



# Piper Guest Book

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24 July, 2005

Mike Bray  
EMFN-EM3(SS)  
USS Piper 1960-1961  
mikebray@chartermi.net

I came aboard Piper in June of 1960, as an EMFN fresh out of Sub School. We made runs to Bermuda, the Caribbean, and Nova Scotia, but mostly operated close to New London, conducting operations with enlisted and officer Sub School students. I earned my Dolphins in the spring of 1961 and received orders for Nuclear Power School in June along with shipmates Charlie Patch, Bob Bishop, Bill Brann and Al Franuszyn. My fondest memories of the Navy, shipmates and boat are of the one year I spent aboard Piper. Great boat, great crew!

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2 August, 2005

Jim (MOTHER) Burke, CS1(SS) USN Ret.  
78 Eagle Drive  
Whiting, NJ 08759

732-849-0471  
jamesb501@aol.com

Served on Piper 1958-1966

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5 August, 2005

Hi All:

Special thank you to Mike Bray for the new Piper web page, I hope all enjoy.

Mike Hubbard  
Hubbard@nemsi.com

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7 August, 2005

Thanks to Mike Bray for this fine web site and to Jim Burke for bringing it to our attention. Best wishes to all you PIPER sailors; I'm proud to be one of you.

Chic Gilgore, CDR, USN (Retired)  
Aboard PIPER: 1957- 1959  
Qualified SS: 1958

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9 August, 2005

Frank Mayo  
EMFN-EM1(SS)  
USS PIPER (SS409)  
Oct 1959--April 1963

Mike thanks for opening the PIPER web page. It should give everyone a chance to reflect back.

My thoughts go back to everyone who helped me to grow up and have fun while doing it. Thoughts of overcoming fears in the water tower, through fire drills, other mock casualties and actual main motor flooding. Thoughts of being unqualified and depending on all the ole salts to teach me what I needed to know to become a submariner.

So many friendships that have endured the years, "IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES"

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10 August, 2005

Frank Whitty, FTG2(SS)  
U.S.S. Piper (SS409) 1965-1967  
[Whitty409@aol.com](mailto:Whitty409@aol.com)  
[Piper\\_409@yahoo.com](mailto:Piper_409@yahoo.com)

Thank you, Mike for assuming this watch. Shipmate "Crash" Evans had the load for years, and his service to the Piper Association was prodigious. May he and all our departed Piper shipmates, Rest In Peace.

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10 August, 2005

Thank you Mike for taking over the web duties. I've missed looking back at memories and pictures of the old times. I have my pics of the Med cruise which I will send soon.

Phil Pattison (Pat)  
ppattison24@enter.net

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10 August, 2005

Great Job!

Ralph A. Schmidt  
YNC(SS) USN(Ret)  
yncssusnret@aol.com

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11 August, 2005

Great job, Mike. Another Piper "BZ".

God Bless all Submariners.

Mike Remington  
m-remington@comcast.net

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11 August, 2005

John Nazarchyk TM3 SS  
jzan29@cs.com

Made last two [war] patrols.

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17 August, 2005

Hi there,

It is really great to see that someone stepped up to the plate to help us remember and reminisce about the best days of our lives. Piper was a great experience for me, even though Chief Morgan wouldn't let me go for third class (cause he didn't think I was devoted enough). Anybody remember the chit for a new battery when we were in the yard for decommissioning? If I remember right, it got all the way to Third Naval District before someone actually caught it. Joe Negri was COB when I came aboard and thanks to his foresight and devotion we have an organization that helps keep us all together. Thanks again Mike, for the website. Great continuation and addition to what Crash started. Thanks to Frank and Mother Burke for putting the Association together in the first place.

C-YA

HANK  
(Hank Wiley, Rm2(SS) 1966-1967  
hankwiley@juno.com

Also, I was on the decommissioning crew.

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28 August, 2005

Bernard (Gene) Jenkins, MM  
BEJ13@mindspring.com

I came onboard about Dec 63 - Jan 64, just as Piper came back from the Med trip. The most memorable thing I remember about Piper underway was smelling "Mother Burke's" sticky buns when I got up to go on the 04-08 watch.

Great site, B.E.J.

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1 November, 2005

My entire navy career afloat (Jan.1961-June 1964) was spent on the Piper. It was a wonderful and fascinating time and I met and was "reared" by a lot of impressive men. What a pleasure to find the Piper web site and to mentally return to all those friends and exciting experiences.

Nothing on my resume impresses more than "I was in Submarines". Thanks, Shipmates, for seeing me through.

Cal Sutliff (Supply Officer, 1st Lt./Weapons Officer, Engineering Officer)  
calsutliff@juno.com

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5 November, 2005

It is great to see the Piper page active once again. I enjoy reading the comments from former shipmates. I served aboard the Piper during 1962-1964. I too, recall many great times (and some not so great).

