

Buddy Line



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

May 2012

FO/UWSS REUNION May 16-19, 2013 Naval Support Activity Panama City, Florida



Reunion Committee Update

From Woody Woodward

The FO/UWSS 2013 Reunion activities include: Ice Breaker on Thursday, Friday evening Round Up, Saturday morning Business Meeting, and winds up with a Banquet Saturday evening.

Naval Support Activity Panama City is again rolling out the red carpet for us. They have blocked all of building 349 (the former BOQ) for us which includes 17 VIP suites at \$47.00 per night and 30 suites at \$42.00 per night. All rooms in 349 are configured for 2 adults (max) and have one queen bed.

At building 484 (the main bldg, where everyone will check in) there are 13 suites on block at \$42.00 per night. These rooms will sleep 2 adults and 2 children (max). They have 1 bed and a sofa sleeper.

The current rates are good to end of the fiscal year and are expected to go up in October. 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

Cabin & Campsite reservations will be opened up for the Reunion 1-15 Jan 2013. After the 15th of Jan 2013 they do normal reservations 90 days out for other patrons. For the Cabin & Campsite reservations call 850-234-4402/1000-1600.

They can also accommodate campers and have cabins at the Marina. For details and/or reservations on those, contact Gary Smith gary.k.smith@navy.mil Phone 850-234-4091 FAX 850-230-7115.

A proposed trip to the National Naval Aviation Museum, Pensacola (about a 2 ½ hour drive from Panama City) is being considered. See www.navalaviationmuseum.org



If there is enough interest we can charter a bus to depart Panama City at NLT 0600 to arrive at the museum by opening time, 0900, leaving Pensacola 1400-1500 to arrive back in PC in time to join the Icebreaker. The coaches are top of the line, with heads, etc. They range in capacities between 29 and 56 passengers. The prices are -- the best I've been able to do so far -- \$25 and \$30 per person depending of course on the size bus and the number of seats filled. In case there is not enough interest to warrant chartering a bus, we would suggest that those interested get together and car pool.

It would be very helpful to the reunion committee to know how many are interested in this trip so they know whether to include it. If you would like to go to the Aviation Museum, let Woody Woodward know soon. Email gunnerww@comcast.net or Phone 850-814-9123

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
 - 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 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 2011	268 members
Account Balance February 2012	13,906.43
Dues	+525.00
Logo gear sales	+387.00
Buddy Line printing	-73.79
Postage	-156.71
Web expense	-9.99
Account Balance May 2012	14,577.94

