

Buddy Line



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

February 2015

Reunion Registration Time

FO/UWSS Reunion 2015

Panama City, Florida

May 14-17, 2015

We return for the third time to NSA Panama City, home of the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center and the Experimental Diving Unit. Aaron Farior, reunion chairman, has been hard at work setting up venues, food, and events for the reunion. All Thursday and Friday activities will take place at the Main Deck, behind building 349 (the former BOQ). Breakfast will be available at the mess on Friday and Saturday mornings.

We get started on Thursday, May 14th, with the reunion check-in at the Main Deck from 1500 to 1800 followed by the Ice Breaker from 1800 to 2100. Friday morning there will be tours of the dive facilities and in the evening, a BBQ at the Main Deck. The Saturday morning business meeting, will also be at the Main Deck. The reunion will wind up with a banquet Saturday evening at the Long Glass Club. A schedule of all reunion activities will be available at reunion check-in.

Accommodations check in for all will be at Building 484, the Navy Gateway Inn. This year the rule that reservations cannot be made more than 30 days before arrival date is being strictly followed.



A room reservation request is on the reunion registration form. Aaron will see that these are turned in to the reservation desk at the earliest time they will accept them.

Aaron is still working to get the 30 days out rule lifted for the FO/UWSS reunion. We will notify all members when this happens. Until then, please include the reservation request information on your reunion registration form.

The rooms at building 484 have one queen bed; the suites have one queen bed and a sofa sleeper. Building 484 has elevators. Building 349's suites are configured for two adults (max) with one queen bed. Building 349 is near the Main Deck where most of our activities will be held.

Campground reservations for campsites or cabins can be made any time 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 Ph 850-234-4091 FAX 850-230-7115.

There will be no preordered logo gear this time. A large supply of logo items will be available for sale at Thursday's Icebreaker and at the Friday evening BBQ.

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 completed registrations early to help with event planning.

UWSS LOGO ITEMS



All prices include shipping.

- Beefy-T t-shirt..... 19.00 ea
white or ash gray, large logo back, small logo pocket
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*
 - Long sleeved t-shirt.....21.00 ea
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.....22.00 ea
white or ash gray, small logo on pocket.
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*
 - Pique polo all cotton.....24.00 ea
birch gray, embroidered logo left front ,(no pocket)
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*
 - Blue denim shirt, short sleeves31.00 ea
embroidered logo above pocket
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*
- *All shirts size XXL add \$2.00 ea**
- Cap – natural with logo 15.00 ea
 - Baseball cap – blue, embroidered logo.....21.00 ea
Cap 3.00 less if ordered with shirt
 - All service mug – old logo front, new logo back.. 15.00 ea
 - Mug – old logo front, UWSS back 10.00 ea
 - Embroidered Patch7.00 ea
 - UWSS logo decal – transparent or white2.00 ea
 - UWSS Plaque – bright brass on blue45.00 ea
 - UWSS commemorative coin7.00 ea
enameled brass, raised design, 1 5/8 inch diameter
 - UWSS all-service commemorative coin.....10.00 ea
enameled brass, raised design, 2 inch diameter
 - Bright LED pocket flashlight, shark rider logo7.00 ea
 - Key Chain with enameled logo medallion7.00 ea

**Make check to FO/UWSS
Send 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 November 2014	253 members
Account Balance November 2014	16,136.73
Dues	+175.00
Logo gear sales	+485.00
Other	+20.00
Buddy Line printing	-121.13
Postage	-34.19
Supplies	-4.36
Account Balance February 2015	16,657.05

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 U.S. Naval Underwater Swimmers School Key West, Florida from 1954 to1973. 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. Send check same as for logo orders.

The Executive Corner

Bob Holmes
Gerry Flowers

Well, folks, hope this finds all of you well and planning to attend the May reunion in Panama City Florida. Before I start, I want to bring you up to speed on our President, Bob Holmes, USN ST-2. Bob has finished his last bout of Chemo Therapy at the Houston VA Hospital. He is now home, with Janet, building up his strength and getting back to a normal life. Please include Bob and Janet in your prayers.

The reunion is on track; the only glitch that we can see is the Navy Lodge (Navy Gateway Inn). I spoke to them February 9th and confirmed that thirty days before our reunion is the earliest they will accept our reservations. What we need from the membership is a commitment to attend. This can be done by filling out the accommodations section of the reunion registration. Aaron will see that these reservation requests are presented at the earliest possible time.

Since there are other reunions that week and the whole week prior is a Celebration of Navy Diving, that will give us the best chance of securing Navy Lodge accommodations for the UWSS reunion.

I cannot stress enough, the importance of having the registrations in by the first of April, 2015. This is to facilitate a list of reservation requests being sent to the Navy Lodge on the stroke of Midnight so we can be first in line for lodging. Thank you all for your attention to this.

