

Buddy Line



Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School, Key West, Florida

DESTINATION: KEY WEST!



The next reunion for the Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School will be at the Fly Navy Building in Key West, Florida, May 14-17, 2020

**Fraternal Order of
Underwater Swimmers
School Officers**



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*The BuddyLine newsletter
is published quarterly in
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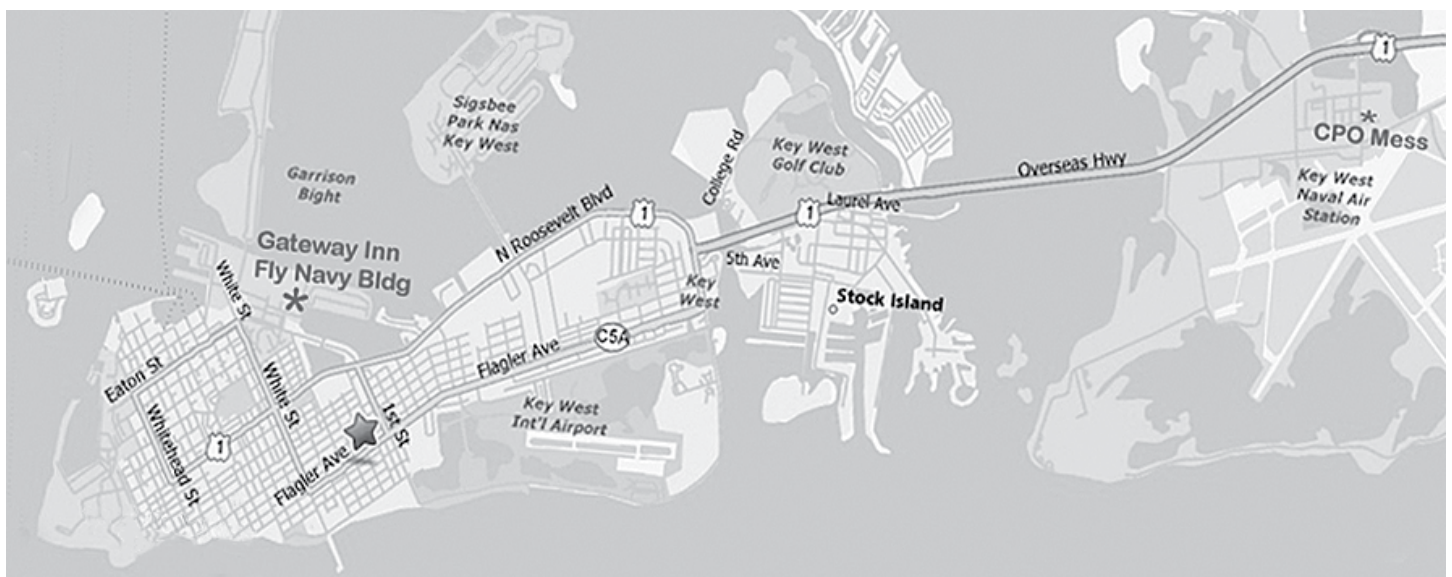
Key West is calling us back once more to the place where our UWSS memories were made. This place, a long ways from just about anywhere, still draws former students of US Naval School Underwater Swimmers to celebrate, with classmates and instructors, the few weeks spent here making some of the best memories of their lives. Your reunion committee has worked hard to make this reunion more fun for everyone, to include wives and guests in more activities, and to send you home closer friends with each other.

Security is tight on the bases so it is important that any reunion attendee who does not have an active duty or retired ID card include the requested ID information on the Reunion Registration so you can be added to a gate list for access to bases. Otherwise you will be refused entry or have a long wait while security tries to find someone who can come to the gate in person and vouch for you. IDs for non military must comply with the REAL ID

Act see <https://upgradedpoints.com/real-id-act> for more information. Your Reunion Registration is included in this BuddyLine issue, page 5.

When you arrive in Key West, head for the Fly Navy Building to register for your accommodations. Then head over to the Chief Petty Officers Club at Boca Chica to sign in for the reunion, pick up your member goody bag, browse the logo store, and enjoy the Ice Breaker for food, refreshments and socializing.

You won't want to miss the Snorkel Reef Trip Friday morning. Don't want to snorkel? Just call it a boat ride to the reef and enjoy the breeze, the motion of the boat, the smell of the sea. And don't forget the refreshments. Lunch is BBQ at the Boca Chica CPO Club and we'll top off the day with a Sunset Champagne Sail. We'll get to work Saturday morning with the business meeting and celebrate a Grand Banquet finale in the evening. Full reunion schedule on page 4.





