

Buddy Line



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

May 2015

Presenting.....Our New Leaders

President

Robert J. Bureker

Bob Bureker (right) , enticed by double hazardous duty pay, applied for EOD school in 1964. When Chief Bureker arrived at UWSS, the sailor checking him in advised him to not bother unpacking his bag because they had never graduated a Chief. Nick-named Chiefie and paired with a non-swimmer swim buddy, Bob taught his new friend to swim and graduated honor man.

Retiring from the Navy in 1976, Bob now tutors web design at a college. In his spare time he maintains several web sites and will be the new webmaster for uwss.org. Bob and wife, Dalia, live in Phoenix, AZ



Vice President

David A. Byers

Dave Byers (below) is a plank owner of FO/UWSS and son of the late Dow Byers, UWSS instructor who created the shark and rider that graced the school's front lawn. At age 14 Dave completed the SCUBA program along with class 66-4.

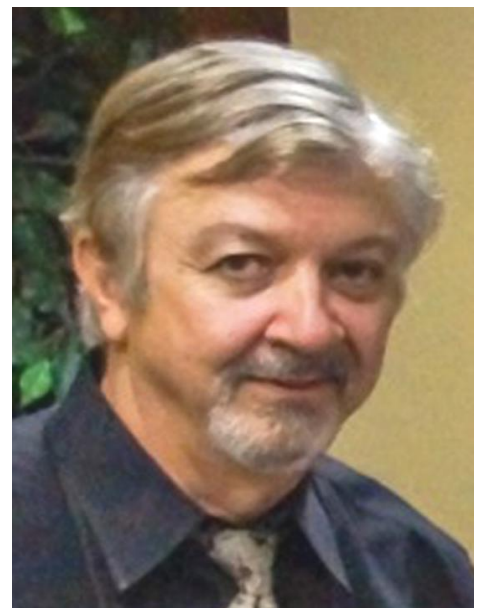
After a tour in the Navy, Dave studied Aviation Management at Florida Institute of Technology and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University. He has enjoyed a long career in airport planning and development and currently lives in Melbourne, FL with his wife, Cheryl.

Secretary/Treasurer

Robert W. Shouse Jr

Bob Shouse Jr (left) is the son of Bob Shouse UDT #21, 4, 3, and Instructor UWSS Key West (two tours). Bob practical grew up at UWSS and completed the SCUBA program along with class 65 - June.

After college, Bob worked for the CIA, at Langley, as a computer programmer/analysts. In 1982, Bob returned to Florida, working for Paradyne Corporation as a Senior Engineering Manager; and With Tech Data Corporation as a Senior Marketing Manager. Currently retired, he is still an avid diver and fisherman. He currently lives in St. Petersburg FL with his wife Patti.



UWSS LOGO ITEMS



All prices include shipping.

- Beefy-T t-shirt.....25.00 ea
white or ash gray, large logo back, small logo pocket
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*
- Long sleeved t-shirt.....28.00 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.....28.00 ea
white or ash gray, small logo on pocket.
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*
- Pique polo all cotton.....29.00 ea
birch gray, embroidered logo left front ,(no pocket)
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*
- Blue denim shirt, short sleeves38.00 ea
embroidered logo above pocket
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*
- *All shirts size XXL add \$2.00 ea**
- Cap – natural with logo20.00 ea
- Baseball cap – blue, embroidered logo.....30.00 ea
Cap 3.00 less if ordered with shirt
- All service mug – old logo front, new logo back..20.00 ea
- Embroidered Patch 12.00 ea
- UWSS logo decal – transparent or white3.00 ea
- UWSS Plaque – bright brass on blue60.00 ea
- UWSS commemorative coin 12.00 ea
enameled brass, raised design, 1 5/8 inch diameter
- UWSS all-service commemorative coin..... 15.00 ea
enameled brass, raised design, 2 inch diameter
- Bright LED pocket flashlight, shark rider logo 10.00 ea
- Key Chain with enameled logo medallion 10.00 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 2015	267 members	
Account Balance February 2015		16,657.05
Dues		+2,150.00
Reunion Fees		+10,695.00
Logo gear sales		+3,435.00
Other		+66.00
Buddy Line printing & mailing		-261.33
Postage		-175.98
Reunion expense		-15,035.54
Logo gear purchases		-4,871.92
Web expense		-52.67
Account Balance May 2015		12,605.61

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.

