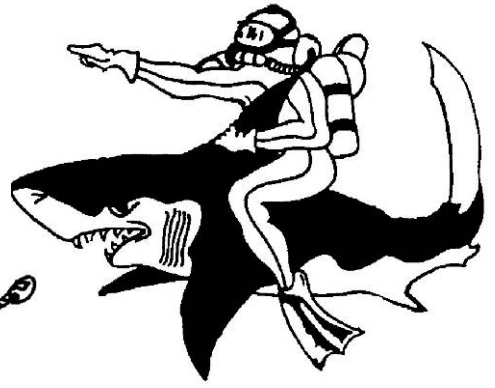


Buddy Line



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

May 2004



Activities started off at noon on Friday, May 7th at a cookout with the officers and crew of the Consolidated Diving Unit on the 32nd Street Navy Base in San Diego. The members of FO/UWSS enjoyed some great food and swapped stories with the active duty divers.



Many toured the CDU facility where they admired both the interesting historic displays and the modern gear.



A UWSS plaque was presented to Cdr Melanie Branson, CO of CDU, and group photos were taken in front of the unit's headquarters building with the former UWSS shark and rider in the background.

Business Meeting

Saturday morning started with a continental breakfast followed by the business meeting. The first order of business was elections for the offices of president, vice president, and secretary/treasurer. Don Stone was reelected president; Dee Clark was elected vice president; and Roger Lynch was elected secretary/treasurer.



The next subject was the location of the 2006 reunion. Key West, Florida was chosen in short order. An important factor in that choice was that CMC Driscoll, who helped set up the first UWSS reunion in Key West, has volunteered to set up reunion 2006 there.

Reunion coverage continues on page 3

President's Corner by Don Stone

The reunion in Coronado, California was declared the best reunion yet by many of our members. In spite of very tight base security, we were able to get all members aboard the bases with the help of our active duty sponsors.

The west coast location of the reunion helped to attract many new members from western states. Among them were Chuck Allen, Barney Bakara, Robert Darlington, Bill Daugherty, Peter Dirx, Cathal (Irish) Flynn, Jamie Garcia, Gene Gluhareff, Jerry Hammerle, Fernando Lugo, Jim Pearson, Jack Reider, Jerry Stevens, Jim Stewart and Dick Takahashi.

In this group there are former CO's and XO's of UWSS, a RADM who during his distinguished Naval career was a CO of UDT11, UDT12 and ST1, a SeaLab diver and operator of deep submergence research submarines, and the chief diving officer emeritus of Scripps Institute.

Bernie Campoli's friendships with many in the area were really valuable to us. He opened the doors at Naval Special Warfare Group 3 for an excellent presentation by the Chief of Staff, Cdr Rick May, and a walk through of the high tech SEAL support boats, which was especially inspiring for those who remember the SEAL boats of yesterday. NSWG3 provided transportation on navy buses for the event and was very helpful with getting our civilian members on base with their cars.

Bernie also supplied us with a list of names of individuals in the area who may have an interest in joining the FO, as well as contacts at CDU. A hearty well done to Bernie for all of his efforts that helped make our reunion a success.

Navy Lodge North Island was a great place to stay during the reunion. Art & I stayed a few days after to unwind and enjoy the beautiful beachfront location. We would recommend it to anyone visiting the area.

We appreciate all the photos and slides that were brought to the reunion for scanning. You will be seeing them in future issues of the Buddy Line. Thanks, especially, to A. Dee Clark, Chris Seger and Bernie Campolie for sharing, and quickly sending, their photos from the reunion so we could include some of them in this issue.

Have you seen the new FO/UWSS website?
Log on to www.uwss.org and check out the history of the fraternal order and look for more pictures of the reunion.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Membership May 2004

142 regular members
109 associate members

Account Balance February 2004	2968.81
Interest	+2.91
Logo items sold	+1408.10
Dues	+1400.00
Reunion registrations	+3495.00
Logo item purchases	-1440.71
Reunion expenses	-4201.40
Buddy Line printing & postage	-184.85
Account Balance May 2004	3447.86

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 associates of UWSS students and staff who share an interest in the goals and activities of the FO/UWSS. Associate members will not have voting privileges.

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 or stonefish7@cs.com
snail mail: 1440 S.W. 5th Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432
phone: (561) 391-6727..... fax: (509) 472-6492

Buddy Line by email?
Printing and mailing the Buddy Line newsletter is a major expense for the fraternal order. To cut back on this expense we will send it by email to those who request it, starting with the August issue.

