

The Piper Report

USS Piper (SS409) 1944 - 1967



March 2013



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.

2013 Piper Reunion



Heavy weight throw at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games

The 2013 Piper reunion will be held from Thursday, July 11 through Sunday July 14 at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in North Carolina. Headquarters for the reunion will be at the Shady Lawn Lodge in Newland, NC. There is a restaurant on the grounds and they have a meeting room we can meet in.

See page 3 for the list of accommodations.

There is a registration form for the reunion on page 4. Please complete the form as soon as possible and send it to Mike Hubbard at the address at the bottom of the form.

Commander's Column

22 March 2013

Shipmates:

As proposed and with interest shown, we're going to North Carolina this year for our reunion. As I previously wrote, Shipmate Ross Morrison hosts the annual Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. They are being held this year beginning Thursday July 11 through Sunday July 14, meaning a minimum three night stay. Some may choose to stick around or travel nearby after the event.

Accommodations! That's been an issue to organize. This is a major area event and folks book it a year in advance. I have a page enclosed that will outline what is available. Act on the information promptly.

If you are going, please make your reservations now. They will hold it with a credit card number.

There is also a registration form. Please send that to Mike Hubbard as soon as you can.

Regards,

Frank

USS Florida Video

I'm sure that you are all aware of the conversion to SSGN for the 1st 4 boats of the Ohio class. They are now SEAL delivery and floating Tomahawk missile arsenal ships, amongst other missions I am sure they are capable of.

When I was trying to arrange some tours of one at Kings Bay, I was told that they are so classified that I or my shipmates wouldn't get anywhere near one.

So needless to say, I was pretty amazed that within a month or so, a program came on TV with a tour of the USS Florida while it did a simulation of one of the types of operations they will conduct.

If you missed that program or would like to see it again it can be viewed at:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cfoHYT_GgKE

If you are amazed at the unclassified stuff that they are doing, imagine what the classified stuff is like.

Contributed by Piper shipmate E.J. Wilcox

Grandfather Mountain Tourist Information

**Information taken from the Grandfather
Mountain Website**

<http://www.grandfather.com/>

Grandfather Mountain is...

- a scenic travel attraction
- a globally recognized nature preserve and one of the highest peaks in the Blue Ridge mountains (elev. 5946 feet)

The Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation is:

a not-for-profit corporation established to:

- preserve Grandfather Mountain
- operate the nature park in the public interest
- participate in educational and research activities

One ticket price includes everything:

Guests purchase tickets (one ticket per person) and drive their own vehicles through the park, stopping along the way to enjoy a variety of activities. All proceeds from sales of tickets and souvenirs go toward caring for and presenting Grandfather Mountain in a manner that inspires good stewardship in others.

Main Attractions

- Beautiful mountain scenery
- Mile High Swinging Bridge
- Environmental Habitats for native wildlife
Black Bears, River Otters, Cougars,
Deer and Golden Eagle
- Nature Museum
- South's best alpine hiking trails
More than 12 miles of regularly maintained trails ranging in difficulty from easy nature walks to strenuous back country challenges.
- Picnicking
Over 100 picnic tables and grills are scattered throughout the park. The picnic area located on the right about 1/3 mile up the summit road is equipped with a water fountain and restrooms. Guests are welcome to bring their own picnic. Those who have not planned ahead can purchase fried chicken or sandwiches to go from the Museum restaurant.
- Naturalist Programs
Special activities and programs with the Mountain's naturalists are presented daily during the summer months and are included in the price of admission.

Average Temperature June - August

- High 68, Low 55

The Piper Report

2013 Piper Reunion
Grandfather Mountain Highland Games
Accommodations

Contact or call for reservations. We have reserved the italicized rooms at Shady Lawn, so call to claim one if you wish. They will transfer the reserve credit card to your name. There is a restaurant on the grounds and they have a meeting room we can meet in.

