

# Buddy Line



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

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## REUNION 2022



*Plans are moving forward for our May 19th to 22nd, 2022 Reunion in Key West*

**Fraternal Order of  
Underwater Swimmers  
School Officers**



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is published quarterly in  
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I had a pleasant discussion with the CMC in Key West this morning, and discussed the availability and conditions with respect to Covid.

The big item is the base is scheduled to go to HIPCON condition Bravo, which relaxes restrictive conditions on social distancing and so forth. He also expects (if the trend continues) to go to HIPCON Charlie around the first of the year.

We will move forward with the reservation procedure based upon our schedule of;

- 180 days out: lock in housing, meeting space and catering notify the membership.
- Check status for cruise for those who want to add this to their itinerary.
- 90 days out: Reservations open at Gateway Inn
- 30 days out: Close reservations at Gateway, order tickets for excursions, confirm orders for supplies for cook outs, and banquet.

Arrangements for the visit to the US Army Special Forces Underwater Training Center have not been finalized due to the Health issues on the Base. We expect the restrictions will be lifted soon.

The Flea Market is the place to buy Keys stuff. Jewelry, tee shirts, anything Florida or Keys, We will car pool from Gateway. Those with rental cars, please sign up at registration for ride for those who don't have transportation.

## **SCHEDULE FOR UWSS REUNION:**

### **Wednesday - 19 May**

Early Birds Gathering  
4PM NAS CPO Mess

### **Thursday - 20 May**

Registration- BBQ - Ice breaker  
4PM NAS CPO Mess

### **Friday - 21 May**

Reef snorkeling - open bar  
9AM TBA

Cook out  
6PM NAS CPO Mess

Sunset Sail – open bar  
6PM TBA

### **Saturday - 22 May**

Big Pine Key Flea Market  
9AM Big Pine Key

Conch Train tour  
1PM TBA

Banquet  
6PM TBA

(official end of reunion)

Optional addition to reunion:

### **Sunday - 23 May**

travel to Miami to catch cruise ship

### **Monday to Thursday - 24 to 27 May**

Western Caribbean Cruise



**SNORKEL CRUISE TO THE REEF:**



<https://keywestsebago.com/tour/key-west-reef-snorkel-morning>

Key West Morning Snorkeling Tour - Sebago Watersports

Want to experience the best snorkeling in Key West? Sebago is your top choice. Save on our morning snorkel trip that sails to the reef. We provide equipment and instruction.

[keywestsebago.com](http://keywestsebago.com)

**SUNSET SAIL:**



<https://keywestsebago.com/tour/lands-end-key-west-sunset-sail>

**CONCH TRAIN TOUR:**



Key West Tours | Key West Sightseeing with Conch Tour Train

Key West Tours on The World Famous Conch Tour Train. Our 75-minute sight-seeing adventure has been entertaining visitors of the Key West since 1958.

[www.conchtourtrain.com](http://www.conchtourtrain.com)

**BIG PINE KEY FLEA MARKET:**



This is the place to buy any Key West or Florida items and eat breakfast.

<https://www.facebook.com/BigPineKey-FleaMarket/>



## 4 Day Western Caribbean Cruise From Miami | Carnival Cruise Line



Add a 4 Day Western Caribbean Cruise From Miami today at Carnival.com aboard the Carnival Conquest. Stops in Miami, Key West, Cozumel to your reunion trip.

I checked prices for the 4 day Western Caribbean cruise leaving Miami Monday morning after the reunion. Several people expressed interest, as we are coming down for four days might as well make the best of it.

As of now the prices are (plus some other costs, tips etc

- Interior room 139
- Ocean view 189
- Balcony 234
- Suite 474

If you have ever cruised these prices are phenomenal.

I also have motels in Miami where you spend the night and you can leave your car there and take a shuttle to the ship. On the return day the motel sends the shuttle to pick you up. Check the latest prices here;

<https://www.carnival.com/itinerary/4-day-western-caribbean-cruise/miami/conquest/4-days/wc2/?smp=Y>

Scroll down to the bottom of the page.



*USS Grayback*

Just thought I would share this with you. I'm sure it will stir some old and distant memories. The two links are from the National Archives.

I graduated from UWSS in 1969 and served on the USS GRAYBACK later. The two videos bring back many things that I have forgotten and words too. The last take in the second movie was for the launch of an IBS (Inflatable Boat Small). twin 90's - double hose regulators - remember that?? Also the launch of a manned submersible. Grayback had it's own compression chamber also. Where did the years go? I loved it! It was good to me.

Hope you can enjoy this and pass it around too.

All the best always.

V/R,

Stan Worthley

**<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/2636112>**

This film shows operations aboard the amphibious transport submarine the USS Grayback

(LPSS-574). Officers are seen as they operated the submarine's periscope and spoke on an intercom. Divers are shown as they examined diving gear and prepared to exit the USS Grayback, and crewmen are seen as they boarded a rubber boat in a compartment aboard the submarine. The USS Grayback is seen as it pulled away from a pier, and support ships, including the Garcia-class destroyer escort the USS O'Callahan (DE-1051), are shown in the distance.

