

# Buddy Line<sup>®</sup>



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

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November 2016

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## Reunion 2017 Update

By Reunion Chairman Dave Gholson

Shipmates, this assignment of arranging the next reunion has been a challenge, but obstacles were overcome and it has been set in stone. Our preferred date was the first weekend in May, 2017, however accommodations were hard to find on base. Gateway Inns have several lodging facilities in the area, but a place to hold our meetings and banquet was distant.

We had the Gateway on the main Base secured and meeting place at Anchors facility for meeting on May 18-20. As it happens, our President Bob Bureker, was in San Diego and inspected Gateway and found it to be unsuitable for our group. At the same time, Anchors informed me there was a "Sweet 16" party booked for half of the room, the day of our banquet. (think on that).

The San Diego Convention Chairman communicated our reunion needs and 31 venues replied. After a few weeks of phone calls, that list was pared down to two hotels that fit our needs and were in our room price range. With the help of Master Diver Trey Williams of the Consolidated Dive Locker, who made the site visits, we have selected the Holiday Inn Bayside for our reunion on the preferred date of May 4th, 5th and 6th, 2017.

This is one of those scrambles that worked out in our favor. Our room rate is more than Gateway but very reasonable for the San Diego area. The Inn is waiving their \$10 a day parking fee and providing free 24 hour airport shuttle, 10% discounts at their

highly rated restaurant for attendees over 55, and a complimentary hospitality room where we can bring in our own beverages and snacks.

Master Diver Williams is assisting us in securing a venue for our Friday cook-out. We remember the parties at the Beach Patio so this will be like old times without the instructors challenging us to do push-ups or swimming to the buoy!

We plan on having a tour of the Consolidated Dive Unit and, of course, a visit to the Shark Rider, which was transported to San Diego when the school in Key West was closed. For those members that are not retired and holding a grey ID card, we can arrange for base access by name.

There are many interesting and fun attractions and activities in the area. By signing up in advance, we can secure tickets from the base ITT office at good discounts, up to 50% off. Holiday Inn Bayside has extended our reunion room rate up to three days before and three days after the reunion for those who want to enjoy more of San Diego.

See more information on page 4.



**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 sleeves .....38.00 ea  
embroidered logo above pocket  
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL\*
- \*All shirts size XXL add \$2.00 ea**
- Cap – natural with logo .....20.00 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 white .....3.00 ea
  - UWSS Plaque – bright brass on blue .....60.00 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 Bob Shouse Jr., Treasurer  
274 Boca Ciega Point Blvd N.  
St Petersburg, FL 33708**

Questions? e-mail: [stonefish8@gmail.com](mailto:stonefish8@gmail.com)  
or phone (561) 391-6727

*All logo items are pictured on the web site*

**Secretary/Treasurer’s Report**

Membership November 2016

Members in database	271
Members in good standing	203

Account Balance August, 2016	\$14,771.78
Dues	+250.00
Logo gear sales	+582.00
Logo Gear postage	-48.08
Buddy Line printing & mailing	-259.27
Account Balance November 2016	\$15,297.33

**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: [buddyline@uwss.org](mailto:buddyline@uwss.org) phone: (561) 391-6727  
snail mail: 1440 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432

**WEBSITE: [www.uwss.org](http://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 [buddyline@uwss.org](mailto:buddyline@uwss.org).

**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.

## The Executive Corner

Bob Bureker, President

The last couple of months have been heavy duty travel times for this old salt. We participated in the Navy EOD Group One family day at Gator Beach North Island, CA. where we recruited eleven new members for the NavyEODA.com. Then we were off to the same sort of function for the Navy EOD Group in Virginia Beach, VA., adding fourteen new members at that family day. Attendance at the National EOD Association Convention in Fayetteville, NC. was followed by a road trip to San Diego where I was honored to be the guest speaker for the "Military Order of the World Wars" meeting.

The trips to San Diego made it possible for me to help our hard working reunion chairman, Dave Gholson, who is working with his San Diego contacts from his home in Kentucky. We have done considerable leg work and investigation for him on the 2017 San Diego Reunion location. Things were looking good for using Gateway until Dalia and I checked out the facilities in detail and talked with the Director. The rooms available to our group were on three levels with no elevators and there was no way to make sure our group would get ground floor units. The rooms were in the process of being remodeled and even the one we saw in progress was not really satisfactory. It was very old, extremely tight, and certainly not worth \$89 a night.

After considerable walking and inspecting several units, we met with the Director, and found out from our conversation with him that 500 Midshipmen would be coming on base for housing at the same time of our planned reunion date. They are active duty and of course that means they take priority so our people would not be able to make reservations during that time period. All that leg work and discussion was for nothing it was a "no go" due to active duty priority.

