

Buddy Line



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

May 2014

What dja Say? By Don Stone

I have a mental picture of 3 or 4 guys at one of our reunion ice breakers standing in a circle telling jokes and stories - and everyone is yelling.

Many of us have hearing loss and often there are problems understanding everything the person on the phone is saying. Even with my medical marvel, the cochlear implant, I often have trouble deciphering the sounds quickly when I can't see the person talking. I have just received a CapTel phone that takes care of that problem.

You can adjust the volume for listening and you can see what the caller is saying by the display of the caller's words on its small screen. It works just like Closed Captions on the TV. When you push the "Captions" button during a call, a live person listens to your call and types your caller's words on the screen.

Whoa! A live person available to type my phone calls 24/7? What does that cost? Nothing!

Captioned Telephone Service is funded by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) which requires that individuals must self-certify that they have a hearing loss and need Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service.

The cost of the phone is subsidized too. There are various federal and state programs that make the cost of the CapTel phone from free to \$75. And the captioning service is always free.

There are CapTel phones that use high speed internet connections, either wifi or wired, and CapTel phones that use regular phone lines.

With a free Hamilton CapTel phone account you can have the captions displayed on your computer screen. This feature uses your computer's browser and can use any telephone. You could couple it with a CapTel phone so you would have captions when the computer isn't on.

There is a Hamilton CapTel app that will display captions on your smart phone or tablet. It is available for iPhone and iPad, also for android smart phones and tablets. So, if you want, you can have captions on all three, phone, computer and cell phone.

As you can see, there are many options. If you are interested in using this captioning service, be sure to scour the information at these sites carefully to see what would work best

for you. Check it all out at

www.captel.com and www.hamiltoncaptel.com



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 sleeves	31.00 ea
embroidered logo above pocket	
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*	
*All shirts size XXL add \$2.00 ea	
Cap – natural with logo	15.00 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 Patch	7.00 ea
UWSS logo decal – transparent or white	2.00 ea
UWSS Plaque – bright brass on blue	45.00 ea
UWSS commemorative coin	7.00 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 logo	7.00 ea
Key Chain with enameled logo medallion	7.00 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 2014	247 members	
Account Balance February 2014		15,190.77
Dues		+425.00
Logo gear sales		+315.00
Logo gear expense		-136.41
Buddy Line printing		-118.11
Postage		-57.47
Web site expense		-14.99
Account Balance May 2014		15,603.79

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 to 1973. 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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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.

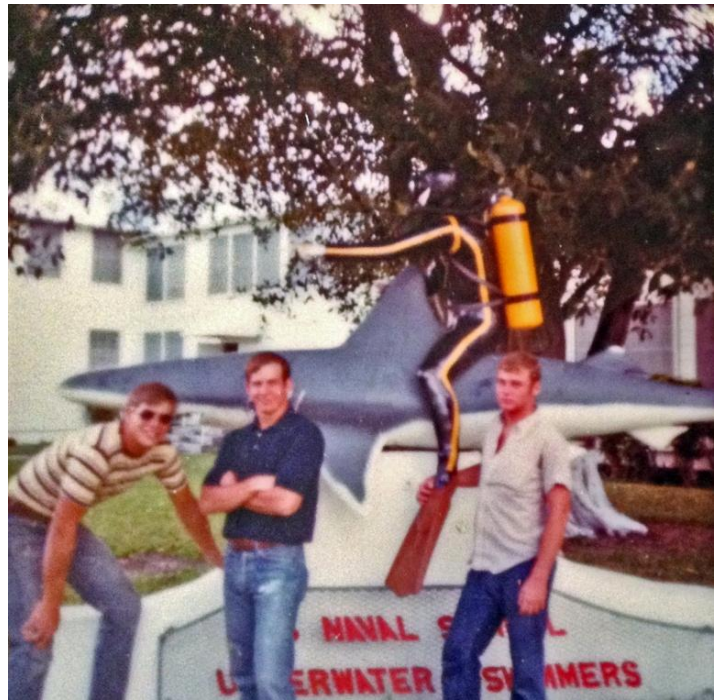
Dues (\$25.00 for 2 years) are payable in May of odd numbered years. Your paid thru date can be found on your label or in the Buddy Line delivery email. Send check same as for logo orders.

