame—Oh yeah, blasts from the past. I can't wait.

For those of you who don't know, the

(Continued on page 2)

2015 Piper Reunion Set For July

(Continued from page 1)

Cleveland Science Museum—Said to be one of the best.

Lake Freighter at the Maritime Museum—We should all enjoy that.

And obviously, the USS Cod



Tom Kucharski and Frank Whitty aboard the USS Cod in December of 2011

Other activates may include a Cleveland Indians baseball game. And Ski is planning a great event and awesome location for our send-off reunion dinner on Saturday night. Ski claims it will be more fun than being at a wedding. Any guesses?

Shipmates, don't let this important event be one you look back on and say, "I wish I had gone."

Spring has got to break sometime soon, so stay well Shipmates.

Regards,

Frank

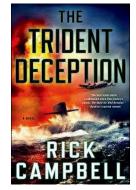
Other News:

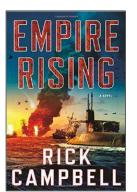
First item of business is not one I enjoy announcing. Shipmate, Editor, Webmaster, Mike Bray will be retiring from his duties as of our Cleveland reunion. He has agreed to publish this Piper Report and maintain the website until we find a replacement. Mike has absolutely done more than anyone, or group of us, to keep the Piper Association alive and viable for all these years. We owe him a sincere debt of gratitude. We need someone to step up and take on his duties. We owe him relief. So who among you will volunteer? Mike will do a thorough transfer of duties and work with the new person. I say person just in case one of your wives or sweethearts has the time and skill to take over this critical job. If we do not fill the position, our website will likely fade away and the data bases and reports will dwindle. The principle of rotation of duties is important to the survival of any organization. I've been trying to get someone to take this job for over 10 years! Fat chance that is going to happen. I would hope to have someone step up by the time our reunion wraps up in July. Mike will be writing to you in this report. He need not apologize. We owe him our sincere thanks for a job very well done for a lot of years.

I got a recent e-mail from Rick Campbell. He is donating one or a couple of his books to the reunion for raffle prizes.

I wanted to thank you again for helping spread the word about The Trident Deception last year. As I mentioned in my last email a few months ago, it

sold very well (#44 nationwide and #28 at Barnes & Noble), and as a result, my publisher offered me a second two-book deal for books to be released in 2016 and 2017, for four total so far. Most new authors don't get follow-on book deals, but with your help, I beat the odds! Thanks so much!





My second book - Empire Rising - releases on February 24th, and I'd like to donate a signed hardcover for you to use at an upcoming reunion. Additionally, if you can spread the word to your association members again this year - via email, newsletter, or whichever way

2015 Piper Reunion Registration Form

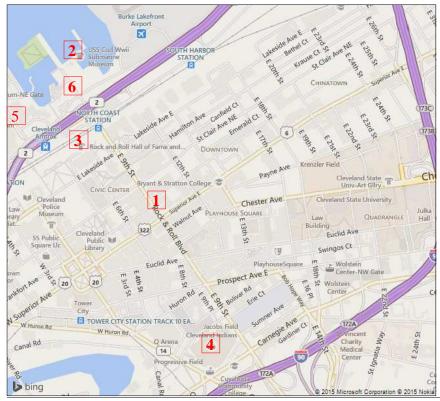
Cleveland, Ohio

Wednesday, 22 July through Sunday 26 July

Name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip	
Phone:	Email address:
Guest Name(s):	
I/we will be staying at Hampton	x \$10.00 each =
if we will be staying at	

Send this form and registration fee to:

Michael Hubbard 271 Elm Street New London, CT 06320



Locations

- 1. Hampton Inn Cleveland—Downtown
- 2. USS Cod Submarine Museum
- 3. Rock & Roll Hall of Fame
- 4. Cleveland Indians Ball Park
- 5. Great Lakes Science Center
- 6. Steamship William G. Mather Museum

Reunion Raffle Prizes

(Continued from page 2)

you think is best and appropriate, I'll send you a signed hardcover to use as a second book at an upcoming reunion, or signed to you or someone else in your association, whichever you prefer.

It's tough to break in as a new author, but my publisher is trying to make it happen. St. Martin's Press has arranged fantastic promotions again this year - the paperback version of The Trident Deception will be featured at the front of every Barnes & Noble across the country for one month starting February 3rd, WalMart has placed an order for 10,000 copies, and it will be carried by most military exchanges. My second book - Empire Rising will also be featured at the front of every Barnes & Noble for 3 weeks when it releases on February 24th, and will be offered at a 20% discount. They'll also be advertising Empire Rising on FoxNews.com, with 2.2 million impressions. However, even with my publisher's efforts, it's a tough world out there for a new author and I would really appreciate it if you could help spread the word again.