		PER NIGHT
Shady Lawn Lodge 300-330 Cranberry St. Newland, NC 28657 828-733-9006 www.shadylawnlodge.com	1 only 2 BR Queen Apartment	\$199
	<i>1 only 2-KingBedroom Suite</i>	<i>\$125 *</i>
	<i>3 Deluxe Queen Rooms</i>	<i>\$ 99 *</i>
	<i>3 Standard King Rooms</i>	<i>\$ 89 *</i>
Huskins Court and Cottages 2450 US 221 Pineola, NC 28662 828-733-2564 www.huskincourtandcottages.com	1 only 2 Room/ 1 Bath Suite	\$120
	3 Single Rooms 1 Double Bed each	\$ 47
Linville Falls Lodge 48 NC 183 Linville Falls, NC 28647 800-634-4421 http://www.linvillefallsllodge.com	5 Bedroom Cottage	\$325
	2 Downstairs King in each	
	3 Upstairs Double Bed	
	2 Bedroom Cottage Double Bed	\$190
	2 Rooms-Two Queens in each	\$118
	1 Bedroom Cottage Double Bed	\$150

If any of these are not to your liking, go to the link below and click on the STAY tab.

<http://averycounty.com>

* Shady Lawn rooms guaranteed. Please give them your own credit card number. Tell them you are with the Piper Association for a 10% Military/Senior discount.

Please complete your registration form at your earliest convenience, and send to Mike Hubbard so we know when you are arriving and where you will be staying.

2013 Piper Reunion
Grandfather Mountain Highland Games
www.gmhg.org

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Guest Name(s): _____

Registration fee: (#) _____ @ \$10 = \$ _____

Schedule and Pricing:

Thursday 7-11:
Welcome Aboard Party (#) _____ @ \$25 = \$ _____

Friday 7-12:
TBA

Saturday 7-13:
Reunion Dinner (#) _____ @ \$35 = \$ _____

Sunday 7-14:
Breakfast/Brunch (#) _____ @ \$15 = \$ _____

Raffles: 50/50 Cash Saturday Night (#) _____ @ \$5 ea. or 3 for \$10 = \$ _____

Total Payment Enclosed = \$ _____

We will be staying at _____ and arriving on _____.

Event prices may be adjusted as we go forward. If we can do for less, you will get a refund.

Please make check payable to Piper Association

Send this form and payment to:
Michael Hubbard
271 Elm Street
New London, CT 06320

Schedule of Events for Grandfather Mountain Highland games

Thursday, July 11th

Picnic, Torchlight Ceremony & Sheep Herding

4:30 PM Picnic

Food concessions are available at MacRae Meadows or you can bring your own.

Scottish Entertainment

Traditional Celtic Music. Performers to be announced

Sheep Herding: Sheep Herding with Border Collies on the field.

7 PM The Bear: Assault on Grandfather

This five-mile footrace climbs 1,568 feet in elevation from the town of Linville to the summit of Grandfather mountain. Over 800 runners will start up the Old Yonahlossee Road from Linville at 7 PM, circle the Highland Games track around 7:15, and head up the Grandfather Mountain summit road.

More Sheep Herding

Torchlight Cermony:

Opening ceremony announcing each participating Clan's arrival to the Games

Friday, July 12th

7:30 AM The Grizzly Bike Race

9 AM MacRae Meadows Opens: Preliminary athletic competition, sheep herding, music/dancing exhibitions. Celtic Groves will be open and other activities will highlight the day.

- Opening Ceremonies
- Highland Wrestling Clinic for children
- Children's Tent and Field Activities
- Harp Workshop
- Sheep Herding
- History & Genealogy Studies at Clan Tents
- Highland Dancing Pre-Championship
- Lochaber Trump Competition in the Harp and Fiddling Tent

3:00 PM Day events completed, preparation begins for Celtic Jam

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games Presents:

7 - 11 PM Celtic Music Jam Concert tracing the evolution of Celtic Music from the ancient to the contemporary at MacRae Meadows.

Grandfather Mountain Highland Games Presents:

8:00 PM - 12 AM Scottish Country Dance Gala
Williams Gymnasium at Lees-McRae College. \$30 dancers / \$10 spectators. (Tickets sold only at the door).

