

# Buddy Line



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

November 2009

## Editors Corner by Don & Art Stone

### 2011 Reunion Location

Jerry Padrta, 2011 Reunion Chairman, has been researching our options in Branson. He and Judy visited Branson and talked with reunion planners there to come up with a package for us. [Plan A]

Because Jerry was concerned Branson may be too expensive, he checked into an alternate possibility - a reunion cruise leaving from a Florida port or New Orleans with stops at Key West and Cozumel. [Plan B]

### Plan A Branson



Hotel - three days – includes hot breakfasts and hospitality room	\$400 - \$440
Activity package – two dinners, banquet, shows, and Military Museum	\$370 - \$404
<b>Total cost for two people</b>	<b>\$820 – \$844</b>
Not included - additional meals, booze, getting there.	

### Plan B Cruise



Inside cabin 4 days – includes all meals, nightly shows, hospitality area, casino, captains welcome and ports of call	
<b>Total cost for 2 people</b>	<b>\$578</b>
Not included – shore tours, booze, getting there	
Required: Passport or birth certificate plus gov ID	

Prices may vary by a small amount. Please think this over carefully, discuss it and vote for your choice. We need your input quickly Vote by email, or snail mail, or telephone If you don't vote, someone else will make the decision for you.

### Dues Notice

Dues are payable every two years in May of odd numbered years. Reunion attendees' dues are included in the reunion fees. Those unable to attend the reunion should send their \$25.00 dues to secretary/treasurer Don Stone, 1440 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Boca Raton, FL 33432.

Dues support the printing and mailing of the Buddy Line newsletter and the expense of the web site, UWSS.ORG as well as other expenses of the organization. Members who have forgotten to pay dues should mail them now. Members who do not pay dues will be dropped from the roster and will no longer receive the newsletter.

### Vote Now!

**Vote for Plan A - Branson or Plan B - Cruise**

Email your vote to [stonefish8@gmail.com](mailto:stonefish8@gmail.com)

Telephone your vote to Don Stone (561)391-6727

Mail your vote to Don Stone, FO/UWSS  
1440 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Boca Raton, FL 33432

All votes should show your choice and your name and must be received by Friday, November 20th. On that date the voting will be closed and the tally sent to the 2011 Reunion Committee.

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**Support the troops with soccer balls**  
 || Bill Arens forwarded to us a letter from a fellow Texan, "  
 || Nate Moore, who is serving in Iraq. Bill had asked him "  
 || what he needed over there. Nate's replied, "One thing "  
 || we could use is Soccer balls. These go miles with "  
 || families. The kids love them....they are like IED "  
 || insurance." If you would like to send soccer balls, "  
 || address them to:  
 || CPT Nate Moore, 3-18-5 MTT (KMTB), "  
 || Fob Caldwell, Kirkush Iraq, APO AE 09324 "  
 || = = = = = ||

## UWSS LOGO ITEMS



**All prices include shipping.**

Beefy-T t-shirt..... 18.00 ea, 2 for 32.00  
white or ash gray,  
large logo on back, small logo on pocket  
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL\*

Long sleeved t-shirt..... 20.00 ea, 2 for 36.00  
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..... 20.00 ea, 2 for 36.00  
white or ash gray, small logo on pocket.  
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL\*

Pique polo all cotton..... 22.00 ea, 2 for 40.00  
birch gray, embroidered logo left front  
(no pocket)  
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL\*

**New!**

Blue denim shirt, short sleeves ..... 30.00 ea, 2 for 56.00  
embroidered logo above pocket  
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL\*

**\*All shirts size XXL add \$2.00 ea**

Cap – natural with logo ..... 14.00

Baseball cap –tan or blue, embroidered logo .....20.00  
**Cap 3.00 less if ordered with shirt**

Embroidered Patch .....7.00

UWSS logo decal .....2.00  
transparent or white background

UWSS plaque - Bright brass logo on blue .....35.00

UWSS commemorative coin .....7.00  
enameled brass with raised design  
1 5/8" diameter

Key Chain with enameled logo medallion .....7.00

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

## Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Membership August 2009 266 members

Account Balance August 2009	\$12,505.05
Dues	+50.00
Logo gear sales	+815.00
Buddy Line printing expense	-81.96
Postage	-252.56
Logo gear expense	-1,423.02
Account Balance November 2009	11,612.51

## 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. Membership is open to all U.S. military trained scuba divers. 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 will be held at various locations to be 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.

e-mail: [stonefish8@gmail.com](mailto:stonefish8@gmail.com)

snail mail: 1440 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432

phone: (561) 391-6727 fax: (509) 472-6492

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

**All logo items are pictured on the web site**

## 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 mail out.

To receive the Buddy Line by email, send your request to [stonefish8@gmail.com](mailto:stonefish8@gmail.com).



