

# Buddy Line



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

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February 2011

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If you have found at the last minute that you can join us for the reunion cruise, hurry and call Beverly Kelly at Travel Leaders (800-286-9839). The ship is filling up fast, but she may be able to find a cabin for you. The 2011 Reunion Information Package can be downloaded at [uwss.org](http://uwss.org).

While shipboard and port activities will keep us busy, we'll take advantage of sea days for our own group activities, such as UWSS Reunion Check-in on Saturday, Ice Breaker on Sunday and Business Meeting on Wednesday. Come prepared to elect officers for the next two years. Speak to potential officers ahead of time and get permission before you nominate.

We will be together in the dining room and most of us will go on the same port tours. At Ocho Rios, Jamaica, we will go to Dunn's River Falls to climb the famous falls or go river tubing. At Cayman Islands we'll take a catamaran to Stingray City to feed the gentle rays, then we'll snorkel on a shallow reef. And, yes, the shoppers will have time for browsing.

Some have asked about transportation to the cruise port and overnight accommodations so we did a little research. Stay Park Cruise packages can be found at [www.stay123.com](http://www.stay123.com). Reunion attendees

who want to drive or fly in to Miami the day before the cruise will find packages that include lodging, parking, free airport shuttles and cruise port shuttles (some free, some not).

Just about any question you could have about cruising with Carnival will be answered on their Funville website, which has reviews, forums, blogs and frequently asked questions. Browse at: <http://www.carnival.com/Funville/forums/>



**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  
**Cap 3.00 less if ordered with shirt**
- 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

**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 February 2011	274 members
Account Balance November 2010	\$11,795.89
Dues	+225.00
Logo gear sales	+388.00
Buddy Line printing	- 104.37
Postage	-27.70
Reunion Expense	-340.53
Account Balance February 2011	11,936.29

**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.

e-mail: [stonefish8@gmail.com](mailto:stonefish8@gmail.com) phone: (561) 391-6727  
snail mail: 1440 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432  
Reunion Coordinator: Jerry Padrta (772) 873-9950

**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.



## Photos and email from Tom Poel – class of December 1965



Goss, Poel, Minor



Poel

Oh, to be 18 and starting it all over again, only this time knowing then, what we know now. Here we are on our final qualifying dive, looking forward to our highly desired graduation day (Dec. 65). I'm the tallest one in the center (Tom Poel - Air Force - PJ) and my Alpha 1 swim buddy is the other tall one, Byron W. Goss Jr. FTM3. His ship mate is David E. Minor, MT3. They're both Navy, with many future career opportunities available to them including: ship's divers, submariners, UDT & EOD Teams. For all of us Seniors who experienced and survived the US Navy SCUBA School in Key West, Florida we will never forget, that for most of us this is where it all began.



Second Class Diver Graduation 1962. - Photo from EOD Archive – sent by Berny Diggs. Dick Tappy, proctor – far right. If you can identify others in the photo, please send info to [buddyline@uwss.org](mailto:buddyline@uwss.org).

## The Executive Corner

by Gerry Flowers with Bob Holmes

After speaking with Bob today, we both felt that we have been looking forward to this Cruise for long enough and want to "Just Do It".

Jerry, Judy, Don and Art have been working hard to make this a memorable trip for all of us. They have many things set up plus a few outings that will thrill the folks that attend these extracurricular activities. I have signed up for both outings and am secretly having a little chuckle as I have not told Terry that she will be "Swimming with the Manta Rays". I don't know if she has ever had a mask on her face or a snorkel in her mouth, but she will. Judy, I may need your help.

We think this newsletter is the last push to sign up for this remarkably different "Reunion Holiday" as we only have a little under three months before we board the Cruise ship. For those that choose to attend, we think it is going to be a terrific time and we will come away with some cherished memories.

Both Bob and I would like to thank Paul Johnson for the terrific work on the website as it has a great look to it while incorporating all the important information. We are not sure who designed our "Coin", but everyone that has ever been shown this coin....wants one for their collection. Maybe we could consider having the diver side photographed and blown up a bit and incorporated on the site, I am told it is that outstanding to see it in its original colors.

We would also like to re-iterate what we stated in the last Newsletter, that everyone should be thinking of a location for the next reunion and who you would like to have as your new Executive. A well thought out location using the knowledge base and experience file of this group should make this task a lot easier. Even if you are not attending the cruise, please voice your suggestions, opinions and thoughts about two years down the road.

For arriving a day or two before the Cruise, I wanted to let you know that I looked at all the hotels given as reference in the last newsletter and they all look terrific. The prices are great and the locations are as good as it gets.