Please let me know if you'd like a copy of Empire Rising for an upcoming reunion, and if you can help spread the word about the launch of the paperback version of The Trident Deception and hardcover/ eBook release of Empire Rising this February, I'll send you another signed hardcover.

Thanks again for your help getting my writing career off to a great start. I couldn't have done it without you!

Warm regards, Rick

Piper Veterans Association Gift

Enclosed is \$100 for the good old Piper and its crew. (I realize I'm already a life member ... but I sure appreciate that the Piper group is keeping this going.)

Cal Sutliff, LT, 1960-64

- 1. Supply Officer (w/Jim Burke!)
- 2. Gunnery, Weapons, 1st LT (w/Shorty!)
- 3. Engineering Officer (w/ Chiefs Ennis & Paris!)

Retirement

It has been an honor and a privilege for me to have served the Piper Association for the past 9 years as editor of the newsletter and webmaster of the Piper website. I have made many good friends over the years and I want to thank all who have contributed articles and photos and other items for the newsletter and website. Without your valued support and encouragement I would certainly have failed.

Now, I must give up my duties due to health reasons. So, I am looking for a volunteer or two to take over these responsibilities. If you decide you want to take over the newsletter, or the website, or both, I will give you all the help you need to be successful. If you would be interested in volunteering for either of these positions please contact Frank Whitty or me. (Our contact information can be found on the back page of this newsletter.)

Newsletter duties:

The newsletter is not published on a regular schedule. I gather articles, obituaries, etc., from shipmates and ask Frank for a Commanders Column when I have enough material for a 10-page newsletter. I try to tailor the newsletter to the topic he chooses for his column. Most of the newsletters are sent by email and about 50 newsletters are sent by the postal system for which I am reimbursed by the Piper Association.

Website duties:

The website doesn't require much maintenance: I post newsletters, obituaries, changes to the Eternal Patrol list, make the necessary changes to the Membership Page, add comments to the Guest Book, etc.

Please consider volunteering. I will give you as much support as you need. Please don't let these duties to fall into Frank's lap when I can no longer do them. If anything, we should be trying to lighten his load and not add to it.

Thank you for all the support you have given me.

Your Shipmate,

Mike Bray

Piper Shipmate	s On Eternal Patrol
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Name	Rate/Rank	Aboard Piper	On Eternal Patrol
Harry "Greek" Alevras	CS2	1952 - 1956	
Laurence Askins		1948 - 1952	12 April 2009
Paul Baker	EM2	1944 - 1945	11 October 2006
Wallace Barr	EN2	1957 - 1959	
M.G. "Duke" Bayne	LCDR (CO)	1955	2005
Edward L. Beach	LCDR (CO)	1945	2002
Hugh Bennett	ICC	1950 -	Deceased age 65
Chester A. Berryman	TMC	1960 -	8 August 2009
Robert Bobowicz	IC3	1955 -	Deceased age 33
Gary Booth	SN	1954 - 1956	3 July 2006
Lehman Bridges	RMSN	1953 -	Deceased age 65
Eugene Burt Jr	SDC	1956 -	Deceased age 54
Joseph Butler	ICFN	1955 -	Deceased age 62
Robert W. Byther	Seaman/1c	1944 - 1945	25 June 1990
Thomas J. Calabrese	IC1	1963 - 1964	8 February 2012
Billy H. Campbell	RM3	1954 -	Deceased age 57
Charles Campbell	EN1	1952 -	Deceased age 77
William Carson	EN1	1953 -	Deceased age 71
Weldon Caudill	GM1	1952 -	Deceased age 84
Richard Cava	SN	1956 -	Deceased age 56
John J. Cichon Jr	ENC	1955 -	Deceased age 69
Keith Cisewski	TM1	1958 - 1963	
Frank Clifford	HM1	1952 -	Deceased age 63
George Connor	EN3	1956 -	Deceased age 59
Robert Conradson	EN2	1951 -	Deceased age 74
Edward Conwell	CS1	1956 -	Deceased age 85
Arthur Cooley			
Quinton "Frenchy" Cormier	EM2	1963 - 1966	
Herb Crane	LCDR (XO)	1964 - 1966	27 December 2004
Arnold "Satch" Cross	QM2	1961 - 1966	
Sheldon Davis	EN2	1955 -	Deceased age 82
Webster Davis	EN3	1955 -	Deceased age 66
Robert Demming	EN1	1954 -	Deceased age 70
Wayne Deryck	MMFN	1962 - 1963	6 June 2010
Norman Dodge	ENC	1951 -	Deceased age 72
Adolph "Ski" Dombrowski	EN2	1964 - 1967	19 July 2011
Joseph P. Dooley	TMCS	1955 - 1959	12 June 2007
Jack Drennan		1953 - 1957	28 March 2011
Stuart Duckstein	MM2	1955 -	Deceased age 52
Arthur Duskin		1944 - 1945	23 September 1981
Burt Ebaugh	END2	1944 - 1945	2 December 2006
Jim "Crash" Evans	IC2	1964 - 1965	
Edward E. Everett	TM1	1963 - 1965	