## In Memoriam Michael John Murphy GMCS Ret



FOUWSS member, Mike Murphy, joined the ranks of the Supreme Commander 26 August 2009 at the age of 74. He is survived by his loving wife, Susie, daughter Karen Whaley, and two dearly loved grandsons, Brian and Benjamin.

Senior Chief Murphy served 23 years in the Navy and graduated from several naval schools including UWSS. He was a qualified deep sea diver and served on several Navy ships, including the USS New Jersey where, under his leadership during the Vietnam War, the port five inch batteries delivered extremely effective shore bombardment, keeping the enemy on the run. Mike was particularly proud of that.

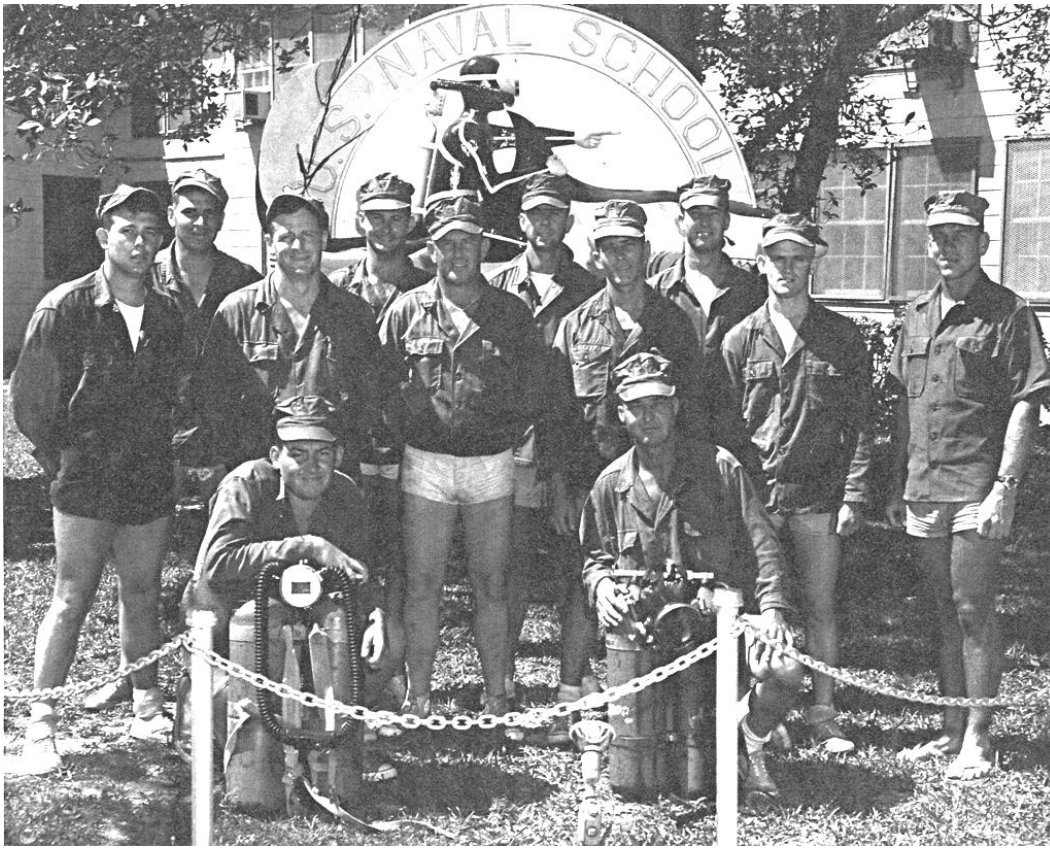
Benjamin Whaley, one of Mike's grandsons and a police officer, so loved his grampa that at age 31 he has enlisted in the Navy to honor him. Benji is now awaiting orders so he can carry on the family tradition.



Merlin Simonson sent this photo of an EMRAP (ambush protected, mine resistant vehicle) from the "sand box" where he has been working for a private company that supports Army operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Merlin is a former Navy EOD and member of FO/UWSS.

One of those EMRAP'S would be fun to drive down the Interstate. You would probably have a lane all to yourself.





**Left**

UWSS Class March 1963  
Photo from James Noble  
(deceased 2008)

Front row: McLennon EM3,  
Major Macabee-Army Special  
Forces

Middle Row: Studdard PH2,  
Noble MRC, Bresliu SH2,  
Messer EM1, Dana ET3, Dirkx  
EN1-Class Proctor

Back row: Forrest BM1, Martin  
PFC, Livingston GM2, Ens  
Brasher

**Below**

UWSS Class July 1961  
Photo from Charles J.  
Thomas

No names with this photo but  
we recognize Class Proctor  
Don Stone – far right and Don  
Morris standing next to him.