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 Bureker
 - Vice President..... Dave Byers
 - Secretary/Treasurer..... Bob Shouse Jr
- The Buddy Line newsletter is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. Buddy Line editors are Don and Art Stone.
e-mail: stonefish8@gmail.com phone: (561) 391-6727
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. Make check to FO/UWSS and send to Bob Shouse Jr., 274 Boca Ciega Point Blvd N., St Petersburg, FL 33708.

Most of the activities were at the Main Deck. The weather was good and the open air deck was a pleasant place to be day or night. Scenes from the Ice Breaker and the Barbeque:



Then there were some who preferred to stay indoors. Closer to the bar perhaps, or browsing the logo gear shop.



The Executive Corner

Bob Bureker, President
Dave Byers, Vice President

As your new president all I can say is those are very big shoes to fill. It looks to me like a daunting task. However, with your input and assistance the new executives will work hard and do our best.



The 2015 Reunion is in the logs as another great success thanks to Reunion Chairman, Aaron Farior and his helpers, Doug McGill, Gerry Flowers, and Don & Art Stone, who worked so hard to make it a grand achievement. There is no amount of praise that could be said about how much we enjoyed the fruits of their labor. The Ice Breaker was fantastic with laughter and broad smiles in every corner of the Main Deck. Logo gear was ready to go and the bar was fantastic. The Base tours and activities were outstanding as usual.

The banquet food service was remarkable and the cake, I mean THE CAKES were truly works of art, another masterpiece by pastry chef Pam Bertram, daughter of Clayton & Margaret Grady. I mean even the helmet was cake. The plaque at the top was also edible and was presented to Bob Holmes as a token of our appreciation.



The banquet program was the best I have ever witnessed. The POW/MIA Place Setting presentation delivered by Janet Hassinger gave us a somber moment to reflect on those who have yet to come home and their families who wait.

The flag presentation by Thomas Keith was truly outstanding. He finished with the story behind the song "God Bless America", written by Irving Berlin (ironically during the previous world war) and performed by Kate Smith as part of a live radio broadcast for the first time during the dark days immediately before WWII.

It was an honor to be in the room filled with patriots while Wild Bill Finlay brought the entire room to their feet in applause. For those who don't know Wild Bill, let's just say he spoke from the heart concerning what a lot of Americans feel today. If you are curious about where he stands, Google him.

The next Reunion was voted on and will be held sometime during May 2017 in the San Diego area. The new reunion committee, led by Chairman Dave Gholson, will have a tough act to follow.

The new officers, elected to help support me, include our progeny. Dave Byers (Class 66-4) and son of Dow Byers was elected to serve as our vice-president. Bob Shouse Jr., son of Bob Sr. was elected as the secretary-treasurer. Both successfully completed a class right alongside the regular students. In a generational way, the FO/UWSS and many of its members represent an extended family legacy that includes many uncles to these "young men". For them, the UWSS experience has had perhaps a much greater influence on their lives than we oldsters will ever understand.

Together, we were asked to serve and we have accepted the responsibility. We look forward to carrying on our traditions, maybe start some new ones, and to lead the organization forward with the direction of our membership.

Along with the planning for the 2017 Reunion, there is the grenade thrown on our laps - research and prepare a proposal for vote at the next business meeting on the subject of FO/UWSS as a "Last Man Standing" organization or inclusive of all military-trained divers. I ask for your patience and your assistance in helping me gain a deeper understanding of the group's culture and for your vision of what our future should look like.

Then finally, to our outgoing officers, Bob Holmes, Gerry Flowers and Don (& Art) Stone, a heartfelt **THANK YOU** for your leadership of the FO/UWSS for the past several years. You all leave big fins to follow.



Friday was tour day with visits to the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center and Experimental Diving Unit. After a welcome by CDR Hung Cao, we had guided tours of the facilities.



Jim Houle tried to get the group together for a photo but it was like herding cats.



