

Buddy Line



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

May 2013

Another Great Reunion at NSA Panama City

From the icebreaker to the banquet this reunion was a winner. One hundred fifty five members and guests enjoyed and appreciated the efforts of reunion chairman, Woody Woodward, and his talented committee. The reunion committee included Sue Ellen Woodward, Doc and Dee Clark, Bill and Sammie Garnett, Larry and Patti Chime, Gary and Nancy Wilson, Rudy Boesch, and Clay and Margaret Grady. Woody insisted 90% of the credit should go to the hard working ladies on the committee and especially to his wife, Sue Ellen.

Activities got underway at the Main Deck on Thursday, May 16th with registration at the Ice Breaker. The Main Deck is a great place to relax and renew friendships. The open air deck on the shore of St. Andrews Bay

provided a pretty background for the many photographs taken of team mates and friends.

The logo store, "manned" by Judy Padrta and Art Stone, was a busy spot as members stocked up on gear.

The beautiful rendering of a shark rider, presented to the FO/UWSS by the PJ members, was on display at the Main Deck. Since the FO does not have a home place, arrangements are being made by Gerry Flowers for this piece of art to be on display at the Dive School. See photo on page 4.

The cookout with hot dogs, hamburgers, salads and all the trimmings was topped off with ice cream sandwiches to finish off the day. More on page 3



Can you get this many people to stand still for a photo? Bernie Campoli can. Thanks, Bernie.
Group photo with Jake taken Saturday, May 18, 2013

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 \$4.00 ea**
- Cap – natural with logo15.00 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 5.00 less if ordered with shirt
- 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
- School history photos CD.....6.00 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 May 2013	262 members	
Account Balance February 2013		14,731.46
Dues		+2,360.00
Logo gear sales		+4,080.00
Reunion fees		+11,595.00
Reunion fundraising		+1,713.00
Buddy Line printing		-252.99
Postage		-153.93
Logo gear purchase		-4,020.10
Web site		-9.99
Reunion expense		-14,949.58
Account Balance May 2013		15,092.87

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.

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.

Photos from the Ice Breaker

Main Deck



Photos from the Friday tours

Dive School, Experimental Diving Unit, NSA Dive Locker, EOD Locker



The Executive Corner



Bob Holmes
Gerry Flowers



Well folks, the 2013 Reunion of the Fraternal Order of U.S. Naval Underwater Swimmers is in the books.

A lot of wonderful things transpired from the time we arrived until we all packed up our gear and headed our separate ways on Sunday morning. On the drive back to Galveston, President Bob Holmes and I had a lot to digest. One of the best things we witnessed was all of you touching base with old friends and sharing laughs and memories with a promise to meet again in 2015 at the Panama City Base for the next get together. Many stories were shared and it is our hope that a good time was had by all.

During our time there, many of us had the pleasure of meeting John Hobbs Jr. and David Byers. Both of their fathers, Dow Byers and John Hobbs were instructors at the School. David Byers graduated from the UWSS at age 14, the youngest ever UWSS graduate and both he and John Jr. were young friends that had not seen each other for about 40 years, until this reunion.

We had the pleasure of having Dr. Charlie Aquadro and his wife and daughter attend and enjoyed meeting and talking to Charlie's family, friends and peers. Thank you so much for coming with him. During the banquet we discovered that we had two men present that attended the very first class of the UWSS. How is that for some history. There will be more to come regarding the inception and early days of the Swim School when Lt. Fay had his team put all of this together.

As usual, everyone involved in making this four days a great success worked together for a common goal....making this fun and easy for all of us. If someone did in fact NOT have a great time, we would all have to agree it was from either being too shy or sitting in a corner.

Woody and his committee (With Sue Ellen's drive and enthusiasm) to Don and Art Stone working quietly in the background have made the 2013 trip to Panama City another rousing success. All of us that were able to just show up, pick up our packages and enjoy the fruits of your labors and just have fun.

Well we owe all of you a huge debt of gratitude. A "heartfelt thank you" is the message we heard when you were all asked to stand up to be acknowledged by the membership. We realize that the Reunion Committee Torch has been passed, but your work on the last two reunions is so greatly appreciated. Aaron and his committee have big shoes to fill, but the fact that the sharing of information has already started and a few calls have already been made, we will all be apprised of the progress of the Para-Rescue Committee over the

next many months. We all thank them for stepping up to the plate and volunteering to make another reunion happen where the members can once again, arrive, pick up their reunion packages and Logo gear and enjoy the festivities.

