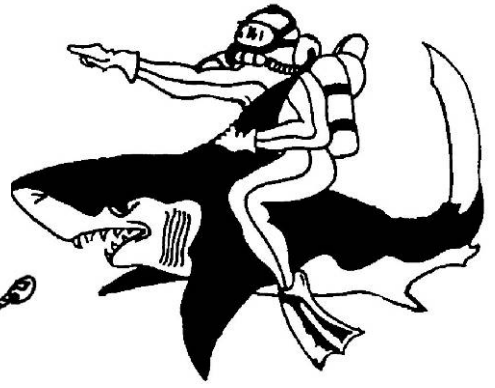


# Buddy Line



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

February 2005

## President's Corner by Don Stone

In our November 2004 issue we ran a photo of two UWSS trainees carrying the Big Buddy Line. We wrongly identified them as Charles Richardson and John Pinkiewicz. Merlin Simonson, who sent the photo, contacted us immediately after seeing the newsletter and told us that the trainees were incorrectly named. The taller was Mark Harmon but he couldn't identify the other. We corrected the caption on the website but the newsletter was already out.

Recently Rebb Rebbetoy also informed us of the mistake and identified the other trainee as Warren Stevens. Rebb had suspected a mistake and contacted John Pinkiewicz, who correctly ID'd the two trainees. Apologies to Charles and John, two very squared away guys (to quote Merlin). Also to Mark Harmon and Warren Stevens, sorry for not giving credit where credit was due.



**Warren Stevens and Mark Harmon**

Another of our members, Rick LaRoche, works for the US State Department and is currently in Iraq with the job title of Action Officer for Najaf. He has sent back to the US short narratives of his life and feelings as he carries out his sometimes dangerous duties. We have been one of the recipients of the Najaf Chronicles and have his permission, with due consideration for security, to share

*President's Corner continued:*

them in the Buddy Line. The first installment begins with Rick's contemplating a transfer from his old posting in Indonesia to a more challenging assignment in Iraq. Rick was selected for the assignment of Action Officer for Najaf. His Najaf Chronicles will be continued in future issues. *"The material in the Najaf Chronicles is not for public use and may not be re-printed or used in any other context."*



## Najaf Chronicles

By Rick LaRoche

### Indonesian "sitrep" 6/1/2004

Greetings current and "old frogs"

Sorry for the group mailing, but I have been busy as a 3-legged dog trying to bury a turd on the frozen tundra. Anyway, things are as they are down here in Surabaya: demonstrations every week, price tag on our heads and lots of "boogareaters" around.

Anyway, I have volunteered for an assignment in Iraq. If selected, it will be a 1-year post embedded with military troops in Karbala, Najaf, Tirkrit, Ba'aqubah or Ramadi. I would be working with rebuilding efforts: rule of law, good governance, elections, the education system and "political reporting." Sounds like a great job. Don't have to get wet and sandy – just sandy.

Anyway, that's where things are now. Don't know when I'll find out, but if I do get selected, I would leave late summer/early fall for some Arabic and "additional training" in DC. I guess at 57 my chances are pretty slim. But who knows, maybe they won't be able to find enough young warm bodies and they'll have to dip way down into the stock of "old farts".

Anyway, I love a challenge, and at my age they are getting harder and harder to find. And a year away from the typical diplomat's life won't break my heart. That's it for now. I'll keep you posted. Have fun and stay safe!

**UWSS LOGO ITEMS**

The following logo items are available, so send in your orders and they will be shipped pronto. Prices include shipping. Availability is subject to change. We can obtain other items if there are enough requests.

White Beefy-T shirts..... 13.00 ea, 2 for 23.00  
Logo front and back (pocket or no pocket – your choice)  
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL  
Childs 6/8, 10/12 (no pocket)

Ash gray Beefy-T shirts..... 14.00 ea, 2 for 25.00  
Large logo on back, small logo on pocket  
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL  
Childs 14/16 (no pocket)

White Polo shirt ..... 18.00 ea, 2 for 33.00  
Small logo on pocket, 50/50 cotton/poly  
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL

Ash Polo shirt ..... 19.00 ea, 2 for 35.00  
Small logo on pocket, 50/50 cotton/poly  
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL

Coffee mug with logo ..... 12.00 ea  
Cap – natural with logo 12.00 ea  
8.00 ea if ordered with shirt

UWSS logo decal  
Transparent background 2.00 ea  
White background 2.00 ea

UWSS logo lapel/tie pin 4.00 ea

UWSS plaques  
Bright brass logo on blue 45.00 ea  
Standard brass logo on blue 25.00 ea  
Plaque price reduced \$5.00 if ordered with shirt.

