

Buddy Line



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

February 2012

Reunion 2013 Committee Report

By Woody Woodward

The FO/UWSS 2013 Reunion will be held at Naval Support Activity, Panama City, Florida. The dates are 16-19 May 2013 with the Ice Breaker kicking off reunion activities on Thursday, 16 May.

There have been requests for a side trip to the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola. We could arrange a bus for the 2 ½-hour drive depending on how many would desire such a trip. The cost for the bus is not yet known, but it would be divided by the number of attendees. Here are a couple of options.

OPTION I - Thursday, 16 May: If the bus left Panama City no later than 0630 they could be at the museum at opening time of 0900. That would allow sufficient time to see much of the museum, have lunch in the Cubi Bar Café, and get back to Panama City in time for the Ice Breaker that evening.

Yup, the actual bar from the Cubi Point "O" club along with hundreds of plaques, artifacts and other memorabilia was brought back when the US pulled out of the Philippines. It would really bring back memories for those who cycled through there.



The museum is free; however, there are a few well-done I-Max shows that are worth the \$5 - \$7 charge and they have military discounts.

OPTION II: Going on Wednesday 15 May could involve seeing the Blue Angles practice their spectacular show as well as tour the museum. They practice on Tuesdays and Wednesdays starting at 0830 and go for about 45 minutes. If Option II is preferred, it would require a 0600

Wednesday departure to arrive at the Blues hanger (behind the Museum complex) at 0830, which might be cutting it close, depending on traffic. There are a couple of "ifs" here too: If the Blues are in town. As everyone knows, they travel frequently. We will know more as the time grows nearer. And if the weather is good that day

The early departure for either option would obviously require those making the Pensacola trip to arrive in Panama City the day before. We'd like to hear from members who are interested in the Pensacola trip. email your preferences, questions and comments to Woody at gunnerww@comcast.net.

We're looking forward to another Better-than-Excellent reunion.



Photo from Chuck Allen

School History Planned for Website

Plans are in the works to add a school history page to the uwss.org website showing history of the school in pictures and stories. While we have lots of pictures in the archives that we can use, we would like to include memories of the school from staff and students.

So, take a trip down memory lane and write a few paragraphs about your time at the school to share on the school history page. (Write more if you like and include pictures if you like). Send to buddyline@uwss.org with "School History" in the subject line.

Webmaster, Paul Johnson, has been battling cancer and isn't able to maintain the website at this time. Art Stone will be filling in for him and is learning the new software to get the web site up to date, and work on the school history page.

UWSS LOGO ITEMS



All prices include shipping.

- Beefy-T t-shirt..... 19.00 ea, 2 for 33.00
white or ash gray,
large logo on back, small logo on pocket
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*
 - Long sleeved t-shirt..... 21.00 ea, 2 for 37.00
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..... 21.00 ea, 2 for 37.00
white or ash gray, small logo on pocket.
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*
 - Pique polo all cotton..... 23.00 ea, 2 for 41.00
birch gray, embroidered logo left front ,(no pocket)
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*
 - Blue denim shirt, short sleeves 31.00 ea, 2 for 57.00
embroidered logo above pocket
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*
- *All shirts size XXL add \$2.00 ea**
- Cap – natural with logo 15.00
 - Baseball cap – blue, embroidered logo.....21.00
Cap 3.00 less if ordered with shirt
 - Mug-old logo front, UWSS back, hand wash 10.00
 - Embroidered Patch7.00
 - UWSS logo decal2.00
transparent or white background
 - UWSS plaque - Bright brass logo on blue35.00
 - UWSS commemorative coin7.00
enameled brass, raised design, 1 5/8 inch diameter
 - UWSS all-service commemorative coin..... 10.00
enameled brass, raised design, 2 inch diameter
 - Key Chain with enameled logo medallion7.00
 - Tote Bag, zipper top, blue and black, white logo 12.00

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

All logo items are pictured on the web site

Secretary/Treasurer’s Report

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Membership | February 2011 | 265 members |
| Account Balance | November 2011 | 13,640.75 |
| Dues | | +150.00 |
| Logo gear sales | | +476.00 |
| Buddy Line printing | | -116.60 |
| Postage | | -41.22 |
| Office expense | | -10.48 |
| Web site expense | | -192.02 |
| Account Balance | February 2012 | 13,906.43 |

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 phone: (561) 391-6727
snail mail: 1440 SW 5th Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432

WEBSITE: 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.