UWSS REUNION 2020

May 14 to 17, 2020

*Gateway Inn - Trumbo Annex NAS, Key West, Florida
Fly Navy Building*

date	time	activity	cost
Thursday, May 14	1600- 1900	ICE BREAKER: At the Chief Petty Officers Club, Boca Chica NAS. Registration, tropical spread buffet, open bar, Logo Store - stay and socialize as long as you wish	included
Friday, May 15	0900- 1230	SNORKEL REEF TRIP: Sail to Sebage reef at Sand Key for snorkeling or just boat ride, refreshments and gear provided	\$62.43 (MWR \$33.00)
	1330	BBQ: Boca Chica CPO Club	included
	1830- 2030	SUNSET CHAMPAGNE SAIL: Appledore Sunset Cruise in the Gulf, refreshments provided	\$78.32 (MWR \$45.00)
Saturday, May 16	1000- 1130	GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING: Election of officers and other business	
	1300- 1430	Conch Train Tour: Mallory Square, get off when you like	\$31.46 (MWR \$15.75)
	1700- 2100	GRAND BANQUET: Fly Navy Building	included

(\$100 for members and \$80 for guests)

Hotel Reservation for Fly Navy Building: 305-851-5780 ext 3

Identify yourself as UWSS member (group #3311308841) with arrival & departure dates.

Rates: rooms \$90/night, suites \$125/night

(Note: Civilians (no active duty or retire ID card) must be pre-register with base security.)



UWSS Reunion 2020 Registration

Member Name	Name on Badge	
Email	Cell #	I have a DOD ID <input type="checkbox"/>

If you do not have a DOD ID, you will need a State ID that complies with the REAL ID Act. Please fill out the following information:

Full Name	ID #	State
-----------	------	-------

Guest Name	Name on Badge	
		I have a DOD ID <input type="checkbox"/>

If guest does not have a DOD ID, they will need a State ID that complies with the REAL ID Act. Please fill out the following information:

Full Name	ID #	State
-----------	------	-------

Guest Name	Name on Badge	
		I have a DOD ID <input type="checkbox"/>

If guest does not have a DOD ID, they will need a State ID that complies with the REAL ID Act. Please fill out the following information:

Full Name	ID #	State
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<i>description</i>	<i>\$ per person</i>	<i>cost</i>
member registration	\$100	\$100
dues (2 years)	\$25	\$25
guests registration	\$80 x	
Snorkel Reef Trip	\$33 x	
Sunset Sail	\$45 x	
Conch Train	\$15 x	
total		

PAYMENT:

If registering by mail, include check made out to "FO/UWSS" and mail with registration form to:

*Ken Recoy, Treasurer,
25810 East 330 Road,
Chelsea, OK 74016 5262.*

If registering on UWSS web site, you may pay with PayPal or credit card.

<https://www.uwss.org/NextReunion.html>



Save by booking these Key West attractions through MWR
MWR Community Recreation Tickets and Travel Office: 305-293-4173/4174
Mon-Fri 0900-1700, Sat 0900-1300

**AIR ADVENTURES
HELICOPTER TOURS:**

Key West Airport, 844-246-3594
10-20 minutes: \$91.50-\$260

AMERICA 2.0:

202 William St., 305-293-7245
Day or Sunset Sail: \$45.40-\$59

BAREFOOT BILLY'S:

Two Locations, 305-735-2241
Jet Ski Tour \$110/\$160

DANGER CHARTERS:

Margaritaville Resort, 305-296-3272
Sail/Snorkel/Kayak etc. \$62 to \$110

KEY WEST ECO TOURS:

Two Locations, 305-294-7245
Kayak and Java Cat Tours \$60-124

FLORIDAYS:

601 Front Street, 305-432-0046
Sail/Snorkel, Sunset \$54-\$70

FURY:

Multiple Locations, 305-294-8899
Snorkel, Dolphin, Parasail, Glassbottom
Sailing etc. \$30-\$160

KEY WEST WATER TOURS:

Hurricane Hole, 305-294-6790
2 hour Jet Ski Tour \$110/\$159

KEY WEST SHARK & WILDLIFE:

Margaritaville Resort, 305-508-1951
2 Hour Tour \$68/\$79

LAZY DOG KAYAKS:

