

Buddy Line



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

November 2005

President's Corner by Don Stone

We are running a little late with this issue because of a visit from Hurricane Wilma, the worst storm in our 35 years in Boca Raton. Wilma's 139 mph winds broke and uprooted thousands of trees and blew most of the leaves off the rest. After the storm there was almost no electric power in south Florida and many dwellings were damaged.

Things are somewhat normal again, and we are no longer in survival mode, but when there is so much damage, many of us have to wait a long time for repairs, especially to minor things like awnings and screens. Several of our members have suffered from this season's hurricanes. We are thankful we didn't have the storm surge and water damage that caused such devastation in Mississippi and Louisiana.

How did they fare in Key West? Not as well as we did on the east coast because they had to contend with storm surge as well as high winds. Nearly all naval personnel were evacuated. Many returned to find their homes in Navy Housing ruined by water. These families are now being housed in MWR vacation rentals and the BOQ at Trumbull Point Annex. The Navy takes care of its own.

Will this affect our planned May reunion? We don't know yet, but are going ahead with our plans and the collecting of information for the BOQ manager so that rooms for the reunion can be confirmed.

Those members who have requested rooms at the BOQ will find a data sheet enclosed. (Those who receive the Buddy Line by email will received a data sheet to print at the end of the newsletter.) Please fill this in and mail it to us by January 11, 2006.

Art and I will drive down to Key West after the holidays and survey the situation, talk to the BOQ manager and MWR personnel, and make plans accordingly. The February Buddy Line will have the final info and schedule. If we have information sooner, it will be on the web site.



We wish you and yours a great holiday season

Mackenzie's Diary

Robert B. MacKenzie, a 1957 UWSS graduate retired after 30 years service in the Marine Corps, shared the diary he kept of his days as a UWSS student. Here are more excerpts from his diary.

7June: All morning we had maintenance on the aqua-lungs. Though nothing was wrong with Al's, we took it apart anyway - and it was a good thing, too, for Henry Staples gave us a 14-question test at the end of the period. Such lovelies as outlet washer, reserve air valve, horseshoe and horseshoe spring and pin, adjusting screw, etc.

Sawyer fixed my Scott for me, putting bolts on the frame to keep the monster from slipping off my back as it did disastrously last week.

After field day for Captain's inspection, we left for another Scott swim: 1,250 yards, on another dogleg course. My navigation was faulty - again - and we missed the first turning buoy by a couple hundred yards, then spent a goodly number of minutes on the surface before the darned thing could be located properly.

Continued on page 5

UWSS LOGO ITEMS



The following logo items are available, so send in your orders and they will be shipped pronto. Prices include shipping. Availability is subject to change. We can obtain other items if there are enough requests.

White Beefy-T shirts..... 13.00 ea, 2 for 23.00
 Logo front and back (pocket or no pocket – your choice)
 Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL
 Childs 6/8, 10/12 (no pocket)

Ash gray Beefy-T shirts..... 14.00 ea, 2 for 25.00
 Large logo on back, small logo on pocket
 Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL
 Childs 14/16 (no pocket)

White Polo shirt 18.00 ea, 2 for 33.00
 Small logo on pocket, 50/50 cotton/poly
 Sizes M, L, XL, XXL

Ash Polo shirt 19.00 ea, 2 for 35.00
 Small logo on pocket, 50/50 cotton/poly
 Sizes M, L, XL, XXL

Coffee mug with logo 12.00 ea
 Cap – natural with logo 12.00 ea
 8.00 ea if ordered with shirt

UWSS logo decal
 Transparent background 2.00 ea
 White background 2.00 ea

UWSS logo lapel/tie pin 4.00 ea

UWSS plaques
 Bright brass logo on blue 45.00 ea
 Standard brass logo on blue 25.00 ea
 Plaque price reduced \$5.00 if ordered with shirt.

**Send payment with order to Don Stone,
 1440 SW 5th Ave
 Boca Raton, FL 33432**

**Photos of all logo gear items
 are on the web site!
www.uwss.org**

Secretary/Treasurer’s Report

Membership- November 2005	169 members
Account Balance August 2005	\$4,908.40
Dues	+175.00
Logo item sales	+76.00
Logo item expense	-84.14
Postage	-83.10
Buddy Line printing	-141.78
Account Balance November 2005	\$4,850.38

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. Associate membership is open to family, friends, and others who share an interest in the goals and activities of FO/UWSS. Associate members do not have voting privileges, but are encouraged to participate in all other activities.. One of the most important reasons for our existence as an organized group is to plan for and participate in biannual reunions, which will be held at various locations to be selected by members’ votes.

FO/UWSS Officers

President Don Stone
 Vice President..... A. Dee Clark
 Secretary/Treasurer Roger Lynch

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 or stonefish7@cs.com
 snail mail: 1440 S.W. 5th Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432
 phone: (561) 391-6727 fax: (509) 472-6492
 WEBSITE: www.uwss.org

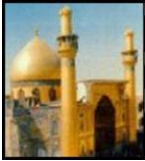
Buddy Line by email

If you use 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 mailout.