A proud veteran of submarines.

Great job Mike!

Aldo Cecchi, SOS2(SS)  
acecchi@comcast.net

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9 November, 2005

Robert F. Marble  
TMCS(SS)  
USS PIPER 1954 to 1960  
redcon1sq@verizon.net

Came aboard in '54, "Shorty" Wolters TMC was COB and "Shorty" McEwen TM2 and Bill Medinger TM1 were forward and Robert "Brew" Taylor aft. CDR "Duke" Bayne was CO.

Rode her for almost 6 years, made Chief and later COB for two years. Ate many of "Mother" Burke's great meals. She was my first boat and the best of 'em all.

Got some sea stories to tell, too.

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13 December, 2005

Donald Sullivan  
213 Old Main St.  
South Yarmouth, MA 02664  
508-394-7141  
sullymneil@verizon.net  
EM1 1956-58

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5 January, 2006

Charlie Patch  
USS Piper 1960-61  
lcpatch@charter.net

Mike - Kudos to you for your efforts in restructuring the Piper website as well as publishing "The Piper Report" newsletter.

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15 January, 2006

Joe Brown  
USS Piper 1944-47  
brownss125@aol.com

I served on Piper from 1944 to 1947, made 3rd war patrol. Nice website, you force me to pay my dues. Hope to see more in your guest book.

Joe Brown

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18 January, 2006

Mike,

BZ for the beautiful job on the new web page. Piper and her crew were the best in the fleet as far as I am concerned!! Had a wonderful tour from '63 to '66. There were one or two bad times (I still don't like San Juan....) I'll dig around and see if I have anything worthy of posting.

Ralph (Zoomie) Norman  
ralph.norman@snet.net

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19 January, 2006

Mike,

Recently received a copy of 'The Piper Report'. Great job. I had forgotten that you were my Jr. Controllerman...thanks for the reminder. Several of our shipmates live within a couple hours from me. Bill Brann lives in Morgantown, PA about 45 minutes from me. Stash lives in Taylor (near Scranton), PA. Jim Burke lives in NJ about two hours from me. Recently visited with Charlie & Linda Patch in their new home located in Topsail, NC. Linda has done a great job with Charlie. Keep up the good work. John

John W. Donkus  
1299 Asper Dr  
Boiling Springs, PA 17007  
(717) 258-3102  
john@donkus.com

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5 February, 2006

William R. Hutterman  
EN1(SS)  
1953-1954  
georgiabil1@comcast.net

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9 March, 2006

Larry Boutelle  
IC2(SS)  
USSPIPER 1953 to 1956  
larryis70@aol.com

I went to my first Piper reunion at Groton in 2004. Wish I had known about the "Piper Association" sooner. My wife Barbara enjoyed the reunion very much and we plan on going to the one coming up in 2007. I didn't expect to know anyone there but I was surprised to see Al Dube, Rich Collins, Jim Delaney, Charlie Jones, Clyde Derricott, Bob Marble & Howard Clark. All these guys were aboard during my tour and it was a pleasure to see them again.

Since the last reunion, I've been busy tracking down other shipmates that had served aboard during the years 1952 thru 1956. So far I have found the following guys: Ross Morrison, Robert Batscher, Norbert Rolnicki, Richard Hartfeilder, Noah Monsour, Gary Booth, John Draghe, Harold Ebright, Jack Drennan, William Hutterman, Glendon Laningham, Leo Masterson, George McQuillan & Jimmy Mohon. I have been sending these guys info about the "Piper Association" and some pictures of the ship's parties from 1954, 56 & 57 along with muster logs, hoping they can I.D. some of the folks in the pictures.

I am trying to talk these guys into joining the "Piper Association" and coming to future reun-

ions. If anyone wants more info on the people mentioned above, contact me at my E-mail shown above.

Keep up the good work "Webmaster", I'm sure we all enjoy and appreciate your efforts.

Signing off for now,  
Larry Boutelle

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3 April, 2006

Al Franusiszin  
301 Harvard Blvd  
West lawn, PA 19609  
610 777-3151  
[ahmeru@verizon.net](mailto:ahmeru@verizon.net)

Mike, what a fantastic job you are doing on the Piper Report and website.

I believe we pretty much came aboard, qual'd and got kicked off about the same time, right? Some indelible memories of my Navy years from 1959-1970 are all about the Piper and crew & trips to Curacao, Martinique, Bermuda, Halifax, etc. Some of the memories are better than others.

A fantastic sunset at a beach in Martinique is one of my favorites. Arriving in Bermuda when the atmospheric conditions created a stunning pink cloud layer over the water is another.

Squeezing under a Main Motor, back-to-the-bilge, is not.

But then I can't remember what I've had for breakfast most mornings . . .

Al

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7 April, 2006

Mike

You have really done a fine job on the web site. Great stories and I remember so many of them.

