

Buddy Line



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

February 2013

FO/UWSS Reunion Registration Time is Here

Reunion 2013
May 16-19
Naval Support Activity
Panama City, Fl

Woody Woodward and his reunion committee have been busy planning another great union for us at NSA Panama City, home of the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center and the Experimental Diving Unit. The Naval Support Activity is rolling out the red carpet again with sixty suites blocked for us. Now it is time for us to take care of details such as reunion registrations, room reservations, and travel plans. See accommodation information on page 3.

Your reunion registration form is included in this issue of the Buddy Line. There will also be registration forms available on the web site UWSS.ORG. The reunion committee would like to receive registrations early to help with their planning. The reverse side of the form is a logo order for gear to be delivered at the reunion at a reduced price – you save the shipping charges. There will be some logo gear for sale at the reunion, but pre-ordering assures you get the size and color you want.

Woody has suggested a fundraiser raffle and/or auction of UWSS memorabilia and he wants you to join him in donating stuff from your attic or old locker box. He suggests blasting machines, [hand-held



or the big 50-cap one] blasting crimpers, compasses, old K-Bars, UDT life vests, UDTs, patches, old SCUBA regulators, face masks, depth gauges, tach boards, posters, etc. Please bring them with you to the reunion.

The reunion will get underway on Thursday, May 16th, with an Ice Breaker at the Main Deck behind building 349 (the old BOQ). There is a BBQ Friday evening, the Business Meeting Saturday morning, and a Banquet Saturday evening. A schedule of all reunion activities will be available at reunion check in.

Reunion check in will be at the Main Deck prior to and during the Ice Breaker. Preordered logo gear will be available for pickup at check in. The Ice Breaker starts at 1700 with a cookout at 1800.

Accommodation check in for all will be at Building 484 (the main BOQ). See page 3 for more reunion information.

Welcome New Members

Gerald "Jerry" Evans of Billings, Montana
US Navy 51-75 EOD

Martin G. Every of Vienna, Virginia
US Navy 61-66

Tom Kallmann of Marathon, Florida
US Navy

Richard "Hook" Tuure of Ft Myers, Florida
US Navy 59-79

Roland "Spud" Samuelson of
North Palm Beach, Florida
US Navy 57-67

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
- Embroidered Patch7.00
- UWSS logo decal2.00
transparent or white background
- 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 2013	275 members
Account Balance November 2012	14,887.04
Dues	+260.00
Logo gear sales	+131.00
Buddy Line printing	-166.16
Logo gear purchase	-243.80
Web site	-29.94
Reunion expense	-6.36
Postage	-100.32
Account Balance February 2013	14,731.46

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

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.

Reunion Accommodations

Naval Support Activity Panama City has blocked all of building 349 (the former BOQ) for us which includes 47 suites configured for 2 adults (max) with one queen bed. At building 484 (the main bldg, where everyone will check in) there are 13 suites on block. These rooms will sleep 2 adults and 2 children (max). They have 1 bed and a sofa sleeper. Building 484 has elevators.



To make reservations, at the Q's contact Anne Sawyer: anne.sawyer@navy.mil or call (850)234-4217 or (850)234-4556. Let the front desk know that you are with the Underwater Swimmer's School Reunion and reference the 16-19 MAY 2013 group when calling for reservations. Be ready to provide the following information: first & last name, rank, active/retired, how many in party, last 4 of social, phone number, credit card number + expiration date + billing address.

Campground reservations for campsites or cabins can be made at 850-234-4402/1000-1600. The Marina also has cabins and can accommodate campers. For details and/or reservations on those, contact Gary Smith gary.k.smith@navy.mil Phone 850-234-4091 FAX 850-230-7115.

Naval Aviation Museum

Some are planning a trip to the National Naval Aviation Museum the day before or the day after reunion activities. Located at Naval Air Station Pensacola, it is only a 2 ½ hour drive from Panama City.

The huge aviation museum is an awesome collection of naval aircraft from the earliest to the most recent. With two buildings, outside exhibits, three I-Max shows, flight simulators, and, of course, lunch at the Cubi Point O-Club bar and café, you could spend a whole day or more. The museum is free. The well-done IMax shows have a \$5-\$7 charge and have military discounts. If you want to stay a while, there is a Navy Lodge on base Phone: 850-456-8676.

