

Buddy Line



Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School, Key West, Florida

BOB HOLMES



September 10, 1944 to November 19, 2019

President of FO/UWSS 2007 to 2015

**Fraternal Order of
Underwater Swimmers
School Officers**



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FO/UWSS 2020 Calendar

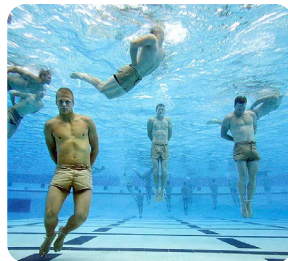
Bob Bureker has put together a new 2020 Calendar for UWSS.org is now available. It is free to download on our website under the Logo Gear tab.



2020



www.uwss.org



JANUARY	MAY	SEPTEMBER
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I don't know about you but time seems to be speeding up with each passing day. Unfortunately, the stark evidence of the relentless progression of time for the FO/ UWSS is the passing of our members. We've lost several during this past year and given the demographic characteristic of our membership, this is unfortunately only going to accelerate in the coming years. It's sad to hear the news, but it should also be a time to reflect on the legacy of these men, both for their service to their country and for their influence on their families, friends, co-workers, and all who came to know them over the years. The celebration of their lives and accomplishments should be what we should focus upon. The common thread we all share is the experience of our brief time spent in scuba training in such a beautiful setting. For most UWSS students, that lasted only four weeks, but where the path of our life took us afterwards is the evidence of the unique impact the school had on us all. We honor these men as we do for all those who have passed before them. In my aviation world, we have an expression to reflect on the passing of friends and colleagues:

"Not alone into the sunset, but into the company of friends who have gone before them."

UWSS Reunion 2020

Almost immediately after our last reunion, we began the planning for our next. We thought we would be returning to Panama City, Florida however the residual effects of Hurricane Michael made on-base accommodations difficult. However, through the diligent efforts of our Vice-President Dave Gholson, we are set for the 2020 UWSS Reunion to be held back in Key West. The Reunion dates is set for May 14-16, 2020, so mark the date on your calendar and we hope to see you there. Details to follow.

Membership Dues

As was mentioned previously, we elected to consolidate the collection of membership dues to coincide with the reunion year and for every subsequent two-year period. We will begin collecting dues in February so be on the lookout for your invoice and thank you for your support.

As always, if there is anything we can do for you, do not hesitate to contact me or anyone on the Board. We are here to serve.

Dave Byers
President



Robert (Bob) Wesley Holmes III,
10 September 1944 - 19 November 2019



Bob was born at home in Elizabethtown, North Carolina. A successful athlete he excelled as a runner and swimmer, and was state pole vaulting champion in 1963. His athletic ability led him into Navy Seal training and was one of 44 out of 246 who started training to graduate. A veteran of the Vietnam war, he served 6 years in SEAL Team II and participate in NASA astronaut recovery during the Gemini program. The ocean was his first love. He worked 20 years as a commercial diver allowing him to travel extensively the many oceans of the world.

Bob had the soul of an artist. He met his wife Janet Hassinger, an artist, in 1984 in Houston, Texas. They settled in Galveston but never stopped traveling the world. An uncommon man who fully lived life. He was always loyal to his friends. He followed his passions, ever creative, making pottery bowls inspired by the ocean and photographs of coral reefs.

RUDOLPH "RUDY" E. BOESCH
20 January 1928 - 1 November 2019



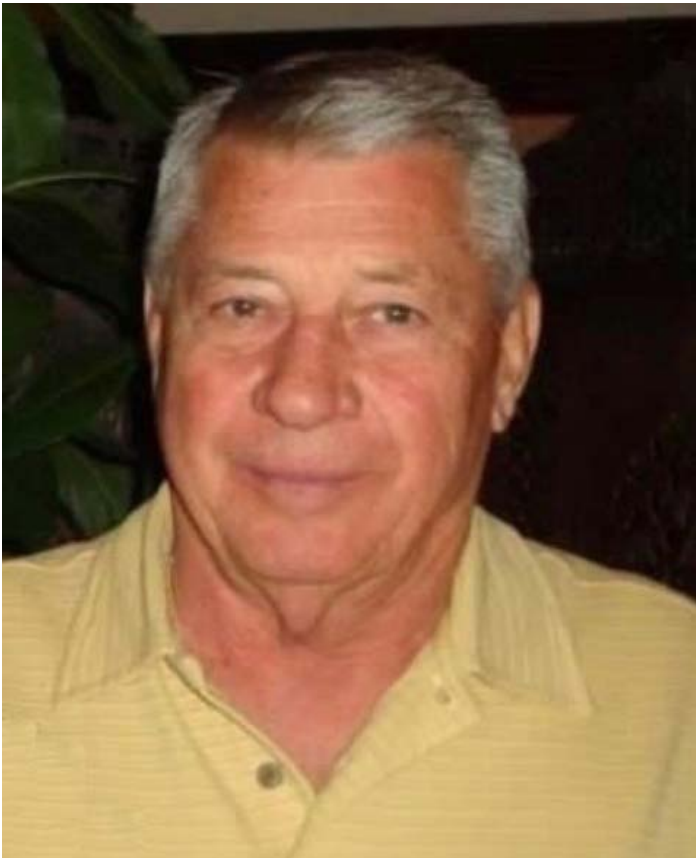
Rudy was a UDTR graduate of class 006 on 01 Jan 1951 and served with UDT-2 (Plankowner), UDT-21, ST-2 (Plankowner), and SOCOM.

