

Buddy Line



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

May 2007

THE EXECUTIVE CORNER

By Gerry Flowers with Bob Holmes

Well folks, another reunion of the Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School has "come and gone", literally. It was a tremendous success again this year, due in part to several things coming together. First and foremost, the commitment, dedication and drive of both Don and Art Stone have once again made this happen.



So, here is our update on how things have progressed since the gathering. Bob and Larry had to drive 1600 miles back to Galveston with Doc Rio in the car... apparently he was the only one that was cool in the heat of driving as he chose to wear his light summer skirt..

Both Bob Holmes and I discussed how we felt about trying to fill the shoes of Don and Art and the executive committees, and the biggest question, was "how in the heck did we get to be President and Vice President of this operation". It certainly was not on "Qualifications". Right then and there, we decided to touch base

as soon as we got back to our respective destinations. It was decided that Bob would try to fill Don's shoes, and I would take the smaller set belonging to Art.

One of the first things we did was talk about "The New President, Bob Holmes" missing the group picture. This, to me, was not a good sign, as Bob can hide in a room with three people. Right then and there, we decided to get right into this, and he finally told me his last name and how to get a hold of him.

I wrote a quick email to Don Stone and asked very seriously...Don, what is our first step now that the
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LOGO ART



Margaret Grady & Jack Bennett

Jack Bennett, the first lucky winner of the door prize drawing at the banquet, chose this beautiful leaded glass logo created by Margaret Grady and donated to FO/UWSS by Clay and Margaret. She has made leaded glass logos for many of the organizations in the Special Warfare community and all proceeds are donated to the logo's organization. She promises more of them at our 2009 reunion.

Sammie Garnett again donated and signed two of her books for children, the "U.S. Navy Alphabet Book", and they were also very popular door prizes..

Thanks to Bernie Campoli, Doc Rio Riojas, Jerry Padra and Gerry Flowers for sharing photos with us. Look for more of them in future Buddy Line issues.
Get your Buddy Line by email to enjoy the photos in color!

UWSS LOGO ITEMS

The following logo items are currently available. We can obtain other items if there are enough requests. Prices include shipping and have slightly increased to reflect the recent postage increases.

White Beefy-T shirt..... 15.00 ea, 2 for 26.00
Large logo on back, small logo on pocket
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL

Ash gray Beefy-T shirt..... 16.00 ea, 2 for 28.00
Large logo on back, small logo on pocket
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL

White long sleeved T shirt 18.00 ea, 2 for 32.00
Large logo on back, small logo on front (no pocket)
Sizes S, M, L, XL

Ash gray long sleeved T shirt 19.00 ea, 2 for 34.00
Large logo on back, small logo on front (no pocket)
Sizes S, M, L, XL

White polo shirt, 50/50 cotton/poly.. 20.00 ea, 2 for 36.00
Small logo on pocket. Sizes M, L, XL, XXL

Ash polo shirt, 50/50 cotton/poly..... 20.00 ea, 2 for 36.00
Small logo on pocket. Sizes M, L, XL, XXL

Pique polo, all cotton, birch gray..... 22.00 ea, 2 for 40.00
Embroidered logo left front. (no pocket)
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL

Coffee mug with old logo front & back 15.00
12.00 ea if ordered with shirt

Cap – natural with logo 14.00 ea
10.00 ea if ordered with shirt

Baseball cap – light tan, embroidered logo 19.00 ea
16.00 ea if ordered with shirt

UWSS logo decal
Transparent background 2.00 ea
White background 2.00 ea

UWSS logo lapel/tie pin 6.00 ea

UWSS plaque - Bright brass logo on blue 27.00 ea

UWSS commemorative coin 5.00 ea
1 5/8" diameter, enameled brass with raised design

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

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Membership- May 2007 229 members

Account Balance February 2007	\$8,,875.29
Dues	+650.00
Reunion fees	+6,308.00
Logo sales & donations	+3,258.00
Buddy Line printing & postage	-185.70
Reunion expense	-7,331.06
Logo Purchases	-2,401.39
Supplies	-82.31
Account Balance May 2007	\$9,090.83

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 others who share an interest in the goals and activities of FO/UWSS. Associate members do not have voting privileges, but are encouraged to participate in all other activities..

