

# Buddy Line<sup>®</sup>



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Newsletter of Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School, Key West, Florida  
August 2017

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## The Vote Is In!

Ballots and emails were sent out to over two hundred members giving them the opportunity to vote for the future direction of the Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School (FO/UWSS).

They voted by mail, by email, and on the web site, selecting from these two choices: 1. Membership limited to former staff and students of UWSS Key West (limited) and 2. Membership open to all military trained divers (open).

Eighty five members voted. Forty two voted for "open to all military divers" and forty three voted for "limited to UWSS grads and staff"

Although by this vote we have again become a "limited" organization, all current members are grandfathered in to full membership participation.

One of the best outcomes of the voting procedure is that ten members have volunteered to do the work needed to keep this organization going. They are David Byers, Raymond Hoglund, Donald Collins, James Houle, Joe Mares, Charles Thomas, Dave Gholson, Terry Farmer, Jack Hill and Ken Recoy.

The jobs they will be doing include President, Vice President, Secretary/treasurer, Buddy Line publisher, Logo gear manager, and Reunion chair. Logo gear manager was the most popular job but three of the volunteers said they would serve wherever needed. It is obvious that FO/UWSS is not ready to fade away !

The current executive board will work with the volunteers to match people with jobs. Three of the

jobs are elected positions and three are not. Nominees selected for president, vice president and secretary/treasurer will be voted on at the reunion business meeting. All will have an opportunity to learn from the current office holders to prepare for the position they will be filling.

## Key West in 2018

Reunion chairman, Dave Gholson, has arranged for our next reunion to be held in May 2018 in Key West. He is checking on the dates of other organizations' meetings that some of our members attend so he can choose the best date for ours.



The dates Dave is currently working with are May 16-18 and May 23-25 with lodging at the Gateway Inn, frequently called the Fly Navy building. Much depends on the operational schedule for NAS also as the Gateway is the place for quartering temp personnel. The exact date of our reunion should be available in about a month and will be published in the November Buddy Line so you can start making your travel plans.

**UWSS LOGO ITEMS**



**All prices include shipping.**

- Beefy-T t-shirt.....25.00 ea  
white or ash gray, large logo back, small logo pocket  
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL\*
- Long sleeved t-shirt.....28.00 ea  
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.....28.00 ea  
white or ash gray, small logo on pocket.  
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL\*
- Pique polo all cotton.....29.00 ea  
birch gray, embroidered logo left front ,(no pocket)  
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL\*
- Blue denim shirt, short sleeves .....38.00 ea  
embroidered logo above pocket  
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL\*
- \*All shirts size XXL add \$2.00 ea**
- Cap – natural with logo .....20.00 ea
- Baseball cap – blue, embroidered logo.....30.00 ea  
**Cap 3.00 less if ordered with shirt**
- Embroidered Patch ..... 12.00 ea
- UWSS logo decal – transparent or white .....3.00 ea
- UWSS Plaque – bright brass on blue .....60.00 ea
- UWSS commemorative coin ..... 12.00 ea  
enameled brass, raised design, 1 5/8 inch diameter
- UWSS all-service commemorative coin ..... 15.00 ea  
enameled brass, raised design, 2 inch diameter
- Key Chain with enameled logo medallion ..... 10.00 ea

**Make check to FO/UWSS**

**Send with order to Bob Shouse Jr., Treasurer  
274 Boca Ciega Point Blvd N.  
St Petersburg, FL 33708**

Questions? e-mail: [stonefish8@gmail.com](mailto:stonefish8@gmail.com)  
or phone (561) 391-6727

*All logo items are pictured on the web site*

**Secretary/Treasurer’s Report**

Membership August 31, 2017	
Members in database	207
Members in good standing	99
Account Balance May 31,2017	\$12,413.14
Dues	+1,160.23
Logo Gear Sales	+544.02
Reunion Refund	+100.00
Logo Gear Purchase	-302.81
Logo Gear Postage	-143.32
Postage	-99.75
Buddy Line Printing & Mailing	-322.85
Misc Business Expense	-55.00
Account Balance August 31,2017	\$13,293.66

**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 U.S. Naval Underwater Swimmers School Key West, Florida from 1954 to1973.

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 Bureker
  - Vice President..... Dave Byers
  - Secretary/Treasurer ..... Bob Shouse Jr
- The Buddy Line newsletter is published quarterly in February, May, August and November.  
Buddy Line editors are Don and Art Stone.  
e-mail: [buddyline@uwss.org](mailto:buddyline@uwss.org) phone: (561) 391-6727  
snail mail: 1440 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432

**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 [buddyline@uwss.org](mailto:buddyline@uwss.org).

**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. Make check to FO/UWSS and send to Bob Shouse Jr., 274 Boca Ciega Point Blvd N., St Petersburg, FL 33708.

# The Executive Corner

Bob Bureker, President

We had a great time this weekend in San Diego at the EOD Group One Summer Beach Party. The Navy EOD Association sponsored the event and we signed up eight new members. It is a long drive for us but fantastic views of granite mountains and very dry deserts. It is a little hard to come from 74° in San Diego to 111° in Phoenix however, travel with plenty of fresh water and a good A/C in the vehicle is not so bad.