Key West Memories UWSS class October 1971

from new member Jim Stephenson



Jim and friend "43 years ago"



Classmates Lurch, Chris and Jim

At the first UWSS reunion in 1998 at Key West, Rio (Erasmio Riojas) agreed to contact people and set up a YK2 reunion. Fortunately he kept a notebook of pictures and correspondence he received so we have this photo from Claude Manley, received five months before our organization was formed. Claude included the following comments: I was a civilian employee of the Naval Explosive Ordinance Disposal Facility ,Indian Head MD and the oldest guy in the class. When I reported in at Key West the Chief at the desk said, "You don't belong here old man!" I said, "We're going to find that out aren't we." He said, "You're damn right." I had an interesting first week, but then they found someone else on whom to lavish attention.
UWSS Class 1 December 1972



The Executive Corner



Bob Holmes
Gerry Flowers



Don and Art, as I sit down to write a few words about the reunion next May, my hope is that you two have had a wonderful time during the last year. So much has changed in the world. I hope this finds you both healthy and happy and enjoying life. On a personal note, I want to thank you two for all you have done for this organization over the years. It is not something that would have survived without your efforts and guidance. I appreciate it very much and I know that everyone else that knows you two feels the same way. You two are the glue that keeps this going. Thank you both.

Folks, as always, we hope that this note finds everyone healthy and happy and enjoying your families. As we head towards the 2015 reunion, there are many things to be thankful for and many things to be wary as well as many questions we have on our minds regarding the direction of our countries and the world. It will be a welcome time to be once again, with men and women we know and care for.

Having said that, I had the good fortune to speak with both Bob Holmes and Aaron Farrior last week. In doing so, I received an update on next year's reunion. Aside from the very heavy rain and storms hitting the north coast of Florida, all is well with the planning. The reality is, that not much can be done until we get a little closer to the date as the world and the U.S. Navy are not on our schedule.

I always find it a little difficult to put this together, because I realize that every two years, there will be a few less folks able to make it to Panama. The reasons are always the same, age, health, family, other commitments and of course, funds.

To everyone that receives the newsletter, I would like reiterate the words that Don Stone penned in the May 2004 issue of "Buddy Line". Don stated that **"one of the most important reasons for our existence as an organized group is to plan for and participate in bi-annual reunions."** What can be better than that.

What we always see when we get together is a relaxed, honest happiness in seeing each other. It is always a wonderful thing to put an arm around a

Team Mate, shake a hand, have a beer together and physically see men who "Walked the Walk" and made a difference in the lives of many others over the decades. Last get together, there was an added bonus. Many of us were introduced to the sons and daughters of the men they call Dad. We had the chance to talk to them, get in a photo together and tell the adult children of these "Warriors", that we are proud to know their fathers. Thank you to the Aquadro family and the Hobbs family for that pleasure.

Last year, while speaking with Doc Rio and Larry Bailey, I was presented with a book by SEAL Team Member and warrior, Thomas H. Keith. I just read it this past month. "SEAL Warrior" was not only a captivating read, it mentioned the names and exploits of many of you that I have met over the years at these reunions. Brave, Good men in extraordinary circumstances who say very little about those times. Again, I am proud to be associated with all of you. Everyone of you continues to make a difference in the lives of others. I cannot remember feeling more pride as we all sang "I am proud to be an American" by Lee Greenwood. Heck, I am not even American, but I feel I could make the cut.

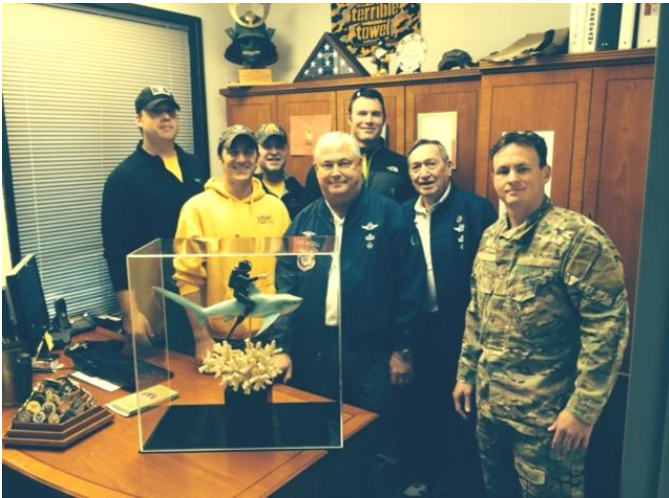
We are fortunate to have every Armed Service represented in our Fraternal Order. What other group of this caliber can boast that ? We have U.S. Navy "Plank Owners", SEAL's, Corpsman, EOD, UDT Pioneers, US Air Force Pararescue, Army SOG, Submariners, Hard Hat Divers, Saturation Divers, Recon Marines, Astronauts and many others, up to and including Canadian Foreign Nationals.

