

# Buddy Line



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

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August 2011

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## The Executive Corner by Gerry Flowers with Bob Holmes

Hi everyone, I hope this finds all of you well and enjoying your life. When the last "Buddy Line" was published, both Bob and I had a piece ready, however during the editing and emailing, it was late and not able to make press time. For that, I apologize.

We spoke about the cruise, the fun we had and the new members that came on board and the things that happened without planning afterwards. At our annual meeting, the location of the next reunion was set and an



extra day was added to the program. Everyone present felt that the cruise was a success and a fun change but in order to be a great success and achieve the numbers we should have, we need a location that appeals to absolutely everyone. It has to be somewhere everyone likes to go and fit into a budget. Everyone at the meeting agreed, cruising is great, but we want to see you all.

As you are aware, the next get together in 2013 will again be in Panama City, Florida. I believe that details

are being hammered out already. Also, it was discussed and decided that it will be one day longer with the hopes that a tour can be arranged for the museum in Pensacola. This of course will mean a little planning and a lot of input from you folks. Woody and the crew turned out a wonderful reunion in 2009 and with that home run, 2013 has all the ingredients to be another outstanding get together. More details will follow on this.

The May UWSS 2013 reunion is approximately 20 months down the road. It may seem like a long time, but it will be on us before we know it. I hope that we can use this time wisely to come up with a program that will appeal to everyone. Maybe some golf, maybe a bus tour to Pensacola to visit the aviation museum and for sure, good food, good beverages, good friends with common bonds.

I have to again thank Don and Art and of course, Jerry and Judy for all they did making our cruise a success. Judy and Jerry went over the top, hosting Terry and I for two days, post reunion at their home in Fort Pierce including taking us to the UDT / SEAL museum as well as several of their favorite haunts. This did incidentally, include a major biker bar.

After that, we took the time to go to Disney World and pretend we were kids again. After Disney World and on the way to Miami, we had the opportunity to visit with Don and Art at their home in Boca Raton. We had a great lunch and tour of their home. We were not allowed to leave until we had a bag of Logo gear and the money was tallied up. For us, it was a jam packed trip and I truly believe that we could be invited back again. Judy and Jerry said the jury was still out on that and that they would give it some thought.

The bottom line when having a successful get together is input and advice from everyone. These things do not just happen, although before I got involved, I did think that. So, the venue is set and everyone is happy with that part of the plan. Give us some input and let us make the 2013 get together the best ever. Do not lose that travel bug.

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## 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*	
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 – blue, embroidered logo.....	20.00
<b>Cap 3.00 less if ordered with shirt</b>	
Mug-old logo front, UWSS back, hand wash.....	10.00
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
Tote Bag, zipper top, blue and black, white logo.....	12.00

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

*All logo items are pictured on the web site*

## Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Membership August 2011	265 members
Account Balance May 2011	12,068.23
Dues	+1,060.00
Logo gear sales	+304.00
Buddy Line printing	-81.31
Postage	-109.80
Logo gear expense	-244.18
Web site expense	-29.94
Account Balance August 2011	12,967.00

## 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 are held at various locations 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.

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

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

## Buddy Line by 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).

**Dues** (\$25.00 for 2 years) are payable in May of odd numbered years. Your paid thru date can be found on your label or in the Buddy Line delivery email.

## Editors Corner by Don Stone



Seal Team Two alumni – taken July 13, 2011 at the ST2 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

The Seal Team Two 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and UDT-Seal Reunion that we recently attended was outstanding. Active duty ST2 personnel and Spec War Command provided a memorable celebration for the ST2 family, which certainly has grown from the original 25-50 man compliment. The event included open house, modern fighting equipment display, cookout, special logo gear, RIB rides, banquet, and more. It was wonderful to meet and celebrate with old team mates and buddies. We spotted several UWSS members there: Dante Stephensen, Bob Clark and Dee, Rudy Boesch, Bill Bruhmuller and Bette, Bernie Campbell, Lenny Waugh and Binnie, George Wascovich, Bob Shouse and Rosalie, Wally Westphal, "Doc Rio" Riojas and Lulu, Peter Blair, Tom Brechtel, Andy Anderson, and Bill Garnet and Sammie.

Unfortunately we are constantly losing many of our great people. The most recent was Jim Tipton who passed away on July 11, 2011. Tip was an outstanding and much decorated Seal operator who, while on active duty, also served as the first President of the Seal-UDT Association and currently was on the board of directors.

After retirement he continued his professional career as a magistrate for the City of Virginia Beach court system. He is survived by his wife, Judith, four children and five grandchildren. A memorial service was held July 18<sup>th</sup> at the Little Creek Base Chapel.

Sadly, we have to report the passing of three more UWSS members.

### Joseph D. Shray

We recently learned of the passing of UWSS member Joseph D. Shray of Virginia Beach on January 22, 2007. He was a veteran of World War II and Korean War while serving 20 years in the U.S. Navy, until 1965 in the Naval Combat Demolition Unit. He then was employed by Norfolk Naval Shipyard for 20 years as a ship fitter. He was survived by his wife, Elaine, three daughters and three sons, eleven grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

### Lenote M. Vigare

Chief Master Sgt. (Ret.) Lenote M. Vigare of Fort Walton Beach, Fla., passed away on May 20, 2011. "Joe" or

"Len" to his friends and family, he was born Aug. 22, 1930, in Monterey Park, California, and grew up in San Gabriel, Calif. As a teenager he enjoyed racing around town in his hotrod and working on cars (he continued to work on cars throughout his adult life).