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

**Photos of all logo gear items  
are on the web site!  
[www.uwss.org](http://www.uwss.org)**

**Secretary/Treasurer's Report**

|                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| Membership- February 2005     |         |
| 147 regular members           |         |
| 119 associate members         |         |
| Account Balance November 2004 | 4899.38 |
| Dues                          | 125.00  |
| Logo item sales               | 234.00  |
| Buddy Line printing & postage | 158.55  |
| Logo & Plaque purchases       | 674.21  |
| Account Balance February 2005 | 4425.62 |

**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**

|                           |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| President .....           | Don Stone    |
| Vice President.....       | A. Dee Clark |
| Secretary/Treasurer ..... | Roger Lynch  |

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) or [stonefish7@cs.com](mailto:stonefish7@cs.com)  
snail mail: 1440 S.W. 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)

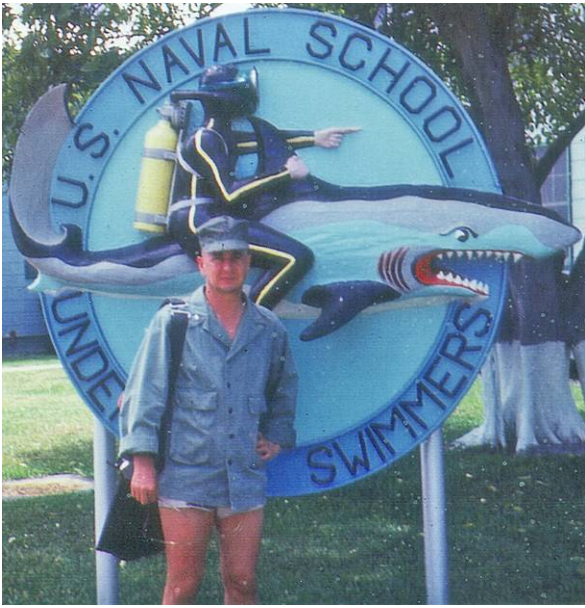
**Buddy Line by email**

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).

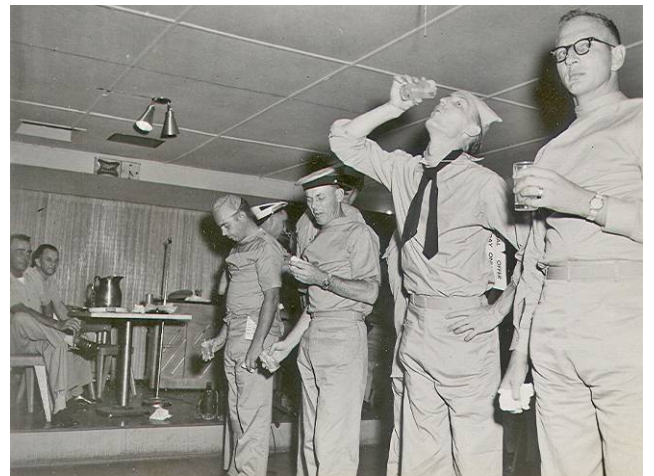
The benefits to the FO/UWSS are the savings on printing and postage for the Buddy Line mailout.

To receive the Buddy Line by email, send your request to [buddyline@uwss.org](mailto:buddyline@uwss.org).



Charles Savarese, a new member of FO/UWSS, commanded sub chasers in the South Pacific during WWII. After the war he returned to civilian life, attended medical school and returned to the navy as a medical officer. The photo in front of the sign was taken in 1964 when he was ordered to UWSS for two weeks "on the job training". The photo on the right was taken last year at a midshipman reunion.