Thank you

Trigger Burke  
Jamesb501@aol.com

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26 April, 2006

Thanks for a great web site. Brings back loads of fine memories of my beginning naval adventures. Many of the fine men and their teachings and experiences prepared me for more adventures on numerous SSN and SSBN patrols

Had great fun on the Med cruise (Monaco was something very special) and also Karachi. I remember being outboard No. 2 engine when we heard about JFK and being very touched that morning at muster with the people on the dock. It would be a lot different today.

Thanks and God Bless to all of you.

Earl Oster MM1SS  
USS Piper 1963-64(?)  
Beaumont, TX  
[eooster@gt.rr.com](mailto:eooster@gt.rr.com)

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15 May, 2006

Bill (MOE) Mosblech, 1964  
Shipmate41@aol.com

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5 June, 2006

John I. Clarkin  
USS Piper 1944-45  
[clhs82@aol.com](mailto:clhs82@aol.com)

Mike, you are doing a wonderful job with the Web site. I am visiting my daughter and she showed me the site. Her e-mail address is listed above, which anyone can use to contact me.

I am grateful to have the microfilm copy of the three war patrols declassified log, which I shared with Mike. He has posted information on the News page about it.

Does the last surviving WW II veteran of the Piper get the bottle of champagne?

Best Regards,  
John

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10 June, 2006

Proud to have seen my brother, Arnie, whom I made several dives with unbeknown to the Air Force.

Allen Miliefsky, Lt/Col, USAF, Ret.  
[miliefsky@cox.net](mailto:miliefsky@cox.net)

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10 June, 2006

Aloha from Hawaii,

I'm the son-in-law of Arnie Miliefsky EN2(SS) who served from 1958 till 1961. Sounds like he had some good times! The sea stories are great!

William Smith,  
Research Assistant  
University of Hawaii  
Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology  
email: [wsmith@hawaii.edu](mailto:wsmith@hawaii.edu)

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14 June 2006

The pics brought back some great memories. I'll see if I can get some pics from my slides.

George Bain  
GCBAIN@aol.com

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28 July, 2006

Bob Staufenberg EN3 {SS}  
USS PIPER 1962 to 1965  
[ezbob@tds.net](mailto:ezbob@tds.net)

Looking forward to renewing old friendships at the next reunion.

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28 August, 2006

I was on deck for the launch and served on all patrols. Both Captains, Beach and McMahon were the greatest. They called me the kid in those days. I served until my four year term ended. I signed up for the USN Reserve. After one year my two brothers Shanghaied me into the USMC. At boot camp I was promoted to assistant drill instructor because of previous military duty. First assignment was on a Carrier (Navy again) attached to the NATO fleet. Traveled all over the main ports for eight months. On return I became the SGT of the guard at the Jackson Naval Air Station and ran the Burial Detail... I was then transferred to the US State Department with a detachment of Marines.

My requirements were to speak fluently a foreign language and we were sent to Central America to make things safe for American fruit growers. My fluent German had to be changed over night to Spanish. My experience mounted, helping an American Ambassador and three of our choice dictators. It lasted two years and as my tour of duty was to end I was surprised by a message from Headquarters USMC that I must stay in one country for another year in civvies and go to diplomatic functions. At the termination of this extended year I was transferred to headquarters, Marine Corp. now only wearing civilian clothes. I was offered two more years transferred to the diplomatic corp., but only after serving two years in the regular Marine Corp. Having no uniforms and only a vague memory of giving orders to the foot troops in uniform I rebelled and played out my enlistment playing tennis with the officer corp.

I took an Honorable Discharge and became a Service Director at an automobile dealership using my previous Navy experience on the USS 409 Piper. After traveling all over Europe and Africa and most of Latin America with the USMC I was finally able to use the Navy training I grew up with. The shock of my life was that when I left the Marines as SSGT I later heard that the SS409 was still in operation... I often thought of the years that I could have stayed aboard the ship I grew up on.

PS: In the Marines and at a Generals inspection I wore my Submarine Combat Insignia Medal. The general stopped in front of me and asked, "SGT, what is that medal you are wearing?" I proudly stiffened up and said, "Sir, that is the US Navy Submarine Combat Insignia. I served four years on the USS PIPER, 409 in world WAR II." The General stepped back and said, "Son, I salute you. I heard a lot about you fellows, welcome to the Marine Corp." I was glad to get a word in for the USS PIPER 409.

Ervin Ast  
[sherbrun409@earthlink.net](mailto:sherbrun409@earthlink.net)

23 November, 2006

Mark Duckstein (son of Stuart Duckstein)  
USS Piper (Navy service 1952-1956; length of Piper service unknown)  
[MarkD24@aol.com](mailto:MarkD24@aol.com)

My name is Mark Duckstein and my father was Stuart Duckstein, who served on the USS Piper (I know from the website that he was on the ship in 1956, and perhaps earlier). Unfortunately, my father passed away unexpectedly in 1987 and didn't tell me much about his service in the Navy or his experiences on the Piper.