Piper Shipmates On Eternal Patrol

Name	Rate/Rank	Aboard Piper	<u>On Eternal Patrol</u>
Robert F. Farison	MOMM/2c	1944 - 1945	17 July 2008
Bud Fluglesang		1944 - 1945	21 December 1995
Al Franusiszin	EM3	1960 - 1961	29 October 2009
Edward French	QM1	1955 -	Deceased age 75
Thomas Frey	SO3	1953 -	Deceased age 50
Milton R. Gaedt Sr.	QMC	1950-51 & 1960-61	21 June 2012
Ira Goldenberg	C		
Thomas L. Granger	TM2	1945 - 1947	15 February 2013
Raymond Grenier	FN	1953 -	Deceased age 75
Clyde Gray	SN	1956 -	Deceased age 81
Donald Grimm	EN3	1953 -	Deceased age 66
Billy Groff	ETC	1956 -	Deceased age 74
Robert Hailey	CAPT USN	1948 - 1950	26 September 2011
Paul Haley	EM	-,	16 March 2007
Paul Hamman	QM1	1951 -	Deceased age 77
Victor Hannan	ENC	1953 -	Deceased age 81
Ralph Harris	FN	1953 -	Deceased age 64
Robert Harris		Mid 1960s	18 July 2010
William "Rip" Harrison	LT(jg) USNR		27 October 2009
Robert F. Harwood	RM	1944 - 1945	_, _, _, _, _, _, _, _, _, _, _, _, _, _
Wallace W. Hankins, Jr.	CAPT USN	1950s	24 September 2011
William E. Herring	Seaman	1949 - 1950	29 January 2007
George William Holst			14 October 2011
Orren A. Holt	LT USNR	1944 - 1945	30 September 1991
Clarence Paul Hoover	LT	1947 - 1948	1 March, 2008
Raymond Hughes			
Ed Hurley			
William A. "Bill" Huston	LT	1964 (Lost at Sea)	15 September 1964
Raymond Jackson	FT3	1954 -	Deceased age 76
Hugh Jamieson	CS2	1956 -	Deceased age 64
Alexander Johnson	SN	1953 -	Deceased age 65
Jady Judy	QM1	1950 -	1995, age 68
James Kane	EMFN	1952 -	Deceased age 78
Richard Kendall	TM2	1953 -	Deceased age 70
Warren T. Kenny	TM3	Mid 1960s	After 2003
Robert Kerr	QM2	1953 -	Deceased age 72
Richard Klintman	FN	1953 - 1955	15 May 1999
Michael Lally	ET1	1961 - 1963	12 February 2011
Elliot LaRose	EMC	1951 -	Deceased age 70
Floyd Laughrun	CS2	1950 -	Deceased age 70
Joseph LeTourneau	ET2	1949 - 1951	27 November 2013
Lester Lewis	ETC	1952 -	Deceased age 79
William A. Lindblad		1944	8 August 1995
Karl Lindquist	TM1	1953 -	Deceased age 75