Plan two, maybe we could book rooms at the North Island facility? Great facility and all Gateway and Navy Lodge are newer than those on the Naval

Base San Diego. Sorry to report they only make reservations 30 days in advance and we would be on the bottom of that priority list as well. The Navy Lodge is great but that also means they are usually booked solid.

We were told by the leaders in the Dive Locker on the "wet" side of the Base that we should try Town and Country Resort where the local military diver group held a reunion. Meanwhile Dave Gholson's contact with the San Diego Chamber of Commerce resulted in bids from many hotels wanting to host our reunion, most of them way too expensive. Dave selected the locally recommended Town and Country Resort and the Holiday Inn Bayside with great rates for San Diego area and excellent support for the Reunion.

While I was in San Diego I took the opportunity to stay overnight and check out the prospective hotel "Holiday Inn Bayside" for the reunion. It is a nice facility that appears to be recently remodeled with comfortable rooms. It meets all our requirements for cost and availability for the dates we want. They have military units meeting there quite often and had a VP Squadron reunion there while I was there. The hotel is just across the street from a small Navy Facility with very limited exchange. The hotel provides a free shuttle from/to the airport. There are several taxi cabs parked alongside the hotel and easy bus transportation across the street that takes you right into down town area or the USS Midway. Dalia and I have found that Bus rides can often be an interesting adventure.

There will be maps and highlights posted on the 2017 Reunion page of the website. Go there and take a look [www.uwss.org](http://www.uwss.org). Sea World, Balboa Park and Zoo tickets can be arranged for through their respective websites with deep discounts for retired military available. We were able to get free tickets to Sea World through <https://shop.id.me/>. It is easy to sign up and take advantage of discounts. San Diego now offers several breaks to those with a Military ID card. Also all the bases will allow cars on the base with just showing a Military ID. MWR has many discounts available and we will provide information on the website about where and how to make use of them.

## Reunion Accommodations

Holiday Inn Bayside in San Diego has blocked a group of rooms for the UWSS 2017 Reunion and will accept reservations at the group rate of \$129 per day until April 13, 2017. California tax brings the total room cost to \$145.90 per day.

The group rate is available for three days before and three days after the reunion dates of May 4-6, 2017 (based on availability) for those who want to take advantage of some of the many activities and attractions in the area. Room reservations may be made by phone or on-line.

**To make room reservation by phone:** Call Holiday Inn San Diego Bayside (619)224-3621 and ask for reservations (Ext: 701) or call toll free (in USA) 1 (800) 662-8899. You will need our group code "USN" and tell them you are with US Navy Underwater Swimmers Reunion.



**To make room reservation on-line:** Control-Click on this link [US Navy Underwater Swimmers Reunion 2017 Room Reservations](#). The link goes to the standard reservations page with our group code preloaded. You will enter your arrival and departure dates and click "Check Availability" to go to the group's specific rate and availability page. From there you will select a room type and input personal details to complete the reservation (please scroll down to see all available room types). Guests may also use their IHG Rewards number with the group rate. If you have any questions or problems with the link, call Shannon Booth at 1-800-650-6660.

Please make your reservations early to help the reunion committee estimate attendance. Reservations may be changed or cancelled without charge up to three days before reservation date.

## Things to Do In San Diego

Balboa Park is fantastic with a large Planetarium, 17 outstanding museums including Veterans Museum, Natural History Museum, Air & Space Museum, and the Old Globe theater. A free tram makes it easy to get around to all the entire park.

San Diego Zoo is world class, military discounts available

Sea World has discounted entry for military

The USS Midway is always a favorite and an easy bus ride from the hotel

San Diego Segway Tours are an Adventure

The Gaslamp District Tour is great fun

Award winning Bay Front Dining at top of the Market restaurant.

Everything from Giant New York Pizza and Sevilla Tapas to Ruth's Chris Steak House is a short ride away.

Dinner Cruise is a must and don't forget to bring the animal crackers to throw out to the sea gulls on the way back in.

Air Port Car Rental from 17.95 a day to 99.95 a week

Don't forget to pick up a full color Map for all of San Diego area at the Hotel Check in desk.

### Reduced price tickets available through MWR

There is a link to attractions and prices brochure on [uwss.org](http://uwss.org) - Next Reunion page.