Have questions? Contact Woody at gunnerww@comcast.net or Phone 850-814-9123

Editors Corner

by Don and Art Stone

The most important activities at our reunions are choosing the location of the next reunion and choosing the officers who will guide the organization for the next two years.

Our biggest and best reunion so far was the 2009 reunion in Panama City and this one promises to top that. Woody and his reunion crew have worked hard to make that happen. The point is, to have a good reunion, you have to have a committee willing to do the work it takes to make it happen.

Suggesting a location for a reunion and expecting someone else to make it happen doesn't work. The solution – find others who like the same location and who will work together with you before suggesting a location. There is plenty of guidance available from members with reunion setup experience.

The current officers have all served for more than one term. We need volunteers who are interested in the future of this organization to let others know they would be willing to be nominated. Before nominating someone else for an office, find out if they are willing and able to do what that position requires.

Think about and talk about this at the activities before the business meeting so you will be prepared for wise suggestions.

We have five new members since the last Buddy Line. Not only do new members add to our numbers, but they bring fresh ideas and participation. Many find us because of the web site UWSS.ORG. We have received several favorable comments about the new "School History" section. Have you seen it?

We would like to have more pictures for the archives, the web site, and the Buddy Line so will bring a scanner to the reunion. It has been several years since we last brought a scanner so there must be many of you with pictures we don't have. Please bring your photos and other scan-able memorabilia so we can copy them.

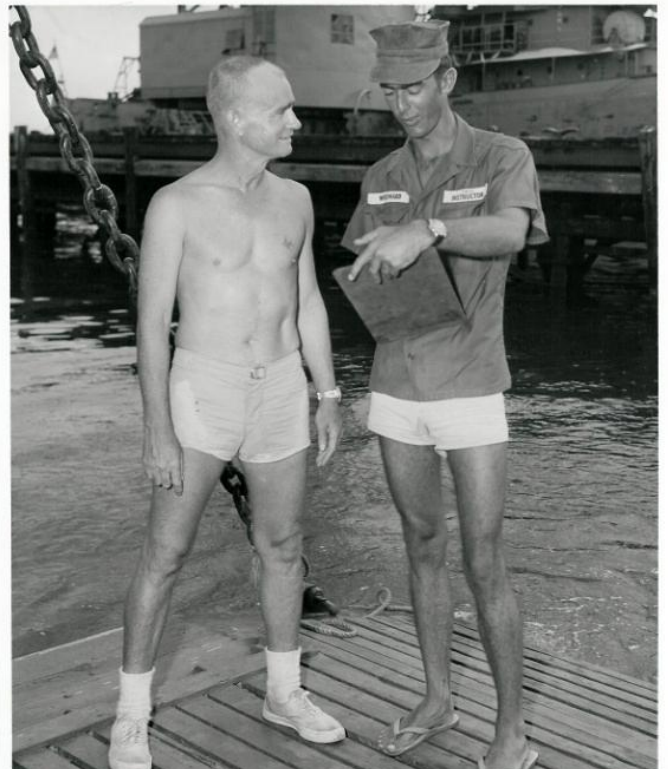
See you at the reunion! You don't want to miss what promises to be our biggest and best reunion ever. And remember, look out your UWSS memorabilia for the auction.

The Way It Was Memories from Woody Woodward

John Spottswood was a true "Key West Conch" and was the Monroe County Sheriff before becoming State Senator in the early 60s. He decided he wanted to go through UWSS, got an OK from the navy and fell in with a regular SCUBA class. There seemed to be no love lost between the Senator and the Key West newspaper, locally known as "The Mullet Wrapper." There were constant digs printed about the Senator, i.e., falling behind on morning runs, being last on swims and generally not being able to measure up, etc. It was well known around town that UWSS was a tough institute and that only the fittest survived. In fact, during those years we had an attrition rate of 63%. One untrue article published said something to the affect that -- every time there is a tough training evolution at UWSS, such as a night sneak attack on a ship or one of the home-ported submarines, Senator Spottswood is conveniently called to Tallahassee for important meetings. Actually, he was called away from time to time but not as his friends at the newspaper reported. He went on to graduate.

However a few classes later Senator Spottswood, at age 44, returned to swim school, this time with every contingency covered. He had appointed assistants to deal with whatever. He was NOT to be interrupted during the next 6 weeks. No matter what. He was assigned to a UDT class newly arrived from Rosey Roads. They were as hard as Chinese arithmetic. Ray Tullas, the class proctor, positioned Mr. Spottswood in the front of the formation to keep him from falling behind on runs. Tullas even told him, "hang on to my belt, just keep up." He did. During that course, the Senator made every evolution and graduated.