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

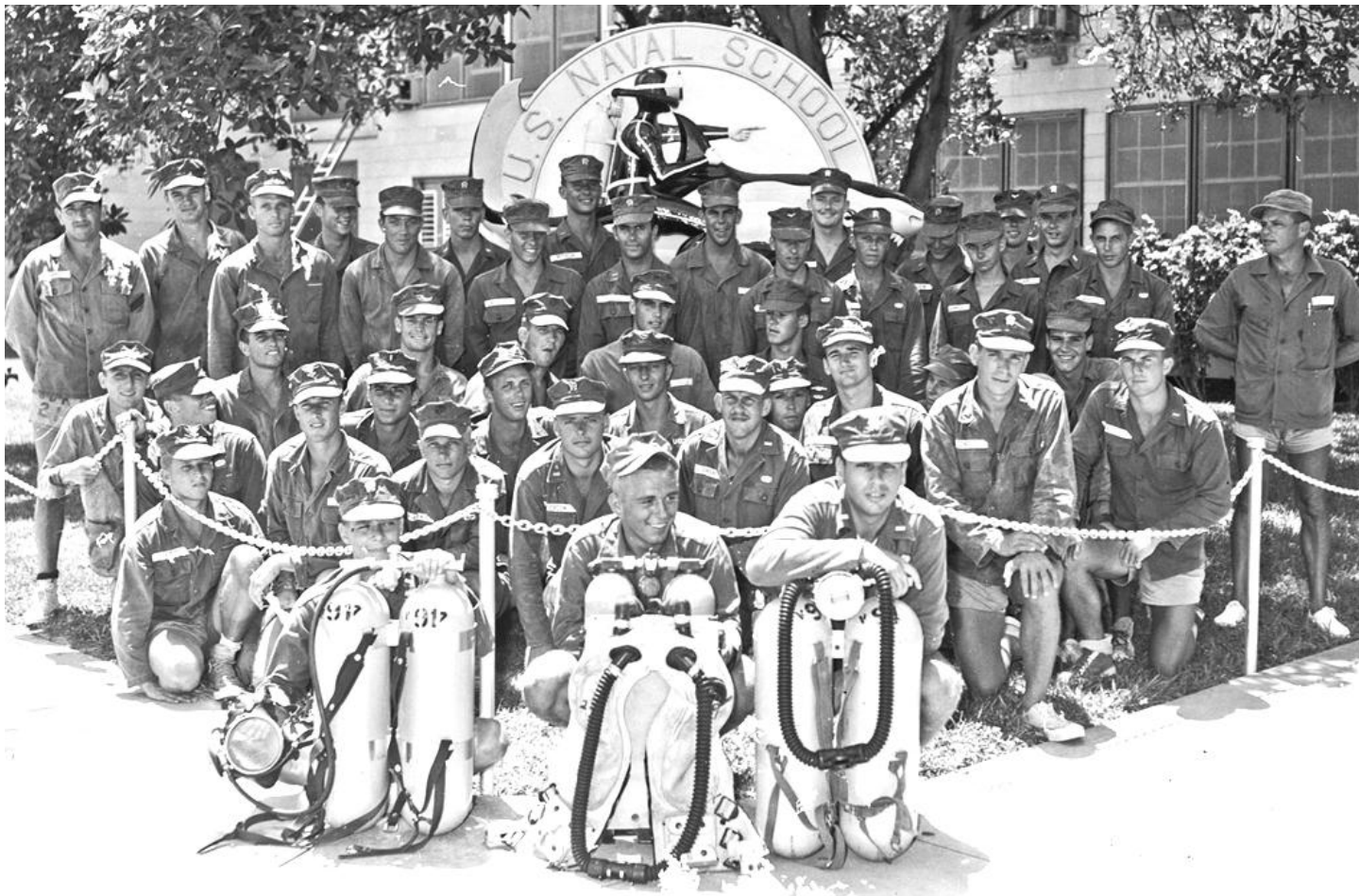
Ahoy members! The UWSS Reunion 2013 committee and the Naval Support Activity Panama City are showing us that good ole Southern Hospitality again. After doing a bang up job with the 2009 reunion, they are planning to top it in 2013.

Navel Support Activity Panama City is really an ideal location for our reunions. There is wonderful cooperation from the command and our members there. It is the center of Navy diving with the Dive School and Experimental Diving Unit. It's just down the road from Eglin AFB, home of the EOD school and Air Force Pararescue and NAS Pensacola, home of the Blue Angels and Naval Air Museum. Also many members live in the area. Hosting a reunion is a lot of work and we are grateful to Woody Woodward and his reunion committee for the fine job they do.

While looking through the UWSS archives for a class picture for the Buddy Line I came across the picture of the first UDT class to go through Swim School. The class photo was taken in July 1962.

Right there in front was Mel Melachick. I recognized Andy Anderson, who later became the last CO of UWSS, Bob Tolison, Mike Kelly, Art Williams, Bobby Stamey, and others I wasn't sure about. It was like a time capsule of 1962 Seal Team 2 and of UDT 21 and 22 guys.

Martial Lemay was the class proctor of UDT Class 1-62 He was an experienced UDT Petty Officer who would put up with no nonsense and expected his students to do exactly as they were told.. Many in the class had just graduated from UDT training as "fearless frogmen" and thought they could do most anything. A fair but firm leader was what they needed, and what they got.



UDT Class 1-62



January 1959 – Class photo from Sam Hayslip
WO Dellagiacomma - far left Dick Tappy in whites – class proctor



October 16, 1959 – Class photo from Archives
Front row: Harrison, O'Conner, Douglas, Stephens, Cerra, Kern.
Standing: Stevens, Barber, Lowrey, Benson, Carlson, Stone, Richard Pence - class proctor

The Executive Corner

by Bob Holmes and Gerry Flowers

It is that time again folks. As always, we hope this finds all of you in the best of health and full of great ideas for our reunion. Time sure does fly, it is now one year to go until we meet again.

