

Buddy Line



Newsletter of Fraternal Order of Underwater Swim School, Key West, Florida

August 2008

FO/UWSS Reunion May 14-17, 2009 Panama City, Florida

Update from Reunion Committee
Chairman, Woody Woodward

We have received official confirmation from Naval Support Activity, Panama City. The hold up has been a change of command and a few other issues. The new CO is pleased to support our request for VOQ, BEQ, (NGI&S) MWR and Galley for our Underwater Swimmer's School Reunion 14-17 MAY09.

As the Director told us during our initial facility tour, foreign nationals need to be dealt with separately. He reminded me to please remember to notify the base in advance if there will be any foreign nationals coming to the reunion as they require pre-approval due to the RD&T missions on station. To my knowledge we have none.

All of building 349 is blocked, which includes 17 VIP suites: \$37.00 per night (FY09 rate) and 30 suites: \$32.00 per night (FY09 rate). All rooms in building 349 are configured for 2 (max) adults. They all have one queen bed.

At building 484, there are 13 suites on block: \$32.00 per night (FY09 rate). These rooms will sleep 2 adults and 2 children (max). They have 1 bed with a sofa sleeper.

To make reservations at the Q's, contact Anne Sawyer: anne.sawyer@navy.mil or call (850)234-4217 or (850)234-4556. When you email/phone, please reference the Underwater Swimmer's School Reunion 14-17 MAY09 group. When making Q reservations by phone, you may not get an answer. Not a problem, just leave a message and she will get back to you within 24 hours.

The information required for making reservations includes for all: first/last name, rank, active?, retired?, how many in party?, last 4 of social, billing address for each, phone number, and credit card + expiration date for each person.

They can also accommodate campers and cabin use. Reservations should be made with the Outdoor Recreation Manager Gary Smith. gary.k.smith@navy.mil Comm 850-234-4091 FAX 850-230-7115

Questions/Comments please contact:
Bill Woodward, Ocean Systems Consulting, 3813 Lowe Street, Panama City, FL 32405, Ph: 850-785-7215, Fax:850-872-8624, Cell: 850-814-9123, NC ph: 828-644-0044

Or Bill and Sammie Garnett wagretseal@comcast.net,

The Executive Corner By Gerry Flowers with Bob Holmes

We hope this finds everyone in good health, enjoying life and keeping close to family and friends. I wanted to tell you all what effect that first UWSS reunion has had on me personally. I met many of you at the first reunion I attended in Key West and made some wonderful friends. To me, with very little reunion experience, this is the foundation that makes reunions so very important. Reconnecting with old friends and making new ones.

The same thing happened at the Fourth of July Party Bob hosts every year. Since the first get together that Don and Doc Rio pressed me to attend, I have visited several of you, so watch out what you say, I may visit.

Since the last newsletter, Bob Holmes and I have gotten together in Galveston Texas for the Gulf Coast Navy SEAL Fourth of July party. We also had an afternoon meeting regarding the 2009 UWSS reunion and discussed logo and information to be placed in the Blast, Leatherneck, Navy Times, Army Times, Air force Times and other service magazines.

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UWSS LOGO ITEMS

The following logo items are currently available. We can obtain other items if there are enough requests. Prices include shipping.

- White Beefy-T shirt..... 15.00 ea, 2 for 26.00
Large logo on back, small logo on pocket
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL
- Ash gray Beefy-T shirt..... 16.00 ea, 2 for 28.00
Large logo on back, small logo on pocket
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL
- White long sleeved T shirt 18.00 ea, 2 for 32.00
Large logo on back, small logo on front (no pocket)
Sizes S, M, L, XL
- Ash gray long sleeved T shirt 19.00 ea, 2 for 34.00
Large logo on back, small logo on front (no pocket)
Sizes S, M, L, XL
- White polo shirt, 50/50 cotton/poly.. 20.00 ea, 2 for 36.00
Small logo on pocket. Sizes M, L, XL, XXL
- Ash polo shirt, 50/50 cotton/poly..... 20.00 ea, 2 for 36.00
Small logo on pocket. Sizes M, L, XL, XXL
- Pique polo, all cotton, birch gray..... 22.00 ea, 2 for 40.00
Embroidered logo left front. (no pocket)
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL
- Coffee mug with old logo front & back 15.00
- Cap – natural with logo..... 14.00
- Baseball cap – light tan, embroidered logo 19.00
Mug or cap 3.00 less if ordered with shirt
- Embroidered Patch 7.00
- UWSS logo decal
- Transparent background 2.00
- White background 2.00
- UWSS logo lapel/tie pin..... 6.00
- UWSS plaque - Bright brass logo on blue..... 27.00
- UWSS commemorative coin..... 5.00
1 5/8" diameter, enameled brass with raised design