**<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/2636580>**

This film shows divers as they worked with a Swimmer Delivery Vehicle (SDV) near the amphibious transport submarine the USS Grayback (LPSS-574). Divers are seen as they treaded water alongside the submarine and manned the controls of the SDV, and the SDV is shown as it was pushed under a safety net across the deck of the USS Grayback. A diver is seen as he entered the cockpit of the SDV, and a black rubber boat is shown as it was moved into a flooded hangar on the submarine. The Captain of the USS Grayback and an unidentified Rear Admiral are shown as they stood on one of the submarine's bridges, and several black rubber boats are seen as they exited and re-entered the flooded hangar.



## Rudy's Memories

*(continued from August BuddyLine)*

I had a very close call on one dive. The Navy had lost an expensive experimental torpedo packed with highly sophisticated, secret electronic equipment. The Test and Evaluation Detachment (TEVDET) at Key West was responsible for its recovery, trying unsuccessfully to locate it with hand held sonar. Since all their divers were experienced in the device, they asked us to provide safety divers to go down with each of their divers. We always entered the water with a swim buddy who was there to provide assistance when needed. On this particular dive, I took a US Divers regulator off the shelf in our dive locker. I dove with an old Navy diver who wasn't a particularly good swimmer. He leaped into the water with a thirty-pound weight belt, swam to the anchor line, and went down like a rock. I was swimming with my usual eight pounds and found it nearly impossible to keep up. As I went past the 150-foot mark, my head began to swim. I immediately stopped, inflated my life jacket and headed for the surface. My eyes blacked out on the way up, but my brain still functioned which allowed me to go hand over hand upwards. I came to at about thirty feet and surfaced shortly afterwards. I climbed aboard the ASR expecting my swim buddy to show up any moment. Ten minutes later he surfaced. For all he knew, I could have been dead on the bottom. He surely wasn't there when I needed him. Apparently, a student had worked on the regulator I had taken.

He set it incorrectly giving me insufficient air over 100 feet. I was lucky to have survived.

The Orion P-3 is a Navy anti-submarine aircraft. It locates its prey by dropping a pattern of sonar buoys in the target area while monitoring the return signals. The aircraft is also equipped with magnetic anomaly detection (MAD) gear to pick up the sub's magnetic signature. One of these aircraft crashed on a glassy calm night in the waters north of Key West in the Gulf of Mexico. We had no difficulty finding the aircraft's oil slick the following day, pinpointing its exact location with the ASR's recording fathometer. The first dive pair in the water reported the plane's fuselage intact with the crew still strapped in their seat belts. Water visibility was terrible, less than five feet, making body recovery very difficult. We quickly recovered three bodies; however, as the fourth victim was brought to the surface a shark severed the dead crewman's lower leg nearly pulling the body away from the divers. Nobody was anxious to swim up the dead, but we did so anyway by running a line into the aircraft and hoisting the bodies out. In that manner we recovered all nine from that ill-fated P-3 successfully while sharks continued to circulate.

John Light, a freelance photographer, visited the school in 1958 to develop a special TV documentary for CBS titled "Underwater Swimmers." His first request was to allow him use one of the school's aqua-lungs for filming. I was perfectly



willing to do this so long as he was competently checked out and SCUBA competent. I told him he was welcome to use our gear if he met our simple qualification test; namely that I would toss a double tank lung, mask, fins, life vest and weight belt in thirty feet of water and for him to free dive to the bottom and don the equipment. He had been boasting about his diving abilities so I expected him to pass this simple test easily. I tossed the gear overboard and was shocked to learn he was an awful swimmer who couldn't dive past twenty feet without swim fins. We gave him a short tutorial before we were confident he wouldn't kill himself using our dive gear. John Light wanted a shot of frogmen tying a primacord trunk line to explosive hose. The eight-inch hose is filled with explosives and comes in twenty-five foot lengths. It is used by Navy amphibious assault troops to blast navigable paths through hard coral surrounding enemy beaches. To make the shot spectacular, we decided to crisscross twenty lengths of hose and detonate it east of Sand Key and about eight miles south of Key West. While Bill Hamilton and I were tying the primacord to the explosive hose during the filming, a curious five foot barracuda stood behind me taking it all in. I didn't notice the fish until Bill pointed to it and John Light swung the 35mm camera in its direction. It was only a foot away from me and stayed there the entire time. We fired the shot and the damn thing went off like an atomic bomb. The shock wave traveled all the way to Key West, reportedly breaking the windows of

some beachfront homes. We received all kinds of flack from the base commander, but he calmed down once he learned the Navy was in for some national TV publicity. John Light also wanted to get a shot of underwater swimmers jumping into the water from a helicopter. Bill and I volunteered. We flew to the dive area in a Navy HH34 helicopter, hovering over the water while John filmed from the LCPR below. Bill was to jump first. He decided to make a normal water entry wearing fins and mask. I stood behind ready to follow. Just after giving the pilot a thumb up to dive, he hesitated a moment to adjust his facemask. While doing so the helicopter rose twenty feet as Bill jumped. It was a long drop with double tanks and I wasn't sure what would happen. I, instead, held my mask, fins and snorkel and leaped out much closer to the water. I must have plunged fifteen feet underwater, but had no difficulty putting my gear back on. When I came to the surface I saw Bill flailing around. On closer inspection, I noted his fins had been driven up his legs to where they were cutting off blood circulation to his feet. It took much effort to slide them down past his ankles. I couldn't stop laughing at how ridiculous he looked floundering in the water. It really wasn't funny since Bill was in great pain. I have a copy of Chet Huntley's TV special, "Underwater Swimmers" and much of what is written above can be seen in VHS format. (I also sent a copy to Doc Stone to show at UWSS reunions.)