Hurricane Hole, 305-295-9898
Kayak, Snorkel, Paddleboards \$17-\$70

MELLOW ECO TOURS:

1605 North Roosevelt Blvd,
805-745-3874 Ext. 1
Backcountry Eco Outpost \$83/\$95
Backcountry Eco Tours \$350-\$1000
Sunrise or Sunset \$190-\$400

SEBAGO WATERSPORTS:

Lazyway Lane, 305-294-5687
Snorkel, Sail, Parasail etc. \$30-\$160

SNUBA OF KEY WEST:

Garrison Bight Marina, 305-292-4616
Snuba, Rider or Snorkel \$60-\$109

SUNSET WATERSPORTS:

Snorkel, Parasail, Cruise, Dolphin,
Waverunner, Hobbie Cat, Sail etc.
\$26.50-\$149

YANKEE FREEDOM

DRY TORTUGAS:

Ferry Terminal on Grinnell St.
305-707-6057, Dry Tortugas \$165/\$180



Save by booking these Key West attractions through MWR
MWR Community Recreation Tickets and Travel Office: 305-293-4173/4174
Mon-Fri 0900-1700, Sat 0900-1300

FISHING CHARTERS

Captain Conch Fishing Charter:

305-304-5816
Full day to split half day
\$147-\$1200

Cheap Fishing Key West:

305-587-1188
3 hours to 3/4 Reef
\$375-\$536

Reel Easy Charters:

305-923-3721
1/2 day Flats or Backcountry to
Marquesa Trip Nearshore
\$430-\$950

Ware's the Fish:

305-587-8820
Sandbar trip to Full day
\$572-\$1200

Hillbilly Hookers:

305-731-8755
1/2 day to Dry Tortugas-fishing
\$440-\$1800

Southbound Fishing Charters:

305-293-8565
Full day to Split 1/2 day
\$154-\$1100

Gulfstream IV:

305-296-8494
5 hour night & 6 hour day
\$31-\$69.88

Tortuga 1/2 Day Fishing:

305-293-1189
4 hours or night
\$35-\$80

DIVING VENDORS

Lost Reef Adventures:

305-296-9737
\$40-\$403.13

Southpoint Divers:

305-292-9778
\$34-\$198.88

Looe Key Reef Resort & Dive Shop:

305-872-2215
\$22.50-\$1612.50

BOAT RENTALS

Sunset Watersports:

305-296-2554
\$176-\$618.12



Save by booking these Key West attractions through MWR

MWR Community Recreation Tickets and Travel Office: 305-293-4173/4174

Mon-Fri 0900-1700, Sat 0900-1300

AQUARIUM: 9am-6pm

Whitehead St., 305-296-2051

Adult - \$13/\$15.99

AUDUBON HOUSE: 9:30am-5pm

205 Whitehead St., 305-294-2116

Adult - \$11.00/\$14

BOONDOCKS MINI GOLF:

305-872-4094, Adult - \$12/\$12.89

BUTTERFLY & NATURE

CONSERVATORY: 9:30am-5:30pm

1316 Duval Street, Adult - \$8.25/\$12

CONCH TOUR TRAIN: 9am-4:30pm

Front St., Adult - \$28.50/\$34.95

CUSTOM HOUSE: 9:30am-4:30pm

281 Front St., 305-295-6616

Adult - \$8/\$10

EAST MARTELLO: 9:30am-4:30pm

3501 S. Roosevelt, 305-296-3913

Adult - \$8/\$10

GHOSTS & GRAVESTONES TROLLEY:

Front and Duval St., Adult - \$29/\$34.95

GHOSTS & MYSTERIES TOUR:

429 Caroline St., 305-292-2040

Adult - \$20/\$24.72

KEY LIME BIKE TOUR:

305-340-7834, \$39/\$45.18

KEY WEST ROOM ESCAPE: 314

Simonton St., 305-916-5517

Adult - \$30.50/\$37.50

KEY WEST WALKING TOUR:

Front Street (Shipwreck Museum)

Adult - \$15/\$18, 305-292-8990

LIGHTHOUSE: 9:30am-4:30pm

938 Whitehead St., 305-294-0012

Adult - \$8/\$10

LITTLE WHITE HOUSE: 9am-4:30pm

111 Front St., 305-294-9911

Adult - \$17/\$20.95

LLOYD'S BIKE TOUR:

601 Truman Ave., 305-304-4700

Adult - \$45/\$51.50

MEL FISHER MARITIME MUSEUM:

9:30am-5pm, Greene and Whitehead St.