Yesterday I was searching on the internet and I found the Piper website. There were two pictures that included my father, both in 1956. One was the group photo from the crew's party, and the other was a picture of my father with a group of other guys standing on the top deck of the submarine somewhere in the Caribbean. Those pictures mean a lot to me, since the only other picture I have of him during his Navy service is his formal portrait.

If anyone is able to provide me with any other pictures of my father, or can let me know who else I might contact to see if they have any, I would really appreciate it. Also, if you knew my Dad, and could share any memories you have of him, it would mean a lot to me to be able to speak with you. If not, perhaps you can give me the names of some of the other crew members who were friendly with my father so that I can contact them.

Thank you for your service to our country, and thanks for whatever information you can provide on my father.

Regards,

Mark

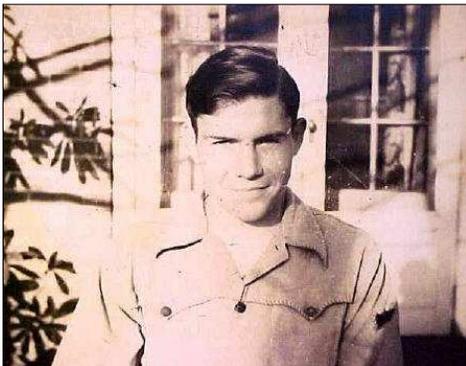
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25 November, 2006

Hello,

My father Robert B. Kelly, served on USS Piper during WW II. He has passed on and will be dearly missed. I have been going through his things and looking into a past that he talked about on rare occasion. I found old photos and Navy photos that he has kept hidden for all these years. I even have his Navy Jacket and even though it's very old It's still in one piece. I would like to know more about the submarine that he was on and where to find information.

Sincerely, David B. Kelly  
[DKelly8077@aol.com](mailto:DKelly8077@aol.com)



Then



Christmas 2005

19 December 2006

Timothy Piper  
Marine Machinist  
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard  
[tmjip@comcast.net](mailto:tmjip@comcast.net)

This Website looks Great, a lot of great info about the USS Piper.

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15 January 2007

Hola from San Diego

I am Arnie Miliefsky's nephew. EN2(SS) 58-61, and just wanted to say he is my favorite uncle and glad he had so much fun under water.

Barry S. Miliefsky & Family Einav & Jordan

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18 January 2007

I just finished printing off the last pages of the story of the USS Piper from the Naval Historical Center. As a result of that contact I found your website and wrote an email to Mr. Mike Bray.

Although I am not a sailor (Air Force vet), I love military history. Additionally, I share the same last name as your beloved submarine. Mr. Bray was kind enough to send me a photograph of the fleet version of the Piper and also one of the crew from the 3rd war patrol from Pearl in 1945. I am having them professionally printed and they will be displayed, along with the three patches I purchased from your website, in our boathouse in Pentwater, Michigan.

As I said before I am an Air Force veteran (Vietnam era) and my father, Bob Piper Sr. was with the Army in WWII and my Uncle Bill Piper was with the Navy in WWII. As I told Mr. Bray our cottage is located in Pentwater where Memorial Day is a big deal. My wife, children and I celebrate this holiday each and every year.

Your sub has such a rich history and you should all be proud of the service to your country. To all of the men (living and deceased) who served on the USS Piper, we the Piper family salute you.

Sincerely,

Bob Piper Jr.  
Chris Piper  
Becky Piper  
Justin Piper

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23 January 2007

I regret to inform you that Irving Voyer, Jr. of Oshkosh Wisconsin died on Dec 26, 2006. He had been battling various cancers for the past several years, but was diagnosed on Dec. 12 with brain cancer. When I "googled" his name to see the obituary (which was not there) the site for USS Piper came up.

Irv was active in many civic organizations in the Fox River Valley & Oshkosh, Wisconsin. I was fortunate to have him "On Board" as Treasurer of the Camp 5 Museum Foundation, Inc.

in Laona, Wisconsin for many years. He resigned from our board of directors in November, 2006, saying that he was no longer able to give his 'all' to his job as Treasurer. He had joined our board because of his ties to the original family that started the "Lumberjack Steam Train" and the Museum complex at an original Logging Camp Farm in Laona, but his roots went back with that family to Wakefield, Michigan where his father was the head book-keeper for the Connor Lumber & Land Co. and where Irv grew up and went to school before he went to the Academy.

