

Buddy Line



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

February 2008

THE EXECUTIVE CORNER

By Gerry Flowers with Bob Holmes

I am hoping this newsletter finds all of you in good health, relaxing and enjoying a positive start to yet another year. (Note:) Don and Art Stone have this down to a science. It seems as if they start each year by traveling somewhere warm, exotic and interesting.

The UWSS Reunion will be held from May 14th thru 16th 2009. It is now approximately 15 months away. With that in mind, I received a call from the reunion committee leader earlier this week, just as he said he would do. Woody Woodward telephoned and advised us, that his crew will be having their first meeting Monday morning, January the 28th to kick off the organizing and planning of the 2009 "Party-n-Panama City". They will be addressing many items including the appropriate venue, the booking of the rooms, talking about and ultimately organizing weekend activities, the Ice Breaker, our meeting, the banquet and all associated activities that will make this another successful meeting. As you are aware, the dates of the reunion DO NOT interfere with the Mother's Day weekend. Therefore, Mother's will be taken care of first.

Everyone involved in planning and orchestrating an event of this magnitude makes a huge voluntary commitment to the membership. Woody and his team have a big job ahead of them but we are sure they will do a fabulous job. He has a great team ready to go. Collectively, they have a ton of experience planning events like this and most importantly, want to do it and live very close by. So on behalf of all the membership, we wish them good luck, and a hearty "thank you" in advance. If any additional help is required, we can all use the new link to get the word to the executive.

Bob and I have given this some serious thought. Bear with me, as one could look at our gatherings like planning a huge wedding. As members, we are the guests, and maybe a little more like the groom and his

squad. Many of us will do very little (as the wives are fully aware of what a groom actually does) except show up on the appointed day, ten minutes before the appointed time, looking great and carrying a membership renewal check looking to sign in and meet old friends. Well, at least that is what I have done the last two reunions.

So much goes on behind the scenes that we sometimes take for granted the hours of work, travel, telephone calls, planning, preparation and fretting that comes with this volunteer position. We can collectively try to offer help where it is needed.

To that end, the executive has created an email site where you can send questions, make requests, give advice, correct an old email address or start to hunt down an old class photo, a friend or classmate you have not seen for awhile. Woody has used it several times so far, to advise us of his time line and his planning. What we would hope to see happen is a communication site, where any of you can advise us of anything. It will certainly be a place to find out what is going on between the newsletters.

If someone wanted to write an article, include an anecdote, send in a photo for the newsletter or make a request, this would be the perfect forum to start that ball rolling. It is something different for all of us, but it can work. It can be used as little or as often as you wish. So, I urge you all to give it a whirl, (better still, tell your wife and let her give it a whirl, yeah, that may be the best idea) and maybe, just maybe, we will find more class photos, more members and a myriad of suggestions for the reunion. They will be passed on to the right people to make this a raging success.

That is about it for now, fifteen months and counting. All of you, stay healthy, and remember that very important "Navy saying", what keeps the Chief of the Boat happy makes life a whole lot better and safer.

We will see everyone in Panama City. Please try the site. executiveuwss@gmail.com

UWSS LOGO ITEMS

The following logo items are currently available. We can obtain other items if there are enough requests. Prices include shipping and have slightly increased to reflect the recent postage increases.

White Beefy-T shirt..... 15.00 ea, 2 for 26.00
Large logo on back, small logo on pocket
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL

Ash gray Beefy-T shirt..... 16.00 ea, 2 for 28.00
Large logo on back, small logo on pocket
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL

White long sleeved T shirt 18.00 ea, 2 for 32.00
Large logo on back, small logo on front (no pocket)
Sizes S, M, L, XL

Ash gray long sleeved T shirt 19.00 ea, 2 for 34.00
Large logo on back, small logo on front (no pocket)
Sizes S, M, L, XL

White polo shirt, 50/50 cotton/poly.. 20.00 ea, 2 for 36.00
Small logo on pocket. Sizes M, L, XL, XXL

Ash polo shirt, 50/50 cotton/poly..... 20.00 ea, 2 for 36.00
Small logo on pocket. Sizes M, L, XL, XXL

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

Coffee mug with old logo front & back 15.00
12.00 ea if ordered with shirt

Cap – natural with logo 14.00 ea
10.00 ea if ordered with shirt

Baseball cap – light tan, embroidered logo 19.00 ea
16.00 ea if ordered with shirt

UWSS logo decal
Transparent background 2.00 ea
White background 2.00 ea

UWSS logo lapel/tie pin 6.00 ea

UWSS plaque - Bright brass logo on blue 27.00 ea

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

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

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Membership February 2008	240 members
Account Balance November 2007	\$9,841.82
Dues	+100.00
Logo sales	+343.00
Buddy Line printing	-84.00
Postage – BL & Logo	-100.51
Account Balance February 2008	\$10,100.31

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

PresidentBob 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: stonefish7@cs.com

snail mail: 1440 SW 5th Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432
phone: (561) 391-6727 fax: (509) 472-6492

WEBSITE: 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 mailout.