It's San Diego in 2017

The Business Meeting was held on the Main Deck on Saturday morning. The first order of business was election of officers. See the results on page 1.

The location of the next reunion was discussed and the San Diego area was selected. Dave Gholson volunteered to check out venues and was appointed Reunion Chairman. May 2017 was selected for the reunion date with exact date to be decided later.

There was more discussion about whether FO/UWSS should be a "Last Man Standing" organization or inclusive of all military-trained divers. It was moved and passed to table the discussion and have the new executive group research and prepare a proposal for vote at the next business meeting.

How to Survive a Cardiac Event was presented on Saturday afternoon by member Andy Sendry, a retired paramedic from Miami. His animated delivery lightened the heavy subject as he described the signs to look for and what to do.



Don and Art Stone had no idea how soon this information would be important to them. Just 10 days later Don woke in the middle of the night with severe chest pains and racing heart. "I'll be OK", he said. Art put her ear against his chest, heard the frantic fluttering sounds that Andy had described, and immediately dialed 911. Three days later Don returned home from the hospital with his heart all regulated by medications. Both are thankful for Andy's presentation.



Welcome New Members

Daley "Tom" Coulter of Vero Beach, FL
USN 66-92 UWSS 6710

Terry Farmer of Spartanburg, SC
USN 71-97 UWSS 7302

James Gordon of Virginia Beach, VA
USN 61-84 UWSS 6612

Tom Shatava of Grimes, IA
ISMC 69-72, IANG 76-98 UWSS 7101

Keith Burns of Millersville, MD
USMC 69-72 UWSS 7101

Gary Wraalstad of Kiowa, OK
USN 67-96

Ted Sheppleman Jr of Sellersville, PA
USMC 70-74 UWSS 7211

Mark Anthony Nelson of Molino, FL
USN UWSS 7203

Robert "Bob" Soule of Houston, TX
USMC 64-68 UWSS 66

Delbert Ray Crum of Harlingen, TX
USMC 59-69 UWSS 6203

Bob Shouse Jr of St. Petersburg, FL
UWSS 65-June

Melvin L. Rollins of Deland, FL
USMC 69-76 8-96 UWSS 7102

Carl E. Swebston of Julian, CA
USN 59-79 UWSS-65



The popular Bill Finlay was the featured speaker.

A patriotic program was shown on the big screen ending with Kate Smith singing God Bless America.



Aaron Farior was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation for his service as Reunion 2015 Chairman.

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: _____

Send copy of class picture if you have one. 2 Year Membership \$25.00 Make check payable to FO/UWSS
and mail to Bob Shouse Jr, Treasurer, 274 Boca Ciega Point Blvd N, St. Petersburg, FL 33708

Reunion Recap from Gerry Flowers

Well, the 2015 Reunion is in the books. Aaron, Bob and I collectively felt that what we wanted to have happen....Did.

First of all, on behalf of Past President, Bob Holmes, the outgoing Executive and of course, our one man Reunion Committee, we would like to thank all of you that made the effort to attend this 2015 get together in Panama City. A few had to beg off due to health issues, but they were remembered by all that knew them.

As always, it was wonderful to walk around and see who made the journey. Whether you came from Panama City, Norfolk, Minnesota or California, talking, laughing, sipping, reminiscing and sharing parts of your life and family with long time friends, well, this was truly what we wanted to see happen.

The reunion did just that. Seeing you buy Logo gear, watching the interactions between the

Bullfrog and the SEAL's, meeting the extended Checote Family, seeing old friends shake hands, hug and have a drink together was so so satisfying. Aaron, thank you so much for all you took on and then allowing me to be your assistant made my reunion a memorable one.

Our new Executive all have deep and lifelong ties with not only the Dive School, but with connected families that grew up together sharing the Underwater World of the U.S. Navy.

Robert, Dave, Bob Jr. we all join together in welcoming you as the new executive and look forward to seeing everyone in San Diego. Fair Winds and Following Seas....to all...

Warmest Regards, from the outgoing Executive and the Reunion "Go To Guy". Thank you all.

Bob Holmes, USN ST-2
Gerry Flowers, USMC
Aaron Farrow, USAF Pararescue

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