Graduation 1959



Run through town - 1958

CPO Initiation - 1959

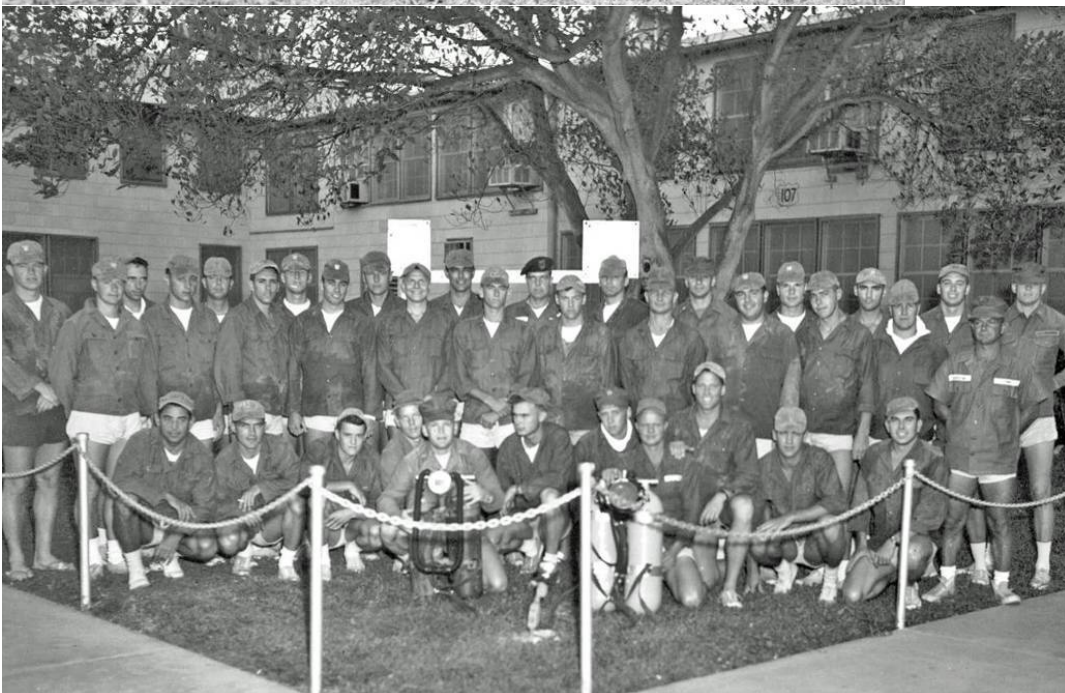
Class of  
September 1961

Photo from  
Ralph Klotz



Class of ?

Photo from  
Lee Barber's  
Album



Photos from Larry Hart  
5<sup>th</sup> from left, standing  
Class of January 1965  
Shorty Lyons,  
Class Proctor

& Larry at Spook Base  
Scotland in 1971



## MacKenzie's Diary

*Robert B. MacKenzie, a 1957 UWSS graduate retired after 30 years service in the Marine Corps, shared the diary he kept of his days as a UWSS student. Here are more excerpts from his diary.*

**30May:** A lazy Memorial Day, most of which was spent in one long letter writing session interspersed liberally with cribbage, hearts, and solitaire. I stood by all day for Sawyer so that he would be with his children this day - parades, celebrations, etc.

**31May:** Northill lung maintenance during the morning. The only difference between this and the Aqua Lung is that it costs more for the regulator and it is perhaps a bit easier to breathe through. Air is not worth the \$20, though.

Field day followed lunch. As it turned out, that was plenty of warm up for Al and me for our 1,000 yard swim: first in with a time of 28 minutes and 1000 lbs. And that with taking a full minute to get away from the boat and taking two minutes to get off the beach beyond the fence that we landed on first. I had tried to compensate too much for the current of the night before - thus the error. Next time we have it beat in the shade with a compass setting of 340°.

Duty weekend and it is enforced close confinement. There's an all-Navy ball at the Sea Plane base, "Heaven Knows Mr. Allison" at the Naval Hospital by Stock Island, and MacKenzie on duty. Bill Fischer called and wanted me to go with him to the ball - good trumpet player - but I was forced to turn the invitation down. Joerres and Keller wouldn't stand by for either Bostain or myself, even though they stayed in anyway. So I took Dutch's watch while he and Wally went out on the town.

Started "David Copperfield" - a first time for me. I can't understand how I could have been so negligent as not to have read it before in my life.

**1June:** A lazy arising at 1100 just suited me - in time for lunch, cards, finishing "David Copperfield," and reveling in the meeting of new people: Betsy Trotwood, Dora, Mr. Pegglety, Sheerforth, etc. "To heck with standbys - let's go see "War and Peace!"

**2June:** Up at 0400 for my duty, only to find McGoo in a state of disconcert about a rip-roaring party that was going on out by the front steps of the House. Kennedy, Burke, Dolan, Paratta and Lanson were singing Johnny Ray songs and drinking beer. As usual, I avoided taking cognizance of who was there or what they did.

The late morning melted into the early afternoon over the hearts table. Bostain and I against Pugh and Keller, Keller and Lebo, and Lebo and McCain (Arky). We bought cokes and pogeys for the last pair - couldn't make a nickel.