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

PresidentBob 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.

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WEBSITE: www.uwss.org

All logo items are pictured on the web site

Buddy Line by email

If you use 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 mailout.

To receive the Buddy Line by email, send your request to stonefish7@cs.com.

THE EXECUTIVE CORNER

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reunion is in the books and the planning is set in motion for the 2009 gathering in Panama City. It was a heartfelt note from a newly affirmed Vice President, directed to help the Newly Affirmed President anyway he can... asking for said "direction" from the leader.

Well folks, as you know, Don is a calm guy and if he was being attack by a great white, he might respond back with..."Can I get back to you in an hour or so, I am dealing with something important here"...he writes me back and says, "*Gerry, both Bob and you, should KICK BACK, DO NOTHING, RELAX, think about what happened at the reunion, all that has to be done, then after a little time, get started.*"

Whew!!! Just what we needed to hear, because we were still in the throes of wondering what the heck happened. However, the outgoing President had given us both a reprieve. I drop a note to Bob, he does not answer, heck, I am not surprised, he never answers, but I know he got the note and has taken a deep breath and relaxed. Now, we can slowly start to think about "The 2009 Reunion" with no pressure, again...a bit of time to figure out how we got into this position. Whew...thanks Don.

In two years, the next reunion, as you all are aware, will be in Panama City. It is a long way off and much has to be done between now and then, and it has to be done with the same dedication and tenacity the past executive has exhibited. Bob and I want to be like that. So, we start quickly out of the gate, and get a reprieve from the POO BAH...great.

Needless to say, both Bob and I were relieved for about a day. Don writes back to the new "confused executives"....and sneaks in this bit of important information at the end. "*Pres & VP, we need the president's column as soon as you can, por favor. The deadline for getting your column out is the 28th of May!! Stay well, Don*"

Well, this whole diatribe is the article in response to Don's request for a communiqué from the New President and the New Vice President. From start to finish, the reunion was a pleasure to attend, we met some great new folks, and again met up with many friends from last year. In some ways it is a pity we have to wait two years to do this again. We thank Rudy Enders for speaking to us at the banquet, and as Bob Mentioned, we need a few days with that guy, to hear all his stories



We heard from Bob Shouse and the early years with UDT...a great start for all the rest of the beginning of Naval Special Warfare. I can hear it back then...Bob, just get in the water with your guys, go do the job, be careful, and oh yeah, take a knife with you. The Admiral is still pondering the use of Swim fins and masks. We will get back to you. I know that Bob would have gladly traded

mask and fins for an automatic weapon back then. Thank you Bob for your service and commitment. Doc Rio said a few words that turned into a little longer speech, but as usual, he was in great form and the dress looked wonderful.

It was an honor for me to address the crowd again, having Bob emcee, and as a small aside, I thank you for not throwing anything this year. I think that the food was so good, many of you opted to eat it rather than waste it taking aim at the speakers.



Bob Holmes & Gerry Flowers

Both Bob Holmes and I will try to do our best over the next 23 months in trying to help pull this together with all the able help in Panama City. Which brings me to Aaron Farrier and his group, Aaron, aka "Slippery" has the knowledge, connections, drive and caring to help make this the best yet. Aaron, thank you.

I ask all of you, to contact a friend, write an email, check on a friend that is ill, but get the word out. There were a lot of divers trained in Key West, many of them were active SEALs, EOD, Marines, Airmen and Army. Let us make a commitment to contact them over the next 16 or 18 months and drag them to the next reunion. Better still, contact their wives. Thank you for coming, and Winona, drag your plaster of Paris sailor there in two years..

With Respect and admiration to all of you...

More thoughts to come..

