

Buddy Line[®]



Newsletter of Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School, Key West, Florida
February 2016



Diveheart Diving for the individuals with disabilities

By Dave Byers

You sometimes run into kindred folks in the most unlikely of places. I recently attended the International Council of Air Shows (ICAS) in Las Vegas which, if you have ever attended an airshow, these are the people that do the flying (including the Thunderbird, Blue Angels, Leap Frogs and Golden Knights) and those who work behind the scenes. Anyway, I was walking through the exhibit hall and caught a glimpse of a dive flag at a booth in the mix.

There I met Jim Elliott, president/founder of Diveheart. Diveheart is a not-for-profit organization that provides scuba diving instruction, opportunities, and adventures to children, adults and veterans with disabilities. Jim has a fascinating story - which he can

virtually any type of disability has to be one of the more enlightened aspects of the sport.



We've seen scuba used to train astronauts for working in weightlessness, hyperbaric oxygen treatment (dive physics) to treat diabetics and others with vascular diseases and other useful applications. Jim's program using scuba to build independence and self confidence, while also providing freedom to those have to fight daily against gravity and their disabilities adds a dimension that I'm sure scuba's creators never imagined.

I hope that Jim might be able to join us at the next reunion to tell his story and about those he has introduced to the underwater world we might have once taken for granted. For more information about Diveheart, check out <http://diveheart.org>.



tell much better than I could, but suffice it to say - using scuba as a vehicle to empower those with

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Make check to FO/UWSS

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St Petersburg, FL 33708**

Questions? e-mail: stonefish8@gmail.com
or phone (561) 391-6727

All logo items are pictured on the web site

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Membership February 2016	270 members
Account Balance November 1, 2015	14,051.27
Dues	+300.00
Logo gear sales	+431.53
Logo Gear postage	-64.88
Buddy Line and Roster printing & mailing	-423.28
Account Balance February 2016	14,294.64

Beginning account balance differs from ending balance in last "Buddy Line" due to an Accounting change to Beginning date and Ending dates of the report. Period of reporting is now the 3 Months prior to the Quarterly printing of the "Buddy Line" newsletter.

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.

FO/UWSS Officers

President.....	Bob Bureker
Vice President.....	Dave Byers
Secretary/Treasurer.....	Bob Shouse Jr

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WEBSITE: www.uwss.org

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

Dues (\$25.00 for 2 years) are payable in May of odd numbered years. Your paid thru date can be found on your label or in the Buddy Line delivery email. Make check to FO/UWSS and send to Bob Shouse Jr., 274 Boca Ciega Point Blvd N., St Petersburg, FL 33708.

The Executive Corner

Bob Bureker, President

This is the time of year when seniors start saying is it really a new year so soon. Then as we stare tax day in the face and quit trying to write 2015 on all the checks. It really hits that yes it really is only a few short months before we will have to start thinking about the 2017 reunion in San Diego. We need to make contact with Navy diving commands and personnel in the San Diego area so we can have a super turn out for this location. Please let me know if you live in the area and would like to participate in the joint efforts for the 2017 Reunion.

I recently received a message on the passing of Louis J. Delara from our member Carl Swepston in the San Diego area. Louis J. DeLara, 89, a resident of Imperial Beach, CA, passed away peacefully in Pittsburgh Friday January 29 surrounded by his loving family. Lou was born on October 31, 1926 in Ambridge, PA.

In 1943, at the age of 17, Lou volunteered to join the U.S. Navy. During WWII he participated in four invasions in the Pacific front including the Battle of Leyte and the Battle of Okinawa and was part of the armada prepared for the invasion of Japan. He served on the USS Bremeton and the USS Capricornus (AKA 57). Lou left the Navy after the war but returned in 1950 for the Korean War and served on the USS Delta (AR 9) before beginning Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) training.



Lou was in UDT class 6 and was proud to carry the title of UDT/Frogman/Navy SEAL. He deployed three times to the Korean War as part of UDT..