Suggestions are always welcome, thank you's can be individually sent to any of the reunion committee members you know personally via email and hopefully we can keep in better touch as we search out others that may have attended this school.

Both Gerry and I thank all of you for taking the time out of your lives to attend this party and again reconnect with those friends and patriots we all have so much in common with. From all across this great country, folks made the trek to Panama City to see each other. It does not get better than that.

Right now, we have a beautiful new "Diver on the Shark"



encased in clear plastic, presented to the School by the Para-Rescue group. We are hoping to place it in the "Quarter Deck" where our meetings took place. There are a few small changes being made to this beautiful piece

of art and history. When they are done, we will check on the status of that placement.

In closing the Executive Corner this month, we pray for good health for all of you and hope to see you all, plus your children and friends in two years at the same place around the same time. We will keep you all posted.

Don, Art, Woody, Sue Ellen, Rudy, Larry and Patti, Doc and Dee Clark, Bill and Sammie, Clay and Margaret, Gary and Nancy.....Thank you so much for making this event another winner for those of us that just show up, pick up our packages and have a ton of fun.

To Aaron and the new committee, good luck and know that if we can help, all we need is a call or email to the group to see what we can help with.

Until Next time, to all you Patriots and Pioneers, thank you for standing tall for the United States of America and the free world.

Respectfully,
President
Vice President

Bob Holmes, SEAL Team 2
Gerry Flowers, Foreign National

Friday Night Barbeque and Auction



The food was great but the highlight of the night was the fundraiser auction. Many had donated memorabilia such as blasting machines, compass, life vest, depth gauge. Others donated books, posters ceramics, glass logo. The auction raised \$1300 which will be donated to funds helping EOD and SEAL wounded warriors





Reunion 2013 was very successful because of several important factors.

1. The reunion committee's planning and hard work.
2. Cooperation of the Base Commander and staff.
- 3 Availability of MWR facilities.
4. Adequate financial means from our treasury.
5. Attendees cooperation with base security.

We are so welcomed here we have come to feel NSA Panama City is our unofficial home and we are looking forward to coming back for Reunion 2015.

Dues of \$25 for two years are payable in May of reunion years and are included in reunion fees. Those who did not attend the reunion should send a check for dues to the treasurer. See page 2. Our membership grows when new members join and shrinks when members pass away. The biggest loss to membership numbers is those who lose interest and no longer support with their dues. But the saddest loss is a new member gone before we get a chance to know him as with Fred Hoverkamp.

A couple of new logo items were introduced at the reunion and are now available for sale. One is a mug, with old logo on front and newest logo on back with all service emblems down the side. Mugs are expensive to ship but price is reduced when purchased with a shirt.



The other is a very bright LED pocket flashlight with shark rider emblem.

By request, a disk has been prepared of the old photos shown on the screen at the Ice Breaker. Bernie's group photos have been added to the collection. You may order a copy on page 2.

Bernie's group photos, both the men only photo and the one with the women included, are available for download. If you don't use email for photos, you can request a print mailed to you.

Thanks to all who brought class pictures and other photos for the archives. Look for them in future issues of the Buddy Line.

Photos in this issue were provided by Erasmo Riojas, Dave Hastie, Delia Bureker, Art Stone and Bernie Campoli.

Welcome New Members

Arnold Feller of Brandon, FL
USN 54-81 UWSS 5602 & 6010

John G. Sanderson of White Lake, MI
USN 70-75 UWSS 7106

Thomas H. Keith of Palatka, FL
USN 61-92 UWSS 6311

Charles Detmer of Sprague, CT
USN 61-91 UWSS 64 & 70-73

Allan Archey of Starke, FL
USN 61-66 LC Class 30

Richard Oscar Johnson of Kingston, TN
USN 56-68 UWSS 6005

Edward William Wilson of Powderhorn, CO
USN 68-91 UWSS 68

Peter Farmer of Nashville, TN
USN 69-73 DC 71

John . McAlevy Jr. of Frederick, MD
USMC USNR USARMY 72-76 85-01
UWSS 7306

David H. Watts of Apalachicola, FL
USN 60-65 UDTR UWSS 6207

Milford Gordon Bayliss of Richland, MS
USN 60-66 San Diego

James R. Lake of Alexandria, VA
USN 58-2000 UWSS 61

Guy O. Dove III of Middleburg, VA
USNR 61-65 EOD UWSS 6110

Grady Allen of Columbia, SC
USAF 66-90

Daniel McEvoy of Panama City Beach, FL
USN 61-88 UWSS 6306

Erich J. Fischer of Dallas, GA
USN 67-72 EOD UWSS 6803

John Frederick Hoverkamp

March 10, 1941-January 27, 2013

Fred joined FO/UWSS in October 2012. (USN MSTs, UWSS 6309) In March his wife, Annie, wrote to us that he had been looking forward to attending the reunion in May but "pancreatic cancer leaves no one behind".