Saturday, July 13th

7:00 AM Mountain Marathon begins in Boone, NC. Runners will arrive at Games track around 9:30 AM. Among the most strenuous marathons in the nation.

7:30 AM MacRae Meadows Opens

- Amateur Heavy Athletic Qualifying Begins
- Competition begins for Highland Dancing Atlantic International Championship, piping, drumming, Scottish athletic events, track & field events, Scottish country dancing, Scottish fiddling, and Scottish harp.
- Children's Highland Wrestling Competition
- Sheep Herding
- Massed Bands on track
- Opening Ceremonies
- History & Genealogy Studies at Clan Tents
- Children's Tent Activities
- Celtic Grove Music
- Highland Wrestling
- Harp Competitions
- Pre-Premier Highland Dance Competition
- NC Provincial Gaelic Mod
- Scottish Fiddling Workshop & Jam Session

4:00 Days events end. Preparation for Celtic Rock Concert

7:00 PM Celtic Rock Concert at MacRae Meadows.
\$15 Adults / \$5 Children age 5-12

Sunday, July 14th

8:00 AM MacRae Meadows Opens

- Scottish Heavy Athletic Demonstration and Clinic
- Prelude Music for Worship Service Begins

9:00 AM Scottish Worship Service Outside main gate, bring a folding chair. Includes Kirkin 'O' the Tartans.

- Children's Border Collie Demonstration on the main field.
- Celtic Grove Entertainment Begins
- Parade of Tartans Guests of Honor & Distinguished Guests are introduced as all members of the sponsoring clans are invited to march in the parade behind the massed pipe bands.
- Scottish Fiddling Competition
- Atlantic International Highland Dance Championship Competition
- Competition takes place throughout the day for Scottish athletic events, sheep herding, kilted miles, children's events, Scottish country dancing, Scottish harps, Clan Tugs-of-War. Celtic Grove entertainment continues.
- History & Genealogy Studies at Clan Tents
- Sheep Herding Demonstration

4:00 PM Closing Ceremonies

Obituaries

Obituary for George A Lock

George A. Lock, 76, of Mansfield, passed away on Friday, December 14, 2012, at Mifflin Care Center, after a long battle with Alzheimers.

George was born on September 6, 1936, in Dyersburg, TN to Joseph R. and Mary L. Hardin Lock. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy aboard the submarine USS Piper during the Korean Conflict. George was ordained into the ministry in 1967 and graduated from Lexington Baptist College in 1969. He was a pastor for 43 years in various churches throughout Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio and Florida. He loved people and wanted them to come to know Christ on a personal level and preached many sermons on the joy of living a Christ-centered life.



He is survived by his wife Judy Lumpkin Lock, whom he married on February 14, 1959. Also surviving are one daughter, Karen (Tim) Campbell of Mansfield; one daughter-in-law, Kimberly Clever Lock of Valrico, FL; seven grandchildren, Tara (Angel) Rojas of Valrico, FL, David (Joelle) Campbell of Lucas, John (Kate) Lock of Lakeland, FL, Jessica (Paul) Green of Mansfield, Adam Lock of Riverview, FL, Amber (Justin) Hays of Plant City, FL, and Ashley (Joshua) Velazquez of Valrico, FL; ten great-grandchildren; two siblings, Joe R. Lock of Mulberry, FL and Shelby Scholz of Fraser, MI, and a foster son, Jeff Doucette, of Traverse City, MI, who was raised by the Lock's.

George was preceded in death by his parents; one son, Michael Lock; and one sister, Sandy Lock.

Calling hours will be from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 18, 2012 at Werner-Gompf Funeral Services, LTD., 1106 Park Avenue East (St. Rt. 430E), Mansfield. Funeral services will follow at 12:30 p.m. with Pastor Richard Folger officiating. Burial with full military honors will be held in Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, Rittman, OH.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Baptist Faith Missions, George Sledd, Treasurer, P.O. Box 471280, Lake Monroe, FL 32747.