Rudy was born in Rochester, New York, and enlisted in the Navy at the age of 17. In 1951 Rudy graduated from Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) Replacement Training (Class 6) becoming an official "Frogman". Rudy served as a Frogman for 11 years. In 1962 Rudy transferred to the newly established SEAL Team TWO and was awarded a Bronze Star with Combat V. Rudy served in SEAL Team TWO for 26 years. He served in this leadership position at United States Special Operations Command.

Rudy enjoyed doing everything throughout his life. Let's remember this great patriot in this way. RIP Rudy.

**LOYE “BILL” WAYNE HOLTON**

29 January 1941 - 24 August 2019



Mr. Loye Wayne Holton, age 78, of Worthington Springs, Florida, was born in Soperton, GA, on January 29, 1941, to the late Glen Holton and Hattie Sammons Holton. After graduating high school, Mr. Holton enlisted in the United States Navy and would serve for over 20 years. He was a member of the special forces, UDT SEAL Team 2. After his retirement from the Navy, Mr. Holton continued working for the military in a civil service capacity as a dive supervisor at NAS Jacksonville until finally retiring. He enjoyed building and working on both airplanes and cars. He was a special man and will be truly missed.

Greetings,

I enjoy reading the newsletters and see you are collecting stories.

I attended UWSS in the October, 1970 class in Key West and did my diving on an FBM submarine operating out of Rota, Spain.

As part of a longer memoir I wrote for our grandchildren I carved out the portion on my diving experience and am sending it on to you for your review and inclusion as you see fit. It is written for our young grandkids so adds details that all of us don't need to be reminded of since we were there but should make it understandable for them when they are old enough to read it.

Bob Houf - Gilbert, AZ

(Thanks Bob! We will be sharing Bob's diving experience in upcoming issue(s) of the BuddyLine!)

What is your favorite memory of your time at UWSS?

Send them to buddyline@uwss.org

Large BZ for your efforts on the BL. One o the best I(have seen. KOKO. BTW, are you selling a med weight sweatshirt. Going on the inside passage later this year and may need one or two.

Be well, Hart



From Gerry Flowers



left to right: E-5, O-9, O-10

Sat, May 25, 2019

Today, at the Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War....By the President of the United States of America A Proclamation

It was a terrific event and made even better by U.S. Marine 4 Star General James “Mad Dog” Mattis taking the time to speak to a Canadian that joined the U.S. Marines in 1968 and his good friend, VADM Joseph S. Mobley, USN who was shot down over North Vietnam in 1968 and spent 5 years as a Prisoner Of War in the Infamous Hanoi Hilton. Joe is one tough customer. Joe and Jim had met before years ago and he knew of his story.

I gave a message to an aide and told General Mattis that Admiral Mobley and I were here for the ceremony. We waited

and he made his way to us and spoke with Joe and I.

I showed my coin to General Mattis. One side is the U.S. Naval School Underwater Swimmers, the other, my personal stuff.

I offered my coin to the General and he said he would be proud to have it to add to his collection. He knew of the young Canadians that came south and joined. He said to Joe and I...”We sent our worst to Canada and their best young men came south to support the United States”. He told us that he would not forget that. He took the time to stand with us for this great photo.

A great day.
Gerry Flowers

Aaron Farior is honored:

A luncheon to recognize CMSgt Aaron Farior, USAF (Ret) was held at the American Legion in Fort Walton Beach, FL recently. The gathering was organized by CMSgt (Ret) Gordon ‘Gordo’ Scott and Air Commandos including CMSgt (Ret) Wayne Norrad President of the ACA were in attendance. Farior is a retired PJ with an incredible past. He received the Silver Star, four Distinguished Flying Crosses, the Purple Heart, Bronze Star and “a plethora” of other awards. Farior resides in Fort Walton Beach and was joined by friends and active duty members from Hurlburt Field.