To receive the Buddy Line by email, send your request to buddyline@uwss.org.



Najaf Chronicles

By Rick LaRoche

UWSS member, Rick LaRoche, who works for the US State Department spent a year in Iraq as Action Officer for Najaf. While there, he shared short narratives of his life and feelings as he carried out his sometimes dangerous duties

September 2004 - This edition of the Najaf Chronicles begins on a serious and somber note. I have just returned from representing the U.S. government at a memorial service for a Marine killed by a sniper in the world's largest cemetery here in Najaf. This young Lance Corporal had not been in the Corps long at all. This was his first taste of action, and tragically his last. The service was moving to say the least. Standing and watching his fellow Marines honor his memory in a sandy and dusty corner of Iraq made me think of many things. It made me proud to see that these fine young men, heavily armed with state of the art weapons, could cry and show compassion. I know they will become outstanding citizens when they return to their communities. I feel confident as we pass the torch to the next generation.

As we all stood to hear the final roll call, with his boots, M-16 with bayonet stuck into the sand and helmet on top, I thought about why we are here – to make Iraq a better place than when we found it. In short, to help the people of Iraq regain control over their own lives.

It's hard to drive by the young children every day who run up to our cars, give us the thumbs-up sign and smile. They are under-nourished and dressed in rags. Most of them run barefoot through these scorching hot sands. It's hard to know that they probably won't ever leave Najaf and get to experience the things that we all take for granted. The best many of them can hope for is to have food on their tables every day and a roof over their

heads every night. But then again, that's a lot in this part of the world.

I wonder what they think about all of this. We must look as if we come from another planet; loads of weapon-toting, fast-driving heavily armed people that travel in gunships to get around in Najaf. They must think we are crazy. We travel in convoys of three SUVs, and the last vehicle, complete with a 50 cal. machine gun mounted inside, always throws out candy and chocolate as we pass. We bomb their towns and then pump millions back in to help build them better than they were before. I'd have to agree, we've got to be the craziest (in a positive way) nation in the world.

There is another reason why this edition is somber. In the middle of all this, our camp is locked down and we've gone to Condition Red Delta! That means full body armor and weapons even when we walk to the showers or the toilets. We have credible intelligence that seven VBIED's (that's Vehicle-Borne-Improvised-Explosive-Devices, i.e. Car-bombs) left Baghdad today headed for cities in the south, with possible attacks expected after midnight. Yesterday, a car bomb exploded a block or so away from the State-Embedded Team office in Basarah, killing two Iraqis. Well, I know one thing for sure; if we could take time out to hold a memorial service for a young Marine during this high-threat condition, we are in good shape mentally and physically. So if they happen to come to Najaf looking for martyrdom, let it be known that it can be theirs! **WE ARE READY FOR THEM!**

Having said that, let me say that I look forward to writing the next Najaf Chronicles under better conditions. The life of a diplomat takes one to strange places and through strange experiences. Wherever you are when you read this, enjoy your freedom, enjoy your family and loved ones and enjoy life. A young Marine (along with many others over here) just gave his so that you could! Take care and good night from Najaf

The material in the Najaf Chronicles is not for public use and may not be re-printed or used in any other context.

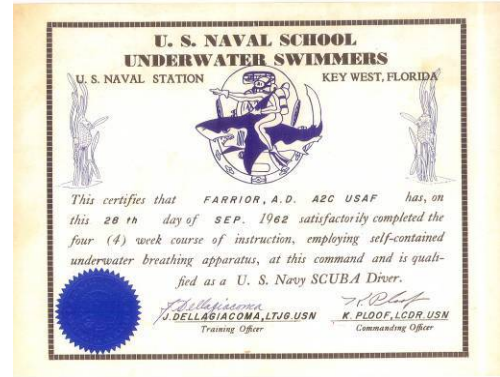


Class of April 1969
Photo from John Bartleson

2. A Lapatt, 3. E Barnes, 4. L Webb,
5. S Neill, 6. White, 7. M Danforth,
8. R Jernigan, 9. R.E.Blansett,
10. Larimer, 12. Cary, 13. Bancroft,
14. G.Parsons, 15. Burns, 16. Loewen,
17. Ragland, 18. B.H.Rounds



Class of September 1962
Photo from Aaron Farrior



Class of April 1956
Photo from Larry McArthur



W F Farmer, B L Baker, J R Turner, G M Douglas, C R Chinn, W A Harris, J Perkins, J Sammons, J F Abel, G Bass, B W Ahern, C Lidler, W. Richardson, E W Nies, L McArthur, T K. Areva, A Little, B Carlew, D R Puckett, R Bowles Sr, M Windsor, V Kelly, C H Dunn, W R Shaw, K D Double, T D Napier Jr, F C Dull, O W Debell, C W Wehner, E R Harmon, L Laws, R C Williams, R Welsh, L O Jackson, W J Smith, H Gary, A D Clark, J D Bartleson Jr, W F Fey, Mills, W Wilham, D Hancock, W W Dean, R L Holz, L B Mussman, R C Hoover, J W Hobbs, J G Forester

Class of April 1964
Photo from L. J. Roberts



MacKenzie's Diary

Continued from page 1

We signed in on the pad hanging on the buoy and took off for our usual course to shore. We're getting so good on that shore run that we don't even come to the surface any more to check the surroundings. The secret of the whole thing is, as we found out quite late in the game, is to keep the eye on the compass at all times.