Irv had a wicked sense of humor and could find the humor in most any situation. His observations were keen and 'dead-on'. His advice was invaluable. I am grateful for the opportunity that I had to work with him and laugh with him. I knew his father when I was a very young child. He would come to our house to make sure that we were all fine when my parents were away and traveling. As a child, I did not know Irv, as he was already away at school. It was not until my older sister suggested that he would be a great addition to our board of directors that I met him. At that time he was a widower with 3 adult daughters who all lived away from Oshkosh. He was so actively involved in so many projects and not-for-profit organizations in the Oshkosh area, like EAA, Rotary, Symphony Board, etc. that I felt fortunate he would even consider coming onto our Board. Not only did he serve as Treasurer, but he took hundreds of photos of events at Camp 5 and of the train and of visitors and staff. He gave generously of his time and energy, and committed himself to improving not only our foundation, but improving his community at large.

I am sure Heaven is a lot more fun, now that he is there!

Cate Dellin, President  
Camp 5 Museum Foundation, Inc  
PO Box 5, Laona, WI 54541  
[www.lumberjacksteamtrain.com](http://www.lumberjacksteamtrain.com)  
[info@lumberjacksteamtrain.com](mailto:info@lumberjacksteamtrain.com)

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1 April, 2007

Bill Cotter ET1(SS)  
8 Spyglass Landing Drive  
Marshfield, MA 02050  
781-837-4059  
[wjcotter@verizon.net](mailto:wjcotter@verizon.net)  
USS Piper 1960-1962

Nice web page Mike Bray. Piper was the high point of my 26 years service. It was the best of times and it is nice to reminisce. Some of the names that served with me are familiar.

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8 April 2007

Truly enjoyed this site. My brother, Robert F. Harwood, aka "Hub", Walpole, MA, now deceased, made all of the first three war patrols WWII in the Pacific as one of the radiomen. From Portsmouth, NH to the Sea of Japan and returned. The "boat" logs were outstanding and his picture with the whole crew at the Midway rest area recalled his many "sea stories". Bob and I both graduated from Boston College in 1950 & 1951, respectively. Semper Fi,

William A. Harwood  
USMCR, Korea, 1952  
[billharwood@earthlink.net](mailto:billharwood@earthlink.net)

23 April 2007

BONHAM RJ TM3(SS) LAST LEADING SEAMAN ON THE PIPER

Left her on the 16th of June, went home and got married. Would like to hear from some of the crew. Live in Modesto California - in the phone book. Call anytime guys.

Ron Bonham

[bonhamrj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bonhamrj@sbcglobal.net)

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9 May 2007

I see where you have put my father, Paul Baker, on eternal patrol. He was a Second Class Electrician's Mate, EM2(SS). I used to tease him about it as I was a First Class Machinist Mate, MM1(SS), on the Thomas A. Edison SSB(N) 610.

Steve

Stephen J. Baker

[Stephen.J.Baker@dom.com](mailto:Stephen.J.Baker@dom.com)

OPS Special Projects

Dominion Millstone Station

X0200

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5 September 2007

Mike "Rem" Remington

SO2(SS)

USS Piper 1962-1963

Sorry I missed the 2007 reunion. Illness prevailed. Looking forward to seeing all of you next year. God keep you all safe and well.

Regards,

"Rem"

[Remington@comcast.net](mailto:Remington@comcast.net)

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17 October 2007

Fred Durette

MMCS(SS)

USS Piper 1962 - 1964

[FDurette@CCPRC.com](mailto:FDurette@CCPRC.com)

Glad I found this site. Looking at names like Beetle Bailey (is that his real name?), Satch, and Shorty really brings back memories. Beetle might remember me as his little "Spear Chukker".

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18 October 2007

Barney D. Wixom of Kent Washington passed away on October 10, 2007 at the age of 83. Feel free to contact me. I don't have too much info on his Navy career.

Thanks.

Barbara Wixom Ford (daughter)  
11 Kingfisher Way  
Waterford, CT 06385  
[Barbara.Ford@greentree-manor.net](mailto:Barbara.Ford@greentree-manor.net)

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2 November 2007

I was assigned to the Piper right out of Sub School in '66. Later we were supposed to go to Holy Loch....we did a test discharge on the batteries, and failed miserably...lotta disappointed sailors. We were later scheduled to go to Philly for decom. I was sent to the base galley to peel spuds, burn steaks, scramble eggs and swab decks. No med cruise for me. After decom, I went to USS Corporal TAD 'til time to get new duty assignment. As part of the decom perks, we got choice of duty station. I'd been striking for Sonar Tech, so I was sent to Great Lakes BEE School after 30 days leave in San Francisco. After BEE school was stationed in Key West for Sonar School.

Don Wimberley, STC(SS)  
1801 Alabama St  
Vallejo, Ca 94590  
[wwoods@matterofmail.com](mailto:wwoods@matterofmail.com)

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29 November 2007

Hi. I rode the Piper during the Cuban blockade in 1962. I would be interested in attending the next Piper reunion.

