

Buddy Line



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

February 2007

President's Corner by Don Stone

Now is the time to send in your registration for the 2007 reunion.

You will find the reunion registration and logo gear order form in this issue of the Buddy Line. Please read it carefully, fill in all of the data requested, and send it in with your check ASAP.

If you plan to stay at the Visitor Quarters (Fly Navy Bldg), you must also fill in the VQ Reservation Confirmation form and send it with your registration. We need to forward this information to the VQ promptly in order to hold your rooms. We have a block of 75 rooms and 63 have already been requested. Your room charge is not included in the reunion registration. You will pay the VQ for your room when you check out.

There are some changes from last year's schedule. Friday's activities are optional, and you can choose from those listed, or do your own thing. Optional activities include Snorkel excursions, Trolley tour with visit to Key West Eco Discovery, and a special Ladies tour. Friday evening we will meet at Sunset Lounge for a Cuban Pork dinner with open bar for beer and wine. This too is optional and if you prefer to stay in town and have dinner on your own, indicate this on the registration form and save six bucks per person.

At the Saturday morning business meeting the members will elect new officers for the positions of president, vice president and treasurer. It is very important to elect officers that have the skills required for the job and are willing to devote the time and energy to carrying out the duties of the position. Remember it is not a popularity contest or a joke. The future of our organization is in your hands.

Also at this time we will consider organizing an advisory board, composed of former officers and a representative from the non-Navy members, to be available to the officers for assistance in making decisions and plans for the organization. The location for the 2009 reunion will be selected and the Reunion Committee will meet to start organizing our 2009 reunion.

FO/UWSS Reunion May 10-13, 2007 – Key West, FL Schedule

Thursday May 10

1800-2100 Check in at Visitor Quarters,
Fly Navy Building, Trumbo Point
Ice Breaker, Flying Conch Lounge
Finger foods, beer & wine
Logo sales
Share your photos and memorabilia

Friday May 11

1800 Optional activities
(see registration form)
Cuban pork dinner, beer & wine,
Sunset Lounge, Sigsbee Park

Saturday May 12

0900 – 1100 Continental breakfast
Business meeting
Fly Navy Building, Trumbo Point
1800 – 2130 Banquet with speakers
Fly Navy Building, Trumbo Point

Sunday May 13

Depart for home

Reunion Reminders

- ✓ Circle your entrée selections for the banquet.
- ✓ Mark optional activities you want to attend.
- ✓ Verify size selections for logo gear.
- ✓ Info for room confirmation and gate entry
- ✓ New members include application

**Get your registration in early
to confirm your room and avoid late fees.**

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 shirt..... 13.00 ea, 2 for 24.00
Large logo on back, small logo on pocket
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL

Ash gray Beefy-T shirt..... 14.00 ea, 2 for 26.00
Large logo on back, small logo on pocket
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL

White long sleeved T shirt 16.00 ea, 2 for 30.00
Large logo on back, small logo on front (no pocket)
Sizes S, M, L, XL

Ash gray long sleeved T shirt 17.00 ea, 2 for 32.00
Large logo on back, small logo on front (no pocket)
Sizes S, M, L, XL

White polo shirt, 50/50 cotton/poly.. 18.00 ea, 2 for 34.00
Small logo on pocket. Sizes M, L, XL, XXL

Ash polo shirt, 50/50 cotton/poly..... 18.00 ea, 2 for 34.00
Small logo on pocket. Sizes M, L, XL, XXL

Pique polo, all cotton, birch gray..... 20.00 ea, 2 for 38.00
Embroidered logo left front. (no pocket)
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL

Coffee mug with old logo front & back 13.00
10.00 ea if ordered with shirt

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

Baseball cap – light tan, embroidered logo 15.00 ea
12.00 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 plaque - Bright brass logo on blue 25.00 ea

UWSS commemorative coin 5.00 ea
1 5/8" diameter, enameled brass with raised design

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

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Membership- February 2007 222 members

Account Balance November 2006	\$8,582.95
Dues	+250.00
Logo item sales	+302.00
Buddy Line printing & postage	-155.80
Web Site	-21.55
Supplies	-82.31
Account Balance February 2007	\$8,875.29

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.....Bob Holmes
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

All logo item 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 mailout.

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

Crossing the Bar

From Dick Pence

We regret to report the passing of Captain William S. Cadow, Jr. USN (Ret.) on Friday, January 26, 2007, a result of complications following triple bypass surgery.

