

Buddy Line



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

May 2011

UWSS 2011 Reunion

The FO/UWSS 2011 reunion, held aboard the cruise ship Carnival Destiny May 7-12, was enjoyed by thirty six members and guests.



Gathering Saturday afternoon in the Apollo Bar for before dinner libations, the group received their reunion handouts in a logo tote bag. Sunday, a day at sea, was highlighted by the Ice Breaker and the Captain's Dinner.

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CLASS 5-61 HOLDS 50 YEAR REUNION

By Chris Seger

The UWSS Class of 5-61 traveled to Pensacola, Florida on 23 February 2011 to hold their 50 year reunion and honor their instructors. Nine members of the class, Chris Seger, Joe Kennedy (Lynne), Peter Wells, George Coughlan (Martha), John "Tank" Childress, Dick Peterson, John "Top" Sargent (Kathy), Bruce Hulbert (Margaret), and Otto Holmberg attended along with Class Proctor Don Stone and his wife, Art, and Instructor Dick Pence and his wife, Judy. The class was especially pleased to welcome Shirley Foster whose husband Jerry (Class 5-61 member) had recently passed away. Doug Casavant, Ed Abel, and Instructor Lee Barber were unable to attend.

Thursday's highlight was a special tour of the Naval Air Museum and a luncheon at the Cubi Bar and Restaurant located in the museum. The Cubi Bar was relocated from its original home in the Philippines and brought to Pensacola with all the plaques and memorabilia that had been installed over the years. The Naval Air Museum is enormous and it tells the history of naval aviation with exhibits, trainers, an IMAX theater, and more than a 160 actual aircraft going back to those that flew aboard the USS LANGLEY. Thursday evening a happy hour was held at the CPO Club on the beach (the best spot on the base) where a roster containing the attendees biographies was presented to every class member, along with a ball cap embroidered with the UWSS emblem and the graduation year and month, 5-61.

On Friday the class and instructors traveled to Eglin Air Force Base where they were hosted by the Naval Explosive Ordnance Disposal School. Attendance at an EOD class graduation and detailed briefing of the school facilities, equipment and training was followed by a tour of the Improvised Explosive Disposal (IED) Area.

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UWSS LOGO ITEMS



All prices include shipping.

- Beefy-T t-shirt..... 18.00 ea, 2 for 32.00
white or ash gray,
large logo on back, small logo on pocket
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*
 - Long sleeved t-shirt..... 20.00 ea, 2 for 36.00
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..... 20.00 ea, 2 for 36.00
white or ash gray, small logo on pocket.
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*
 - Pique polo all cotton..... 22.00 ea, 2 for 40.00
birch gray, embroidered logo left front
(no pocket)
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*
 - Blue denim shirt, short sleeves 30.00 ea, 2 for 56.00
embroidered logo above pocket
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*
- *All shirts size XXL add \$2.00 ea**
- Cap – natural with logo 14.00
 - Baseball cap – blue, embroidered logo.....20.00
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 coin 7.00
enameled brass with raised design
1 5/8" 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 | May 2011 | 273 members | |
| Account Balance | February 2011 | | 11,936.29 |
| Dues | | | +650.00 |
| Logo gear sales | | | +772.00 |
| Buddy Line printing | | | - 121.51 |
| Postage - BL & logo mail | | | -139.68 |
| Logo gear purchases | | | -942.06 |
| Office supplies | | | -45.53 |
| Web site expense | | | -8.99 |
| Reunion expense | | | -32.29 |
| Account Balance | May 2011 | | 12,068.23 |

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.

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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.

Editors Corner by Don Stone

Thirty six members and guests enjoyed the UWSS 2011 reunion aboard the Carnival Destiny. The ship offered all kinds of entertainment and dining choices, and we had two days of shore adventures. We had fun and got to know people better, some of whom we had known only through correspondence. Others renewed friendships with folks they hadn't seen in 40 years.

Yes, we did conduct business too. Bob Holmes and Gerry Flowers were reelected as president and vice president for another two years, but they made it plain they expected other members to step up and take the wheel in 2013. I was also reelected to continue serving as secretary/treasurer.

There was discussion about the need to reflect the fact that we are a multi service organization, but there was little support for a name change. We will design new logo items for this need. An additional coin will be commissioned with the shark rider on one side as always, but with the insignias of all the services represented by our membership on the flip side. Also, Jerry Padrta is working with a woodworker to design a scroll work plaque of our logo suitable for all services.