Obituary for Earl N. Oster, Jr.

Earl Norton Oster, Jr., 67 of Beaumont [Texas], died Friday, January 6, 2012, at Memorial Herman Hospital in Houston.

A native of Santa Rosa California, and resident of Beaumont since 1954, Mr. Oster was born November 14, 1944, to Earline Bauer Oster and Earl Oster, Sr. He served as a Police Officer with the city of Beaumont Police Department, before his retirement from Lamar Institute of Technology as Lab Technician. Mr. Oster was a United States Navy veteran and was very active in Beaumont Amateur Radio Club.

Earl qualified in submarines on the USS Piper (SS-409) in 1963 and was a MM1(SS) when he left the Navy.

Survivors include his wife, Carolyn Oster of Beaumont; daughter, Kimberly Oster LeBlanc and her husband, James of Nederland; son, Earl "Trey" Norton Oster III and his wife Stacye of Silsbee; four wonderful grandchildren; brother, Michael Aaron Oster of Richardson.

He is preceded in death by his parents and two brothers.

Eternal Patrol

George A. Lock passed away on 14 December 2012. He served on Piper from 1954-1957 as an EN.

Earl N. Oster, Jr. passed away on January 6, 2012. He qualified in submarines on Piper, serving from 1963-1964 as an MM1.

Thomas L. Granger passed away on 15 February, 2013. He served on Piper from 1945-1947 as a TM2.

Sincere condolences go to family and friends.

Please notify us of the illness or death of any association member.

Newsletter Articles Needed

I would like to hear about experiences you've had while you served aboard Piper. Whether a long story, "Sea Story" or a short paragraph, anything that you'd think would bring a smile to a shipmate's face would be great.

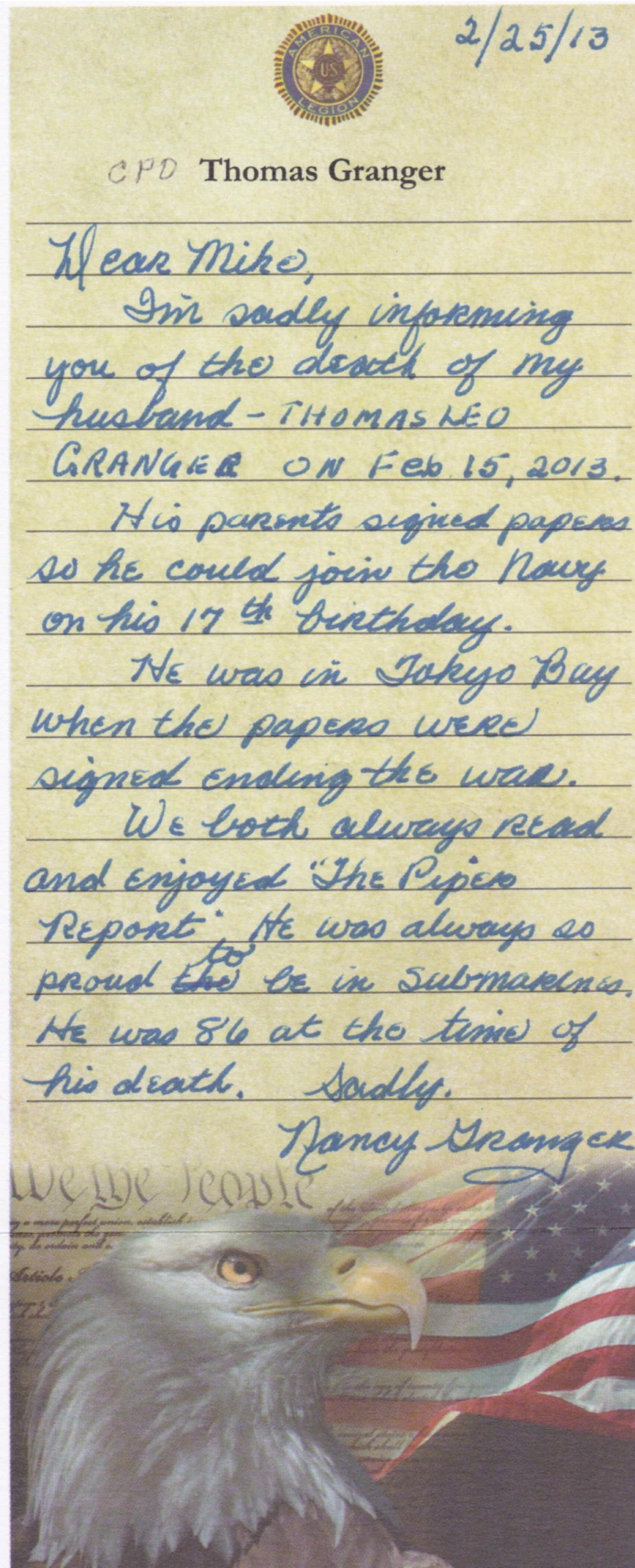
Have you recently visited a shipmate? Do you have a photo of the visit? Send a paragraph or more about the visit, or just send a caption for the photo.

