

The Piper Report

USS PIPER (SS409) 1944 - 1967



MAY 2016



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.

Commander's Column

March/April/May 2016

Dear Shipmates:

This is my first attempt at editing and writing the Piper Report. It ain't easy, Kudos to Mike Bray for all he did over the past years.

Before I try to patch together news since the Cleveland Reunion, I should tell you that I will be organizing a Piper Reunion for 2017. Not sure yet when or where but I'm open to suggestions. Issue is and has been, that every time I ask for feedback, I don't get any response.. So as is the custom on social media, I ask: WTF? Send me an e-mail:

Whitty409@aol.com, and share your thoughts.

As I begin this task, it is Sunday, 20 March, and we are expecting 6-10 inches of snow here in southeastern Massachusetts overnight. If that happens, I may even get this done and in the mail soon.

Mike Bray did a great job putting these reports out on a regular basis, but they'll be less frequent unless we have (excuse me in advance) a volunteer step up and take it over.. I won't be holding my breath.

Here's what I do know: Mother Burke has not been doing well, so keep him in your thoughts and prayers.

Shipmate John Clarkin, age 91, went on eternal patrol in October. Shipmate Johnnie "Doc" Bowman, age 81, passed in December.

Mike Bray has kindly posted a photo on the website of a luncheon somewhere in Sarasota County, Florida attended by Charlie and Linda Patch, Ray and Jill Beliveau, and John and Kathy Donkus. Check it out.

Regards,

Frank

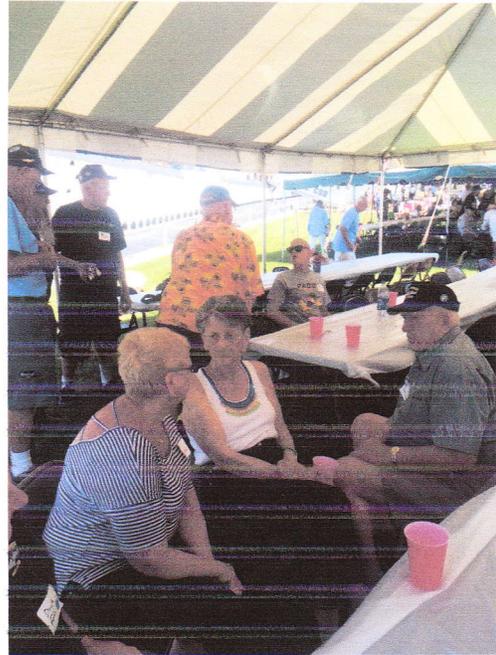


CLEVELAND REUNION

The Cleveland Reunion was awesome. Special thanks to Tom and Char Kucharski who did a great job setting up the event.. Tom is a member of the Cod Base, and his efforts to coordinate our activities with other base activities that weekend was invaluable..

They assigned us a hospitality room for our exclusive use, and that is where the really important stuff happens: old friends and shipmates, sea stories, and new memories created.

I encourage Cleveland attendees to send me a brief reflection on the convention and I'll include it in the next newsletter.



Dee Whitty, Ann & Terry Welsh



Hotel accommodations were great and made us feel appreciated and welcomed

Zoomy & Ski

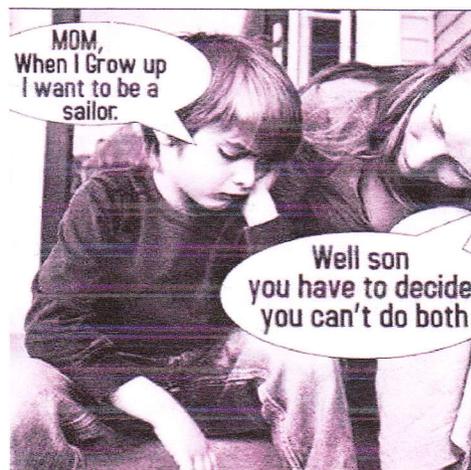
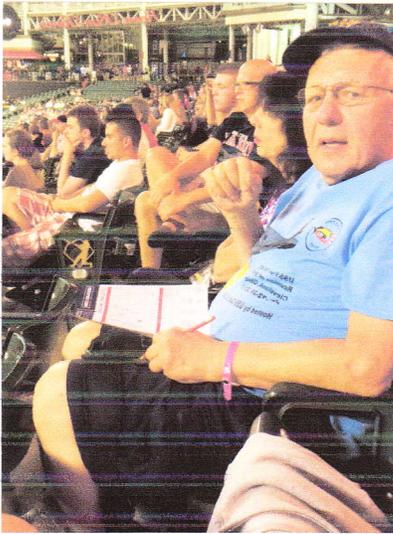
Ralph Norman & Kucharski