Adult - \$12.50/\$15, 305-294-2633

OLD TOWN TROLLEY: 9am-4:40pm

One day - \$36.50/\$39.95

Two day - \$52.75/\$64.90

REGAL CINEMA:

\$10/\$15, 305-296-7211

RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

10am-8pm, 108 Duval St.

Adult - \$9.50/\$16.99, 305-293-9939

SHIPWRECK MUSEUM: 9:30am-5pm

1 Front St., 305-292-8990

Adult - \$12.25/\$14.99

SKY DIVE KEY WEST:

Sugarloaf Airport, 305-396-8806

\$210/\$265

SLOAN'S GHOST HUNT:

Adult - \$17.50/\$26.88, 305-395-1435

TROPICAL CINEMA:

\$8.50/\$12, 305-396-4944

*(first price through MWR/
second price at gate)*



Must say.....BZ. great newsletter and reflects serious time & effort. I, among many others, appreciate the updates. At age 85 I am very much aware of time. As a past member of the notorious Indian Head refresher class 4 Q (68 I think). I would wish all hands a Merry Christmas, good health, and prosperity.

Larry Hart

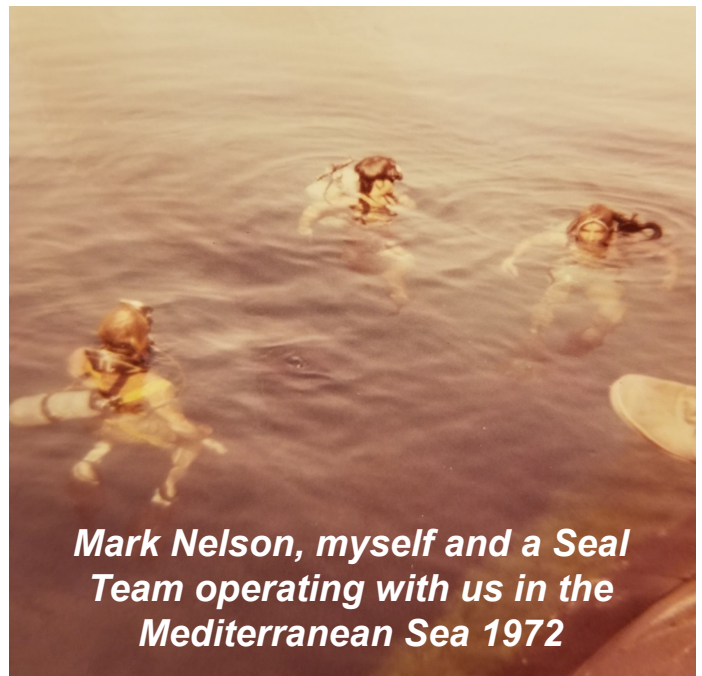
Enjoy these photos sent by Ken Recoy from his time at UWSS and after.



Ken Recoy out front UWSS by the Shark a few days after I graduated.



Ken Recoy in the UWSS Barracks after a day Diving and having fun...



Mark Nelson, myself and a Seal Team operating with us in the Mediterranean Sea 1972



Ken Recoy finishing a Hull Search on USS Threadfin SS-410 Spain 1972. I am 21 years old here.



Mark Nelson and Ken Recoy Diving in the Mediterranean Sea 1972.



Mark Nelson and Ken Recoy doing our thing... (location unknown)



From Christian N. Seger:

The most recent Buddy Line is excellent, though I was sad to read about Bob Holmes; we both had houses in Galveston. He was a real character, who had been to 800' in a hardhat rig. Called himself "Deep Dive Bob" from time to time. Also, I will miss Rudy Boesch, whom I knew only slightly from our reunions. I bought his TV-actor camo suit in an UWSS reunion auction several years ago in Panama City.

Here are my memories of the Mk V hardhat rig:

Getting into this rig took some time. First, I put on the thick rubber and canvas suit with the cumbersome three fingered gloves and slipped into the 35-pound canvas and bronze shoes. I then sat down on a little three-legged stool and my diving mates put the heavy chest plate over the rubber neck piece with the bronze studs sticking out to secure the chest plate to the diving suit.