**Send payment with order to Don Stone,
1440 SW 5th Ave
Boca Raton, FL 33432**

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Membership August 2008 243 members

Account Balance May 2008	\$ 9,368.47
Dues	+325.00
Logo gear sales	+373.00
Buddy Line expense	-89.51
Postage	-75.30
Account Balance August 2008	\$ 9,901.66

FO/UWSS Mission

The Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School was formed in order to keep lines of communication open between personnel of the armed forces who were staff or students at the Navy Underwater Swimmers School Key West, Florida. Associate membership is open to family, friends, and others who share an interest in the goals and activities of FO/UWSS. Associate members do not have voting privileges, but are encouraged to participate in all other activities..

One of the most important reasons for our existence as an organized group is to plan for and participate in biannual reunions, which will be held at various locations to be selected by members' votes.

FO/UWSS Officers

PresidentBob Holmes
Vice President.....Gerry Flowers
Secretary/Treasurer Don Stone

The Buddy Line newsletter is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. Buddy Line editors are Don and Art Stone.

e-mail: stonefish7@cs.com

snail mail: 1440 SW 5th Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432

phone: (561) 391-6727fax: (509) 472-6492

WEBSITE: www.uwss.org

All logo items are pictured on the web site

Buddy Line by email

If you use email you may prefer receiving the email version of the Buddy Line newsletter. It is delivered to your inbox as a .pdf file for Adobe Acrobat Reader.

The benefits to you are faster delivery and **color** photos (when originals are color).

The benefits to the FO/UWSS are the savings on printing and postage for the Buddy Line mailout.

To receive the Buddy Line by email, send your request to stonefish7@cs.com.

The Executive Corner

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The party Bob and Janet host every 4th of July gave me the same comfortable feeling I was surrounded with when I first met Don and Art Stone in the lobby of the Fly Navy building while coming aboard for the 2006 meeting. Every group at our reunion has given so much to this country, you cannot be anything but proud to meet and talk to everyone. Dee Clark, Doc Clark, Aaron and his crew, Doc Rio, Don and Art, the wives, Bob Holmes, Woody, Bob Shouse, Mike Driscoll, all of you.....you folks, to numerous to name, make this get together what it has become.

Bob and Janet kept me busy the days before the party and helped me get a great feel for Galveston. Although I was a little road weary, the first night started with a private concert with the "Sister's Morales" in a small club in the heart of the old city. It was great start to what would turn out to be a busy and terrific week. I left on my motorcycle, July the 6th apparently to head back to Vancouver, B.C. in about six days. My motorcycle trip turned out to be an expedition with two weeks in El Centro, California that started with a breakdown in the desert at 116 degrees, waiting four hours for AAA to pick up me, the bike and my empty water bottles...

Now, to the business at hand: Don has advised us that the information from Woody Woodward and his team about the 2009 reunion would be printed to bring you all up to speed on their progress. Woody, we want to thank you and your guys for all your work organizing this. The package you have put together is excellent and will make this reunion another great event. I personally have never been to Panama City to have fun, just work, so I am ready.

Don notes that three new members have joined and that is great news. At the fourth of July Party, both Bob and I met for the first time, one Patrick Park, a graduate of UWSS and member of the SEAL Team. He joined immediately and gave a check to me for his dues. He is from Covington, Louisiana and is anxious to meet everyone in Panama City. Don, I will forward the check as soon as I find it. I know.....

President Bob Holmes has lined up a great speaker and barring any problems, that will happen. Here is a very brief excerpt from the email Bob received back after his request. "Dear Bob, Sorry it has taken be so long to respond. I would be honored to speak at the reunion". More details will follow and we are sure you will all be pleased with this person's experience, credentials and background.

Everyone will be happy to see and greet everyone they have not seen for a few years, you all know that. The bond you share is the bond that so many will never know. We hope to see all of you at this event.

Mark V Monument Project

Navy divers are joining together to fund an eight foot tall bronze Mark V diver to be erected at the Navy Diving and Salvage Training Center, Panama City, Florida.