KEY WEST 2020

We had decided to have the 2020 reunion at Navy Diving and Salvage at Panama City Beach, Florida. We had our reunion there in 2015 and it was great. Then came hurricane Michael. Due to recovery the MWR facilities and Gateway in are not available for us to use.

So we have decided to return to Key West again for our 2020 reunion and

our plans are well underway. We are finalizing our plans and schedules now. Below is how things are shaping up.

Reunions are a great time for all of us and our ladies to get together. Look forward to meeting you,

Dave Gholson,
UWSS VP and Reunion Chair

date	time	activity	cost
Thursday, May 14	4 pm	Ice Breaker at the Chief's Mess, NAS Boca Chica	tbd
	5 pm	Tropical Spread Buffet	
Friday, 15 May	am	Sail to Seabago reef at Sand Key for snorkeling or just boat ride	at the gate \$62.46 ITT \$33.00 (beer/wine/refreshments included)
	tbd	BBQ	tbd
	pm	Appledore Sunset Cruise in the Gulf	at the gate \$51.08 ITT \$29.50 (beer/wine/refreshments included)
Saturday, 16 May	am	morning tour of Key West on the Conch Train - get off when you like	at the gate \$31.45 ITT \$24.50
	6 pm	Grand Banquet	tbd



NIGHT SUBMARINE CAST AND RECOVERY

by Don Stone & Stan Janeka

(This was Don's favorite sea story. The incident happened shortly after he was transferred from UWSS to the new Seal Team 2)

This story took place in 1962 when the US and the USSR were close to war over the Cuban missile Crisis. We were part of an ST2 detachment embarked on the USS Sea Lion, a WWII fleet submarine that had been converted, with her forward torpedo tubes replaced by bunking spaces, to carry SEALs and Marine Recon on missions. We were practicing night submerged cast and recovery. Sea Lion was at snorkel depth (about 45 ft.) with a red light showing on the snorkel and a white light right over the screws (so the drivers wouldn't blunder into them and disable the sub). Each diver's gear included wet suit, fins, 2 tank OC scuba, K-bar, flares, etc.

We were operating with an APD, with a UDT detachment aboard, supplied as a safety boat. Our group, consisting of Sam Fornier, Tom Murphy, Stan Janeka and Don Stone, was the last one to practice the procedure that night. It was about 11 PM when we climbed up the ladder and got into the escape trunk. As I started up, Jack Masione handed me a large bulky underwater light. I didn't realize at the time how important it would become.

Holding on to the deck prior to ascent, I noticed a big shrimp also hanging on to the sub. It was part of a large mass of

shrimp that Sea Lion was moving through. The shrimp were making loud clicking sounds in the water. After surfacing, we stretched out a long line between us and started banging on our scuba tanks with our K-bars. The sub would home in on the ringing sounds of the tanks, snag the line with the snorkel/periscope and we'd be pulled along, pulling ourselves up to the sub, then down to the escape trunk and lock in.

Sea Lion went out a ways with the safety boat following, then Sea Lion turned around and headed for us where we were banging on the tanks like mad and thinking about hot coffee and a snack in the galley. Sea Lion's red light came closer and closer as we banged on our tanks. But then Sea Lion turned away and disappeared over the horizon with the safety boat following.

What a disgusting development. We kept banging on tanks until we finally realized Sea Lion had lost us. No sub, no safety boat, just darkness and quiet. We talked it over and decided on a plan of action: we would stay together and come morning we would start swimming west.

The water looked black but there was lots of photosynthetic plankton. Each wave, every ripple, every move was outlined by those tiny lighted creatures. Then we spotted many large creatures outlined by the phosphorescence moving beneath us. When they suddenly came up at us we stopped banging and waited. Were we

TELL US YOUR STORY:



going to be a midnight snack for a school of sharks? No, we were surrounded by a pod of large dolphins who seemed to be amazed at their find!

Swimming at high speed between and around us, and chattering in dolphin talk, they stayed with us for quite a while, then left to our relief and dismay – they had made us feel safe.

We kept scanning the horizon and finally saw what appeared to be masthead lights of a ship. I started flashing an SOS, holding the underwater light as high out of the water as possible. We weren't sure if the lights were from Sea Lion or what. Fortunately Sea Lion soon appeared and picked up four very relieved guys who when told they would have to do the procedure over said emphatically "NO WAY!!"

Why had Sea Lion and the safety boat turned away and left us? Possibly the noise of that mass of shrimp confused the guy on the hydrophones and they followed the clicking shrimp instead of the tank banging divers.