Lou remained in the Navy after the war being assigned at various times to UDT 1, UDT 11, Beach Jumper Unit 1, and undertaking additional training including Salvage Diving and Explosive Ordnance Disposal. With the EOD training Lou also served in the Vietnam War. Lou achieved the rank of Senior Chief Petty Officer before retiring from the Navy in 1971.



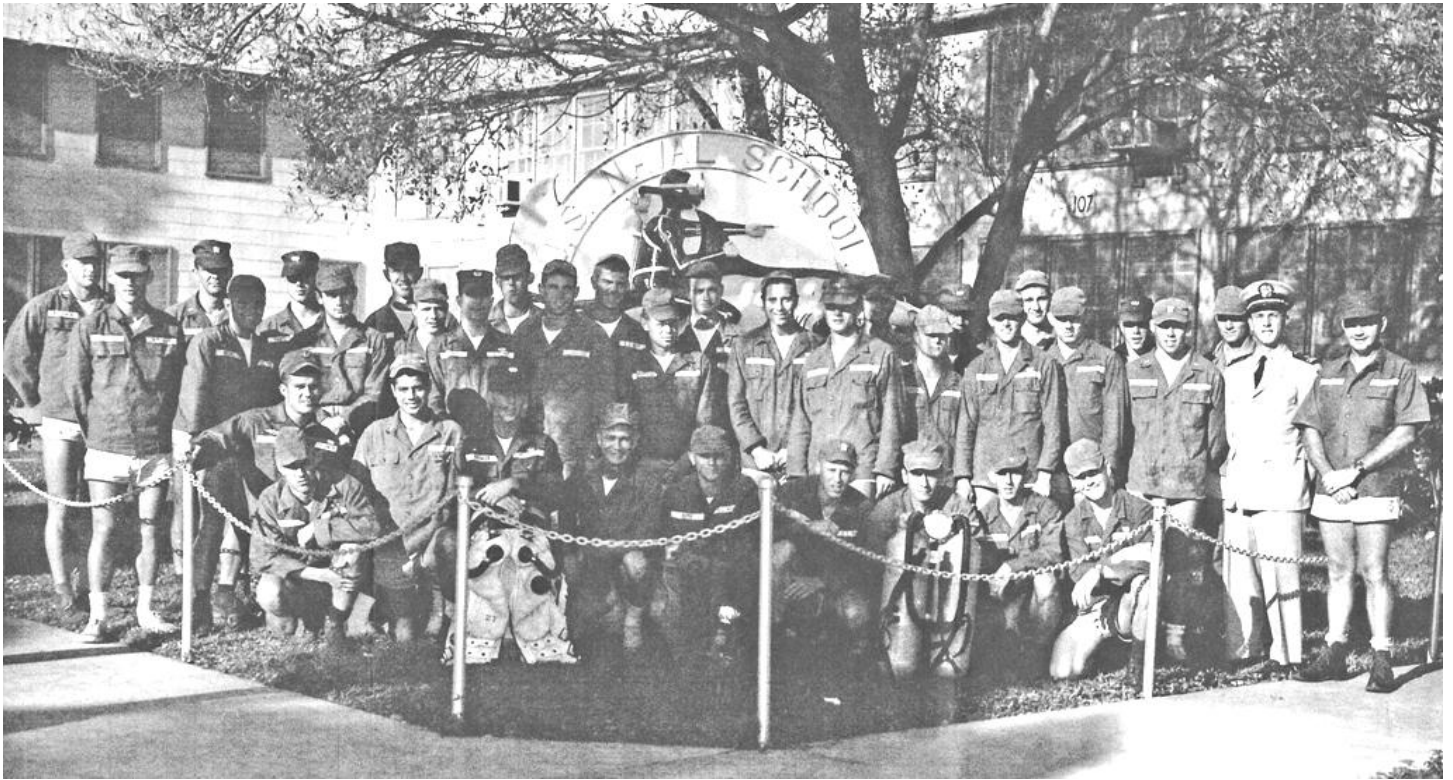
After his service Lou made Imperial Beach, CA his home, he loved the weather and wanted to stay close to his Navy family. Lou was a very successful entrepreneur. He purchased the El Tampico Bowling Alley and turned it into a successful restaurant, bar and disco called the Classic Three. He obtained a real estate license, and as a licensed general contractor he built and sold apartment buildings, general warehouse facilities and individual residences in and around the San Diego area.