What sort of things do you like to read about in the newsletter? Chances are your shipmates enjoy the same thing and they'd like to hear about it from you. So, take a little time to jot something down and send it to me:

Mike Bray
W3821 Waucedah Road
Vulcan, MI 49892

mikebray@chartermi.net

Letters



Hello Mike:

I've got a heck of a story for you that's on the order of "Operation Barmaid."

Commander Roy Boehm and Charles W. Sasser authored a book titled: "First Seal: The Scorching Secret-Shattering Autobiography of the Legendary Founder of the World's Toughest Commando Force - the U.S. Navy SEALs."

From page 188 to page 198, Roy tells how he and two others left Key West aboard the USS SEALION (SS-315) and headed for Cuba.....

You can get the book from amazon.com or your local library.

Have a Happy and Prosperous New Year,

BUBBLEHEAD BOB

International Submarine Association Convention

The ISA convention this year will be in Catania Italy. Mr. Alexander Kuzmin will attend that convention. He is a retired Soviet submarine Captain 1st Rank, which is the equivalent to a U. S. Navy Captain.

Captain Kuzmin was aboard a Soviet fast attack when it apparently clipped the USS Nathanael Greene, SSBN 636 as the Greene was exiting Holy Loch, Scotland. According to scuttlebutt, this occurred in 1973 or thereabouts.

Captain Kuzmin will be in Catania and wants to meet Nathanael Greene crew members who were aboard for that incident.

There is a Nathanael Greene Association in North or South Carolina and we should probe them to see if we can generate any interest in joining our organization and/or traveling to Catania to meet Capt. Kuzmin.

Ken Earls
President, ISA-USA
928-772-0275 Home office
928-308-4488 Cell
isa_usa500@msn.com
www.isausa.org

Piper Stuff

Michael Hubbard
 271 Elm Street
 New London, CT 06320
 1-860-444-7649 bldgmaint@subvetsgroton.org

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State, Zip: _____
 Email Address: _____
 Phone: _____

<u>QTY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>@</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
_____	Piper Pin (\$1.00 postage)		\$5.00	_____
_____	2007 Groton Reunion Button (Shipping Included)		\$2.00	_____
_____	Key Chain—One Sided		\$6.00	_____
_____	Key Chain—Two Sided		\$10.00	_____
_____	Soft Ball Cap		\$15.00	_____
_____	Traditional Hard Ball Cap		\$15.00	_____
_____	2007 Groton Reunion T-Shirt (Shipping Included)	_____	\$20.00	_____
_____	Long Sleeve Denim Shirt	_____	\$32.00	_____
	Size: M(1), L(10), XL(3)			
	Short Sleeve Cotton Golf Shirt			
_____	Red: L, XL	_____	\$25.00	_____
_____	White: L, XL	_____	\$25.00	_____
_____	Navy Blue: L, XL	_____	\$25.00	_____
_____	Forest Green: L, XL	_____	\$25.00	_____
	<u>PATCHES</u>			
_____	13,724 Dives		\$6.00	_____
_____	WWII Jap Flag		\$6.00	_____
_____	White Hat Design		\$6.00	_____