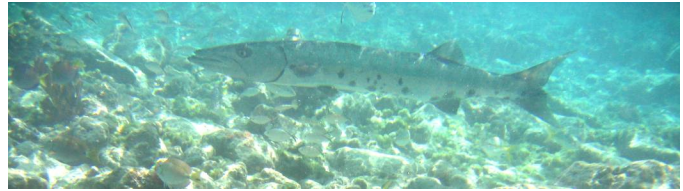
REUNION RECAP

By Don Stone

Well, folks, the 2007 reunion is just a pleasant memory now. For many, it was the best reunion of all. MWR, under the leadership of Mike Hartley, did a 4.0 job. Judy at the VQ rescued our group at the last minute from being exiled to Boca Chica and got us all into Trumbo Point. Mike Driscoll again helped us with base relations.

The Diving History Museum in Islamorada was very trusting and loaned us some valuable old diving rigs that included a Navy Mk5 hard hat, Miller-Dunn hat and pump. The old rigs and the UWSS archives were very popular at the Ice Breaker Thursday evening. Art Stone and Judy Padrta sold piles of logo gear and DeDe Clark helped with registration for late arrivals. The food was the best yet.

The weather was ideal and the waters calm and clear. We skipped Eastern Dry Rocks because of strong currents and moved to Sand Key. Well, the key has vanished under the waves but Sand Key light still stands, a beacon for sailors and a bit of history.



There are still many beautiful and interesting fish to watch. Unfortunately there is little live coral now but in deeper water we saw a few large live coral heads.



That evening we mustered at Sunset Lounge and had a fine Cuban style meal of roast pork, plantain, rice and black beans. We told stories, drank beer and wine, and enjoyed camaraderie.



Our snorkel trip on Friday was underway by 0900 with a full boat of divers, snorkelers and riders.





Saturday, May 12th started out with a continental breakfast at 0900 followed by the business meeting. We elected new officers: President - Bob Holmes, Vice President - Gerry Flowers, and Sec/Treas - Don and Art Stone. The 2009 reunion committee will be chaired by Woody Woodward and Bill Garnett. They will be assisted by Aaron Farris, Bernie Campoli and others from the Panama City area.



Aaron Farris, Gerry Flowers, Rudy Boesch, Bob Holmes, Don Stone

The banquet was started off with a group photo on the VQ steps taken by Bernie Campoli.



When the photo shoot was over, all headed for the buffet while Judy Pence and Barbara Pendry made sure everyone got a door prize ticket.

DeDe, Sammie, Marge and Judy sold over \$550 worth of 50/50 tickets. Jerry Patra, Dick Pence, Ernie Caltenback and several other members helped put up and take down the displays for both the ice breaker and the banquet and haul the heavy gear around.



After dinner our speakers kept us entertained. Bob Shouse told us about his career in early UDT, Rudy Enders told us about his memories of Key West, and Gerry Flowers gave us more information on Moore's Marauders. Bob Holmes, our new president, emceed and Bob Clark and Bill Garnett presided over the door prizes and the 50/50.

Thanks guys, and gals, for all your help. All that was left to do was take lots of photos of each other and say goodbyes.

Membership Application

Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School

Full Name: _____

Wife's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Branch of Service: _____ 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 payable to UWSS and mail to Don Stone, Treasurer, 1440 SW 5th Ave, Boca Raton, FL 33432

Historic Sand Key Lighthouse



Sand Key has seen many changes. The first lighthouse, a 70 ft brick tower, was built there in 1827 along with a keeper's house. Hurricanes washed away the keeper's house three times and finally took the brick tower too. Before a new lighthouse could be built, at least eight vessels ran aground on the reef.

The structure seen there today was completed in 1853. The iron piles were each bored 10 feet into the coral seabed. Over 450 tons of iron were used in the 132-ft tall lighthouse, with a keeper's house on the second tier. Hurricanes continued to take away the island's sand and outbuildings several times but the tower stood. The light was automated in 1941 and the keeper's house vacated.

While a major renovation was underway in 1989, the lighthouse caught fire and was badly damaged. The Coast Guard determined the tower could be saved but it was too expensive to replace the keeper's house. A \$500,000 restoration project was begun in 1994. Sand Key Lighthouse is on the National Register of Historic Places.

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