

The Piper Report

USS Piper (SS409) 1944 - 1967



July 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



Left to right: Ronnie and Bill Fuchs, Aurelie and John Hendry, Mike Hubbard, Frank and Dee Whitty, and William Bailey

Commander's Column

18 July 2013

Dear Shipmates:

What a great reunion. Small but successful. Dee and I arrived Wednesday after driving from our home just off Cape Cod. We made two overnights along the way. After leaving the Roanoke area on Wednesday morning, we stopped in Mt. Airy, NC to visit the Andy Griffith Museum. Then we drove the winding and often treacherous—due to fog and rain—Blue Ridge Parkway, stopping at the regional music center to hear some great down-home tunes. We arrived in Newland, NC late in the day, having passed by Grandfather Mountain where the event was being set up and scores of campers had already arrived. After a great dinner at Fabio's (which became our unofficial breakfast place as well), our next stop was to the Newland VFW Post 4286, our host for the weekend.

Commander Bill Dean wasn't there, but QM Jim Love greeted us and told us to make it our home for the duration. During our stay, we had a Welcome Aboard party Thursday evening, our Reunion Dinner on Saturday night, and a wonderful Farewell Breakfast on Sunday morning. While many of us went to

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Commander's Column

(Continued from page 1)

the Highland Games on Friday and Saturday, others traveled to the Biltmore Estate in Asheville. Beetle Bailey and Mike Hubbard became regulars at the club, and they made many friends, answering questions about serving on submarines, and getting to know the members, sharing stories as only Piper sailors can.

Our host at the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games was shipmate Ross Morrison, the outgoing president of that organization for which he devoted a couple of decades of his life. We met Ross in the reviewing tent on Friday morning and although he has been quite ill and fighting hard to recover, his warm greeting and his pleasure to have the Piper crew attend, was gratifying. He was able to attend the reunion dinner and spend some time with us despite his many other obligations.

The games themselves were great. The website was in the last report, and I am sure they will be posting about this year's event in the future. Dee's family immigrated to Scot's Bay, Nova Scotia, and her maiden name Brown is a sept of the Macmillan clan. We got to meet the renowned historian and genealogist Graeme M. Mackenzie, who is the author of the history of the clan. The weather was very rainy during our stay, especially overnight, but during the day on Friday and Saturday, the weather gods smiled on the event, and we were dry during our visits to MacRae Meadows on both days. The music was continuous in two groves, and the dancing competitions were wonderful. The games themselves have to be seen to be believed.

Wearing our hats and t-shirts, we were stopped by other men who had served on the boats. I was stopped at the games by Roger Reeves, a Dogfish sailor, and I invited him and a guest to our reunion dinner. Come to find out, he and Russ Preble had mutual friends on that boat. Bill Fuchs brother Jim was a guest, and we were visited by other Post members who were thrilled that we had decided to hold our events there. Captain Russ Preble and his wife Jean attended, and it was great to see my old skipper again. Tom Kucharski and I rode the boat during his tenure (he decommissioned her). Charlie Schwartz rotated off to an advanced navigation school soon after Preble reported, who had relieved J.O. Rogers. For me, having served under both, it was hard to remember under whose command certain indelible memories had occurred, but we sorted that all out.

Our hostess, and SVC of the Women's Auxiliary, was Joletta Wise. A great young woman with a super personality (good looking too) who made all our events run smoothly. The post's SVC, Ralph Holden, was the chief cook, and can he "rustle up some grub." This was some serious mountain cooking with ham, turkey, sausage, and other local specialties that were better than you'd get in any restaurant.

Before the reunion dinner and after the Pledge of Allegiance, a list of departed shipmates since our last reunion was read and a

moment of silence observed for our Piper Shipmates now on Eternal Patrol.

We then presented a dolphin plaque and a SubVets flag to the post from the Piper Association, and I presented a Past National Commanders' commemorative coin to them as well for their generous hospitality and brotherhood.

Now for some good news. We will be holding a Piper Reunion in Cleveland, OH in 2015. For those of you who don't know, the USS Cod (SS 224) www.usscod.org/ is moored there, and I toured her with Kucharski about 18 months 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. Ski will be working with Mike Hubbard and me to arrange a truly memorable reunion.

Mike Bray will post some pictures of this year's trip to the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, and we'll have another full album to share with you at our next event.

We had some really nice t-shirts and sweatshirts made up and there are a few of each remaining. You'll find information in this Piper Report.

Stay well, Shipmates.

Frank



Frank Whitty and Ross Morrison



Shipmates, left to Right: Mike Hubbard, Beetle Bailey, Bill Fuchs, Frank Whitty, Charlie Schwartz, Tom Kucharski, Scotty Hendry, Captain Russ Preble



Wives, left to right: Dee Whitty, Char Kucharski, Jean Preble, Aurelie Hendry, Ronnie Fuchs, Cathy Schwartz

The Piper Report



Char & Tom Kucharski, Cathy & Charlie Schwartz



Mike Hubbard, Tom Kucharski, Beetle Bailey



Ronnie & Bill Fuchs, Frank & Dee Whitty, John & Aurelie Hendry



Entertainment at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games



Tom Kucharski, Capt. Russ Preble, Charlie Schwartz



Newland, NC VFW Post 4286 - Kitchen Crew

Sutliff '60 Still Has a Little Hubbard Hall in Him

CAPT Cal Sutliff '60, USN (Ret.), was recently [the national champion](#) in five different classes of single shell rowing for his age group (over 70-something), and two of these were world championships. A fellow crewbie who won a national championship as plebes with him calls this, "both mind blowing and irritating." The fact that his weight is the same as when he rowed for the Academy has nothing to do with that, surely.