### TICKET OFFICE LOCATIONS:

#### Naval Base San Diego

Main Exchange Complex: 619-556-7498

*Ticket prices and availability subject to change. Contact your local Ticket Office for operating hours, current pricing, ticket availability and restrictions.*

## Passing the Bar

### John Douglas Bartleson, Jr. "Bart"



CWO 4 John Douglas Bartleson Jr, USN Retired, FO/UWSS Plank Owner, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Born in Ft. Myers, FL, May 27, 1936, Bart was an avid outdoorsman.

He enlisted in the Navy in 1954 and served as Mineman and diver before transferring to Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD). During his 30 year career, Bart made several contributions to the EOD Community, from authoring a 60 Series Civil War Ordnance EOD publication to serving as the Navy EOD Association Historian. He is a Plank Owner of EODGRP 2, Ft. Story, where he retired in December 1984.

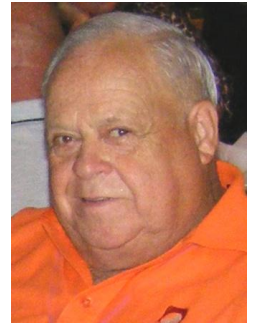
Bart is survived by his wife Kay, daughters Ann, Pat and Lori, sons John and Mike, five grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

### William Bruhmuller III "Bill / Bruh"

William Bruhmuller, of Panama City, FL, passed away Friday, September 23, 2016 in Atlanta, GA, with his family by his side.

Born on August 10, 1935 in Malden, Massachusetts, Bill joined the navy at 17. As part of the Underwater Demolition Team (Class 13), he was one of 21 men who graduated from the original class of 156. He spent the next 8 years assigned to UDT-21 and 22. In 1958, he was selected by NASA to participate in establishing benchmark endurance standards for astronauts.

Bill was a Plank Owner of SEAL Team 2 and served with the SEALs in Cuba, the Dominican Republic and Vietnam. He will be remembered for being the first SEAL dog handler in the history of the Teams. Bill retired in 1978 as Master Chief with 2 purple hearts. He is survived by his wife, Bette, six children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



### Robert "Doc" Clark



Master Chief Robert "Doc" Clark, USN, Retired, FO/UWSS Plank Owner, passed away on August 6, 2016. "Doc" was born on August 21, 1935 in Rochester, NY.

He served with the Marines as a Hospital Corpsman, then after Deep Sea Diving School, Escape Training Tank, Pearl Harbor, Army Jump School and Underwater

Swimmer School, Doc was assigned to UDT 21 and 22, SEAL Team 2 and Naval Special Warfare Group 2.

Doc served as Command Master Chief, Naval Hospital Patuxent River and SEAL Team 4 completing his 32 years of active duty. His numerous military awards include two Bronze Stars with Combat "V".

Active in many associations, Doc was an avid and loyal volunteer. He was loved and will be missed and remembered by his wife, Dee, sons, daughters, grandchildren, sister, and many "brothers" and friends.

### Gideon Don "Indian" Checote



Navy Chief Retired, SFC (Diver) Gideon Don "Indian" Checote, 89, of Waynesboro, PA, passed away Sunday, October 9, 2016.

Born November 28, 1926, he grew up in rural Oklahoma, and entered the United States Navy in 1943. He served in WWII and in the Korean War. He earned an Associates

Degree from the Naval Technical College in D.C.

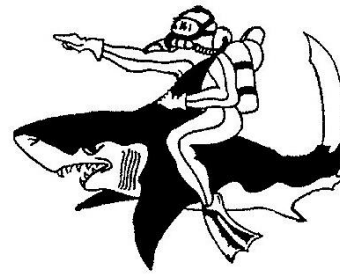
He moved to Waynesboro in October 1990 where he was employed as a welder, working for the family business, Browns Welding of Waynesboro, along with his son and grandsons, for the past 27 years.

Don accumulated many stories over the years as the result of his military service, and he loved to tell those stories, especially to his children and grandchildren, whom he loved dearly.

He is survived by five children fifteen grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; one sister, and many nieces and nephews.

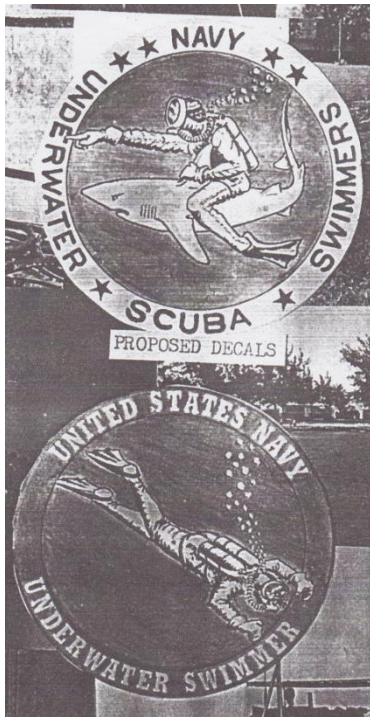
# Origin of the Shark Rider

There have been many variations of the shark riding diver logo used over the years by UWSS, and more recently by FO/UWSS. The earliest example found in the archives is a poster about a decal contest in 1958 showing two examples of the entries below left, and the results below right.