Lou loved his family, his friends, his cars, his dog "Willie" and his life in southern California. He was loved by all and will be sorely missed. According to his wishes no formal services will be held. Preparations are underway to have Lou's ashes buried at sea.

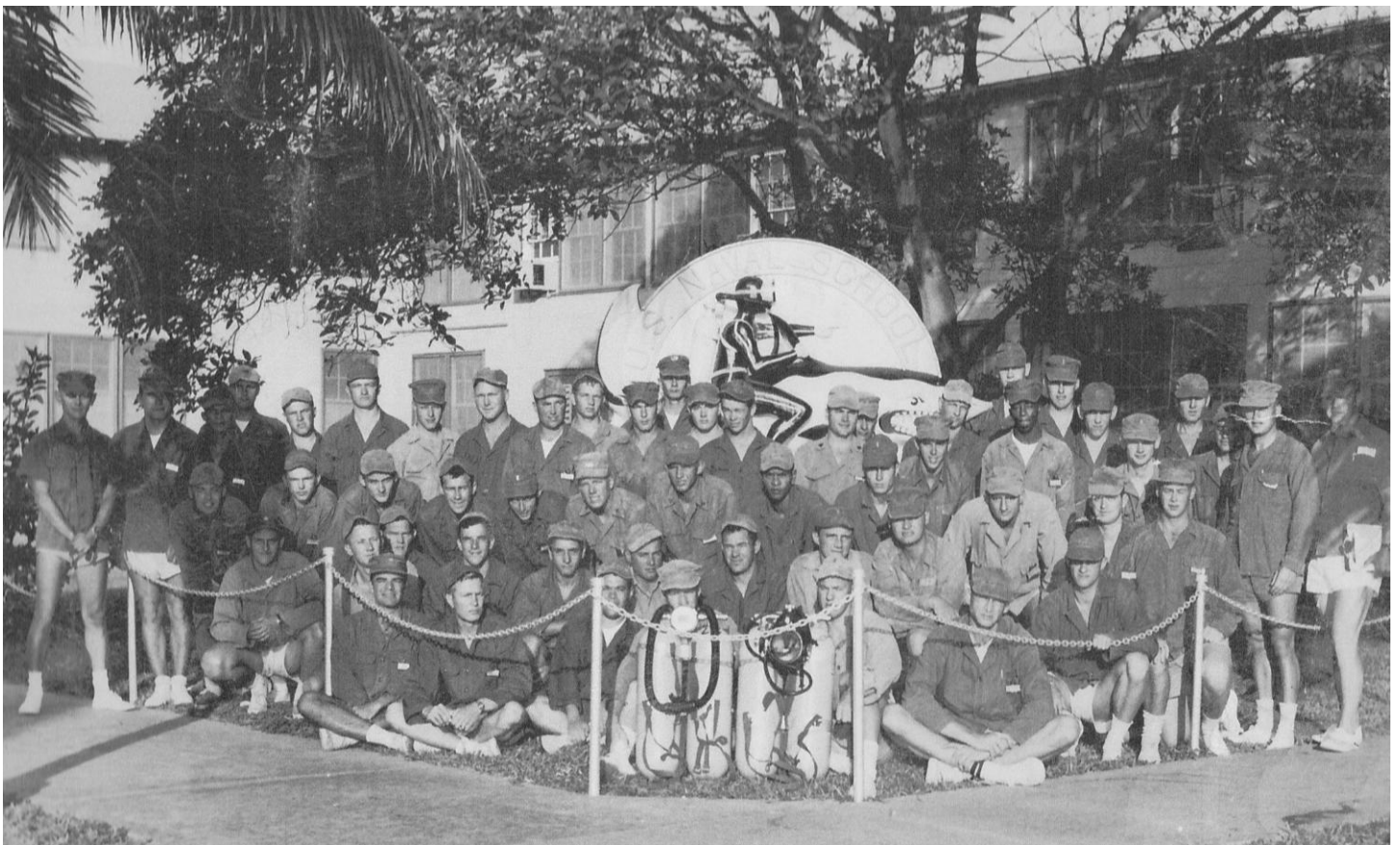
On a lighter note we have a contact with a program for people with disabilities getting into diving for rehabilitation. It appears to be an excellent program and as we all know staying wet is good for your health. Look for the report by UWSS.ORG Vice President, Dr. Dave Byers in this issue.

