

# Buddy Line



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

August 2009

## Editors Corner by Don & Art Stone

We have another new item in the logo shop. Jerry Padrta models the short sleeve denim shirt with embroidered UWSS logo on the left front above the pocket. This has been added to the logo gear line in answer to requests from several members. It is available in sizes M, L, XL, & XXL. See logo gear listing on page 2.



Jerry has been busy since the reunion. In addition to modeling, he has been checking on venues in Branson for the 2011 reunion and working with his committee to find the best solution for us. Thanks, Jerry.

We have gained quite a few new members this year, partly because of the popularity of the Panama City Beach reunion location and the change in membership qualification to include all military trained divers.

We welcomed the following new members at the reunion: Thomas Brandt-USN, Mark Bryant-USN, Lowell "Bo" Burwell-USN, Larry Chime-USN, Chris Chime-USN active duty, Randy Getman-USN, Stephen Henry-USN, Raymond Hوجلund-USN, Thomas Holmes-USN, Paul Johnson-USN, Andrew Kochie-USN, Bill Langley-USN, Virie Meyerholz-USN, Dean Palmer-USN, James Phelps-USAF, and Don Tatterson -USN.

Additionally, we have four more new members who have joined the organization since the reunion.

Welcome aboard to Greg Jacoway-USN, Richard Eselgroth Jr-USAF, Peter Brown-USN, and Monique Skewes-USN (pictured at left).



## Mystery Solved

The mysterious disappearance of the shark rider cake topper has been solved. When the liberators discovered it was wanted, they took it to Aaron Farrior for safe keeping. If it can survive the Florida weather, we will see it again at the 2011 reunion.



## New Photo Album on uwss.org

A screenshot of a photo album interface. At the top, there is a blue banner with the text "FRATERNAL ORDER UNDERWATER SWIMMER'S SCHOOL KEY WEST, FLORIDA REUNION -2009" and a circular logo on the left. Below the banner is a large photo of five men standing together in a bar setting. At the bottom of the album view, there are several small thumbnail images and control buttons labeled "Play Slideshow", "Audio Off", and "Show Albums".

These photos can be saved to your computer, by clicking on the main image it will open up in a new window. By right clicking on that image you can save it to your computer. If the new window don't open turn off your pop up blocker. (Photo Gallery Designed by UWSS Member Paul Johnson Staff 63-64).

Graphic designer Paul Johnson, new FO/UWSS member, has created a photo album for us with photos from the 2009 reunion. Check it out at uwss.org - click on the new Photo Album button.

**UWSS LOGO ITEMS**



**All prices include shipping.**

Beefy-T t-shirt ..... 18.00 ea, 2 for 32.00  
 white or ash gray,  
 large logo on back, small logo on pocket  
 Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL\*

Long sleeved t-shirt..... 20.00 ea, 2 for 36.00  
 white or ash gray, large logo on back,  
 small logo on front (no pocket)  
 Sizes S, M, L, XL,XXL\*

Polo shirt 50/50 cotton/poly ..... 20.00 ea, 2 for 36.00  
 white or ash gray, small logo on pocket.  
 Sizes M, L, XL, XXL\*

Pique polo all cotton..... 22.00 ea, 2 for 40.00  
 birch gray, embroidered logo left front  
 (no pocket)  
 Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL\*

**New!**

Blue denim shirt, short sleeves..... 30.00 ea, 2 for 56.00  
 embroidered logo above pocket  
 Sizes M, L, XL, XXL\*

**\*All shirts size XXL add \$2.00 ea**

Cap – natural with logo..... 14.00

Baseball cap –tan or blue, embroidered logo.....20.00  
**Cap 3.00 less if ordered with shirt**

Embroidered Patch ..... 7.00

UWSS logo decal .....2.00  
 transparent or white background

UWSS plaque - Bright brass logo on blue.....35.00

UWSS commemorative coin.....7.00  
 enameled brass with raised design  
 1 5/8" diameter

Key Chain with enameled logo medallion .....7.00

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

**Secretary/Treasurer's Report**

Membership August 2009 267 members

Account Balance May 2009	\$12,428.51
Dues	+260.00
Logo gear sales	+993.00
Buddy Line printing expense	-132.16
Postage	-72.94
Web expense	-23.94
Logo gear expense	-947.42
Account Balance August 2009	12,505.05

**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. Membership is open to all U.S. military trained scuba divers. Family, friends, and others who share an interest in the goals and activities of FO/UWSS are welcomed as associate members.

