



USS Piper (SS409)

PIPER REPORT

September 2022



Dear Shipmates:

As most of you know from the previous report, The Buffalo Base of USSVI hosted the National Convention from 21-28 August 2022. The Piper Reunion kicked off on Thursday, when my son Patrick and I checked into the Hyatt. We were able to arrange a suite, and that allowed us to have open-door hospitality room all weekend.

Tom and Charlene Kucharski rolled in about the same time, as he and I had planned. Across from the Convention Registration was a table with sign-in, loose-leaf notebooks set up by Hull Number. Opening to the "SS 409" page, I saw that Gerry Harring from the North Jersey base, Dick Fohn, and shipmate Tim Barker's names were in the book. As we were standing there, I turned around and none other than Captain Russ Preble, accompanied by his son Alan, a retired Army Colonel, had also just checked in. We adjourned to the hospitality room, and our reunion was off to a great start.





Patrick and I decided to go out for a late lunch and walked up the Main St., and only a block and a half away we came upon a Fridays aka TGIF. Great lunch-Close by!



What better place to have our reunion luncheon there the next day!



Dick Fohn, Tom Kucharski, Pat Whitty, Russ Preble, Tim Barker, Gerry Harring, Frank Whitty

The crew spent a lot of time hanging out in the hospitality room. Saturday night those who wished to attended the USSVI Dinner & Awards Ceremony. We sat with PNC Tom Conlon and the rest of the North Jersey guys. Gerry Harring recruited my son Patrick as an associate member of their base. Pat's been to a few Piper reunions and fits in well with the guys.

When I visited Crash LeBrasseur's wife, Ellen, last year, I had offered to honor his memory, at the reunion. She entrusted me with a container of his ashes, and I chose to do a burial-at-sea. Later in the day, we headed down to the Naval Park and the USS Croaker (SS246) where we honored him and other deceased Piper shipmates, including Mike Latimer, whose wife, Elease, let me know that he had passed on 19 June 2014. It was an emotional ceremony. We pray all our deceased shipmates Rest in Peace.





Please send deceased member notices and any updates of contact information to:

Mike Hubbard 6184 Jeb Stuart Hgwy. Meadows of Dan, VA 24120

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I've been trying to come up with a definitive item to celebrate our service on Piper to allow me to pass along a memento to family members, relatives, friends, and other loved ones. I know for me, I'd love to hand one to my children, grand and great-grand children, other close family members, and to dear friends and associates. So, I've done some research and decided to pursue the following choice.

We're all familiar with Challenge Coins. What better way to insure those to whom we present one, will have a an heirloom honoring our Naval Submarine Service aboard Piper.



My 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 minimum order is 50. I plan to buy 8 myself. Make nice Christmas presents too.

If we order, the coins will be shipped to me. I will then send them out. The Piper association will cover the postage, and I will send them out once they arrive. Anyhow, what's the cost? \$14.00 each.

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If you are interested in buying, let me know. The minimum order is 50. Send me the form below or an e-mail, and let me know how many you would like. Once we hit the fifty mark, I'll send you out a confirmation and you can send me the check. Make it out to USS Piper Association. Once I receive them, I will forward the checks to Mike for deposit to the account. I will be personally responsible to pay the order if we come up short. I will send you a confirmation once the order is placed.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip_____

Phone:_____ Email address:_____

I will purchase _____ Piper Coins at \$14.00 each once the minimum of 50 is committed to.

Please make checks payable to: USS Piper Association However, send checks to me, since I need to know the total number to order. I'll set up a cutoff date if we get a good response to this, so they can be delivered in time for Christmas:

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

I'm truly grateful for the help I got from my Senior Controllerman and running mate, Tom Kucharski. We were both wondering if it would come together, but it did. He was as committed as I to make sure it happened. And of course my sincere gratitude to Mike Hubbard who, despite illness that prevented him from coming to Buffalo, for his help.

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. And the wonderful times we've had over the years.

Regards,

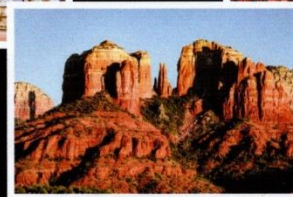
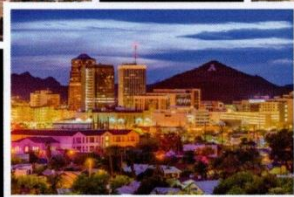
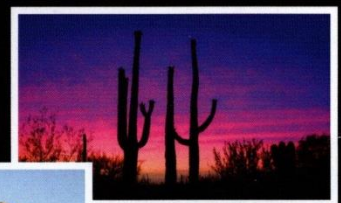
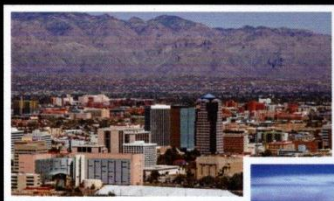
Frank

269 Plymouth St. Middleboro, MA 02346-1213 Whitty409@aol.com

PS: I've been asked. Will there be another Piper Reunion? Well, I plan to go to the next USSVI National Convention in Tucson, Arizona, so we'll have another one there. Take it a year at the time. The dates are 28 August to 3 September 2023. Let's make it happen!



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...