Piper Shipmates On Eternal Patrol

<u>Name</u>	Rate/Rank	Aboard Piper	On Eternal Patrol
Robert T. Lloyd	EMC	1960s	2012
George A. Lock	EN	1954 - 1957	14 December 2012
John Lynch			
Joseph Marmaud	ENC	1959 - 1966	10 August 2007
Frank Mayo	EM1	1959 - 1963	27 December 2006
Frank Mazzuchi	QM1	1954 -	Lost with Scorpion
Harry R. Macdonald, Jr.	Ensign USN	1947	30 January 2013
George McCabe	EM2	1956 -	Deceased age 62
Marvin McCamis	EM1	1953 -	Deceased age 80
Robert McClung	EN2	1951 -	Deceased age 68
James McCombs	TM1	1952 -	Deceased age 78
Peter McCormack	YN2	1951 - 1953	10 January 2011
John McDonald	RM3	1954 -	
Lester "Shorty" McEwen	TM2	1953 -	Deceased age 77
John McLaughlin			2004
Stanley Mead	EM1	1955 -	Deceased age 62
William Metz	ENC	1952 -	Deceased age 72
John Mikolay	ENC	1953 -	Deceased age 67
Robert Monks	EM3	1951 -	0
Ed Moore			
Oscar Moore	TM1	1955 -	Deceased age 69
Robert Moore			3 October 2005
Hugh Moran	EN3	1956 - 1957	April 2006
Ross Morrison, Jr.	ENFN	1953 - 1955	October 5, 2013
John Nazarchyk, Sr.	TM3	1945 - 1946	July 19, 2007
Domminic "Joe" Negri	TMC (COB)	1963 - 1966	22 August 1994
Earl N. Oster	MM1	1963 - 1964	6 January 2012
Edward Packwood	EN1	1952 -	Deceased age 80
Eugene Palladino			-
Manuel "Manny" Paris	ENC	1960 - 1963	
Glen Paxton	QMC	1955 -	Deceased age 76
John Pfusch	SO1	1956 -	Deceased age 66
Robert Cleve Pipe Jr	SN	1954 -	Deceased age 69
J. Howard Plimpton	ET3	1952 - 1953	22 February 2007
John "Stash" Polovitch	EM1	1960s	18 April 2009
Melvin Ponton			2005
Floyd Pretty	QM1	Mid 1960s	May 1984
Gerald M. Reeves	LCDR (XO)	1944 - 1945	12 October 1996
Gerald Rescorla	ET2	1953 -	Deceased age 23
Harry "Dusty" Rhoads	LT	c1950	3 August 2010
Don Marten Rippe		WWII	22 February 2010
Edward Ritzhaupt	EN1	1955 -	Deceased age 74
Richard Rodgers	SN	1954 -	Deceased age 65
Donald Edgar Rogers	MoMM 3/c		14 August 2004
Jim Rogers	(CO)		-

Name	Rate/Rank	Aboard Piper	On Eternal Patrol
Manfred Warner Ruediger	TM1(SS)	ca 1960	31 January 1989
George Sanderson, Jr.	TM3(SS)	1964 - 1965	25 November 2011
Herbert Scheuing			
Gerald Sherman	SN	1952 -	Deceased age 66
Manuel Siso	CS2	1953 -	Deceased age 61
Andrew Smarsh	TM3	1960 -	1995—age 54
Austin E. Smith	LTjg	1969 - 1970	-
Robert A. Smith, Sr.			15 March 2011
Franklin Snelgrove	HM1	1953 -	Deceased age 65
Robert N. Sollenberger	YN3	1950 - 1952	31 March 2011
George A. Starkey	EMCS	1944 - 1949	8 June 2008
James M. Stone	LT	1960 - 1961	31 March 2007
Robert "Brew" Taylor	TM1	1954 -	
Oneal Thaxton	SD1	1954 -	Deceased age 63
William Twiss	SA	1953 -	Deceased age 69
Irving Voyer	LTjg	1956 - 1957	26 December 2006
Kenneth Walker	SO2	1953 -	Deceased age 61
Ken "Sid" Westall		1961 -	
Edward Wilcox	QM1	1955 -	Deceased age 75
Ralph Henry "Hank" Wiley	RMSN	1966 - 1967	2 February 2012
Lamar Williams	EN2	1956 -	
Barney D. Wixom	RMC	1953 - 1958	10 October 2007
Jerome "Shorty" Wolters	TMC (COB)	1951 - 1957	6 May 1992
Leslie Wood	SN	1966 - 1967	4 December 2004
Donald Wright	ET1	1957 - 1958	December 2005
Edward R. Young	EN3	1955 - 1956	16 March 2013
Jim Youtsey	CTM (COB)	1944 - 1945	
Donald Zechman	TM3	1956 -	Deceased age 65
Henry Zeigler	EN	1956 -	Deceased age 77

Piper Shipmates On Eternal Patrol

PIPER ASSOCIATION DUES FOR 2015-2016 ARE DUE JULY 1st

See the form on page 9 of this newsletter

Please consider a Life Membership payment.

This would eliminate paying each year and result in less paperwork for us.