Char
Kucharski
&
Cathy
Schwartz

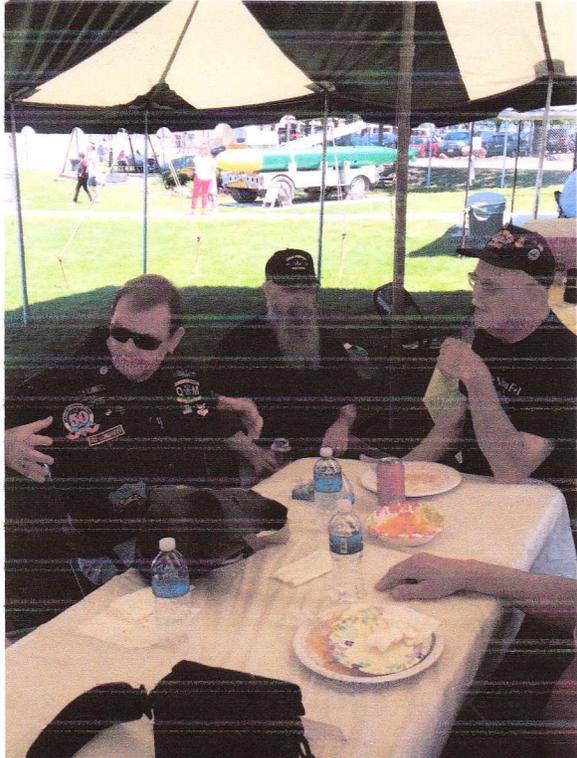
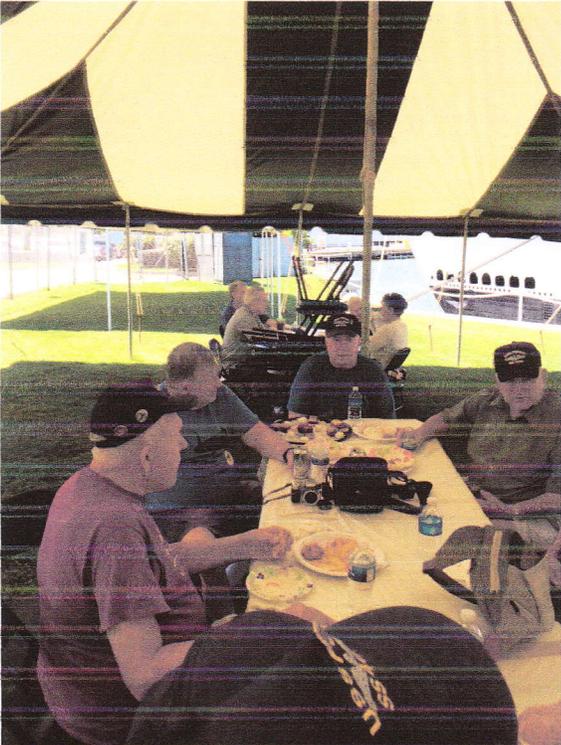
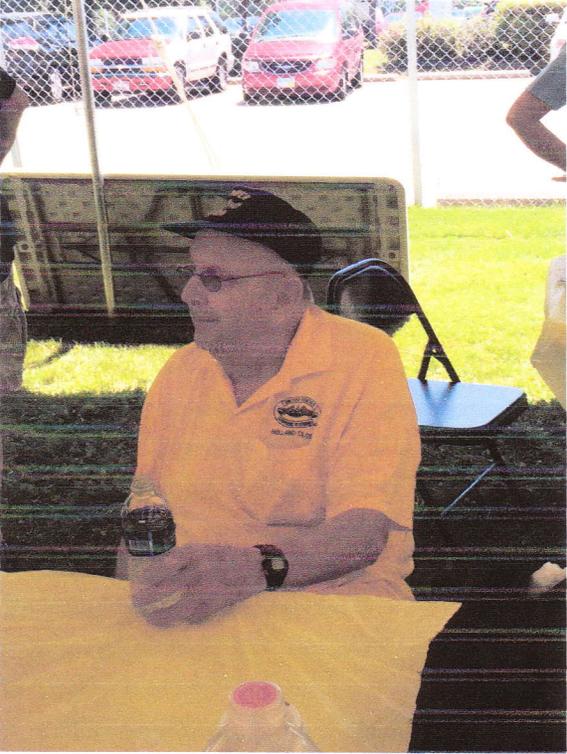
L-R
Hubbard
Norman'
Kucharski
Schwartz
Welsh





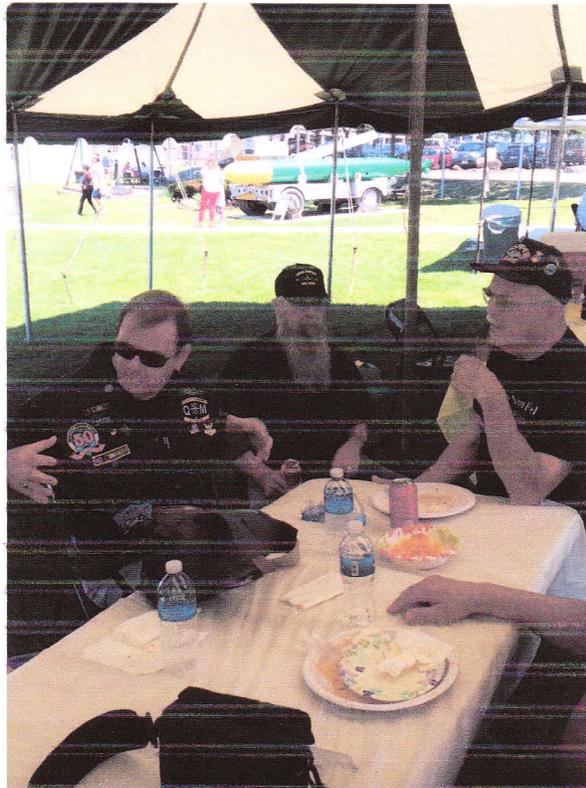
USS COD HIGHLIGHTS

The activities at the Cod were ongoing. We had a batch Cook Outs during our stay.