We hope to see you there, happy and healthy and ready to eat, drink, laugh and of course discuss and sort out all the major problems in the world. In closing, I would like to use a bit of the last newsletter.

This is a very special group with outstanding resumes and it should be carried on. We think that all new Divers, be they Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Army, Coast Guard or our allies, would be proud to be able to have that "UWSS" Challenge coin in their pockets.

In closing, again, thank you Jerry, Judy, Art and Don for all you are doing for this group. Hope to see you there.

## Welcome New Members

The following new members have joined FO/UWSS since the last Buddy Line :

Nick Randell of Longmont, Colorado  
USAF 62-66 PJ UWSS May 1963

John E. Weisberg of East Aurora, New York  
USN 71-72 UWSS 1972

Thomas L. Neilsen of Orlando, Florida  
USN 71-92 Spec Ops UWSS June 1973

Photo from Tom Neilsen





## Editors Corner by Don Stone

Well, the preparations for the 2011 cruise reunion are nearly complete. And it will be a fun one! The shore tours have various degrees of activity, from snuggling with stingrays to climbing falls or tubing down a river, and there are non-stop activities on the ship to keep us busy. Guys, it is great to be alive and to be able to do those things.

One of the most important activities at our reunions is the business meeting, as that is where we determine the location of our next reunion and who will be leading our organization for the next two years. Even if you are not going to be there, we would like your input on this.

You can do this by contacting members that you know will be there or by sending an email to [buddyline@uwss.org](mailto:buddyline@uwss.org) to get your wishes known. Or you can contact me at [stonefish8@gmail.com](mailto:stonefish8@gmail.com) and I will make sure your input is brought up at the business meeting.

It saddens us to report the loss of another good man, FO/UWSS member, George Zipp. We are grateful to his daughter, Barbara Zipp Larson for letting us know and for sending the obituary. An FO/UWSS plankowner, George was at the first UWSS reunion in Key West in 1998 as well as at the YK2 reunion in Panama City Beach when the fraternal order was created.

For the last two years, every issue of the Buddy Line has reported the passing of members and friends. Many of us are an aging group. No one really knows for sure what comes next so don't put off doing what you are able to do. Turn off the TV, get off the couch and do stuff while you still can.

Get a checkup every year and have the appropriate tests done – it can prolong your life. Yes, I have read the stories about tests that were inaccurate, unnecessary, and a waste of money. But lots of scary conditions can be effectively taken care of if caught in time. It is like owning an old car. It will keep on running and take you where you want to go if you do the proper maintenance and repair. We want you around for a long time.

## George Zipp

FO/UWSS Plankowner, George Zipp, died Thursday, Feb. 3, 2011. He was born in Brooklyn, NY on October 27, 1926. He married Margaret Lenehan December 5th, 1948 and they shared a cherished life filled with love, family, friends and the joy of living.



George was a veteran of the Korean War and during his 22 years of service in the Navy he served on the USS Toledo, USS Tusk, USS Torsk, USS Croaker, USS Dace and the USS Lake Champlain. He graduated from the US Naval Underwater Swimmers School in 1955 and became an instructor at the New London Naval Base Scuba Diving Tank. He retired from the United States Navy as a Senior Chief Quarter Master. George was then employed as a Weight Engineer at the Electric Boat Company in Groton, CT from which he retired in 1986.

After retiring, George and Margaret spent many years traveling through the United States in their camper. George was a Master Gardner and often shared the fruits of his labor with neighbors and friends. He is survived by Margaret, his "bride" of 62 years, five loving daughters, their husbands, four grandchildren, a brother and several nieces and nephews. Condolences may be sent to his family at 10 Town Woods Rd. Old Lyme, CT 06371.

### From the mailbag:

I graduated from UWSS in June 11, 1971 under the close scrutiny of my Proctors, Sweezy and Ray. I went on to become part of EOD Group 2 in Va. Beach and spent the last year, off and on, with UDT21 and ST 2 at Little Creek. While I only spent one tour in the Navy, the experience in these Teams deeply embedded in me a strong sense of teamwork and commitment to the mission, which served throughout my professional career. From time to time, I pull up the UWSS site to see what's new. John Sanderson [johnsanderson@comcast.net](mailto:johnsanderson@comcast.net)

## 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 photo, taken on the UWSS "U"boat, shows MCPD Pappy Hewitt instructing a student in the semi closed circuit CDBA, a British N2O2 rig used by their clearance divers. It also could be converted into the SBA, a closed circuit O2 rebreather. It was replaced by the high maintenance American Mk 5, 6, etc.

From a collection of photos from Tom Wright.



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