Bob Barth, and the Mark V Monument Project Committee have been working in excess of two years to fund the fabrication and installation of "Jake".

"This monument is dedicated to divers from around the world who gave their life's work to underwater construction and the salvage of ships lost at sea. Their method of training and development of equipment set standards adopted by the international diving community. Their traditions will last forever."



The miniature 20 inch statuette pictured is one of 300 that will go to each of the first 300 donors of \$2000 or more. All those interested in participating in this worthy project should contact Bob Barth bob.barth@mchsi.com

Seashore Inn VQ/BH Panama City

Four Time winner of the Five Star ADM Zumwalt Award for Excellence in Bachelor Housing/Visitor Quarters Operations!



The Sea Shore Inn consists of Visitor Quarters Housing and Bachelor Housing. Our mission is to provide quality and consistent cost effective lodging service to official government travelers. We are committed to ensuring we provide the services and support needed to make your stay with us a positive experience. We want you to come see us again! The local beach areas offer a variety of attractions, leisure activities, restaurants, and shopping opportunities. You can also take advantage of the outstanding on base recreational facilities.

Visitor Quarters: The VQ gives you the convenience and comfort of home with the services of a top rated hotel, including free movie check out, exercise rooms, USA Today newspaper services, a computer resource room, laundry facilities, hot tubs, saunas, a game room and internet access. The staff is always available and willing to assist guests with prompt, courteous service and a friendly smile. Your stay is guaranteed to be a rewarding and memorable experience,

Building 349 (VOQ) is located on beautiful St. Andrews Bay and has comfortable and attractively furnished guest rooms, including spacious suites, decorated with the latest furnishings. All rooms and suites offer a color TV with VCR, DVD players, in-room Internet access, microwave, refrigerator, modern kitchenettes, and coffee service and much more.

For your relaxation, a hot tub and a sauna are also available. Use the gas grill on the sun deck or a charcoal grill at the pavilions for your barbequing enjoyment. Laundry facilities and vending areas are also available.

Building 484 is a joint use VQ/BH facility that offers lodging and billeting for both transient guests and permanent party residents.

MWR Services

The beautiful St. Andrews Bay area offers many leisure activities including boating, camping, fishing, and picnicking.

The Marina and Outdoor Recreation Center can provide all that you need to enjoy the best of the bay area. Our rental department offers 17 ft Capehorns, pontoon boats, canoes, kayaks, and waverunners.

Our two RV campgrounds offer 43 RV campsites with full hook-ups. We also offer towable campers for rent on or off site. These comfortable units sleep three or four and some include shower, gas stove and a microwave.

For real campground luxury, enjoy all the comforts of home in a campground cabin. These log cabin style units are spacious and attractive. With one bedroom, a sleeping loft, and a futon, they sleep up to six cozily. The modern well-equipped kitchens make preparing a meal or snack a breeze. Speaking of breezes, relax on the screen porch or deck and enjoy the view of the bay and the cool sea breezes.

Contact Outdoor Recreation Manager Gary Smith. gary.k.smith@navy.mil Comm 850-234-4091 FAX 850-230-7115

New Members

We welcome three new members who have joined since the last Buddy Line. They are:

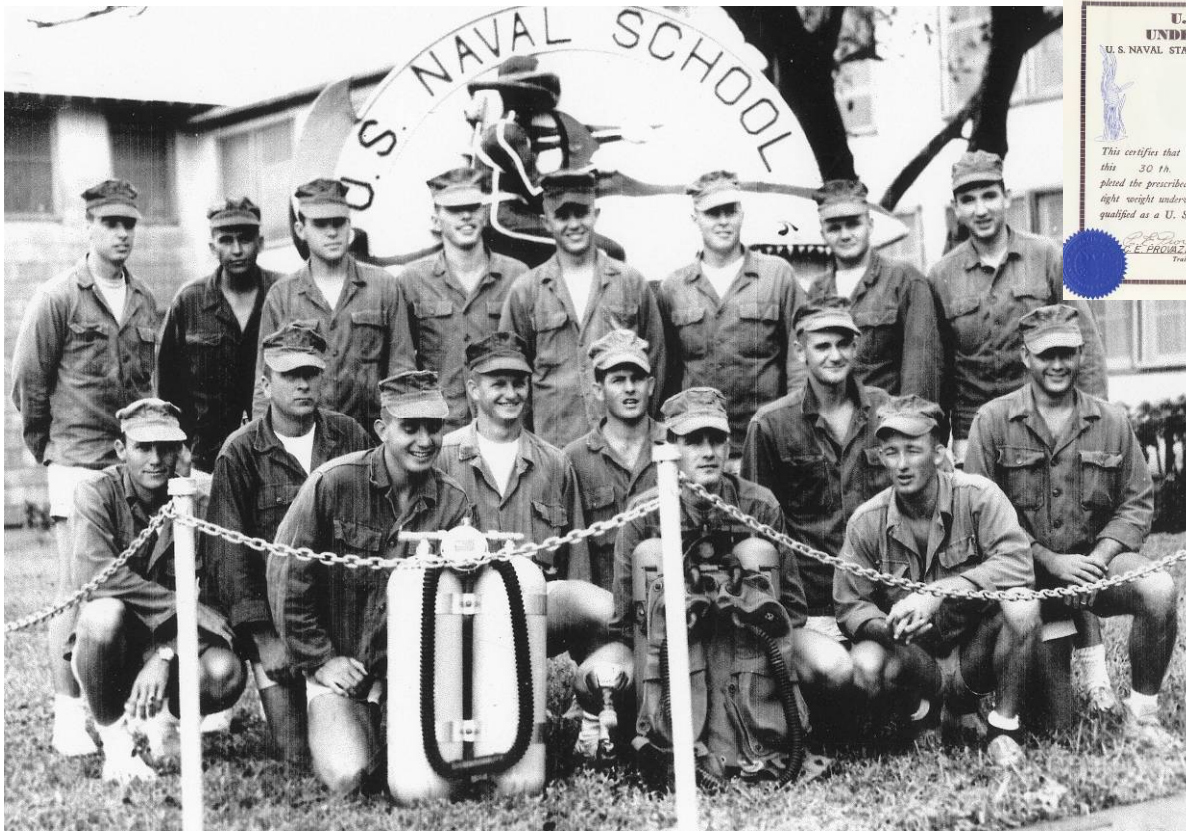
Alan K. Brown USMC, Class of 6/57
Dewitt H. "Red" Moody USN, Class 1958
Charles M. Ratliff USN, Class of 10/64 and 10/72

"Red" Moody sent this note to Don:

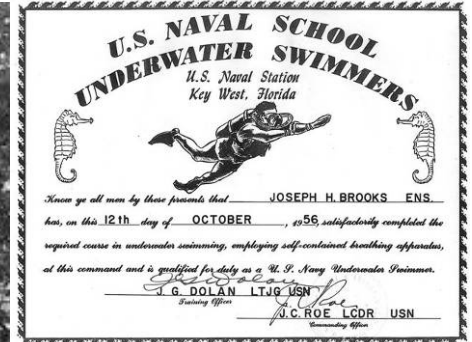
Was in San Diego earlier this month for the Navy & Marine Corps EOD Association 2008 Reunion. Was a great get together and saw many old shipmates. John "Pinkie" Pinkiewicz was there and later sent me several of your newsletters and an application. Was pleasantly surprised to see our UWSS Class Picture. Wow, what a shock to suddenly realize that was 50 years ago. I remember it was cold as a witches tit. I was fortunate in that I had an old patched up and repaired numerous times, 1/8 inch wet suit. I'm sure you recall we made our own in those days. Couldn't afford the store bought models and the Navy had not accepted wet suits yet.

In any event, I am indebted to "Pinkie" for getting me the info and thank you for shepharding the FOUWSS along. Looks like a great group and if I'm still stroking and gliding hope to see you in P/C next year.

Charles Ratliff sent his graduation certificate and class photo. See photo on page 5



Class of October 1964. Photo from new member Charles Ratliff



Class of October 1956 Photo from Joseph Brooks

Membership Application Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School

Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Wife's Name: _____ Buddy Line Newsletter by email _____ or snail mail _____

Branch of Service: _____ Dates of Service: _____

Dates & Class # at UWSS: _____ or Associate Membership: _____

Send copy of class picture if you have one. 2 Year Membership \$25.00

Make check payable to UWSS and mail to Don Stone, Treasurer, 1440 SW 5th Ave, Boca Raton, FL 33432

The Way It Was



Soon after Dave Byers completed the shark with rider, it was displayed at the Monroe County Fair where it won first place ribbons. Dave proudly displayed the ribbons on the tail of the shark when it was mounted in front of the school.

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