FROM DAVE GHOLSON SEA STORIES 101:

Not a story so much as an reminisce. I was assigned to the boathouse for 18 months 62-63. There were very few civilian divers in Key West back then so there was not much competition for spearfishing. Having a metal lathe in the shop the staff kept us busy building Hawaiian slings which was a swab handle with a frog gig on one end and a length of surgical tubing. We also made power heads, which was a short barrel 45 ACP with a spring pin on a swab handle. When the power head hit the fish it was all over. Power heads were meant for sharks. Never checked on the legality of using them for fishing.

The school needed the LCPR's or the U boat once or twice a week, the rest of the time was ships preservation, or goofing off.

Next to the boat house, down the quay wall, was the torpedo retriever. Their job was to support the sonar school and the

training subs. They also had a light schedule. Being neighbors we did a lot of "comshaw" Since they had a winch for hauling in practice torpedoes it made a perfect sense to go out to the reef and do a little jewfish hunting. Never did look into the legality of the operation, but the rules on comshaw permitted it.



by Ken Recoy

by Ken Recoy

MEMBERSHIP OCTOBER 31 2019

Members in database = 282

Members in good standing = 229

We have had 3 new members join us in the last Quarter:

- Mike Swafford, joined 8/3/2019
- Jim Sanders, joined 8/8/2019
- John Wegman, joined 10/9/2019

TREASURER'S REPORT

Account Balance:

August 1, 2019 \$17,469.13

Dues Income + \$71.93

Label Fees Income + \$0.00

Logo Gear Sales Income + \$885.24

Other (Donations) Income + \$0.00

Reunion Expenses - \$0.00

Logo Gear Expenses - \$47.35

BuddyLine Expenses - \$63.54

Business Expenses - \$0.00

Account Balance:

October 31, 2019 \$18,315.41

Wonder if you are up to date on your dues? Contact Ken at kenrecoy@aol.com or 620-305-9900 and he will let you know.

It is with a heavy heart that we all mourn the loss of our friend Don Stone. At times like these words just don't seem to be enough. Hero, great guy, tough, hard worker, brother. We are going to miss Don Stone.

My wife Pat and I spent the day with Don and Art at their house back in 2015, going through the FO UWSS Archives to look for my Class picture and I can tell you Don was engaging, happy, gracious, and helpful. I am going to miss my friend Don Stone. May he rest in peace.

NOTES AND UPDATES

1. If you are able to serve as the FO/ UWSS Chaplain, please let us know.
2. Our FO/UWSS 2020 Reunion Committee is working hard. See Dave Gholson's info in this Buddyline.
3. Jim Houle is our LogoWear Chair and he is doing a great job! You can order by going to the UWSS Website or by sending an email to me at kenrecoy@aol.com And you can pay by check, PayPal or cash. My address is in this Buddyline and on the Website.
4. Please be sure to pay your "Label fees" if you want to continue to receive the Buddyline by regular mail. Label Fees are \$5.00 per year.
5. UWSS Graduating Class pictures. If you do not see your Class picture on the UWSS Website, please send in a copy for the FO UWSS Archives.



6. Please be sure to reach out to your UWSS buddies and check on each other from time to time. None of us are getting any younger and it is always good to hear from a brother.

If I can help with a question about FO/UWSS give me a call anytime.

Stay in touch. HooYah!

Ken Recoy 620-305-9900 Cell
UWSS Graduation Class March 1972
Submariner, Radioman and US Navy Diver.

UWSS SHIP STORE:

All prices include shipping.

Beefy-T t-shirt \$25.00 each

white or ash gray, large logo back, small logo pocket
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*

Long sleeved t-shirt \$28.00 each

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 each

white or ash gray, small logo on pocket.
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*

Pique polo all cotton \$29.00 each

birch gray, embroidered logo left front (no pocket)
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*

Blue denim shirt, short sleeves \$38.00 each

embroidered logo above pocket
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*

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

Cap – natural with logo \$20.00 each

Baseball cap – blue, embroidered logo \$30.00 each

Cap \$3.00 less if ordered with shirt

Embroidered Patch \$12.00 each

UWSS logo decal – transparent or white \$3.00 each

UWSS commemorative coin \$12.00 each

enameled brass, raised design,
1 5/8 inch diameter

UWSS all-service commemorative coin \$15.00 each

enameled brass, raised design, 2 inch diameter

Key Chain with enameled logo medallion \$10.00 each

Make check to FO/UWSS

Send with order to Ken Recoy, Treasurer
25810 East 330 Road.
Chelsea, OK 74016-5262

Questions? e-mail: jhoule@me.com
or phone (352) 249-9140

*All logo items are pictured on the web site
www.uwss.org/LogoGear.html*



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.