Now, having said that, we cannot look ahead and know what will be happening with the U.S. Navy and our world situation, so all of us could in fact, be bumped if there was a need for active duty personnel to have the use of the Facilities. Aaron Farrior will be investigating alternative lodging during the next few weeks in case there is a need for it.

The link below is to a facebook page for the UWSS, hosted by Ken Recoy, UWSS 1972. I will post information here as I receive it from Aaron Farrior, USAF Pararescue so that we can keep you up to date.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/682196168496022/>

I would like to thank the membership for giving me the opportunity to be on the executive for the last number of years, but, clearly, it is now time for me to step down.

I look forward to seeing you all in May.

Searching for a Photo

Ken Recoy wants a photo of his March 1972 UWSS graduating class so much he drove to Boca Raton to look through the archive books to see if any of the unidentified photos were his class. They weren't, so now he is searching for classmates who may have a class photo. If you know any of these men, you can contact Ken at kenrecoy@aol.com

US NAVAL SCHOOL, UNDERWATER SWIMMERS
SCUBA CLASS #7205 GRADUATION 24 MAR 1972

CARROLL, Alan B	LCPL
CHANDLER, Jack E	AMN
DANG, Nguyen Van	POI-VIETNAM
DRAKE, David L	SN
FLOOD, Andrew W	SGT
GODING, William J.	AMN
HARRISON, Robert L.	AMN
HERING, Daniel J	SGT
JONES, Sherman C	1~LT
KIRKBRIDE, Clark D	PFC
LEBLANC, Joseph A.	AMN
LITE, Patrick E.	AMN
LOTTIER, David B	ENS
MANH, LeVan	CPO-VIETNAM
NECHODOM, David W.	AMN
NELSON, Mark A.	SN
RECOY, H Kenneth	RMSN
REED, Michael C	SA
RYCROFT, Joseph D.	FA
SCHMIKUS, William C.	EM3
SMITH, Michael R	AMN
TUTEN, John W.	AMN

Welcome New Members

Jack Hill of Fairfax Station, VA
USN 88-92 EOD P.C. 89/90

Thomas M. Ligon of Virginia Beach, VA
USN 60-92 UWSS 62 & 63

Jordan Kleinman of Atlantic City, NJ
USMC 55-59 UWSS 56

Thomas J. Hodgins of Spokane, WA
USN 68-2000 UWSS 73

Editors Corner

by Don Stone

Not all reunions are the same even when they're held in the same place. This one has been tough for Aaron Farior, the reunion chair, to set up. There is a new manager at the Navy Gateway Inn and a new Base Commanding Officer. There is the "Year of the Navy Diver Celebration" the week before our reunion and there's another group having their reunion at the same time as ours and wanting to use the same facilities.

Aaron has spent a good deal of time in Panama City over the last few weeks having the meetings it takes to make a reunion happen and pinning down the information needed for the February Buddy Line and reunion registration forms. The plan for accommodations is to have all the reunion attendees'

reservation requests in hand and present them to the reservations desk at the earliest time they will accept them.

The back of the reunion registration form will have a section for the accommodation reservation requests. This section will contain the information required by the Navy Gateway Inn and may repeat some information already entered on the front of the form.

Please check your registration form over carefully before mailing it to your secretary/treasurer. Often-missed items are circling the banquet food selection for each person and entering the preferred name for your badge (including last name).

There is no pre-ordering of logo gear this time, however we will have a large stock of logo gear for sale at the reunion. The logo gear sales will be available at the Thursday icebreaker and at the Friday BBQ.

We are going to have a great reunion!

Year of the Military Diver Celebration

For the past year, NDSTC has been planning a very large "Year of the Military Diver" celebration to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Mark V dive helmet, the 35th anniversary of Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center, the 70th Anniversary for NSA Panama City and Naval Surface Warfare Center Panama City Division, and the 40th year since Navy Experimental Diving Unit moved from Washington Navy Yard to Panama City.

A major celebration week to mark 2015 as the Year of the Military Diver and highlight all military diving achievements begins May 4th.

Many military diver organizations will be participating with displays, presentations and reunions. The Chamber of Commerce has worked with local hotels for discounted rooms.