The above article appeared in the Naval Academy alumni magazine WaveTops in March of 2013 and was contributed by Piper shipmate Miles Schmidt. See the accompanying article below:

Competing has kept 'cable TV mogul' youthful

By Mike Blackerby

Sunday, April 29, 2012

OAK RIDGE — Whether as a cable TV pioneer or masters rower extraordinaire, Cal Sutliff has always seemed to be ahead of the game.

Sutliff, a member of the Potomac Boat Club in Washington D.C., was on the water Sunday as the 34th annual Dogwood Regatta wrapped up with the masters competition at the Oak Ridge Marina.

Looking fit and youthful at a hard-to-believe 75, Sutliff was believed to be the oldest competitor to test the 1,000-meter course Sunday.

"When you row six days a week, you get in good shape," said Sutliff.

He also was one of the most-decorated rowers in the field.

Sutliff has won multiple national championships in the light-weight singles.

In mixed doubles, Sutliff has teamed with Camilla Durfee to go "undefeated in the world" in the event over the last five or six years.

Sutliff rowed as a freshman in high school, but didn't get serious about the sport again until he was 60.

"I've always loved it, even though I wasn't competing," he said.

By any measuring stick, Sutliff, who at 5-foot-7 and 154 pounds is the same size as he was in high school, is a renaissance man.

He began rowing in 1954 for Washington-Lee High School in Arlington, Va.

"I rowed for legendary coach Charles Butt. The year he started rowing at Washington-Lee in 1949 they won the national championship for high schools. They were called the 'Cinderella Crew.'"

Sutliff went on to attend the U.S. Naval Academy and eventually earned an MBA from Harvard.

In 1965, he wrote his thesis on a fledgling concept called cable TV.

Sutliff started his first cable TV system in 1971 in Brewton, Ala. He expanded his cable empire throughout Alabama and into Florida.

"I was a cable TV mogul," said Sutliff, with a laugh.

Sutliff said, grudgingly, that this is likely his last visit to Oak Ridge to compete in the Dogwood Regatta.

"I feel like I'm better shape than I've ever been in my life, but youth matters. I'll probably do 10 regattas this summer, but probably, this is my last year to compete."

Even almost 60 years after taking up rowing, Sutliff said there's still nothing like getting out on the water.

"The rowing community is really special. We're all friends. My fiercest competitors are buddies."

Mike Blackerby is a freelance contributor.

LT Cal Sutliff served on Piper from 1961 to 1964.



2013 Reunion T-Shirts and sweatshirts are available from USS Piper Small Stores. T-Shirts are \$20. Sweatshirts (both regular and hooded) are \$35. Contact Mike Hubbard after mid August for available sizes:

Michael Hubbard
271 Elm Street
New London, CT 06320
1-860-444-7649

bldgmaint@subvetsgroton.org

Obituaries

Obituary for Harry R. Macdonald

Harry R. Macdonald, 90, a long time resident of the Princeton, New Jersey area died suddenly in Hilton Head Hospital, Hilton Head Island, SC on January 30, 2013.

Mr. Macdonald was born in Princeton, NJ, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Harry R. Macdonald, Sr. He graduated from Princeton High School where he was President of his senior class, attended Princeton University with the class of 1944 and transferred to the United States Naval Academy with the Class of 1946 from which he graduated in 1945. His naval career was primarily in submarines, including recall during the Korean conflict.

He married Alma Lewis of Rocky Hill, NJ in 1946. She died in 1983 and he married Suzanne Myers in 1988. Following naval service, he worked briefly for Proctor & Gamble and then Lever Brothers Company, New York, New York for 35 years, 12 of which were in Hammond, Indiana where he managed the factory before being transferred to NYC. He was active in civic and community affairs as Chairman of the Planning Board and as President of the Board of School Trustees in Munster, Indiana. He retired in 1985 from Lever House in NYC as Director of Manufacturing Services.

After returning to NJ in 1969, he was active in the Reformed Church in America, locally as an elder, regionally as President of the Classis of Raritan and as President of the Reformed Church Ministries to the Aging. Since moving to Hilton Head in 1996, Mr. Macdonald has been active in the Presbyterian Men of the Church, an organization of men of the area churches, as director, as its President and in chairing an annual College Ethics Symposium and in initial planning of an annual Christian Heritage Breakfast during the Heritage of Golf. He has also served as Treasurer for ten years of the Hilton Head Chapter of the United States Navy League. Long active in Princeton University alumni affairs, he chaired 1944's annual reunions from 1989-2004, and served the class as Secretary, Vice-President and until 2010 as President.