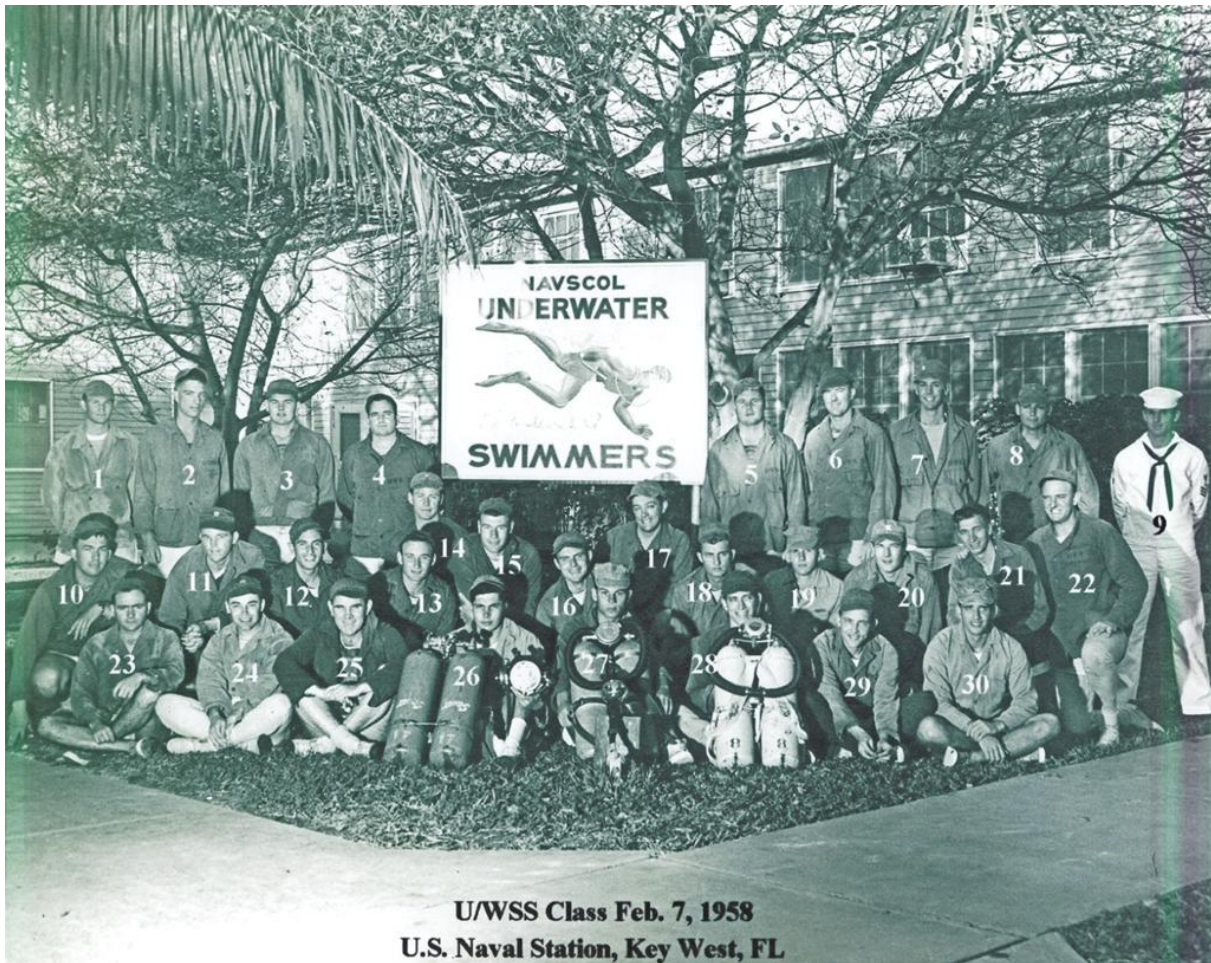
Peter Blair GMG2/DV/EOD  
2<sup>nd</sup> Class Hard Hat Graduation  
October 1973 Indianhead MD







UWSS Class February 1963 Photo from Tom Wright  
Standing: 1<sup>st</sup> from Right-SM1 Caruthers, 3<sup>rd</sup> from right-Tom Wright, 4<sup>th</sup> from right-Don Patterson



U/WSS Class Feb. 7, 1958  
U.S. Naval Station, Key West, FL

Photo from Alfred Spinks



## Membership Application Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Military scuba training place/date \_\_\_\_\_ 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 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Boca Raton, FL 33432

## The Way It Was



## Our U Boat

Our not so beautiful but very practical U boat supported diving operations at UWSS. It was in reality a small ship designed to carry troops and/or vehicles during amphibian landings.

She was flat bottomed and not very fast, but we can remember an unusual day when we joined other naval vessels in trying to corner a "Russian sub" in the shallow waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Of course it escaped – maybe it was a whale...

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