While on the logo gear subject, let me show you the new item that is available in the gear shop. This tote bag, which was given to all attendees of the reunion cruise, measures 13" x 14", has a zipper at the top, several pockets, and sports the logo in white on the side.



The price, including shipping, is \$12.00.

Our 2013 reunion will be held in Panama City. Many members that live in that area hosted an outstanding reunion in 2009, and it was very welcome news that they agreed to host our 2013 reunion. So, thanks guys and ladies; we look forward to May 2013 in Panama City.

Welcome New Members

Joined FO/UWSS since the last Buddy Line :

Walter A. Ritch of Clinton Corners, New York
USMC 69-71 UWSS June 1970

Leonard Waugh of St Petersburg, Florida
USN 51-72 UDT UW Training St Thomas

Lori Patney of Cresson, Pennsylvania
Associate member

CLASS 5-61 50TH REUNION

(continued from page 1)



This tour was conducted by outstanding sailors, EODCS Severino and EODCS Bergeron who related their personal experiences while working with other EOD forces and the SEALs in Iraq and Afganistan. We were able to observe students working on real problems encountered in-country in simulated field conditions. In the afternoon, we traveled to the Underwater Area and received a tour of the facilities and observed the practical area where mines and other explosive devices were planted to give the students training in underwater operations

At Saturday's happy hour, Don Stone and Dick Pence were honored for their leadership, guidance and mentorship of the class and made honorary class members. Later that evening, Don, Dick and their wives were treated to dinner by the class. We departed on Sunday for our various home ports, with many memories of a great reunion.

Ted Hunter

We have recently learned of the passing of FO/UWSS member, Ted Hunter.

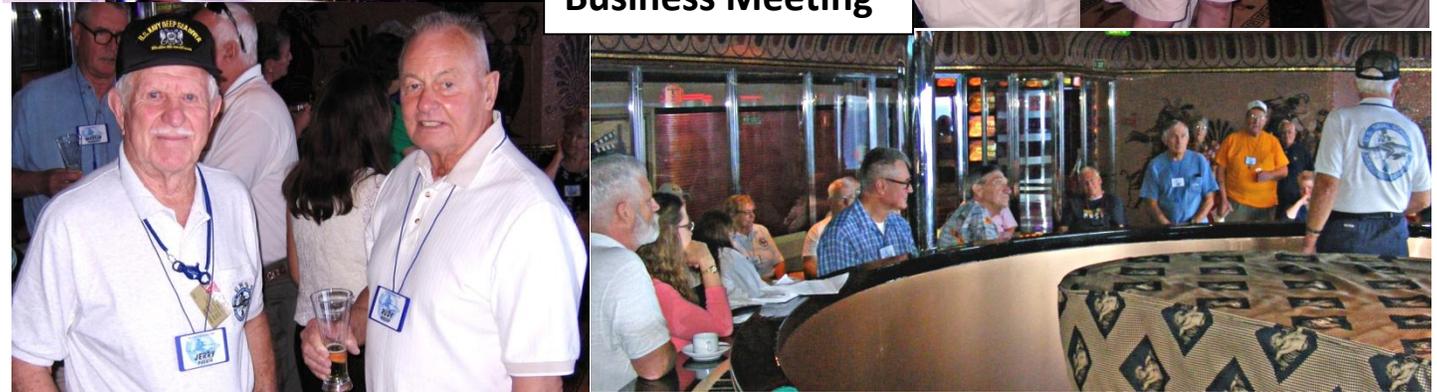
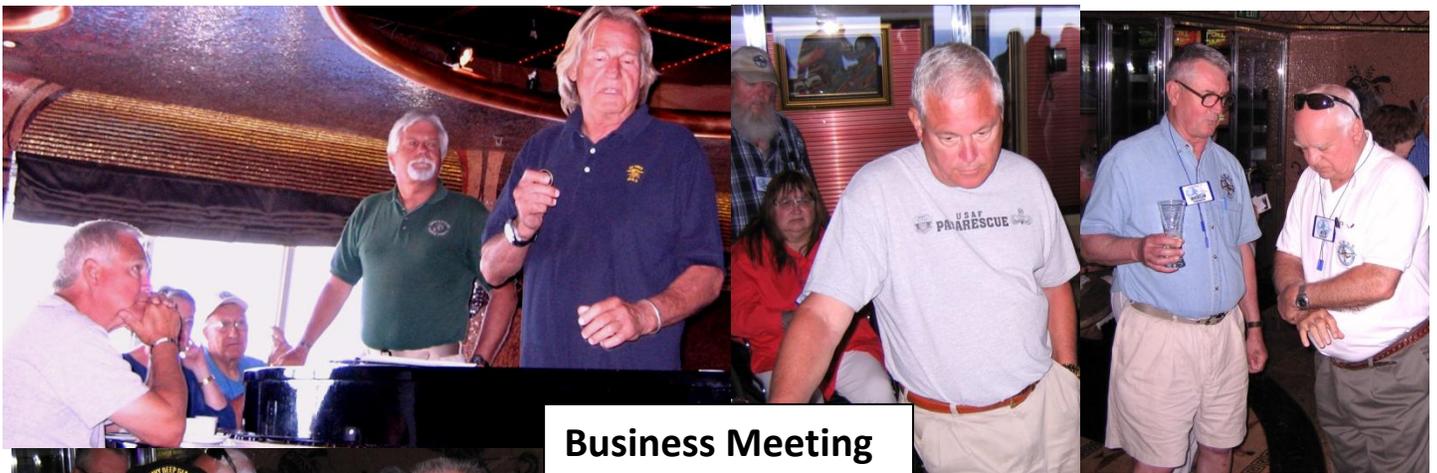
Ted was born in West Virginia on April 26, 1921. He was retired from the US Navy and then retired again after working for NSA.