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.



Class June-1962 – Photo and roster from Ed Britt (1st row, 2nd from left). “My buddy on the other end of the line was George Brown” (center row, 2nd from left). Roster: Edward Dimmock USCG, Robert Simpson USMC, Richard Hooper USMCR, David Gray USAF, Ken Carey USA, Robert Brownley USAF, Guy Holland USA, Richard Weyand USMC (1st row, center), Marvin Brenaman USAF, Russel O’Day USN, Thomas Heat MSTs, Donald Baehr USAF, William Martin USMC, William West USMC, George Brown USN, Robert Loud USAF, Donald Leach USA, Edward Clark USA, Hugh Livingston USN, Edgar Britt USA, Cecil Clonts USN, Francisco Garcia USA.

Photo below from Ed Britt who writes: Photo was taken late fall 1963 at Ft. Bragg, NC. Troop in wet suit, SP4 Ken Carey, and SFC Ed Britt, “A Team” members” and graduates of scuba class 10-62, “passing on the great lessons we were taught from the Navy crew at Key West, FL



FROGMAN'S EQUIPMENT—A member of the Special Forces' underwater demolition team displays the frogman's diving gear, with an explanation by a sergeant, before a group of the 300 Explorer Scouts who visited the Special Warfare Center at

Ft. Bragg Saturday. The Scouts were presented a two-hour demonstration of Special Forces personnel and equipment used in cold weather, jungle and underwater warfare.

The Executive Corner

by Bob Holmes and Gerry Flowers



As always, we hope this finds you all in good health and enjoying life. Our next reunion is now 15 months away and it will be upon us before we know it. Over the course of the last few days I had the opportunity to speak with both Bob Holmes and Reunion Chair Woody Woodward on their thoughts about our UWSS Reunion in 2013. Everything is moving along according to schedule.

In 2009, the Panama City Reunion was deemed a huge success by all that attended. It is possibly our best attended to date. The 2011 Reunion aboard the cruise ship was terrific, relaxing and a lot of fun. It also produced several new members that are now our old friends and we hope they will join us again in Panama City. Bring those guitars folks.

So, Panama City in May 2013 is the plan. It will come with a few special additions to the program.

If there is enough interest, a tour of the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola will be on the agenda. Personally, if I am in Panama City, somehow, someday, I am going to that museum. It is fantastic. Woody will be telling us a bit about that in this issue of "Buddy Line". I had the opportunity to visit the museum this past summer while on my motorcycle trip to just to be sure it would be a good fit. I highly recommend seeing it and to me, it would be a lot more meaningful to visit it with all of you.

The reunion may be one day longer and span the 16th to the 19th of May, 2013 to allow some options on events. I am looking forward to it already. I hope to see all of you there plus whomever else we can find that attended the school.

To that end, I have contacted SGT. Grit of www.Grunt.com to ask him for a little help in locating Marines that attended the Underwater Swimmers School. Sgt. Grit is owned and run by Marine Sergeant and Vietnam Veteran Don Whitton. Asking Mr. Whitton if he would consider helping was a logical fit. A) He is a Marine, and B) He is a Marine that cares. His publication and website allows Marines, past and present, to order

the stickers you see on every Marine's car in North America and around the world.

He offers Marines and their families the chance to buy everything "Marine" and his readership spans the globe. I am hoping that he will see fit to help us locate the Marines we are looking for through his popular magazine and website. Please visit his site if you Navy or Air Force guys want to buy anything for the Marine in your life.

I can tell you with some authority, as it happened to me, Marines that were picked to attend any Navy School were hand-picked, motivated and not willing to fail. Any instructors among us can confirm that.