Schedule of Events						
	Monday May 4th	Tuesday May 5th	Wednesday May 6th	Thursday May 7th	Friday May 8th	Saturday May 9th
USN Military Diver Training Continuum						
AM	EOD Executive Steering Committee (Eglin AFB)	Guest Speaker: Commandant USCG	Guest Speaker: SECNAV	Guest Speaker: Chief U.S. Army Engineers	Guest Speaker: COMSUBGRU 7 Former N97B	
	Guest Speaker: Commander NBCC	USCG Diver Rate Inauguration	NSA Panama City Open House	Cpt Shawn English Fieldhouse Dedication	CPOA Golf Tournament	
Lunchtime MWR cookouts						
Mark V Dives at NDSTC						
PM		Man in the Sea Museum Open House		Dive Lab Open House		
	US Coast Guard Diver Reunion			US Army Diver Reunion		
					USN MDV Recall	
				DEVRON Reunion		

FO/UWSS Reunion 2015 Registration - Page 1

Member Name _____ \$120.00 \$ _____
Registration due prior to April 14th
Late registration (after April 14th) \$130.00

Includes: Thursday Icebreaker Cookout, Friday BBQ, Saturday Breakfast @ Base Galley and Banquet at Long Glass; also Membership Dues for 2015-2017.

***Circle banquet entrée selection:** (Grilled Steak or Grilled Chicken)

Preferred name on badge _____

Wife/Guest Name _____ \$95.00 \$ _____
Registration due prior to April 14th
Late registration (after April 14th) \$105.00

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

***Circle banquet entrée selection:** (Grilled Steak or Grilled Chicken)

Preferred name on badge _____

Make checks for registration 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.

Navy Gateway Inn Reservation Request

First and Last Name _____

Rank _____ Active / Retired / UWSS sponsored _____

Check in Date _____ Departure Date _____

How many in party _____ Last four of social security number _____

Credit Card number _____

Billing address _____

Special request _____

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

Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip _____

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.

Memories of reunions past



1998 Key West



LouLou Anise 2000 Panama City Beach 9 PM
David Byers "Blackie" Meyers Mrs. Meyers



2002 Little Creek



2004 Coronado



2006 Key West



2011 Caribbean Cruise

The Way It Was

Flaking our on the "U" after a strenuous morning, catching some rays on the way back to base. Those tanks don't look comfortable, but they are warm from the sun and feel good after a cold dive.

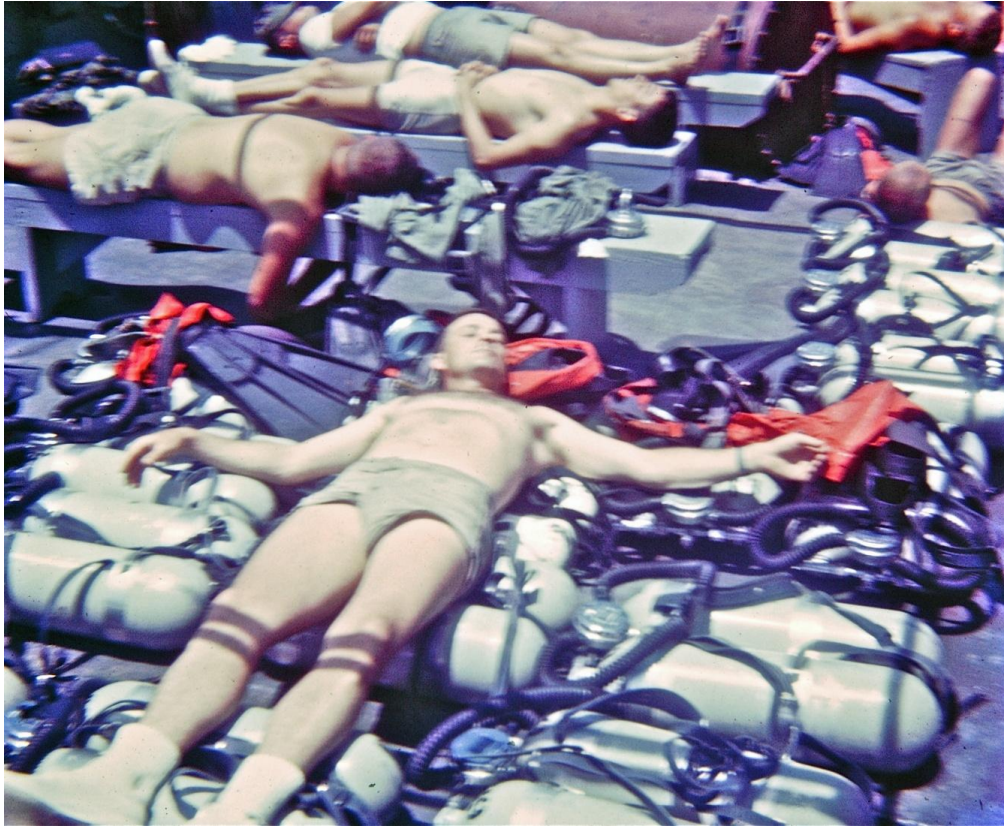


Photo from John Sedlak

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