This is certainly different from compass operations on land, where one merely picks out a distant object and walks toward it. Similarly, on land there's no such thing as a cross-current, nor is there the perverse effect of having one leg stronger than the other while walking, leading to a bias in direction.

8June: I finally made it up for breakfast, and played hearts at great length with Arky, Bostain and Pugh in waiting for the morning trip to the beach for make-up swims. Alas, the trip did not go off - small boat warnings and an 18 knot wind. I was really looking forward to getting into the water this morning.

Al and McGoo started out for Havana, but their plane was grounded and they ended up by going to Tampa with Bostain.

Evening chow was followed by a movie, a beer, many hearts games, and the writing of another "thesis," as my last long letter was called.

9June: Another lazy day before the last week of training - 19 pull ups (9-7-3) in the afternoon, reading, talking with Howie Swayne, with Burke and, finally, the afternoon meal.

10June: Scott maintenance in the morning - interspersed with a trip over to Marine Barracks to confirm the setting up of our leave papers starting Friday, for we found out this morning from Mr. Dolan that we would NOT be staying for closed-circuit work.

Finally - the 100 ft. ascent from the diving barge. Tappy went down with Al and me, and everything went off well except that I had a little trouble equalizing. I had not as much trouble as some, though, for some came up with face masks full of blood - the squeeze of the sinuses.

The descent being completed, there was a make-up swim for those who had missed or aborted previous attempts. I volunteered to go in on a 1000 yard Scott with Don Snellenberg. A ball - no compass, no float, and a coast for me, so I had plenty of good times, though not plenty of air, to look over the underwater foliage and inhabitants which previous competition swims had not allowed me to do because of compass work, concentration on other pairs, etc.

After the swim, I erred. Having nothing better to do and not having to conserve my air at all, I leaped at the chance to do some diving and went out by myself. That,

it seems, was the wrong thing to do and, as was explained to me later, if caught by the Captain, I would have been dismissed from the school summarily. Luckily, it was Mr. Jones who saw me.

11June: Ship bottom search of the "USS Saufle" in the morning - hunting for and finding mines which had been laid on the bottom by others of our number. I can now see the need for Scotts - face up without free flow, dirty harbors. Wonderful to use under those circumstances.

After classes on UDT, EOD and the Parelli and Lambertson closed-circuit lungs, we went in for a 1,000 yard Northill swim - 22 minutes and 1,000 lbs - in first by three minutes.

Movie at night in classroom #1 on the salvaging of the Lafayette (nee Normandy), which sank in New York harbor in 1942. It gave us a good idea of what the hard hat divers have to go through in their work.

12June:

"Mr. Demo" (Seiderman) knew it all on everything this morning. The final this morning had Mr. Demo in top place - 92; class average was 86.52, with all the Marines below the class average. Too much to take - 100 multiple choice questions, and I got only an 85. Ashamed of ourselves? Certainly.

Circle search of the harbor bottom allowed all of us to improve our sun tans while awaiting our turns on the line. Bostain and I swam together this morning.

After lunch, we left for our 1,500 yard dogleg with aqua lungs on a three-pronged course. We were in first by a minute, with very good air consumption on my part: 33 minutes and 1,100lbs. of air. I held my breath - risking nitrogen narcosis - for the first time, and it paid off.

At night we got all steamed up about "Mr. Demo's" being a possible "top 5" in the class: worst in attitude, last in every swim. Got THAT straightened out in a hurry with Kap.

More goodies - we had a night ship-bottom search of the USS Trumpetfish. Burke, Truin, Al and I were all hooked together with buddy lines and went under the starboard side of the boat. In the pitch blackness, we got turned around and came back on the port side of the outboard sub. So, we had to do it all over again.

This time we made it, and spent the rest of the tour on the pier laughing at our mistakes and figuring out why, when I ran into Al under water, and asked for his name, he didn't answer me. Reason? He was yelling at the same time and asking the same question. Choice, unheard and unprintable expletives passed between us, we found.

Now - three hours of duty. I tried at chow time tonight to catch some Zs, but couldn't sleep because a banjo and a guitar were working a beautiful racket in old favorites and I had to listen to them, for they were good.

Membership Application

Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School

Full Name: _____

Wife's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____

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

The Way It Was



Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School
Buddy Line Newsletter
1440 S. W. 5th Avenue
Boca Raton, FL 33432