You are all warned...there may be an influx of U.S. Marines to the U.S. Naval School Reunion. Not to worry, as basically, all it means to the present membership is that you would have to speak slower, no big words, explain things twice, share your chow and politely decline offers of Eagle, Globe and Anchor decals for your personal vehicles. Other than that, it could work out if you are all as patient with them as you are with me. I will keep you posted.

We would also remind you to keep your radar up for old classmates. At this point, I would ask you all to start saving to get to Panama City. Any photos you have would be appreciated by Don and Art Stone to include in the archives and post on the website. Suggestions, other options and your thoughts are important, so let us know what is on your mind (if it is about the reunion) and we will put it out there. Fifteen months to go.



Naval Aviation Museum, Pensacola, Florida

All of us should be preparing for the business meeting by thinking of the location for the next reunion in 2015 and of nominees for new officers. This will help the meeting run smoothly and efficiently.

Stay healthy, enjoy yourselves and we look forward to seeing you all in fifteen months.

Mark V Monument Project Update



"The Mark V Monument Project" is an undertaking to erect an eleven foot tall bronze/granite JAKE monument. It will have a three foot tall pentagon shaped granite base. Each of the five sides will display a bronze seal of one of the five services of the U.S. Military. The monument will celebrate all graduates, past, present, and future of all U.S. Navy Diving Schools that go down in the sea to work. This monument will celebrate traditions forever of divers around the world who have given their life's work to underwater ships husbandry, underwater construction, salvage of ships lost at sea, combat, and clandestine missions.

Bob Barth enlisted the help of Dave Sullivan from the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center. To ensure everything was legal and above-board, Bob and Dave formed a not-for-profit Florida corporation, The Mark V Monument Project Inc. They also enlisted the help of Ed Delaney, Dave Thompson, Kellard Jansen, and Jim McCarthy to form The Mark V Monument Committee. The committee has been deeply involved in every aspect of design to ensure the product is technically accurate and to guarantee we erect a "JAKE" that all graduates (past, present, and future) of navy dive schools will take pride in.

To raise the required funding to bring this project to fruition, the Mark V Monument Project contracted the limited production of 300 21-inch bronze/granite, certified, serialized, limited edition, **exact replicas**, of the monument for sale. As of February 10th, **285** of the statuettes and the corresponding limited edition certificates have been delivered to supporters around the globe. With only 15 left, the dream of the unveiling ceremony of the JAKE monument is getting closer to reality.

The statuette is a piece of art and a piece of history. As the number of JAKE replicas dwindles, the sales have picked up. If you have been thinking of getting one, all the information you need is on their web site, markvmonument.org.

Or call Dave Sullivan ((850) 571-4286 (H) (850) 819-4163 (C) or Bob Barth (850) 785-6249



Editors Corner by Don Stone

Ahoy members!

As I look at the pretty picture of the swim school on page one, I don't remember ever looking at the building from the distance that the picture was taken. When leaving the building for a visit to the Acey-Deucey Club – that SPA across the street, I never looked back! The same thing goes for taking students for a run or swim; my mind was on details of the evolution and possible problems that we might have to deal with as instructors.

Enough of the trip down memory lane -- back to reality. The post office raised the postage rates again, so we have to slightly increase the cost of some logo gear that we mail. New prices are on page two.

YES! Reunion 2013 in Panama City! As we remember the fine job the Panama City group did on the 2009 reunion, we can hardly wait to see what they do this time. As Woody said, "We are looking forward to another Better than Excellent reunion."



Researching for the Mark V Monument Project story brought back that longing for one of the mini Jakes and I finally did it! There are now only 14 left and I am looking for the perfect spot to display my "piece of art and piece of history".

Final note, Art is adding a school history page to the UWSS web site and we need our members to send us some memories of their time at UWSS. Funny or scary, sad or glad, long or short – your stories will make the school history page more interesting

to all who visit it. Send stories to buddyline@uwss.org with "School History" in the subject line

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 5th Ave, Boca Raton, FL 33432

The Way It Was

The LCPR was an ideal boat to use at UWSS for training purposes. The bow ramp could be dropped to let swimmers off, and with an IBS towed along, side it was easy for the safety man to pick up disabled swimmers or divers. and even do cast and recovery.

Photo from Archives.



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