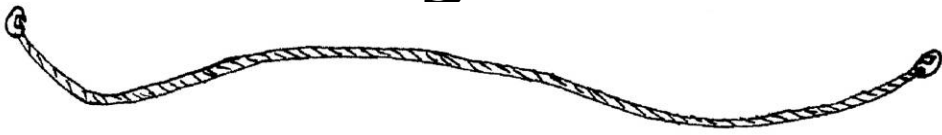


# Buddy Line



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Newsletter of Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School

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August 2000

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## UWSS Reunion 2000 Held In Panama City Beach

Former staff and graduates of the Navy's Underwater Swimmers School (UWSS) Key West met for their second biannual reunion at the Boardwalk Beach Resort Hotel in Panama City Beach, Florida during 19-21 May 2000. A total of 49 people attended, including wives, friends, and teammates in the Panama City area. Special thanks goes to "Doc" Riojas for his efforts, time, website newsletters, and personal expense over the past two years to make it happen.

The weekend events included registration and an Ice Breaker on Friday afternoon, a business meeting Saturday morning, a great dinner and festivities that night, and tours of the Experimental Diving Unit and the Diving School on Sunday morning. In between these events many enjoyed the beach or shared sea stories and lies at Dusty Rhodes' Down the Hatch lounge outside the Navy Base. Others that made the weekend event happen were Ron Douglas who ran the Small Stores, Joe Kruppa and sons who oversaw registration, and Bob Barth and Woody Woodard who set up tours of EDU and the Diving School respectively.

Retired Captain Ron Yeaw, UWSS graduate and former CO of UDT 21 and DEVGRU, was the guest speaker at the Saturday night dinner. He had some great things to say about what the school meant to him and the UWSS staff's contribution to the U. S. Navy. Don Stone, retired HMCS, ST 2 plank owner, and former UWSS instructor and BUDS instructor, followed Captain Yeaw and shared his favorite diving stories. Soon others got up and

related their stories of the UWSS and the people involved. Keeping the evening's events going, including the after dinner raffle, was the master of ceremonies, Bob "Doc" Clark, retired HMCM, who did a super job as usual. Winner of the award for having come the farthest was John and Mary Hobbs from Seal Beach, CA. Second place went to Art Wigdahl (UWSS '62) and his wife Celia who came from Guadalajara, Mexico.

At the business meeting, proposals for the location of the next UWSS reunion in early May 2002 included Las Vegas, NV; Little Creek, VA; Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico; and Coronado, CA. Once the details on the feasibility of these places to support a reunion are known, members will vote their preferences. Other business included the election of new office holders for the next two years. They are: Don Stone – President, Andy Anderson – Vice President, and A. Dee Clark – Secretary/Treasurer. Later when he was not around, Doc Riojas was nominated and appointed without vote to be the UWSS historian and keeper of the archives. And, because Chuck Micele did such a great job with the invocation before dinner Saturday night, Doc Clark as the master of ceremonies, designated him to be the permanent UWSS chaplain.

The Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School (now the official name) intends to publish the newsletter called the "Buddy Line" quarterly, and hopes to get the word out to former UWSS students and staff for a bigger turnout in two years. Membership dues for the group are \$25 every two years and can be sent to A. Dee Clark, Treasurer, 1315 Garner St., Nacogdoches, TX. 75961.

By Andy Anderson

## Minutes of the FO of UWSS Business Meeting 5/20/00 0935 Hrs

Don (Doc) Stone was appointed by voice vote to open and conduct this meeting.

The first order of business was to adopt the name, Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School (FO of UWSS), which was approved by voice vote.

Next, a voice vote was asked for on the assessment of dues (\$25 every two years) which was approved.

Lifetime memberships were discussed and voted down due to finite number possible members and advancing ages of same.

Next, the following officers for the FO were nominated, voted for and approved.

Don Stone – President	2 year term
Andy Anderson – Vice President	2 year term
A. Dee Clark – Secretary/treasurer	4 year term



**Andy Anderson, A.Deer Clark and Don Stone**

The name “Buddy Line” was unanimously approved for our quarterly newsletter. The first addition should be out by the end of August this year (8-2000).

The following locations were discussed for the next reunion:

Roosevelt Roads, PR  
Las Vegas, NV  
Little Creek, VA  
Coronado, CA

Each location is to be evaluated with recommendations published in the next Buddy Line. The first weekend of May 2002 was voted on as better for all hands due to familial commitments such as graduations, holidays, etc.

The 2000 business meeting was closed at 1014 hrs by President Don Stone after a unanimous YAHOO vote by all hands present.

These minutes are submitted for approval and or corrections.

A. Dee Clark, Secretary/Treasurer

## Treasurer’s Report

Dues received	\$600.00
Administrative expense	21.87
Unpaid bill from conference	50.00

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7/24/00 Total in Account	\$ 528.13
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A. Dee Clark, Secretary/Treasurer

## FO of UWSS Mission

The FO of UWSS 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 associates of UWSS students and staff who share an interest in the goals and activities of the FO of UWSS. Associate members will not have voting privileges.

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.

## Buddy Line Circulation Policy

The cost of printing and mailing the Buddy Line newsletter will be paid from the FO of UWSS account. This first issue is being mailed to members, everyone who attended either reunion, and other UWSS staff and students for whom we have located addresses. Subsequent issues will be mailed only to dues paying members.

Buddy Line editors are Don and Art Stone.

e-mail: [stonefish7@cs.com](mailto:stonefish7@cs.com)

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

fax: (850) 913-0602

Pictures from Reunion 2000



MC Bob Clark presenting an award to Doc Rio for all of his efforts in setting up the reunion.



Woody Woodward, during the field trip to EDU and the dive school, telling the group about this new mixed gas scuba – with greatly extended bottom time.

Did he say you only have to come up every four years to reenlist?



Some of the guys gathered for a group picture...

And so did the ladies.



## 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 A. Dee Clark, Treasurer and mail to 1315 Garner St., Nacogdoches, TX. 75961

### The way it was....



### Scuttlebutt Corner

Now there once was a UWSS instructor, with the nickname of Peewee, who loved running and was very good at it, drunk or sober. One evening after visiting the Acey-Ducey club, he staggered outside to find the bike he rode up to Big Coppit Key was missing. – You finish it! Send your ending to the editors and we will publish it.

Send in your sea stories, your old pictures, questions for the editor, comments, and any word you want to put out. (See address at bottom of page 2)

And we would like to put this word out: A big HOOYA for Rudy Boesch , a man of honor and a true SEAL..

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