Thank you,  
Jerry

Jerry L Emerson  
QMC(SS) USN Retired  
9384 White Oak Hill Road  
Bailey, NC 27807  
252-235-2926  
252-289-6329  
[jerrypeggye01@gotsky.com](mailto:jerrypeggye01@gotsky.com)

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6 December 2007

Christopher J. Pauli  
EMFN 1959 to EM3(SS) 1962  
USS Nautilus, SS(N) 571 - 1959 to 1962  
[OldSub571@aol.com](mailto:OldSub571@aol.com)

Referred to Piper web site by friend and shipmate TMC Robert Marble AKA, Bubblehead Bob a past COB off Piper.

I was sad to learn of the passing of fellow shipmate Barney Wixom who I knew as a RMC on Nautilus. A sailor's sailor! Probably why he was selected to join Officer Country. Seems like yesterday when the Jr. Nuke Chiefs were hustling back to the RC compartment to sidestep an "All hands stores party" and I told Chief Wixom to buzz off and get coffee. He replied: "The word they passed, was 'All Hands' ".

So very sorry I didn't learn about this until now. God bless Barney, may his family take peace and comfort that we will all be together one day. I am sure that flights of angels guided him to a far better place! Sailor Rest Your Oar. Amen

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2 February 2008

Alton Henry Laussade Jr.  
Fireman  
USS Piper 1950-1954

This is an entry for my Father, he is doing well, he doesn't make use of computers yet. LOL. He lives at:

201 Alliance St.  
Kenner, Louisiana 70062

or you can contact him through my E-Mail address. Thanks for your time, he would love to hear from you.

Alton H. Laussade III (Chip)  
and Alton H. Laussade IV  
[Chipman739@yahoo.com](mailto:Chipman739@yahoo.com)

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3 March 2008

I am trying to find info on Donald Edgar Rogers, Service Number 854-66-79 who served on the Piper as a MoMM 3/c between mid 43 to late 45 era. Not sure of dates. I was on your website and see he was listed, name only, on the Eternal Patrol List. Don was my uncle -dob 8-22-1914/died 8-14-04; wife Eileen -dob 8-28-1916/died 7-22-2007, Shelbyville, IL.

I acquired all of his Navy items and had talked to him some, but surely not enough. I want to find out more about his days on the Piper. Where can I find info or someone that knew him onboard? He also mentioned other boats—U-3008/Sturgeon-Rasher-Steelhead.

I have tried to obtain his DD214 and am having difficulty doing that due to the fire they had years ago. He had a Sub vest that listed all his boats and I have it.

Any info you can send would be helpful.

Fred Bessell  
R 3 Box 63  
Rushville, IL 62681

[fbcntry@yahoo.com](mailto:fbcntry@yahoo.com)

20 April 2008

Glenn Beasley  
TMSN(SS)  
USS PIPER 1966-1967  
[glenn@centritechsolutions.com](mailto:glenn@centritechsolutions.com)

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11 April 2009

Sent in my \$20 for this year & next, also some pix (decom crew w/list of crew) +++  
Hope I can attend reunion. I am in contact with Pittman and think he wants to come also.

Everett Wilcox  
35246 Lana Lane  
Sterling Hts, MI 48312  
586-979-3612  
586-873-1944 (cell)  
[ejwilco@aol.com](mailto:ejwilco@aol.com)

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21 April 2009

I would like to report that my Father in Law, Laurence Askins, who served aboard the USS Piper from 1948 through 1952 passed away on Easter Sunday April 12, 2009. His wife Madelyn of 58 years, eight daughters, one son, twenty one grand children, and six great grand children will miss him greatly.

Sincerely,

Robert J. Rosenbach  
Office: 616-975-4889  
Cell: 616-560-2384  
[Bob.Rosenbach@cascadeng.com](mailto:Bob.Rosenbach@cascadeng.com)

28 May 2009

Gary Borgens  
ET3 (SS)  
USS Piper (SS409)  
December 1963-June 1964

For some reason I just decided to see if I could find anything about the Piper. To my surprise I found this site. It brought back a lot of memories. I really enjoyed my brief tour of duty on the Piper and learned a lot. Had some great times as well. I will be sure to check the site every once in a while to keep up on the news. I would welcome any of my old shipmates to contact me.

Best Regards,  
Gary  
[Gary.Borgens@Emerson.com](mailto:Gary.Borgens@Emerson.com)

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01 July 2009

Preston (Pete) Douthitt, CS2  
USS Piper SS409  
On board from 1964 to 1965  
[jpdohit@insightbb.com](mailto:jpdohit@insightbb.com)

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10 July 2009

Shipmates:

The reunion is a short five weeks away and the response hasn't been what we expected. The vote at the 2007 event to hold another after only two years was roundly approved. That being said, we expected at least 60 or 70 attendees, and we're only just over half that number. Deposits and guarantees have been made.