If you would like to receive the Buddy Line by email, send an email to buddyline@uwss.org so your correct email address will be on record with a statement that you want to receive the newsletter by email.

Reunion 2004

Continued from Page 1

Business meeting:

Following that, Dee Clark brought to the members attention that the Buddy Line newsletter was our biggest expense. Some members suggested raising the dues, but Dee and Don felt that this should be avoided if possible. Roger Lynch suggested that the Buddy Line could be sent out by email, but the drawback to that was not all had email. A compromise was reached in which members would have a choice of receiving the Buddy Line by email or by postal mail. If only half of the members elected for email delivery, it would save the FO a considerable amount, and dues would not have to be raised. If you would like to receive the Buddy Line by email, send an email to buddyline@uwss.org so your correct email address will be on record with a statement that you want to receive the newsletter by email.

Naval Special Warfare Group 3 Visit

After lunch we reported back to Club Coronado where Chief Benson met us with two buses which took us to NSWG3 Headquarters.



There we were given an extensive, exciting and informative briefing on NSWG3's expanding role in the special warfare community and information on some of the latest high tech tools and methods available to seals and other members of the Naval Special Warfare Community. Today's seals must have not only great physical strength, but also the ability to master highly technical equipment. An example shown was a new swimmer navigation and positioning system that included GPS, side scan sonar, and memory that could remember bottom contours, depths, pictures of obstructions and other data, all in something slightly larger than a compass board.

Our main speaker, Cdr Rick May, Chief of Staff of NSWG3, was presented with a UWSS plaque for the command, a small thank you for all that they did for us. Back on the buses, we rode to the piers where MK5 seal delivery boats and 11 meter RIB's were moored



We were able to board the boats and talk with the crew, and learned the boats, which are heavily armed and very fast, can, in rough seas, subject crews and passengers to extreme trauma in spite of padded seats, as the boats can take more abuse from the rough seas than can their riders.



Ice Breaker

The Amphibian Room at Club Coronado was decorated in red, white, and blue for the Ice Breaker and Banquet. At the Ice Breaker members enjoyed an hors d'oeuvres buffet and drinks as they visited with old friends and got acquainted with new ones.



Luellen Fain handled the sale of logo gear with Katie Northrup's help. Polos, tee shirts, decals, mugs and hats were popular. Art Stone stayed busy scanning photos that many members brought for the Buddy Line and the web site. Chuck and Patti Allen brought lots of slides from UWSS and helped with the scanning.

Banquet

The Amphibian Room was filled with 68 members and guests for the banquet on Saturday evening. President ,Don Stone, welcomed the group and promised an interesting evening.



Rocky Rockwell, associate member from Corona, California whose hobby is restoration of old diving equipment, brought a compete MK6 semi-closed circuit that was used at UWSS in the 60's as well as Scott hydropak components, shallow water diving masks and other artifacts from the stone age. His equipment was on display during the business meeting and the banquet.



After a hearty dinner all enjoyed the beautiful logo cake which tasted as good as it looked. Then it was time for the speakers.



Our first speaker was Jim Tucker, one of the original instructors at UWSS in 1954. Jim's description of the early days at the school was filled with humor and enjoyed by all. He was presented with a UWSS plaque in recognition of his plankowner status.

Following Jim, Mark Hoffer spoke about some of his humorous experiences at UWSS as the school medical officer and his favorite? corpsman.. Mark just returned from active duty in Kosovo where, as the only submarine medical officer in the Army, he answered a call for a DMO when a soldier thought he had a diving injury.



Our last speaker, Linda Hubbell, told what it was like becoming the first female diving officer in the Navy. Despite getting a hard time in diving school, she hung in there and overcame harassment by the CO and lack of suitable accommodations for women.

The festivities ended with a drawing for door prizes. Gordy Ablitt was one of the happy winners.





Membership Application

Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School

Full Name: _____

Wife's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Branch of Service: _____ Rank/Rate _____ Dates of Service: _____

Dates & Class # at UWSS: _____ or Associate Membership: _____

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

Make check to Roger Lynch, Treasurer and mail to 422 Sarahwoods Drive, Red Lion, PA 17356



Group photo taken at CDU by Bernie Campoli

Lunch with the Shark culminated with a gathering in front of Consolidated Divers Unit for a group photo with the shark.

If you would like a copy of this photo (in color), just email your request to Bernie at flafrog@bellsouth.net.



Underwater Swimmers School Reunion
May 7- 8, 2004



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