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**

President .....Bob 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: [stonefish8@gmail.com](mailto:stonefish8@gmail.com)

snail mail: 1440 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432

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

**WEBSITE:** [www.uwss.org](http://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 mail out.

To receive the Buddy Line by email, send your request to [stonefish8@gmail.com](mailto:stonefish8@gmail.com).

## A Son's Quest

Last February buddyline@uwss.org received the following email from Ted Eckert of Richmond, Virginia.

*Sir: I visited the UWSS Website today and found my father's photo in the August 2001 edition of the Buddyline. My father was Chief John G. Eckert, class date is May 19, 1961. He is kneeling with the hard hat in front row of the class photo submitted by Chris Seger. I have the very same photo hanging in my house.*



*John Eckert died in 1981 and is buried at Arlington National. I think he would have gotten a big kick getting together with some of his UWSS buds. He went on to finish EOD school in Indian Head, served a couple years in EODU-1 in Hawaii, and finished up at Lake Mead Naval Base, Las Vegas where he retired. He was pretty old school*

*Navy till the end of his days. Please pass on my very best wishes to all my Dad's classmates and to all the old Navy divers. We will not see the likes of them again.*

Don Stone shared Ted's email with Chris Seger and Chris and Don exchanged several emails with Ted, sharing memories of UWSS school days, as Ted shared more about John Eckert's life and family.

*Ted wrote, We were all very little in 1961 but I recall Dad coming home all brown from the sun and the stories of the school. Mostly I recall him talking about the friends and connections he made while going through the school and some of the funnier events. There was a story about the group out jogging and needing to post guards so certain members wouldn't "drop out" at the bars. Dad taught us all the basics of SCUBA in Hawaii although only my sister and I ended up getting certified later in life. My siblings and I all appreciate*

*the contact and memories connected to the UWSS and Dad's buds in EOD and the Navy.*

*I'd like one of the UWSS coins to place on Dad's stone in Arlington. I'd also like an embroidered cap which I'd wear with pride. I'm good with wearing Navy stuff even though I ended up in Vietnam in 1969-70 as a Marine. See, the acorn really didn't fall that far from the tree.*



*I want to thank you for the UWSS connection to my father. It has meant a great deal to me and John Eckert's family as a whole. His 3 surviving sisters traveled from CA and NC to join me and Mary (my wife) to visit Arlington. I left the medallion at the stone, pushing it into the ground below the name and dates. It was a very moving event and I cannot thank you enough for making this possible.*

## Farewell Jack Bennett

UWSS member Jack Bennett lost his battle with cancer August 23, 2009. Aaron Farris sends these memories of his friend.

As I sit here and think about when Jack and I went to UWSS Key West...many memories have come to me..this was in Aug-Sept 1962...At one point I never thought he would make it.. on a Night Scuba Swim Jack and his swim buddy took a 180 wrong compass heading as soon as they left the boat...A boat stayed with them as they headed for Cuba.. They swam til they ran out of air....When they came up they were told to turn around and swim all the way back to the beach with tanks on the surface....He wouldn't quit..That wasn't his style We graduated together...

In the 15 years that followed we were team mates in the Air Rescue service...Jack was one of the first PJ'S to fly Rescue in combat in Viet Nam aboard the HH-43 Helio....He received many decorations for participating in rescuing American Pilots from Laos and North Viet Nam...He is survived by his lovely wife Patty...He will be greatly missed.

More photos from the 2009 Reunion



Tribon, Chesnutt, Moody



Reider, Gordon



Flowers, Stone, Holmes



Gleason



Warman



Stephensen, Clark, Hammerle, Poulnot



1956 class photo from Rudy Enders



Class of 6/56 photo from Gene Sheridan



Class 66-5 photo from Kenhi Drewes

## Membership Application Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Military scuba training place/date \_\_\_\_\_ or Associate Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### The Way It Was

Cast and Recovery was a technique originated by UDT during WWII, first used at the invasion of Iwo Jima, and taught at UWSS.

In this early UWSS photo the swimmers are being recovered by a team member equipped with a looped sling.

In a combat situation, if the swimmer missed the sling or couldn't get on the IBS fast enough, he could mess the pickup for the remaining men in the line of swimmers and the boat might not be able to safely make a second run.



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