So if you are planning to attend, but have been holding back sending in your registrations for whatever reason, for \$\*#(&\* sake, get your ^\*\$^%\$\*^\* lazy \$%#@s in gear and send in the %&\*(&%#%&& registration form now! Please.

Of course I have had to edit the more colorful language I wanted to use to urge a response, as I don't want to be labeled in cyberspace as a foul-mouthed submarine sailor.

Regards,  
Frank Whitty  
EI Presidente  
[Francis.Whitty@va.gov](mailto:Francis.Whitty@va.gov)

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27 July 2009

I am "DOC" Dick, I rode the Piper under CDR. A.K. Tyree from the time I graduated from Sub School in New London in 1944 until 1950 when I left the Piper in Key West, FL.

Luck to you guys.

[gene92886@msn.com](mailto:gene92886@msn.com)

31 August, 2009

Hi, My name is Wayne Deryck. I qualified on PIPER in 1962/63. Just found this site. Boy what memories. What ever happened to my sea daddy ALLEN B. SALONSKY, EM1? I'm also new to this computer experience, so no pictures, just a note. I retired in April 1983.

[wdderyck@att.net](mailto:wdderyck@att.net)

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5 October, 2009

QM1(SS) Floyd Pretty served aboard your boat, we know this for a fact as we found photos of him aboard her in a photo album kept by his long departed mother and now in possession of his sister, my mother-in-law Dee. Floyd has long been on the eternal patrol having died of leukemia in May of 1984. His sister wanted his shipmates to know how proud Floyds family was of his service (starting with AE duty in WW2 and ending with retirement on SS 409 sometime mid to late 1960s) and just how touching it was for her to see her brother being piped ashore by the crew of his submarine standing by honoring him and his long service, Floyd looks "tall" and proud (those that knew Floyd or his family understand the quotes, they are/were all short!) and not at all ravaged by time or cancer. Anyway, this "short" note comes to your Guest book to honor each and every one of you for your service to the country and for the sacrifices you made when you rode aboard SS 409. I rode tin cans and then switched to diesel Army boats so I have an idea of what Diesel Boats Forever means to each of you. May God Bless You and these United States.

Thomas E. Randall, ex-MM1(SW USN and ret. CWO, Army  
Hampton, VA USA  
[Thomas\\_Randall\\_DAV\\_MOAA\\_TCS\\_VFW@verizon.net](mailto:Thomas_Randall_DAV_MOAA_TCS_VFW@verizon.net)

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1 February 2010

Its great to find this site, I'm new to this and hope this message gets out, I've tried three times now. I had some of the best times aboard the Piper, I would like to become a member and possibly get to a reunion. Do you plan on having one again soon? My nickname was big moose and I remember a lot of shipmates by their nicknames but not their real names.

Mike you have done a nice job putting together this site. I wish my computer was a little more friendly (it keeps blocking me away from some of your spots), but I'll keep trying.

Have a great day.

Ray

Wendell Ray Tabert  
SOS3  
USS Piper 1961-1963  
[rndtabert@att.net](mailto:rndtabert@att.net)

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27 August 2010

Shipmates,

I learned today of the passing of a USS Sea Robin shipmate WAYNE D. DERYCK, SR on 6/6/2010. He served on the SS-407 from 65-68 as MM1(SS)(DV). I also discovered that he qualified and served aboard USS Piper 62-63.

Sailor, rest your oar.

Regards,

Paul Roggemann  
SS-407 63-67  
ET2(SS)  
[progg@frontiernet.net](mailto:progg@frontiernet.net)

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28 August 2010

Wayne Deryck MMFN (SS)  
USS Piper 1962 to 1963

Hello,

My name is Wayne Deryck Jr. My father was a crewmember on the Piper from 1962 to 1963. While doing an internet search I discovered this website and found a message he posted here last year. Unfortunately, I have some sad news to report. On June 6, 2010, my dad, MMFN Wayne Deryck, Sr. passed away after a brief but courageous battle with cancer. I hope that before he passed he was finally able to reconnect with at least a few of you, with whom he had the honor and privilege of serving.

Sincerely,

Wayne D. Deryck Jr, Capt., USAFR (Ret)  
[dderyck@hotmail.com](mailto:dderyck@hotmail.com)

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7 March 2011

My name is Chet Fuller. I served on the USS Piper 1945-1946, the last two runs. I remember Pablo going overboard with a knife in his mouth searching for two Japs and also swimming in the Panama Canal on the way home.

Chet Fuller  
[ohrum71@hotmail.com](mailto:ohrum71@hotmail.com)

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9 June 2011

Frank Tomazin  
ET1(SS), ETC(SS)  
USS Piper 1962-1964  
[Tommor\\_88@att.net](mailto:Tommor_88@att.net)

Piper has a lot of fond memories for me. It was my first assignment as an ET (formerly QM1(SS)). I also made chief while aboard.

Great job on the Web page.