He joined the U.S. Air Force in 1947. In 1957, he attended U.S. Army jump school and U.S. Navy combat divers course, and became an Air Force pararescueman or "PJ." He served tours in Alaska, Korea, Hawaii, Guam, Scott Air Force Base, and two in Vietnam. He was the commandant of the Pararescue School while it was at Eglin and Chief of the Wing before he retired.

He earned numerous awards and decorations, as well as being the MAC Airman of the Year for 1961, nominated twice for Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, and member of the Air Force Primus Club, along with astronauts Grissom and White.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, a daughter, two sons, a granddaughter and his three best friends, Mochie, Lady and Trouble, of the Vigare household.

### Peter Anton "Swede" Rundquist

Peter Anton 'Swede' Rundquist of Orlando died April 11 at ORMC. He was born August 2, 1930 in San Antonio, TX and grew up in Panama, Ft. Reilly and Kelly Field in San Antonio where his father was base commander. He married Anna Laverne Williams in 1956. She preceded him in death in 2006.

Swede enlisted in the USAF in 1948 and became an aircraft mechanic. He attended OTS and was commissioned a 2nd Lt., then served as a flight engineer on B-17s and as a navigator and RADAR intercept officer in F-89Js and F-101s in Alaska and the Dakotas for NORAD. He had a pivotal role in USAF Pararescue. He helped organize the recovery of Apollo command modules and train rescue forces during the Vietnam War. He retired as a major in 1970 after 22 years of service.

Swede cared deeply for his family and was a role model and inspiration for his children and taught them a love of adventure. He is survived by two sons, a daughter and five grandchildren.



Class of November 1962 from Joe Mares

Front row: Mares, Rich, Santabar, Bain, Stacey, Hardy, Lund, Bartleson

Second row: Cook, Miller, Armstrong, Fornes, Pessetto, Kincaid, Keich, Lanier, Thomas, Instructor Crowell

Third row: Instructor Crutchfield, Hager?, Haman, Roebuck, Coupland, Wilson, Reinhardson, Thompson



Class of July 1962 from Mike McDowell.

First Row: Patin, Sybrant, McGill, Ramos, Orr

Second row: Sanders, Pendry, Armansec, King, Goad, Navin, Brale, McDowell

Third row: Erdman, Heinz, Simmons, Sheldon, Azevedo,

## The Executive Corner

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Having said that, Right now, I am in Charleston, West Virginia, pecking this out in a hotel room while I ride my motorcycle around this beautiful country we call the United States. Larry and I left from Vancouver, British Columbia on the 9th of July and I have traveled over four thousand miles to get here, poised to ride the "Dragon's Tail" in "Deal's gap", North Carolina. I will then be heading to Brunswick, Georgia and across the bottom of the U.S. to eventually hit Laguna Beach.

Traveling around is good for the soul, seeing other veterans you know, makes it even better. Reunions happen for many reasons. You all know what they are. A common bond has been shared by everyone that has signed their name and raised their hand. The majority of you have given your life to supporting and protecting this country and those bonds are the bonds that last. Please find a friend that attended the UWSS and tell them what we are up to.

I spoke with Don and Art two nights ago and promised I would get this done and make the deadline. It is so important for us to keep in touch. Many of you have just returned from the 50th Anniversary Celebration of SEAL Team 2 in Little Creek, Virginia. From plank owners to

new operators, I know it was something you were all so very proud to be a part of. President Bob Holmes is in Honduras on Cayos Cochinos, Don and Art are getting ready to go to Tibet and Larry and I are climbing on the motorcycles at around 0800 tomorrow to try and get our adrenaline pumping. Try to conjure up the feeling you had when you saw the Presentation of the Flag Folding Ceremony in 2009, then think about how good that cake looked with that shark and diver. Plan on being there, we will be glad to see you. Planning and then actually traveling around to see old friends and shipmates is a wonderful and cathartic thing to do, so please think about coming to Panama City in 2013 and start planning now. See you then.

Bob Holmes, President,  
Gerry Flowers, Vice President

### Welcome New Members

Joined FO/UWSS since the last Buddy Line :

James H. Houle of Lecanto, Florida  
USN 63-67 UWSS February 1964

Joe N. Maares of Belen, New Mexico  
USN 56-82 EOD UWSS November 1962

Norman E, Skipper of Jacksonville, Florida  
USN 65-68 USNR 70-97 UWSS June 1968



Class ?/1959 from Hayslip. Dick Tappey is class proctor. Can you identify others?

## 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



This old photo shows an instructor escorting a small group of students back to the UWSS building. These guys have probably just completed a make-up swim.

The twin 70 cubic foot steel scuba tanks and the 2 hose regulators plus the picture on the UWSS sign date the photo between 1958 and 1961. The instructor carries duck feet fins, face mask and UDT life vest.

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