He is survived by his wife, Suzanne; three children of his first marriage; Jan Smith of Alton Bay, NH; Suzanne Horan of Martinsville, IN; and CDR Kim Donahue, USN Chaplain, of Baltimore, MD, currently serving at Marine Air Group 31, Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, SC; and four step children: E. Peter Myers of Bonney Lake, WA; Elizabeth Myers of Falmouth, ME; Jeffery Myers of Oceanside, CA; Sarah McNaughton of Hallowell, ME; 6 grandchildren, 7 step-grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 9th at 2 p.m. at the Providence Presbyterian Church, Cordillo Parkway, Hilton Head with the Reverend Lifer officiating. A reception will follow at the Cypress, 20 Lady Slipper Lane, Hilton Head Plantation, HHI, SC. Following cremation, his ashes will be divided between Rocky Hill Cemetery, Rocky Hill, NJ and the U.S. Naval Academy Columbarium, Annapolis, MD.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the First Reformed Church, Rocky Hill, NJ, 08553; Providence Presbyterian Church, 171 Cordillo Parkway, Hilton Head, SC, 29928 or Princeton University, Box 1946, Princeton, NJ 08544.

Eternal Patrol

Robert T. Lloyd passed away in 2012. He served on Piper in the 1960s as an EMC and was a life member of the USS Piper Veterans Association.

Harry R. Macdonald passed away on 30 January 2013. He served on Piper in 1947 as an Ensign under Captain Alexander K. Tyree.

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

Memorable Quotes

from SubmarineSailor.com

"Some ships are designed to sink... others require our assistance."

I'm not sure if we were the first submariners to come up with this quote, but it was the theme we had printed on t-shirts (along with a surface ship in the crosshairs of a periscope) for the first ever (Mediterranean) deployment of the "Mighty Monty" – USS Montpelier (SSN 765).

Nathan Zelk, former RM2(SS) USS Montpelier (SSN 765) August '93 – October '97

"Here is \$5.00 for cigarettes and soap... your 'stuff' is at home!"

Had a buddy that wrote his wife from Yokosuka asking her to send him \$25.00 so he could buy "cigarettes and soap and stuff." Enclosed was her next letter with the response above...

Submitted by Ken "Pig" Henry, on a WestPac, way back when...

"Damn, we're going to bankrupt these Sono-vabitches"

It was 6 May 1944 Gurnard attacked a convoy headed south in the Celebes Sea, sinking three large Marus and damaged a fourth. The escorts came down on their attacker with a vengeance. Delbert Ryder was sitting at a mess table counting the depth charges. He asked me, "What does a depth charge cost?" Making a wild guess I told, "About \$600 dollars." His remark, "Damn we're going to bankrupt these SOB's".

-- submitted by Glenn Millhorn

"Submariners are a bunch of intelligent mis-fits that somehow seem to get along, understand each other and work well together."

submitted by Red Hanley who overheard a skimmer officer say this while talking to a non-navy type

"Too much ship to throw away for one small hole."

Commander Johnny Hyde upon deciding to not scuttle USS Bergall after a 5" enemy shell ripped a 5 foot hole in her pressure hull just above the waterline, 2,000 miles from home on her second war patrol, Dec. 15, 1944.

-- submitted by Mike Brood

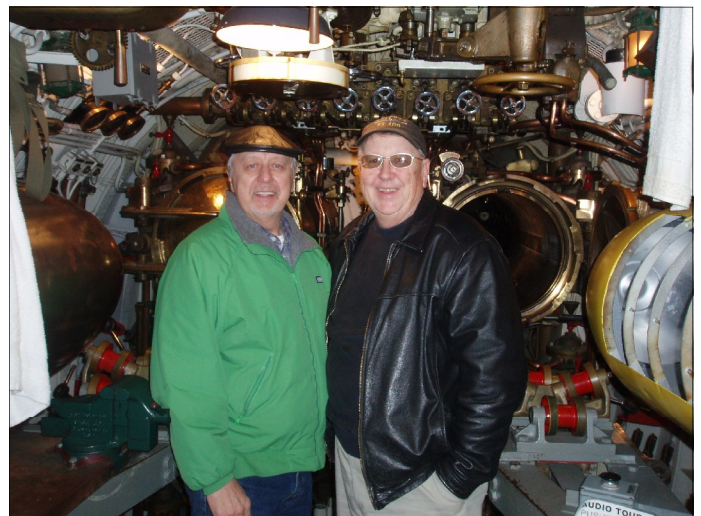
"Submariners are a special brotherhood, either all come to the surface or no one does. On a submarine, the phrase all for one and one for all is not just a slogan, but reality."

-- VADM Rudolf Golosov of the Russian Navy



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/>



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

Plans are in the works for a Piper reunion in Cleveland, Ohio in 2015. Watch for more information in future issues of The Piper Report.

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	_____
_____	2013 Reunion T-Shirt	_____	\$20.00	_____
_____	2013 Reunion Regular Sweatshirt	_____	\$35.00	_____
_____	2013 Reunion Hooded Sweatshirt	_____	\$35.00	_____
_____	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>



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

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>

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