He was preceded in death by his wife, Louise Guy Hunter, and his daughter, Mary A. Allen. His surviving sons are Joseph E. Allen of Whiteford, MD and William G. Allen of Two Rivers, Alaska. He had three grandchildren, Kevin R. Collini, Glenn R. Allen, and Renee' A. Combs. He also had five great-grandchildren.

Ted departed this earth to be with God and his loved ones on December 25, 2010. He will be missed by his family who loved him.

Photos from 2011 Reunion Cruise





Jamaica



Grand Cayman



UWSS 2011 Reunion continued from page 1

The ship's captain, Roberto Leotta, was invited to the Ice Breaker where he was presented with a UWSS plaque by president, Bob Holmes. Captain Leotta said it would be mounted in the plaque and trophy case in the rotunda. He was also given a UWSS coin by Gerry Flowers. Photos this page taken at Captain's Dinner on Sunday night.

The ship arrived in Jamaica early Monday morning and the tour group was off to Dunn's River Falls. Most of the group enjoyed the scenery and took lots of pictures, including many of the adventurous trio, Jerry Padrta, Merlin Simonson and Joe Bikowski, who braved the falls climb. A river tube float followed – no falls, only a little white water, and was enjoyed by most of the tour group. Then lunch at an outdoor Jamaican jerk restaurant.

Tuesday, at Grand Cayman, a sailing catamaran took the group to a reef with nearby sandbar where the stingrays gather. First a snorkel on the reef, then cavorting with the stingrays followed. It is amazing what these stingrays will do for a little piece of squid. After getting used to the beasts, there was much stingray kissing going on.

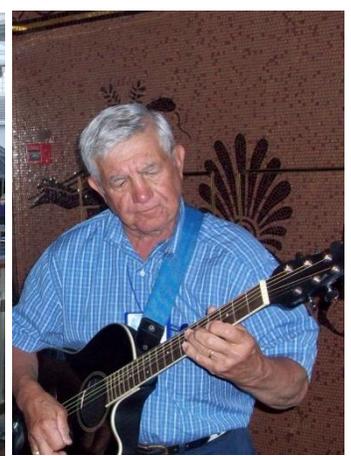
Wednesday – on the way home already! A sea day was a good day for the business meeting. Bob Holmes got the first order of business taken care of quickly as all current officers were reelected. Bill Bruhmuller had brought the news that the Panama City group was willing to host the 2013 reunion and their invitation was gratefully accepted after some discussion of Pensacola. The golf course and the Naval Air Museum in Pensacola were popular attractions and some would like adding a day before the general reunion for a trip from Panama City to Pensacola to enjoy these activities.

A discussion was continued from the last reunion business meeting about recognizing that this is a multi service membership. See the results of that discussion in the Editors Corner.

So, cruising was a different kind of reunion. There was lots to do aboard ship and ashore, the food was good and so was the service. It was nice for a change and it will be nice to have our usual kind of reunion again too.



UWSS 2011 Reunion Cruise: Around the Ship



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



Dolphin Catch 1960

Martial Lemay and friend display their day's catch from Key West waters. Results like this were not uncommon in 1960; the sea was full of fish.

The fisherman's next problem was "Shall I clean them, or give them away?" They could frequently be swapped for a fish dinner, so the second choice was a good one for guys who lived in the barracks.

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