We are represented by members from World War II, Korea, Vietnam and conflicts around the globe. Wow. Think about what your lovely wives had had to put up with over the years and give them a hug and a kiss when you read this.

ON the down side, I did notice that some of us are looking a "little long in the tooth" these days. Let us enjoy this simple pleasure together as many times as we can.

We believe that we all feel the same way. We want to see you, we want to talk to you, we want to put an arm on your shoulder. In order to do that and have a great time, we have to support our new Reunion committee, now headed up by Aaron Farrior with his able assistant Douglas J. McGill.

I have included a photo with this article. Our Beautiful Shark and Diver Statue has been presented to the U.S. Naval School for Underwater Swimmers with respect, by the USAF Pararescue graduates of the Dive School. We will leave out the details of how this came to be, but it is a wonderful piece of history that is now located on the Base in Panama City.



We are coming off of a wonderful reunion put on by a great Committee run by Woody Woodward and his group, but it is time to throw all of our support behind our Pararescue grads that have stepped up to the plate and offered to carry us all to the next reunion in Panama in May 2015.

To that end, I would like to introduce you all to Aaron Farior, a man who has made a difference in the lives of many others. Please enjoy the short read I am including with a link about Aaron and how he has made a difference. I could do the same for just about everyone that is a member of the UWSS, but I cannot use the entire Buddy Line.

Folks, Aaron is the man heading up our reunion committee and he, like many of you has made a difference in the lives of others by putting himself in harm's way to bring them back. Aaron has a Silver Star and three or four Distinguished Flying Crosses as a young Staff Sgt. Aaron retired as a highly decorated USAF Pararescue CMSgt.

Please join President Bob Holmes, SEAL Team 2, Vice President Gerry A. Flowers USMC, Treasures and founders, Don and Art Stone plus our terrific two time Reunion committee and our entire executive in thanking and supporting Aaron and Doug for taking on this huge responsibility. We appreciate it and will help out any way we can.

One last question I have to ask so we can get on it immediately, is.....do we want a Guest Speaker and can we please get input from anyone that has Ideas concerning who this person should be. It is time to start the hunt.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Panama City in May 2015.

Please read about our new Committee leader below. Stay healthy, keen and Spread the word...

Warmest Regards

Bob Homes, President, UWSS

Gerry Flowers, Vice President, UWSS

Please meet a man that has made a difference in the lives of many, as a Patriot and a USAF Pararescue tech. This was getting too long so I did not include Doug McGill's Decorations and Citations. We are in good hands gents. Let us throw in our support.

Aaron D. Farior, USAF grad of the UWSS

Silver Star Citation:

The President of the United States takes Pleasure in presenting the Silver Star Medal to Aaron D. Farior, Staff Sergeant, U.S. Air Force, for gallantry in connection with military operations against an opposing armed force on 5 October 1966. On that date, as a Pararescue Specialist on a HH-3E Rescue Helicopter, Sergeant Farior proceeded to deep into hostile territory and was successful in recovering one of two American pilots who had bailed out of their disabled aircraft. Disregarding his own safety, Sergeant Farior voluntarily flew through heavy automatic weapons and small arms fire in order to reach the injured survivor before the hostile forces could capture him. By his gallantry and devotion to duty, Sergeant Farior has reflected great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force.