To receive the Buddy Line by email, send your request to stonefish7@cs.com.

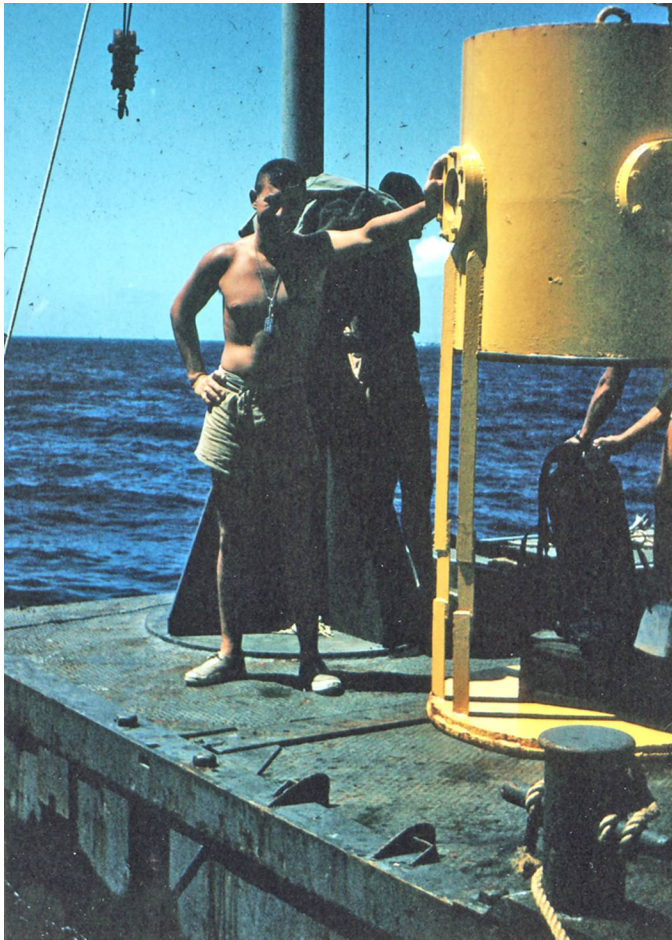


Photo from John Marinovich
John with buoyant ascent bell

In Memorium

Frank Chaisson AO2

5/27/33 – 12/26/07

A Korean War Vet, Frank left the Navy in 1961 for a career in law enforcement. Frank was a UWSS student in 1959-1960, and while at UWSS, Frank painted a mermaid on the ascent tank in the building.

When he became a member of FO/UWSS, he asked if we had a photo of the mermaid he painted. We did not find one in the archives, but told him we would ask the membership if anyone had one. Frank said the mermaid was painted over shortly after completion because someone thought it too "suggestive".

Frank passed over the bar just a month after he became a member. His daughter, Vickie, is continuing his quest for that photo. See her request in *From the Editors*.

Attention Military Divers

David Ball, editor of the *Navy Divers Newsletter*, emailed us some very valuable information for veterans with medical conditions resulting from military diving.

The Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), Washington, D.C. has sent to all VA Regional Offices and Centers an eleven page training letter with a subject of Medical Consequences of Diving. The following three paragraphs are quotes from the training letter.

“We want to ensure that VA decision makers are informed of the medical consequences of diving so that claims from veterans who were divers in service are properly developed and adjudicated.

“This letter is meant to provide information on the disabilities that may result from diving, so that veterans who were divers will be assured of receiving a thorough and informed consideration of their claims for benefits. The potential medical consequences of diving, which are quite diverse, have not been a focus of VBA training, and there is only limited information available on this subject in general medical textbooks.”

“This letter summarizes the short- and long-term medical effects of diving and provides a brief summary of pertinent technical diving information. Consult the selected references listed at the end of the letter for more detailed information”

This information may encourage some of our members to seek help from the VA. We can email you a copy of this letter if you are filing, or think you should file, a claim for disability that was a result of your military service. David also passed along the following information from Rob Kelly, a Service Officer in the VAVS Clinic in Santa Monica, CA

In order for navy divers to get info about their diving records they need to write a letter with their request to:

Commander, Naval Safety Center,
Attn Code 37
375 "A" Street
Norfolk, Va.23511-4399

Veterans and retiree's need to add following statement:

"I declare under penalty of perjury under the law of United States of America, that the following foregoing statement is true and correct".