Bill commenced his Naval Career in 1959, later attended and graduated from Underwater Swimmers School with Class 8/61. He then followed the normal Naval Career pattern for a young EOD Officer and in gaining seniority he was given command of the Naval EOD Technology Center. Subsequent to that command Bill became Commodore of EOD Group I in Hawaii with responsibilities for all EOD tasks in the Pacific Basin. While in this position he was instrumental in getting several Naval Marine Mammal Systems under the operational control of Naval EOD. Bill retired as Commodore of EOD Group I in 1986 after a distinguished Naval Career.

He will be missed. Rest in Peace, Bill.



November 1962
Class photo
From Mike Murphy

Front row, 2nd from left is Mike; next to him is instructor, Shorty Lyons.
Back row, 3rd from left is Dow Byers; 7th is Sgt Jarboe USMC, last on right is Capt Johansen USMC (deceased)

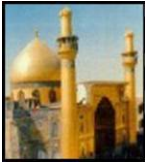
Astronauts Class
1967
Class Photo
From archives

Instructors – front row
John Rabbitt
Sol Atkinson
Dow Byers
Pappy Hewlitt
Sam Houston



These photos of UWSS training in 1955 were sent to us by Mercedes Rider, widow of Warrant Officer Burton E. Rider. He was an instructor at UWSS when the school first opened. Notice the gear the divers were wearing . . . and what they were not wearing.





Najaf Chronicles

By Rick LaRoche

UWSS member, Rick LaRoche, who worked for the US State Department as Action Officer for Najaf, shared short narratives of his life and feelings as he carried out his sometimes dangerous duties in Iraq. This is the last of his Najaf Chronicles, sent in February 2005.. Rick is now stationed in New Zealand where life is less exciting and definitely less hazardous

Shuku Maku (what's happening)? Greetings from the heartland of Shi'ia Islam, the Holy City of Najaf. I apologize for the long delay in sending out this issue of the Najaf Chronicles. Ever since I returned from my first long R&R (nearly 3 weeks in Sweden), I have been swamped trying to get ready for Iraq's first free elections. Najaf is once again returning - if it ever left - to the center of focus in Iraq. The elections, I'm happy to say, were a resounding success here. Najafis have been forced to cope with a long line of dictators, thugs and radicals, all the while trying to lead as normal a life as possible.

Consequently, it was thrilling and inspiring to watch these brave people dress up in their finest, get out early on Election Day and walk to the polling stations to cast their votes. It was an almost carnival-like atmosphere. People laughed, joked and danced after they voted, while the women gave their distinctive, traditional "Middle-Eastern" wail of joy and or sorrow. Najafis held up ink-stained fingers to prove they had voted, almost as if it were a badge of courage. And the more I think about, it did prove their bravery. Sunni (read Wahabi) insurgents had promised to "make the streets of Najaf run red with the blood of anyone who voted." They threatened to use car bombs, suicide bombers and snipers. Every Najafi I spoke to told me how scared he or she was to vote. It may cost me my life, but I am determined to do it, one young woman told me.

As I mentioned in the beginning, Election Day came and went with no violence here other than the normal "heckling" that rival political parties do even in the U.S. Of course, that doesn't mean that we are out of the woods yet. The Coalition Forces captured a couple of top aids to al-Zaqari just a few days before the elections. There is a pretty good chance that the "bad guys" decided that their attacks to disrupt the elections had been compromised and therefore simply postponed them. The old "run, run, run away - live to fight another day" syndrome may well be at work here. I would not be surprised to see renewed attacks in Najaf once the election results have been announced.

Without getting to deep into specifics, it would be fair to say that the "political situation" in Najaf is heating up tremendously. The two major parties are slinging insults and accusations of voter manipulation and election violations at each other. Moreover, they are jockeying for position and gathering forces for what could spawn a

new outbreak of violence. Last Friday the Kufa Mosque, the scene of the very first inflammatory sermons that Muqtada al-Sadr delivered prior to the heavy fighting in August, re-opened for the first time since August. And guess who is supposed to start preaching there again? Yep, you guessed it - our good buddy and friend of America and democracy Muqtada al-Sadr himself.

Now, to further complicate matters, the local chief of police, who has been accused of corruption, incompetence, working with Iranian intelligence and a host of other equally morally offensive crimes, refuses to step down from office. Despite being directed by the Iraqi government to resign, he has said that no one can get him out of office. He has fortified police headquarters, summoned all the police loyal to him and told his men to shoot anyone who tries to enter the station. You just gotta love this guy! But wait! He's not alone! The head of another security force in Najaf has also gathered his troops, the majority of whom are known for violating the rights of the locals by beating and torturing them, and is also gearing up to protect his interests.