Chief Master Sgt. Farior is also a Purple Heart Recipient and a Bronze Star Recipient

*** Retired Air Force Master Sgt. Aaron Farior who earned four with one of the four for heroism under fire. The DFC medals are for extraordinary achievement in aerial flight as a rescue helicopter pararescueman over Southeast Asia March 7, 1966, Nov. 15, 1966 and Nov. 18, 1968, and assisted the Navy in many of his missions.**

http://www.pjsinnam.com/medals/DFC/Farior_4.htm

Editors Corner

by Don Stone

We continue to be a growing organization with eight new members to introduce in this Buddy Line. The two obits are non members and do not affect our numbers.

Back in the 50's, while an instructor at UWSS, I witnessed many injuries from man o war and other jelly fish, but only two from moray eels. The morays silently watch from the holes and crevices in the reef. They have awesome dental apparatus and don't hesitate to show you, but only occasionally actually bite divers. So they are mainly stress producers – scary to say the least.

The CDBA, a British semi-closed circuit, was designed to be used as a walking rig for UW EOD. We taught it at UWSS for a short time before the MK5 came on the scene. The EOD students were making a walking circle line search in 130 ft using this walking rig. I was safety diver swimming above a buddy pair. One of the guys was a very tall and broad shouldered man, so big he had a hard time getting into the largest diving dress. As the divers were doing the moon walk around the bottom spur and groove reef area, they rounded a reef and looked up to see a giant light green moray



hovering partially out of the reef right over their heads. I could hear them grunting “uh, uh, uh” as they tried to jump backwards away from the eel while hanging on to the circle line. It was startling and frightening at the same time.

RICHARD “DICK” SHORT 1929 – 2014



Dick Short passed away Feb. 19, 2014 in Seal Beach, California. Enlisting in the US Navy in 1950 as a submariner, he served for 22 years. While serving on submarine patrols, Dick became a scuba and deep sea diver and instructed in the Hawaiian escape training tank. He was a demolition diver with UDT-EODU and a SEAL, rewarded with five bronze stars. Recruited to become a crew member in the Deep Submergence Group, his diving and engineering skills help prepare the Bathyscaphe Trieste II for undersea exploration.

PAUL LYLTON MCCRAW 1937 -- 2014



Paul McCraw, 76, of Moleta, VA, passed away February 6, 2014. Paul proudly served his country for over 22 years and retired as Chief from the United States Navy. He was a three tour veteran of Vietnam, entering Vietnam with EODU1 very early in the conflict. For his bravery and courage, he was awarded the Bronze Star with combat "V" and the Meritorious Service Medal. He was passionate about veterans affairs, helping to support his fellow Vietnam brothers and his friends.

Welcome New Members

Thomas Wick of Clinton, IA
USN 67-98 EOD UWSS 6812

Tim Kenyon of Carlisle, PA
USN 59-65 UWSS 6007

Tom R. Bernitt of Coronado, CA
USN 73-2000 UWSS 7308 **(last class)**

James Stephenson of Spokane Valley, WA
USN 69-73 USA 81-2007 UWSS 7110

Lou Mallion of Roswell, NM
USMC, USA 70-96 UWSS 7107

K.J. “Casey” Germintas of Elgin, SC
USA 63-91 UWSS 6602

George E. Hoche of Eastport, ME
USN 61-86 UWSS 6507

William M. Synk of Olmsted Falls, OH
USN (SS) ST3 68-79 UWSS 69-70

From the Mailbag



HOW IT WAS

HOW IT IS

The CMC of NDSTC, Panama City, FL arranged for my Son and Granddaughter to be picked up at the gate San Diego, Naval Station, CA and gave them a tour of SWRMC DIVERS COMMAND and also took this picture of them under the Famous Diver Riding the Shark built by DOW BYERS at UWSS carpenter shop KEY WEST, FL. Between 1965-1967

HOO YAH

Ernie Caltenback
ERNIE CALTENBACK
BMCM (MDV) USN (Ret)

Class photo from archives. Can anyone identify class or people?



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 of 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

The LCPR landing craft – actually the name stands for Landing Craft Personnel Ramped – were boats constructed for use during and before WWII amphibious operations. They were plywood, single engine, simple in construction and easy to mass produce and replace. Expendable, and so were the crews and occupants. No protection from shot or shell.

But they were great for launching and retrieving swimmers and divers because of the low ramp and sides that were easy to roll or climb over into an inflatable boat rigged along side. And they were also great for weekend recreational dive and fishing trips to Sand Key and other reefs.



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