11 July 2011

Robert A Perkins  
RMSN  
USS Piper 1960 to 1962  
[Bperkins1@cox.net](mailto:Bperkins1@cox.net)

My home is now in Meriden, CT. This is a great site that outlines the history of the USS Piper. I was onboard for the Ten Grander in 1961. In 1962, I transferred from the Piper while in the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. I went to the Newport News shipyard and became a member of the commissioning crew (blue) of the USS Thomas Jefferson(SSBN618). My Naval Career included time on four SSBN Submarines. I transferred to the Fleet Reserve , January 31, 1981 with the Rank, RMCS(SS).

I still make it known to everyone I meet, that I was a member of the U.S. Naval Submarine Force for the United States of America. I also include the statement God Bless America.

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26 August 2011

Hi, to all my shipmates.

Doc Bowman  
[bwmncheesecake34@aol.com](mailto:bwmncheesecake34@aol.com)

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9 August 2012

Hi,

My name is Arlene Fallon and my brother Bobby (Robert Bobowicz) was on the USS Piper.

I was searching for something and came across his name, which led me to your Photo Gallery.

I really enjoyed looking at all of the pictures. Bobby passed away in 1970 but looking at the pictures brought back memories for me.

I was very little when he joined the Navy and I can still remember him coming home on leave and how exciting it was. I remember one time he came home with a beard....I'm guessing it was around 1957 or 58 and I was afraid of him.

I know he served on the Piper and the Seawolf. He would have been on the Thresher and I will never forget hearing the news that it sank. I came home from school that day and he was "white as a ghost" when he realized he knew so many of the guys who were on it.

Sadly, he passed away at a very young age and seeing these photos today, and being able to pick him out in a couple of them really made my day.

Thank you!

27 September 2012

Hi Mike;

My name is Clyde Miller. I served on board the Piper in the sixties with Tom Black, Satch, Doc Bowman, and Chief Negri. I was in the Seaman Gang under Chief Negri. I made that Med. Trip when Grace Kelly toured the Boat. I am the Short Black guy that was on lookout watch topside when Chief Negri gave the finger to the Russian Jet, when we were going through the Suez Canal.

Long story, in short form; a friend just came back for vacation in Pearl Harbor and brought me a ball cap from the USS Bowfin SS-287. Somehow the name Chief Joe Negri came to mind. I remembered the COB telling stories in control while on watch about the Bowfin. Since I have the computer here at work, I Googled the Chief and that's how I came up with Tom Black and your E-Mail.

If you remember me send me a reply. My home E-Mail is [mikemiller202@aol.com](mailto:mikemiller202@aol.com) please send all replies to this address. My phone # is 843-810-1948 and if you want, call me 'cause I'd love to hear from the guys.

Shipmate USS Piper SS409  
Clyde Miller STS3(SS)

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7 December 2013

Hi Mike,

I found your site after coming across a card in my Dad's wallet for the USS Piper Veterans Assoc. My Dad, Joseph LeTourneau, passed away on November 27th. He served on the Piper from 1949-1951.

The site is great - I loved the photos and the links to other sites helped me find some of the other boats that Dad served on. I am hoping to try and build a time-line and having sites like this is a big help. Thank you for taking on this duty. It's great to be able to see these parts of my Dad's life.

Martha Ryan  
St. Albans, VT

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May 29, 2016

My Mom had her Memorial Day weekend made when she saw Ralph Norman come into the store we work at quite often but this time wearing his Piper Reunion shirt. Her Dad was on the Piper and Ralph knew who he was and could tell her a story or two but not everything. Her Dad was Ernest Everett, or Eddie Everett. He had passed away in November of 1998. I, his granddaughter, never really heard any stories of his Navy days but enjoyed looking through pictures here on this page. Thanks you all!

Rheanna  
[tigg9@yahoo.com]

June 27, 2020

Mike,

My name is Rick Busch, my dad Chuck Busch served on the USS PIPER 409 from 1945-1947 he is currently in a skilled nursing home and has been quarantined through this COVID period. His 93rd Birthday is 23 July and we aren't sure we'll get to see him for that. I saw your Reunion 2020 notification and would like somehow to have him acknowledged for his service as a crew member on the 409. Like many his age, they got out of boot camp about the same time the wars in Europe and the Pacific ended. Although he had around 1000 dives he gives credit to those serving before him in a war time combat role. He still qualifies as a WWII Vet. He did get to see a captured Jap and the returning crew before the USS PIPER 409 was dry docked for post combat overhaul in NH, he was part of that process. After those months the 409 continued coastal dives, after his service he went onto college with the GI Bill and continued his life in Rochester, NY.

I hope this message finds you well and inspired knowing you have a WWII veteran navy USS PIPER 409 submariner still kicking, and for those resting may they not be forgotten.

Respectfully,

Rick Busch  
Livonia, NY  
585-905-4309  
humv123t@yahoo.com