He was so proud of himself he said the felt like his chest would burst. To celebrate, he threw a grand 'weekend-long party' for UWSS instructors on -- his own island -- Munson Island, where Warner Brothers filmed the movie "PT-109". He later arranged a photo op for the instructors with his old friend, President Harry Truman. He introduced each instructor to Mr. Truman explaining what stood out most in his mind about this guy or that. Mostly, "Instructor Blank tried to kill me," or, "Instructor Blank tried to drown me." He often had parties at his Key West home and would invite us and our significant others., "ah the good ole days."



Senator John Spottswood and Instructor Woody Woodward

Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School
Buddy Line Newsletter
1440 SW 5th Avenue
Boca Raton, FL 33432

FO/UWSS Reunion 2013 Registration

Member Name _____ \$110.00 \$ _____
Registration due prior to April 15th
Late registration (after April 15th) \$120.00

Includes: Thursday Icebreaker Cookout, Friday BBQ at Marina Pavilions, Saturday Breakfast @ Base Galley and Banquet at Long Glass; also Membership Dues for 2013-2015.

***Circle banquet entrée selection:**

(Grilled Steak or Grilled Chicken)

Wife/Guest Name _____ \$85.00 \$ _____
Registration due prior to April 15th
Late registration (after April 15th) \$95.00

Includes: Thursday Icebreaker Cookout, Friday BBQ at Marina Pavilions, Saturday Breakfast @ Base Galley and Banquet at Long Glass

***Circle banquet entrée selection:**

(Grilled Steak or Grilled Chicken)

Total of pre-ordered logo gear: \$ _____

Make checks, for registration and logo gear, payable to Don Stone, Treasurer

Total: \$ _____

Mail forms and checks to: Don Stone
1440 SW 5th Ave.
Boca Raton, FL 33432
Phone 561-391-6727

Registration Information

*****PLEASE PRINT*****

Name of member _____

Do you hold a valid active duty or retired military ID or other US Government photo ID _____

Address of member _____

Phone # _____ Cell Ph _____ Email _____

Name of other room occupant(s) if staying on base _____

Check in date _____ Departure date _____

NEW MEMBERS Please fill in New Member Application on back side.

FOR GATE ENTRY – EVERY PERSON entering the base must have some type of government photo ID (can be a driver's license). Person driving vehicle must have valid driver's license, registration and proof of insurance.

OR RENTAL CAR – place rental agreement on dash. Name on rental contract must match driver or other vehicle occupant.

Logo Gear Order (for pickup at reunion)
Special Reunion Prices . Save Shipping Charges

White Beefy-T t-shirt – logo on pocket and back Circle size: S M L XL XXL	16.00 ea _____
Ash gray Beefy-T t-shirt – logo on pocket and back Circle size: S M L XL XXL	16.00 ea _____
White Beefy-T long sleeve logo t-shirt Circle size: S M L XL XXL	18.00 ea _____
Ash gray Beefy-T long sleeve logo t-shirt Circle size: S M L XL XXL	18.00 ea _____
White polo shirt –50/50 Cotton/Poly - logo on pocket only Circle size: S M L XL XXL	18.00 ea _____
Ash polo shirt –50/50 Cotton/Poly - logo on pocket only Circle size: S M L XL XXL	18.00 ea _____
Pique polo –all cotton, birch gray – embroidered logo left front (no pocket) Circle size: S M L XL XXL	20.00 ea _____
Blue denim shirt – short sleeves, embroidered logo Circle size: M L XL XXL	28.00 ea _____
All XXL shirts add \$2.00 ea	
Cap – natural, printed logo	10.00 ea _____
Baseball cap – blue, embroidered logo	16.00 ea _____
UWSS Coin	5.00 ea _____
UWSS all service coin	6.00 ea _____
Tote bag, zipper top, blue & black, white logo	8.00 ea _____
Key chain, enameled logo	5.00 ea _____



Total for Logo Gear \$ _____

*We will have some logo items available for sale at the reunion,
but preordering will assure you get the items and sizes you want.*

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

Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number:: _____ Cell Phone : _____ Wife's Name: _____

E-mail: _____ Newsletter by email _____ or snail mail _____

Branch of Service: _____ Dates of Service: _____

Military scuba training or staff place/date: _____

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