Have finished "Oliver Twist" and have started "Martin Chuzzlewit."

After all this mental activity and in conjunction with the loss of 2.5 hours sleep this morning, it was not difficult at all to sleep from 1400 to 1930. At that time, I was forced to get Pugh to stand by for me while I saw a delightful rendition of "Oh Men, Oh Women" - Dan Daily, Barbara Rush, David Niven, Ginger Rogers. It seems like only last week that Ginger was young enough to be able to play the 12 year old girl in "The Major and the Minor." She couldn't get away with it today.

Tried to sleep and couldn't, so I relieved McGoo early on the 12 - 4 and started studying for the Demolitions test, due in the early part of the week.

I don't know how I'm going to be able to see everyone I want to while on leave. There must be ten or twelve cities I want to hit. Unless we can cash in our tickets and go on our own ways about the leaves, there just doesn't seem to be any hope for those visits necessary after an absence of a year. I guess most of the visitees will have to wait for another indefinite period of time to be welched off. I'm sure it will break their hearts.

**3June:** The very first Amphib-type run took place around the base this morning. Hoaglund led us at the usual 6 mph pace; I led the chant. Sailors and civilians alike turned out of their mutual holes when they heard the yelling. It was tiring, but only 3 1/2 miles, so I can deduce that I'm even more out of shape than usual.

Northill lungs - they're terrible! Al can't clear his and mine won't stay clear. I can picture the Northill swims we'll be having. A little water in the tubes will be driving us all to the surface. No one trusts the rig.

Lecture on underwater search by LeMay - running jackstay, circle search, and skip bottom search for limpid mines - a gruesome prospect, the latter.

After class, we donned rubber suits and went for a 750 yard surface swim. Bostain swam in with Al and me and the trio was first (14 1/2 minutes) by 3 minutes.

There was much glee occasioned by Dutch's appearance on the beach. Water had come into his suit such that one leg appeared to have contracted elephantiasis, and his stomach look as though he were going to have triplets at any minute.

At night it came time to leave the base - another night aboard would have driven us all out of our minds. So Don Snellenberg, Bill Dillon, Dutch, McGoo, Bill Bostain, Al and I took in a light lunch at the YMCA prior to bolting to see "Funny Face."

What else to do after seeing something as refreshing than to stop off for a large glass of orange juice? It was a wonderfully simple and pleasant evening and left us all feeling cleansed, somehow.

## Membership Application

## Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School

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

Wife's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Dates & Class # at UWSS: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Copy of the UWSS inaugural announcement from Bob Shouse

U.S. NAVAL SCHOOL  
UNDERWATER SWIMMERS  
U.S. NAVAL STATION  
KEY WEST, FLORIDA

Inaugural Ceremony conducted at 1000 hours on 04 October 1954.  
Commanding Officer Lt. Robert J. Fay, USN

| Staff: | Instructors:         | Administration:     |
|--------|----------------------|---------------------|
|        | Ltjg R.F. Thorndike  | ENFN DR. Harricklow |
|        | Ltjg G.L. Reeves Jr. | EN3 W.J. Burkhart   |
|        | BMCA E. Demofonte    | FN R.J. Cox         |
|        | HMC E.J. Muehlberger | EN2 D.K. Lamoreaux  |
|        | GM2 M."K" Brooks     | PH3 W.A. Lupher     |
|        | GM2 F.J. Hale        | SK2 R.M. Malone     |
|        | BMI R.W. Hoqlund     | YN3 R.H. McNally    |
|        | BMI G.T. Phipps      | DMMSN J.W. Mullen   |
|        | EN1 H.E. Staples     | SN E.R. Moore       |
|        | AO2 J.L. Tucker      | EN3 J.A. Price      |
|        |                      | QMSN L.R. Riegel    |
|        |                      | HM3 W.E. Tamboer    |
|        |                      | YN2 H. Tiffany      |
|        |                      | EM3 G.W. Watford    |

Under the control of the Bureau of Navy Personnel, the mission of the U.S. Naval School, Underwater Swimmers is to train officer and enlisted personnel as underwater swimmers using self contained underwater breathing apparatus (SCUBA) and to provide instruction in ship bottom and harbor bottom search procedures. Students will also receive familiarization training in ordnance recognition, demolition and miscellaneous related subjects.

## The Way It Was



Plankowners Tucker & Phipps  
Photo from Roger Lynch

Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School  
Buddy Line Newsletter  
1440 S. W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Boca Raton, FL 33432