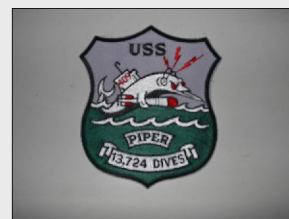
Shipping: _____
 Up to 4 items (a bit more for big items) - \$5.
 Golf shirt - \$2.00 per shirt
 Piper pin - \$1.00

Total Enclosed: _____

Please make check payable to Piper Association
 Mail to Mike Hubbard at the address above

Items may also be seen in the Piper Stuff Catalog, which can be accessed from
 a link on the "Piper Store" page of the Piper Association website:

<http://usspiper.com>



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 paying members.

The dues money goes for paper, ink, postage, etc. This is a considerable expense. 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 paid member of the Piper Association.

**USS Piper (SS409) Veteran's Association
Membership/Renewal Form**

Send form and payment to:

William Fuchs
82 South Millpage Drive
Bethpage, NY 11714
billsg282@gmail.com

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
Email Address: _____
Phone: _____
Year reported aboard Piper: _____ Year departed Piper: _____
Highest rank/rating while aboard Piper: _____

____ Enclosed is my \$10.00 for the year beginning July _____
____ Here's another \$10.00 for next year
____ Enclosed is my \$100.00 for Life Membership!

Make check payable 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 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 2013-2014 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

William Bailey	Chic Gilgore	Frank Reinhold
Bob Baker	Charles Halbing, Jr	Michael Remington
Paul Barlow	Gerald Harring	Benjamin Rollonston
Robert Batscher	John Hendry	C. Miles Schmidt
Tom Black	Obie Hill	Ralph Schmidt
Michael Bray	Jerry Holland	Charles Schwartz
Jim Burdett	Michael Hubbard	David Shoaff
Jim Burke	Charles Jones	Clarence Spencer
Richard Caldwell	Edmund Lee Joyner	Thomas J Stanton
Aldo Cecchi	Ernie Kertzscher	Bob Staufenberg
Howard Clark	James King	Gilles St. George
Ralph Clark	Thomas Kucharski	R Calvin Sutliff
Willis Clifford	Robert Lloyd	Gordon Threlfall
Richard Collins	David Mogil	Joseph Vanderbosch
William Cotter	Noah Monsour	Douglas Ward
Edward Cushman	James Morris	Terry Welsh
James Delaney	Ross Morrison	Frank Whitty
Don Del Core	Robert Neidlinger	David Winnington
John Donkus	Morris Newkirk	Eugene Zakutansky
Preston Douthitt	Austin Nickerson	
Al Dube	Ralph Norman	
Richard Fohn	Mike Paquette	
William Fuchs	Charles Patch	
Chester Fuller	Joe Pow	

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, [sea stories](#) 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: mikebray@chartermi.net

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

<http://usspiper.com>

Piper Association Officers and Staff

President:

Frank Whitty
269 Plymouth Street
Middleboro, MA 02346
whitty409@aol.com
Phone: 508-946-5274

Secretary:

Jim Burke
78 Eagle Drive
Whiting, NJ 08759
jamescbpiper409@comcast.net
Phone: 732-849-0471

Treasurer:

Michael Hubbard
271 Elm Street
New London, CT 06320
bldgmaint@subvetsgroton.org
Phone: 860-444-7649

Membership Chairperson:

William Fuchs
82 South Millpage Drive
Bethpage, NY 11714
billssg282@gmail.com
Phone: 516-578-4182

Store Keeper:

Michael Hubbard
271 Elm Street
New London, CT 06320
bldgmaint@subvetsgroton.org
Phone: 860-444-7649

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster:

Michael Bray
W3821 Waucedah Road
Vulcan, MI 49892
mikebray@chartermi.net
Phone: 906-221-1550