I am proud to report that your hard working UWSS team has come up with a vote for the future of FO/UWSS. We wanted to make sure that all members would get a chance to vote and the best way we could manage that was an online vote page and mail in votes from the Buddy Line mailing. The vote was truly a squeaker close vote. However, it is "limit the membership to staff and graduates of the school" that prevailed.

We also need members to step up and help with officer positions, Buddy Line, and store operation. We did have a few that would like to help with duties of the UWSS jobs and we will be contacting them in person.

The reunion meeting "2017 San Diego" proposed that Key West be the reunion point for spring 2018. That may be the last reunion meeting for some members to attend in person due to the age and physical condition of many of our members. The turnout for San Diego was poor and many of the reports I had were from members that could not travel due to physical limitations.

Our Reunion Director Dave Gholson has the situation in Key West well in hand using the facilities of the base housing and Chief's Club and we will be publishing a date and details as soon as we check with other groups about their meeting dates so we don't book too close together with other reunions or meetings. I will be stepping down at the next Reunion and we need a new president. I will remain for MailChimp, webmaster and anything else I can assist with but this is it for president.

## Are your dues up to date?

How can you tell if your dues are up to date? If you get your Buddy Line by snail mail, you can find your paid-to date in the lower right corner of the address label. If you get your Buddy Line by email, the delivery email will tell you your paid-to date. Current dues are for the period May 2017 to May 2019. If your paid-to date is less than 2019, you should pay your dues now. Dues are \$25.00 for two years. Make check to **FO/UWSS** and mail to **Bob Shouse Jr, 274 Boca Ciega Point Blvd N., St. Petersburg, FL 33708-2738**

## Story Time

First person stories from the members about their UWSS experiences are what make the Buddy Line fun to read. But none have been received lately, so you get the Dive Summary Sheet again to jog your memory. You can't read this without being flooded with memories. Now just write them down and share them.

DATE	DEPTH	TIME	EVOLUTION	EVOLUTION	INSTR. SYMBOL
4-7-66	15ft	17min	OPEN/CIRCUIT 500 YD. SCUBA	SWIM TIME	
4-19-66	15'	17min	750 YD 9% SCUBA	COMPASS ACCURACY SWIM	
4-20-66	30'	28min	1000 YD 9% SCUBA	TIME SWIM	
4-20-66	30'	28min	750 YD 9% SCUBA	TIME SWIM	
4-21-66	60'	0min	60 FOOT DNE 9% SCUBA		
4-22-66	40'	20min	9% SHIP'S BOTTOM AND CIRCLE LINE SEARCH		
4-22-66	40'	10min	9% HARBOR PRACTICAL		
4-25-66	130'	10min	9% 130' QUALIFICATION DIVE		
4-26-66	30'	35min	9% 1500 YD SWIM		
4-27-66	30'	20min	PLANE BOARD AND CLUMP LINE SEARCH 9% SCUBA		
4-27-66	30'	10min	COMPASS LINE SEARCH 9% SCUBA		
4-29-66	15'	25min	800 YD COMPASS ACCURACY SWIM 9% SCUBA		
5-3-66	35'	9min	JACK BROWN MASK HARBOR BOTTOM SEARCH		
5-4-66	35'	20min	JACK BROWN MASK 1-MAN FLANGE PROBLEM		
5-5-66	35'	27min	JACK BROWN MASK "SHIP'S FITZGERALD'S NIGHTMARE" PROBLEM		
5-6-66	35'	31min	JACK BROWN MASK 2-MAN FLANGE PROBLEM		
5-11-66	15'	15min	MARK III 500 YD. COMPASS ACCURACY SWIM		
5-12-66	15'	20min	MARK III 750 YD COMPASS ACCURACY SWIM		
5-16-66	15'	10min	MARK III HAND HELD SONAR PRACTICE		
5-16-66	15'	30min	MARK III HAND HELD SONAR PRACTICE		
5-17-66	15'	30min	9% HAND HELD SONAR PRACTICE		
5-18-66	15'	30min	9% HAND HELD SONAR PRACTICE		
5-19-66	60'	20min	MARK III 60 FT. QUALIFICATION DIVE CIRCLE LINE		
5-24-66	150'	10min	MARK III 150 FT. QUALIFICATION DIVE. CIRCLE LINE		
NAME (LAST) (FIRST) (MIDDLE) BILL NUMBER NAT					
SIMONSON MERLIN DAVID			700164		ENS

**New Member Application**  
**Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School**

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

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City St Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Bring copy of class picture if you have one.      2 Year Membership of \$25.00 is included in reunion registration fee.



**1882**

**Welcome new members**

Michael E. Armstrong, Orlando, FL  
USMC 72-75, UWSS 72-75

Larry S. Hart, Ozark, AL  
USN 51-73, UWSS 1966

Stephen Wright Neill, Hayes, VA  
USN 65-94, UWSS 1969 EOD

Willis "Ray" Chapman, Argyle, TX  
USMC 64-68, UWSS 11/66

Brian Floyd Alward, Cambridge, MA  
USMC 59-65

Pat Glen Martin, Virginia Beach, VA  
USN 54-77, UDT 21, SEAL Team 2

Pedro Guillermo Leal, Mount Juliet, TN  
USN 59-79, UWSS 1961

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Boca Raton, FL 33432