Also you need to provide the following information:

Command attached to at time (if many name them all)
Your name
UIC of command (if known)
Period of request
Reason for report (i.e.: Veterans claim)
Your email & home address, phone number, etc.

Rob also volunteered his services for any of you out there that have questions or need assistance with Veteran Services.

Rob Kelly USN (RET)
Service Officer DAV# 82
VAVS Santa Maria, CA. Clinic
Alt. SEC #7-DAV Ca.
deepseakelly@msn.com



Class of June 1957 - Photo from Jack MacKenzie
Front row: Frank Kappesser - middle, "Dutch" Truin - 2nd from left, Jock MacKenzie - 4th from left, Al Brown - 7th from left. Third row: E. E. "Magoo" Quentin - 4th from left, R. W. "Gunny" Burke - 7th from right



1959 Photo from Sam Hayslip

FROM THE EDITORS:**Thanks from Afghanistan**

Many packages were sent to the Army Special Forces Teams in Afghanistan as a result of the notice in the last Buddy Line newsletter, and many thank you letters have come back from the teams. Here are some excerpts from the card and letter we received. The decal mentioned is a UWSS decal we included in our package.

20 Dec 07

*Wishing you and yours happy holiday times
to share, to enjoy, to remember.*

Navy... well I won't
hold it against you lol
Have you decal on GMV.
No one would dare mess
with us.

BW -
GM



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your thoughts, well wishes and care package you sent to me and my fellow soldiers. It's wonderful to have mail sent to you when you are so far from home. It is so nice to know perfect strangers from around the country take time from their busy lives and put together so many nice items for our use. I'm sure everyone has their own reasons for participating but realize we are grateful for everything you are doing.

I thought I'd let you know a little bit about my situation and give you an idea of who we are. Most of the guys with me have been here before. We are in a Special Forces unit (US Army) from the northeast back in the states. We function independently of large supporting units and are made up of 12 man teams. I am the Team Sergeant. We work directly with the Afghanistan National Army and accompany them on missions. I hope, as our

nation does, these Afghan soldiers replace the need for US troops one day. I'm 45 years old and our oldest member is 56. We do this for our own reasons ... a good part of the reason is the comradeship for each other.

I came back from a long patrol to find 19 packages addressed in my name. Tempted I was to keep it all ... no just teasing. These guys are family. We all cherished the bounty and will put it all to good use. I so enjoyed the notes from the children. The innocence of youth and the freshness of their American Spirit is wonderful. They left me smiling and thinking of home. My boys are 7 and 9 and also eagerly await my updates and calls.

I want to recognize all of you who sent packages but selfishly I must do it in a form letter. Free time is so precious and there are so many of you to give accolades to. Please forgive me for not personally contacting each one of you. Do understand it is a special person to keep up the momentum of Patriotism all these years into this war. You all deserve praise and recognition. In this time of the all volunteer military we willingly sign up and pursue our choices. You are making a conscious effort every day to keep our faces up front and our cause heard.

Thank you, all of you.

Photo Request

Frank Chaisson's daughter sent us the following email and we are hoping someone will have the photo she is looking for.

Tue, 1 Jan 2008

Dear Don,

I am writing you in reference to my father Frank Chaisson who recently became a member of the UWSS. He passed away at home on December 26, 2007. He had recently corresponded with you about a picture of a mermaid that he painted on the inside of a diving bell in the 1050's. He received a response that you had not located a picture of that nature but would continue to look for it.

He desperately wanted to obtain that picture if it can be located; it meant a lot to him. I am asking you to continue to look for the picture and if found forward it to me. I have heard about it for years and I was looking forward to seeing it as much as he was.

Please continue to forward the bulletins for the remaining balance of his membership as I am maintaining his address for the time being. Thank you sincerely for any help that you can give me in this matter and I hope to hear from you shortly. I have taken care of my Dad for the last 27 years and I would like to be able to complete this dream for him.

Sincerely,

Vickie Chaisson,

309 Orlando Avenue #5, El Cajon, CA

Membership Application

Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School

Full Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

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

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 payable to UWSS and mail to Don Stone, Treasurer, 1440 SW 5th Ave, Boca Raton, FL 33432

The Way It Was

Thanks to Andy Anderson for sending this photo from July 1962 of guys in UDT-R Class 27 handling those big twin 90 tanks – so heavy on land, and so light in the water, especially when empty. The only compensation – lots of time at depth.

That's Melichick with back to camera, Mike Boynton pointing, person handling the tanks unidentified.



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