The helmet came next, and if one were in the least claustrophobic, this is where you would find out. The crew lowered the spun copper helmet down over my head, and with a clank it dropped into the bayonet type fitting. With a slight jerk to the right the helmet threaded tightly into the breast plate and I was locked inside. I could see out of the helmet through four small portholes, one directly in front of my face, one on either side, and one slightly above me. All communication

took place with a two-way radio in the helmet which had a speaker just above my right ear.

Now I stood up and my dive mates eased the 85-pound weight belt over my shoulders and buckled it in front. I checked communications, confirmed my knife was in place, and the air was turned on. I could control the inflow of air to the helmet with a hand valve that was secured at waist level. Excess air was dumped from the rig by pushing a chin button inside the helmet. When I was ready to dive, I awkwardly clanked my way over to the ladder and climbed down into the water.

In Key West I weighed about 150 pounds wearing only my Navy issued skivvies. But fully dressed in the Mk V rig I weighed an additional 185 pounds, so walking around on a heaving dive barge was not easy. But once down the ladder and into the water the Mk V rig was in its element. The hissing sound of incoming air and the calm voice of the dive master mitigated the adrenalin rush that came as the surface slipped away above my viewing port and I eased down toward the ocean floor, connected to the surface by my air hose and a thick steel wire.

Each 33 feet I descended added another atmosphere of pressure--about 15 pounds-- to every square inch of my body, including my ears. In the hardhat rig there was no way to relieve the pressure except to yawn vigorously or to place my lip on the edge of the port



Left to right: Training Officer Lt. Dave Schaible, Ensign Peter Wells, AO3 Ed Abel, Ensign Chris Seger, Ensign George Coughlan.

UWSS spring 1961.

in front of my face, and push it up against my nose. If I blew against my nostril, I could equalize the pressure and continue the descent.

To descend I would fill the suit and helmet with just the proper amount of air so that I was slightly negatively buoyant, and the descent was gradual and controlled. Too much air and I would float back to the surface; too little air and I would plunge out of control toward the bottom. It was a marvelous sensation to descend from the surface in a gradual free fall, the sound of gurgling air escaping from the helmet dump valve as the colors of the surface lost their intensity until I reached the sandy bottom 100 or so feet down, and became part of a gray-white, monochromatic and alien world.

On one training dive in Key West I was suffering from a debilitating hangover after a hard night on Duval Street, but when it came my turn I had to make the dive. The barge was heaving up and down in three-foot swells offshore and my tender for the dive, swim buddy Ed Abel, had difficulty keeping the safety line and air hose under control, which meant I was being jerked upwards off the ocean floor and then suddenly dropped back down again for a hard landing on the sand. After several of those maneuvers my stomach called it quits and I puked into the hard hat. The rest of the dive was a real ordeal and the diving officer was not pleased about the situation when I surfaced. I recall spending an hour or so cleaning it up on the barge



From Rudy Enders:

While functioning as Training Officer at the UWSS, we did some interesting dives involving support to Navy test units. FYI. I documented our involvement FYI. I'm sure many know the players involved. LT Rudy Enders, formerly Training Officer and XO at UWSS.

In the 1950s, military personnel requirements were met through the draft. I had continuous deferments by the Hempstead Draft Board because of college studies and active participation in the US Coast Guard reserve. In May 1957, however, I was sailing aboard the Alcoa Partner as Third Mate when the Board identified me in as a prime candidate to fill their monthly quota.

I tried to convince them the Merchant Marine was as vital to national defense as the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard and Air Force. I went to Kings Point to serve in the Merchant Marine, not any other service. As an academy cadet/midshipman, I had already spent six months on the SS Free State Mariner in a war zone, discharging sixteen thousand tons of ammunition to barges off the port of Ulsan, Korea. Like mariners before me, the Merchant Marine suffered more losses percentage wise than any other service in WWII, it made no difference. Many survivors of ships sunk by U Boats were later drafted into the Army during the Korean War.

As to my situation, I don't think anything I said would have made a difference.

They were determined to draft me. Sure enough a few days later a notice arrived in the mail directing me to report for an Army physical. Although I didn't realize it at the time, it turned out to be a positive turning point in my life. I first had to pass a physical. That was no problem. I rode the subway to New York City and stepped off near 90 Church Street, where I could activate my Reserve Navy Commission and be sworn in.