Old Buddy Line logo.

Now variations of the logos appear on many things from shirts and hats to mugs and flashlights.



First decal



Decal



Coin



First patch



Mug



Badge

Other early uses of the shark rider logo appeared on a wall in the boat house, on an EOD display,



and in the many plaques made by the very creative Chief Patternmaker Niel "Pappy" Hewitt.



Our most famous shark rider was completed in 1966 by Dow Byers and adorned the front of the school until it closed in 1973. It was then transferred to Navy Dive School, Coronado where it stayed until 1993, then transferred to CDU (now SWRMC) where it is proudly displayed to this day.

## Editors Corner by Don & Art Stone

**Will Canova**, Newspaper and Periodical Projects Coordinator for the University of Florida Digital Collections, writes that the University of Florida wants to include the Buddy Line newsletter in the Digital Military Newspaper Library. He wrote “We would be truly honored if you would allow us to include Buddy Line newsletter in our Digital Collections. It is a really extraordinary publication in terms of broadening the scope of our collection.”

The Digital Military Newspaper Library is a repository of historic and current military news and culture from around the country and a resource for students, and researchers. DMNL’s continuing goal is to archive and preserve military perspective by offering full geographical representation of historic through current issues of select U.S. Military publications. There are currently over 100 periodical titles in the collection. We are honored to be included. If you want to take a look,, here is the link: <http://ufdc.ufl.edu/dmnl>

**Roger Simmons** of Brookfield, CT wrote “This is a great piece of work, love the pictures and stories”. He is looking for classmates and a class picture. His EOD class started in June and graduated in early September 1971. He says his swim buddy was Ens Terry and there were only four students left at graduation.. FO/UWSS member Howard “Chip” Harman, [charman2@earthlink.net](mailto:charman2@earthlink.net), also graduated in September 1971. Roger Simmons can be reached at [rlsimz101@gmail.com](mailto:rlsimz101@gmail.com), phone # 203-546-8838

**Mike Cox** of Lexington, KY writes that his collection of Navy patches contains this patch that he believes is a 1960’s vintage patch from the U.S. Navy School Underwater Swimmers. We searched the archives but found nothing similar. Since it does not match any UWSS design in our archives, it appears to be a personalized copy of a UWSS patch. Members, if you know anything about a patch like this, please notify Mike Cox: [mike.cox@live.com](mailto:mike.cox@live.com)



## Welcome new members

Robert A. Herring III, Greensboro, NC  
USN 69-79 Resv 79-95, UWSS Feb 1971

David B. Lokker, Boise, ID  
USN 69-92, UWSS 1972

David M. Burns, Millersville, MD  
USMC 69-72, UWSS May 1961

Thomas J. Kodert, Port Charlotte, FL  
USN 60-82, UWSS Nov 1965

Trey Williams, San Diego, CA  
USN Master Chief

## Memorabilia Auction

**Look out your UWSS memorabilia and bring to the reunion all you can bear to part with for the Memorabilia Auction. You can help raise money for a good cause and take home some treasures too.**

## Membership Application Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School

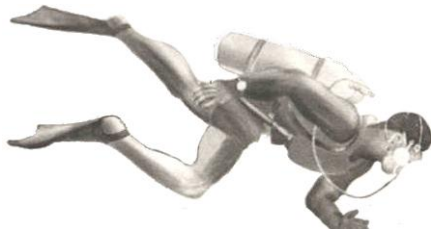
Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Wife's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Buddy Line Newsletter by email \_\_\_\_\_ or snail mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Service: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates of Class at UWSS: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## The way it was

### “What were the qualifications for Scuba diver ?”

According to the UWSS instruction manual, the qualifications for scuba divers included the following Selection Requirements: Must be physically and psychologically qualified, and must be a first class or second class swimmer. Well unfortunately some trainees that came in the door were not.



The training program weeded out those that were really out of shape and those with emotional problems such as claustrophobia who couldn't handle ditch and don in the pool, or basement ascents in the tank. During the scuba training phase, as the submerged students swam around the pool, instructors pulled off their face masks, fins, or mouth pieces to see how they handled themselves in emergency situations. Military Scuba divers had to be able to operate under adverse conditions and handle unexpected and unsettling occurrences during a dive.

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1440 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Boca Raton, FL 33432