For the past several months, our reunion notice has been running "on line" at www.grunt.com. Please visit this site and pass it on to any Marines you may know. This company is a Godsend for anything and everything Marines want to buy. The readership and the subscription list gets out to a lot of Marines, past and present. Don, the owner, and a Vietnam Veteran takes a lot of time to help out Marines seeking Marines, posting reunions and a blog where stories are seen and read every month. I cannot thank Don enough for him posting this for us.

Not too long ago, I spoke with Woody Woodward and briefed Bob Holmes about how the Reunion 2013 planning is progressing. As you all know, nothing gets done without boots on the ground and Woody and his team are providing that for all of us. Woody and crew, thank you again. Don and Art are always busy making sure we are informed of the progress.

We mentioned in the last "Buddy Line" that a trip to Pensacola to the U.S. Naval Air Museum could be a great part of this get together. We would like to ask all of you to please visit the website. If that doesn't get you and your shipmates salivating, maybe we could investigate a "Needle point and quilt making day" for the Senior Chiefs. I really cannot think of a better way to talk than being on a bus together for two hours each way. It will be well worth it as I visited the Museum last year and I was impressed.

www.navalaviationmuseum.org



It may seem silly, but I am very excited about seeing all of you again and enjoying the camaraderie. I must tell you that being a Marine and hanging out with a ship load of Sailors takes me about two weeks of serious

preparation for the abuse I get. This year, I hope to be able to sleep inside.

ON a more serious note, please start thinking about our Reunion General Meeting. Deciding on the location of our 2015 reunion will be a lot easier if research is done before hand. We will also be looking to have a new president and vice president. Your comments and thoughts can be sent to President Bob Holmes via email at deepdivebob@yahoo.com. His computer key board is very seldom touched but I have good information that he reads email just about every day.

In the next month or so, our reunion notice will be sent to Leatherneck Magazine, the Marine Corps Gazette and every other service publication that has a reunion section. When we contacted them and asked earlier, it was recommended that we wait until it is less than a year as they will only run it once or twice. Remember, Sgt. Grit runs it every month and it moves up as the date gets closer. Right now, I believe we are the last reunion in the publication as it is so far back. Thanks again to Sgt. Grit for his staying power. I was hoping to touch base with Aaron Farrier to ask if he could rustle up some more Para Rescue operators, but if he does, that many more of us will have to keep our eyes on them. That could be a double edged sword if the Para Rescue guys were not so much fun.

In closing, my cute story. After last year's reunion, I visited a few folks. The visit with Judy and Jerry Pardta was a lot of fun and we really had a great time. When we left, Judy gave me a fantastic little Marine Corps Bear, in Dress Blues standing about 20" tall. Three weeks ago, we had a large dinner party and there were several Marines here. As we were eating dinner, I excused myself for a moment and snuck around the corner and squeezed the little Sgt. Bears left Paw. That starts him marking time and the Marine Corps Hymn blares out of him. Every Marine at the table stood up and stayed at attention until the little guy stopped. My question is, How does the Marine Corps do that to us, even after all these years. The other six guests had no idea why four guys were standing at attention. WE knew.

Looking forward to seeing all of you...save your money, read Woody's notes and see you next May. Don, Art, Woody and your crew, thank you for all you do.

Welcome New Members

Edward Bertrands of Escanaba, Michigan
US Army 63-66

Joseph Mattie of San Jacinto, California
US Navy 65-73 UWSS May 1967

David Hastie Sr of Manassas, Virginia
US Army 62-65 UWSS May 1964

Gerry Beard of Prineville, Oregon
US Coast Guard 68-72 UWSS April 1970

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

This 1955 photo was taken by instructor Bob Shouse. Two student divers standing on the bow of the LCPR are preparing to enter the water while instructor George Phipps records the data for the dive. It is very important to keep accurate records of dives and swims, both for the diver's logs and the command's records.

The LCPR, a WWII landing craft that was originally designed to support reconnaissance missions, made an excellent dive support boat because of the bow ramp and shallow draft.



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