*(to be continued in February BuddyLine)*





**RAYMOND A. WAGNER JR.**

Airman First Class  
40th ARRS, 3rd Air Rescue Group, 7th  
AF, United States Air Force, from Evans-  
ville, Indiana. October 22, 1951 to March  
27, 1972. KIA Vietnam,(Cambodia).  
One of nine Air Force PJ's in Scuba Class  
7201. (Graduated 3 September 1971)



**FREDERICK (FREDDIE) C. DULL**

MNCM Freddie Dull, 88, passed away on  
August 2, 2019 at the Veteran's Hospital  
in Martinez CA. Born on 12/16/1930 in  
Taft CA. He was the 2nd of 4 children to  
Henry & Eunice Dull. A career Navy man,  
Fred spent 30 years as a diver in the  
EOD Unit. He retired in 1979 & settled in  
Concord, CA where he was actively in-  
volved with the Shriner's organization.



**RICHARD  
"HOOK"  
TUURE**

died April 26, 2021

**UWSS MEMBERSHIP OCTOBER 31, 2021**

Members in database = 292

Members in good standing = 243

We lost no brothers in this Quarter.

We currently have 4 brothers in Hardship that FO/UWSS is helping. Donations are accepted.

New Members this Quarter = 5:

- Steve "Skip" Hartnett 6407 (Lady Kay) 8/6/2021.
- Alan Murphy 6908 (Lady Ruth) 9/7/2021.
- James Mize 7303 (Lady Kathy) 9/8/2021.
- Don Scott 6703 (Lady Joyce) 9/14/2021.
- Paul Krokovic 6507 10/25/2021.

**TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT****Account Balance:****August 1, 2021 = \$13,623.50**

Dues Income	+ \$584.61
Label Fees Income	+ \$0.00
Logo Gear Sales Income	+ \$560.32
Other Income (Donations)	+ \$48.06
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Reunion Expenses	- \$0.00
Logo Gear Expenses (mailing, etc.)	- \$104.85
BuddyLine Expenses (donated)	- \$0.00
Business Expenses (ink, tape)	-\$192.57
Donation Expenses	- \$0.00

**Account Balance:****October 31, 2021 = \$14,519.07****NOTES AND UPDATES**

1. If you are not receiving your **Buddyline**, please let me know.
2. Dave Gholson is the FO UWSS **Reunion Committee Chair**. Watch for details in the Buddyline and on the UWSS Website.
3. Jim Houle is our **Logo Gear Chair**. You can order (and pay) by going to the UWSS Website or by sending an email to: kenrecoy@aol.com And you can also pay by check. Our address is in the Buddyline and on our UWSS Website.
4. Please be sure to pay your "**Label fees**" to receive your Buddyline by regular mail. Label Fees are \$5.00 per year. We currently have 22 members that receive their Buddyline by regular mail.
5. Please check to make sure you have paid your UWSS **Membership Dues**. We currently have 57 Members that have expired Dues. FO UWSS Dues remain at \$25.00 for 2 years.
6. UWSS **Graduating Class pictures**. If you do not see your Class picture on the FO UWSS Website, please send in a copy for the FO UWSS Archives.
7. **If you have changed your address, phone number/s, or email address**, please send me an update, so we can be sure to stay in contact for important news, updates and your Buddyline.



8. **So we may honor them**, if you know of a UWSS brother that has passed, please let us know and please send in a copy of the Obituary.
9. About 5 years ago, I created a **UWSS Facebook Page** and if you are interested in joining, the Link is below. It is free and only members of the UWSS FB Page can see who is a member and our Posts.
10. **It is important to reach out to our UWSS dive buddies** and check on each other from time to time. Especially in this time of COVID 19, and none of us are getting any younger. It is always good to hear from a brother.

**Stay in touch. Stay safe. HooYah!**

Ken Recoy, FO UWSS

Secretary/Treasurer

620-305-9900 Cell (And text is ok).

UWSS Graduation Class March 1972.

Submariner, Radioman and US Navy Diver.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/682196168496022>

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

## LOGO GEAR SPOTLIGHT



### Embroidered Baseball Cap

navy blue

\$30 each

Price includes shipping.

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Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School  
Buddy Line Newsletter  
25810 East 330 Road  
Chelsea, OK 74016-5262

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*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.*

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**MISSION:**

**FO/UWSS**