After his military service, Fred became a New Jersey state trooper serving on the SWAT Team, the Underwater Recovery Team and the Bomb Disposal Team. Following retirement he worked as an Explosive Disposal Technician and later started his own company developing special equipment to handle explosives with a concern for environmental protection. Fred is survived by his wife, Annie, six children and seven grandchildren.

Saturday Morning Business Meeting

A change of name and membership requirements discussion was ended by a motion from Woody Woodward that we should be a "last man standing" organization. After a second and much discussion for and against, the motion passed. The 2015 reunion will be held at NSA Panama City again. The date is May 14-17th. Aaron Farrior will head up the reunion committee. So far it is a committee of one and he would like some volunteers. Contact Aaron at 850-240-7417 if you can help. The membership unanimously requested that the current officers continue to serve and the officers agreed. Meeting was adjourned for group photos. Photo of men on page 1, photo with ladies here.



Saturday evening Banquet

The banquet was a fine way to end a great reunion. The hall was decorated with flower arrangements, which were made by Sue Ellen Woodward, on every table. The food was delicious, and the wood carving of the 2009 cake topper shark and rider made its debut surrounded by an array of beautiful cakes. Doc Clark handled the MC duties, Bo Burwell interpreted the flag ceremony, and Sammie Garnett explained the White Table. Guest speaker, Jim McCarthy, spoke about using the hyperbaric chamber to treat medical problems. And a good time was had by all!



Membership Application Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School

Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Wife's Name: _____ Buddy Line Newsletter by email _____ or snail mail _____

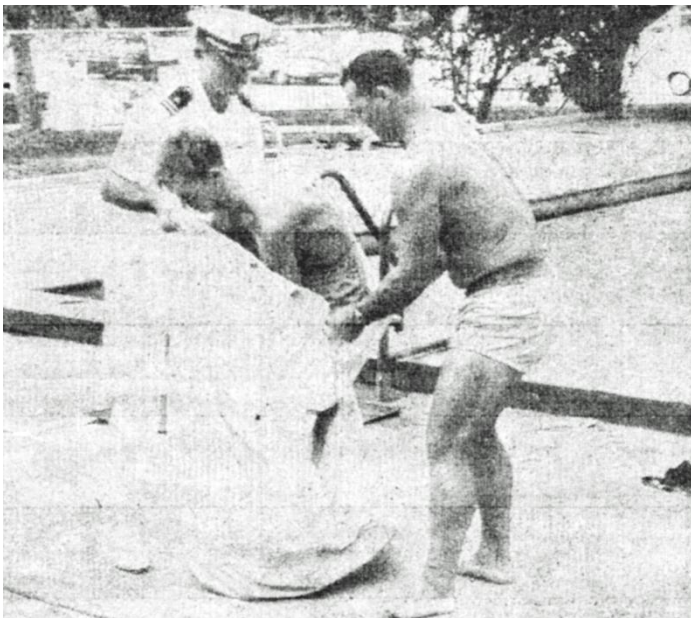
Branch of Service: _____ Dates of Service: _____

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 FO/UWSS and mail to Don Stone, Treasurer, 1440 SW 5th Ave, Boca Raton, FL 33432

The Way It Was



This story from Gordon Hiles appeared in a Key West newspaper on December 1, 1961

The Underwater Swimmers School gave a presentation last Friday to the visiting members of the Uruguayan Naval War College class which included demonstrations of swimming techniques taught by the school, "wet suit" protective clothing, the advantages and limitations of open circuit SCUBA equipment used operationally by the Navy, and the Mark V semi-closed circuit apparatus developed by the Navy's own Experimental Diving Unit.

An entertaining bit of comedy lightened the end of the presentation. Emphasizing that this was neither a part of the school curriculum nor a punishment for erring seamen, the school's maintenance officer, Gordon Hiles, with the help of R. Tappy, GM1(DV), proceeded to handcuff the wrists and bind the ankles of Garrett Bruce, SN, attached to the school's service craft. Bruce was then lashed into a canvas bag along with a 50 lb shackle and tossed into the deep end of the swimming pool.

As the guests rushed to the edge of the pool to observe the outcome, Bruce calmly and quickly released his bonds underwater and floated to the surface with a triumphant smile. He had outwitted his division officer again.

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