Before doing so, however, I had spoken to my Academy buddy, Mickey Kappes. He told me I should volunteer for Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD.) He said the Navy would send me to Key West, Florida for underwater swimmers training and then to Indian Head, Maryland where I would receive deep sea and shallow water diving instruction and a one year's course in EOD. He considered it was the best deal in the Navy for guys like us who love to dive. "Rudy," he said, "you'll go crazy on a navy attack transport ship where they send most Kings Pointers. Instead of 4 officers on the bridge, they have 20. Can you imagine that? What the hell do they all do?" "I tell you what," he added, "Call this number at the EOD school and ask for Lt. Bill Hamilton. Don't mention my name because the guy hates me. Tell him you're a friend of Bob Kennedy who informed you about EOD and you would like to join the program."

*(to be continued in the next edition
of the BuddyLine)*



One of the things that has come up in our UWSS Board meeting is the idea of putting together a history of the UWSS. If we think that doing a history will be easy, just collecting experiences of our time at UWSS, we are sure to find in more difficult than we expected and will take longer than we anticipated.

Dave Byers asked us to put together an outline more than a year ago but with some health issues and other life challenges we have been slow to accomplish that task. During that time, we have looked at some of the decisions that need to be made in putting together a history, if we want to produce a finished product we can be proud of.

- Who are we writing the history for? Who will read it? Other military units, researchers, our family and friends?
- Do we want it to be informal or with documentation like footnotes etc.
- When it comes to printing and publication, do we want to do it ourselves or find professional help or even an agent?
- What size? How many pages? Color or black and white?
- How will we distribute the finished book?

One option, that I think we should consider, if we want the history to be read by those outside the association, is to find a way to weave our individual experiences into a story that has a beginning and middle and an end. This is called narrative non-fiction with the goal to capturing the

essence of the UWSS and keep the reader's interest and not have their eyes glaze over with a boring history of facts.

So where do we begin? I propose we make some decisions while we are gathered in Key West at our reunion in May. And if we decide to move forward with an official history of the UWSS, we create a group of members to flesh out what we want to accomplish and then get started. In the meantime, please keep sending your memories to buddyline@uwss.org.

—Ray Hoglund

We received a wonderful history from Bob Hauf called "My life as a SCUBA diver in the US Navy: 1967-1973" that we are excited to share in the next edition of the BuddyLine. Here is a the cover image from his history. Bob was at UWSS in October 1970.



ADVERSITY



by Ken Recoy

MEMBERSHIP JANUARY 2020

Members in database = 287

Members in good standing = 234

We have had # new members join us in the last Quarter:

- Ron Faraher, joined January 2020
- Thomas A. Cleary, USMC of Carlsbad, CA, joined January 2020. Graduated February 1967
- William M. Moeller of Brooksville, FL. joined January 2020. Graduated December 1969
- Ray Perron, joined November 2019

TREASURER'S REPORT

Account Balance:

November 1, 2019 \$18,315.41

Dues Income	+ \$419.17
Label Fees Income	+ \$25.00
Logo Gear Sales Income	+ \$139.90
Other (Donations) Income	+ \$0.00

Reunion Expenses	- \$0.00
Logo Gear Expenses	- \$314.16
BuddyLine Expenses	- \$64.27
Business Expenses	- \$194.51

Account Balance:

January 31, 2020 \$18,326.54

Wonder if you are up to date on your dues? Contact Ken at kenrecoy@aol.com or 620-305-9900 and he will let you know.

Beefy-T t-shirt

\$25.00 each

white or ash gray, large logo back, small logo pocket

Long sleeved t-shirt

\$28.00 each

white or ash gray, large logo on back, small logo on front (no pocket)

Polo shirt 50/50 cotton/poly

\$28.00 each

white or ash gray, small logo on pocket.

Pique polo all cotton

\$29.00 each

birch gray, embroidered logo left front (no pocket)

Blue denim shirt, short sleeves

\$38.00 each

embroidered logo above pocket

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

UWSS commemorative coin

\$12.00 each

enameled brass, raised design, 1 5/8 inch diameter

UWSS all-service commemorative coin

\$15.00 each

enameled brass, raised design, 2 inch diameter

Key Chain with enameled logo medallion

\$10.00 each

Questions? e-mail: jhhoule@me.com or phone (352) 249-9140

All logo items are pictured on the web site www.uwss.org/LogoGear.html

Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School
Buddy Line Newsletter
25810 East 330 Road
Chelsea, OK 74016-5262

*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 to 1973.
One of the most important reasons for our existence as an organized group
is to plan for and participate in biannual reunions.*

MISSION:

FO/UWSS

