



USS Piper (SS409)

PIPER REPORT

March 2023



Dear Shipmates:

I hope your holidays were pleasant and healthy, and that you are weathering the winter. It's been crazy up here in Northeast: very little snow, but crazy extremes of temperature. On Saturday, February 4th, the temperature was minus 11 degrees f. One week later, on February 10th it hit 68 degrees. A 79 degree swing in a week! Good grief! Then back to cold and rainy. As we say up here in New England: "If you don't like the weather—just wait a few hours."

On a more positive note, from those of you who bought Piper Coins, I've not heard of anyone being disappointed. I've gotten plenty of praise, however, for how awesome they are. As you know, we are passing them along at cost and paying postage, which I found out, isn't cheap, but it actually worked out well because a few of you bought 3 or 4 and it evened the cost out. We ordered fifty and have sold 27, so there are 23 left, and we won't be re-ordering.

Those that remain, I will bring to Tucson for the next Piper Reunion, which again will be during the USSVI National Convention. Be assured that our reunion will not interfere with any of those scheduled activities. As Past National Commander, it was good to renew old acquaintances having not been to one in well over ten years.

I'm hoping that any of you west of the Mississippi will try to attend. The last time we were close to the West Coast for a Piper reunion was Fort Worth, TX. That was a lot of fun, and I met some new shipmates for the first time who lived out that way.



Photos are deceiving. They are both same size, of course, but my photo program didn't cooperate. This is a really high quality, heavy 2" piece. The Piper Association will cover the postage, and I will send them out promptly. The cost is \$14.00 each.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email address: _____

Please ship _____ Piper Coins at \$14.00. I have enclosed a check made out the USS Piper Association

Send to: Frank Whitty 269 Plymouth St. Middleboro, MA 02346-1213

Piper Reunion Tucson

Shipmates-We need some feedback for planning purposes. If you are planning to or just seriously considering attending the Tucson Reunion, please drop me a quick e-mail. No obligation to attend. But it will really help us. Whitty409@aol.com.



Piper Reunion-Mobile, Alabama 1997



Thought You Might Like To See This Awesome Post Card



Piper Reunion-Groton, CT 2004

Meadows of Dan, VA 24120

It would be really helpful to know in advance how many of you may be attending. Our membership number is dwindling, but we are committed to keep our reunions going as long as a handful of members are able to attend.

Lastly, as I looked at the photo albums of our reunions over the years, two things hit me hard: the Piper shipmates who have gone on eternal patrol. The faces are all familiar, but many of the names escape me. I am full of gratitude for the wonderful times we've had over the years.

Regards,

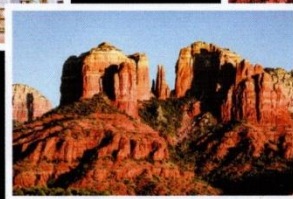
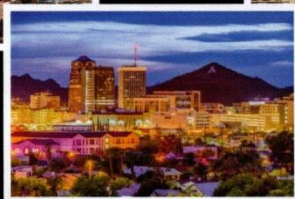
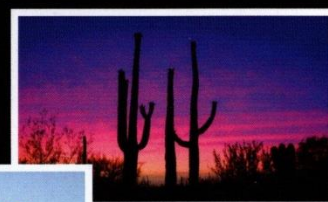
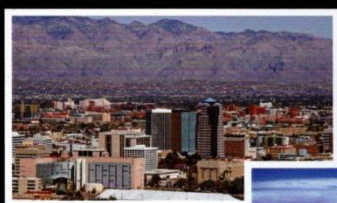
Frank

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Come to Tucson for the 2023 National Convention



USSVI Tucson Base knows the National Convention in Buffalo, New York will be successful and fun filled, As we ride off toward the sunset in New York we want you to hold the dates of **28 AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 3, 2023** for fun in the sun...

Detroit's New Sub Joins One-Ship Fleet

By EARL B. DOWDY
Detroit News Staff Writer

A replacement is en route for Detroit's one-ship submarine fleet.

It is the USS Piper (409), which left New London, Conn., Friday to be towed through the St. Lawrence Seaway to a berth at the Brodhead Naval Armory here.

Lt. Commander Robert A. Villenave, in charge of training Detroit area submarine reservists, said arrival is expected July 14.

THE PIPER, equipped with snorkel-type breathing intakes for continuous submerged operations, will replace the USS Cero, an older type which lacked such sophisticated gear.

Cero, based at Brodhead for the last eight years, is to be decommissioned from naval service and donated to the National Museum of Transportation at St. Louis.

Her last duty is expected to be filled Sunday as a floating stage for television crews during the International Freedom Festival hydroplane races in the Detroit River.

Piper, built at the Portsmouth, N.H., naval shipyard in 1944, carried out three action-packed patrols around Japan in the last year of World War II.

THERE WERE FEW major enemy ships left to torpedo then, but she helped sweep the Japanese home waters clear of radar-warning picket boats, which enabled American carrier planes to attack Tokyo by surprise.

For the next 20 years, Piper made many operational cruises to the Mediterranean and Caribbean seas and served as a training ship for the New London submarine school.

The ship was commanded at one time by now-Rear Adm.

Edward L. Beach, a best-selling author of sea books such as "Run Silent, Run Deep" and "Around the World Submerged: The Voyage of the Triton."

PIPER IN 1961 became the first snorkel-equipped submarine to log its ten thousandth dive, and in 1963 was visited at Monaco by Princess Grace and her children.

As with Cero, visitors will be invited to go aboard Piper at her berth here when not engaged in reserve training activities, Villenave said.

5 Radium Needles Found; 10 Still Lost

NEW YORK—(AP)—Five of 15 dangerous radium needles lost in a transcontinental shipment have been recovered in San Diego and New York, a city health official said Saturday.

Hanson Blatz, director of the health department's office of radiation control, said four of the needles, which can cause severe radiation burns if handled, were recovered at the San Diego depot from which they were shipped to New York.

A crew from the office of radiation control here, using a Geiger counter, turned up the fifth needle shortly before 10 a.m. Saturday near the office of the Radium Chemical Co. Inc., final destination of the shipment.

Each platinum needle is three-quarters of an inch long, one-sixteenth of an inch thick and contains 100 milligrams of radium for treating cancer.

Dr. Brown said the lid of the lead shipping container had apparently not been wired tightly.