Let's see if we can complicate the situation even more! Oh yes, we can. It's time for the annual Shi'ia period of mourning called "Ashura." Familiar from news broadcasts around the world, this is the incredible procession where thousands of devout Shi'ia Muslims march through the streets of Najaf and Karbala as they flail themselves with chains, whips and swords. Most of the participants bleed copiously from scalp, back and shoulder wounds. The procession is to pay tribute to a Shi'ia Amam, who martyred himself some 1,300 years ago while trying to oppose a dictator. During Ashura, participants enter an extremely excited and agitated state, where almost anything is possible. For those readers who may be wondering what kind of a religion does things like this, let me remind you of the numerous crucifixions re-enacted every Easter in the Philippines!

Well for me, it's just another Friday, which is basically the only day of the week I can keep track of over here! I'm off to eat a long and leisurely lunch with my brothers (I am an "honorary" tribal member complete with full Sheik garb), the Sheiks of the Beni Hassan tribe. The Sheiks have a lovely place nestled among date palms on the banks of the Euphrates River. The entire floor of the Eating Hall is covered in fine carpets and filled with food: fish, chicken, lamb and all kinds of vegetables and fruit. Following the meal, we usually recline on the many cushions, drink coffee or tea and talk about life. No one is allowed to talk business! The head of the tribe (63-years-young) often entertains us with stories about his four wives, their jewelry and their tattoos. This time, he has promised to reveal the secret of his, as he puts it, incredible virility. I can't wait to hear his time-tested secret. These guys really know how to live. That's all for now. And yes, I plan to share the secret with anyone who is interested!

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

Membership Application

Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School

Full Name: _____

Wife's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____

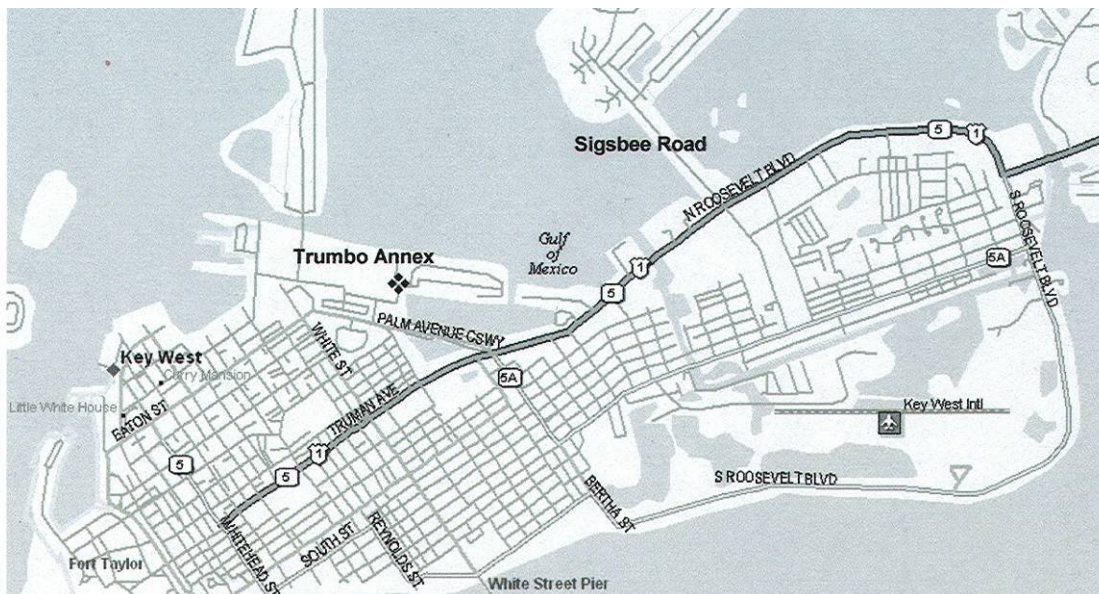
Branch of Service: _____ Dates of Service: _____

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

**Reunion 2007, Key West, FL - Directions to Visitor Quarters:
North Roosevelt Blvd and Palm Avenue Causeway to Trumbo Annex Gate.
Seven story Fly Navy Building will be visible to your right.**



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