2015 Reunion Attendees

Ed Cushman & Darlene
Mike Hubbard
Frank Whitty, Mary, & Patrick
Beetle Bailey
Charles Swartz & Cathy
Miles Schmidt & Linda
Tom Kucharski & Char
Terry & Ann Welsh
Ralph Norman
Preston (Pete) Douthitt
Gerry Harring
Dick Fohn



Eternal Patrol

Chester S. Fuller, passed away on October 8, 2014. He served on Piper as a Ship's Cook 3rd class from 1945—1946 and was a life member of the USS Piper Veterans Association.

Richard W. Collins, passed away on August 6, 2014. He served on Piper as a CS3 (ss) from 1954-1958 and was a life member of the USS Piper Veterans Association.

Sincere condolences go to family and friends.

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

Newsletter Articles Needed

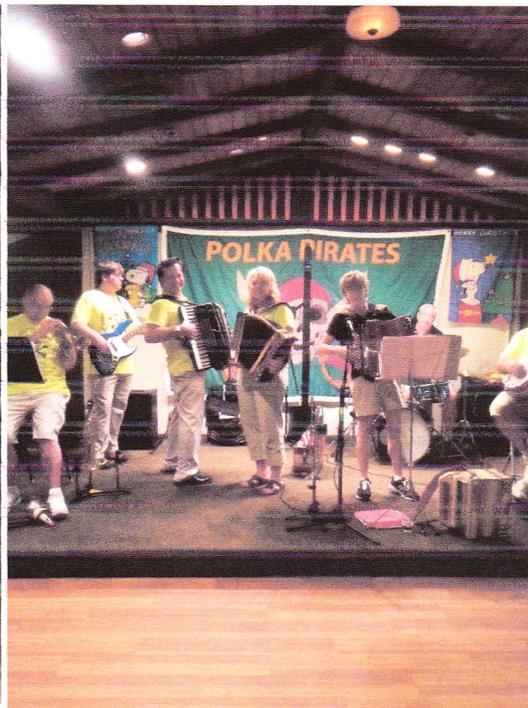
I would like to hear about experiences you've had while you served aboard Piper. Whether a long story, "Sea Story" or a short paragraph, anything that you'd think would bring a smile to a shipmate's face would be great.

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



What would a trip to Cleveland be unless Tom Kucharski took the crew to a Polish dinner at Sterle's Country House for some great Polka Music too!



From Shipmate Charlie Patch—His friend, Sam Colt, a former Clay sailor, makes these barbeque grills. Way beyond my pay grade. If interested e-mail Charlie: lacpatch45@gmail.com



**PIPER ASSOCIATION DUES
FOR 2016—2017 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.**

Here's the deal. If this Piper Association wants a newsletter more often than once or twice a year, someone needs to step up and assume the duty.

Bill Fuchs has assured me he will have an up to date membership report in time for the next edition, whenever the hell that happens.

Mike Hubbard has a lot of merchandise available, so help the treasury out and buy stuff even if you give it away.

I need your input on the 2017 reunion.

PRICES SLASHED!

Shipping Included

Piper Stuff

Michael Hubbard
271 Elm Street
New London, CT 06320

1-860-444-7649 ss409tm@gmail.com

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

<u>QTY</u>	<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>@</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
_____	Key Chain—One Sided		\$3.00	_____
_____	Key Chain—Two Sided		\$5.00	_____
_____	Soft Ball Cap		\$15.00	_____
_____	Traditional Hard Ball Cap		\$15.00	_____
_____	2013 Reunion T-Shirt	_____	\$ 5.00	_____
_____	2015 Reunion T-Shirt	_____	\$ 5.00	_____
_____	2013 Reunion Regular Sweatshirt	_____	\$15.00	_____
_____	2015 Reunion Hooded Sweatshirt	_____	\$20.00	_____
_____	Denim Long Sleeved Shirt	_____	\$25.00	_____
	PATCHES			
_____	13,724 Dives		\$2.00	_____
_____	WWII Jap Flag		\$2.00	_____
_____	White Hat Design		\$2.00	_____

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
2533 Motor Pkwy
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779
billssg282@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 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

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

The Piper Report

USS PIPER VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION

c/o Frank Whitty
269 Plymouth St.
Middleboro, MSA 02346



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.

For now send to Whitty409@aol.com

WE NEED A PIPER REPORT EDITOR

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

<http://usspiper.com>

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Webmaster:

WE NEED A WEB MASTER