A Note About Membership

So that we can all be in touch with each other as friends and old shipmates, a Piper Association was formed some years ago by Frank Whitty . We have reunions and publish an occasional newsletter called the Piper Report. In order for the Association to exist we need to have <u>paying</u> members.

The dues money goes for paper, ink, postage, etc. <u>This is</u> <u>a considerable expense</u>. A newsletter, The Piper Report, is published once or twice a year (depending on health and work) to bring you up to date on what's happening about future reunions, picnics, etc. It isn't much for \$10.00, but think of how sweet it is.

It sure would be nice to see 100% signed up for the Association. To receive a copy of the newsletter or other correspondence (reunion news, etc. you must be a <u>paid</u> member of the Piper Association.

	USS Piper (SS409) Veteran's Association Membership/Renewal Form
	Send form and payment to:
	William Fuchs
	2533 Motor Pkwy
	Ronkonkoma, NY 11779
	billssg282@gmail.com
Name:	
Address:	
City, State, Zip:	
Email Address:	
Phone:	
Year reported abo	ard Piper: Year departed Piper:
Highest rank/ratin	ng while aboard Piper:
Enclosed Here's a	I is my \$10.00 for the year beginning July nother \$10.00 for next year I is my \$100.00 for Life Membership!
Make check paya	ble to Piper Association
Total enclosed:	Date:
The dues are \$10.	00 each year. A year is between 1 July to 30 June or any part of it. Sorry

The dues are \$10.00 each year. A year is between 1 July to 30 June or any part of it. Sorry it has to be that way, as we are unable to take care of the books for "parts of a year".

Please consider a Life Membership payment. This would eliminate paying each year and result in less paperwork for us. **DUES FOR 2015-2016 ARE DUE JULY 1st**

Shipmates on Eternal Patrol

Thanks to the work of shipmate Larry Boutelle, IC2(SS) who was aboard Piper from 1953 to 1956, we have a more complete listing of Shipmates on Eternal Patrol on our web site. Larry did research on the crew members that were on board Piper during his tour of duty.

Obituaries, where available, are included in Newspaper Clippings which can be accessed by a link on the News page of the website.

See http://usspiper.com

An updated list will be included in The Piper Report from time to time.

If you have information of the death of a shipmate that is not on the Eternal Patrol list, please send it to:

Mike Bray W3821 Waucedah Road Vulcan, MI 49892-8483 Or via email to: mikebray@chartermi.net

Life Members

Charles Halbing, Jr

Chic Gilgore

John Hendry

Jerry Holland

Charles Jones

James King

David Mogil

Noah Monsour

Robert Neidlinger

Austin Nickerson

Michael Remington

Morris Newkirk

Ralph Norman

Mike Paquette

Charles Patch

Joe Pow Frank Reinhold

James Morris

Michael Hubbard

Ernie Kertzscher

Edmund Lee Joyner

Thomas Kucharski

Obie Hill

Gerald Harring

William Bailev **Bob Baker** Paul Barlow Robert Batscher Tom Black Michael Bray Jim Burdett Jim Burke **Richard Caldwell** Aldo Cecchi Howard Clark Ralph Clark Willis Clifford **Richard Collins** William Cotter Edward Cushman James Delaney Don Del Core John Donkus Preston Douthitt Al Dube **Richard Fohn** William Fuchs Chester Fuller

Jerry Rodgers **Benjamin Rollonston** C. Miles Schmidt Ralph Schmidt Charles Schwartz David Shoaff **Clarence Spencer** Thomas J Stanton Bob Staufenberg Gilles St. George **R** Calvin Sutliff Gordon Threlfall Joseph Vanderbosch Douglas Ward Terry Welsh Frank Whitty David Winnington Eugene Zakutansky

The Piper Report

USS PIPER VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION c/o Michael F. Bray W3821 Waucedah Road Vulcan, MI 49892-8483



USS Piper (SS409) Great boat, great crew!



THE PIPER REPORT

Material for The Piper Report & Piper Veteran's Assoc. Website

We are always looking for photos, <u>sea stories</u> and memorabilia to print in the newsletter and put on our website.

Email attachments are welcome, you can send scanned photos and material formatted with software in the Microsoft Office suite. Please provide as much information about the photos as you can.

If you have anything, please send it to me:

Mike Bray W3821 Waucedah Road Vulcan, MI 49892-8483 Email: <u>mikebray@chartermi.net</u>

The URL for the USS Piper Veteran's Association website is:

http://usspiper.com

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