Be well and stay safe, Robert J. "Bob" Bureker

Class of October 1963 from Thomas Michael Ligon



Class of March 1962 from Delbert Ray Crum



UWSS Scuba Show (Part 2)

Some time ago we printed a story from a 1960s Key West Naval Base newspaper about a show presented by UWSS instructors and students that combined instruction and entertainment while outlining the history of scuba diving.

“Ad-libbing freely from a script written and narrated by Chief Yeoman Dow F. Byers, the UWSS personnel made certain that the combined audience of Sea Cadets, Sea Scouts, dependents and visiting members of the Nation Society of Underwater Swimmers of America had a grand old time as they watched the evolution of scuba diving unfold. The idea, according to Chief Byers, was to ‘get away from the typical, dry, purely technical demonstration and let the audience enjoy themselves as they learned. And we had as much fun putting the show on as the audience did seeing it.’ Byers added.”

We recently found these memories from two members who had participated in the show.

Erasmus Riojas wrote: I painted a bucket with the BUSH beer logo and a garden hose added to the top and somebody was blowing air down the hose while I walked from the shallow end of the pool to the deep end. The show was a LAUGH all the way.

Dave Byers wrote: I can remember the show like it was yesterday. Chief Byers (my dad) saw the opportunity to present the history of SCUBA as part of a wider Naval Base Open House, hence the invitation to the Sea Cadets & Scouts. Set down at the Base Pool, the podium was set up on the diving board and an underwater curtain was rigged between the shallow and deep end.

The very first “diver” was done up like a caveman. He put a bucket over his head as he jumped in (or maybe he was pushed), never to be seen again - disappearing behind the curtain. Other early divers tried to conquer the deep; one with just a garden hose, another with someone blowing on the other end. Finally, a diver fully decked out with modern (for 1966) gear came out and swam around underwater for all to see.

My part was somewhat planned as the big surprise towards the end of the show. There were some Sea Scouts in the audience and I was planted among them before the show. As the presentation was nearing the end, Chief Byers announced that SCUBA technology had progressed to a point it was so easy - just about anyone can do it. A couple of guys then walked up and down the bleachers until they came up to me, grabbed me (kicking and screaming), shoved a small pony bottle into my hands, regulator in my mouth, and tossed me fully clothed into the pool, never to be seen again.

I guess it did freak out some people in the crowd. I was only 14 and weighed all of about 95 pounds. Not quite the SCUBA man everyone sort of visualized but I had just finished the SCUBA class and was considered a fully qualified diver. [By the way, I’m still looking for a copy of my class picture (June 1966)].

In retrospect, creativity was one of the strongest attributes about my dad the Chief that I always admired about him. I know it rubbed off on me in some ways (some good, others - well it sounded like a good idea at the time).

□□□□□

Shopping for logo gear is easy on the uwss.org website

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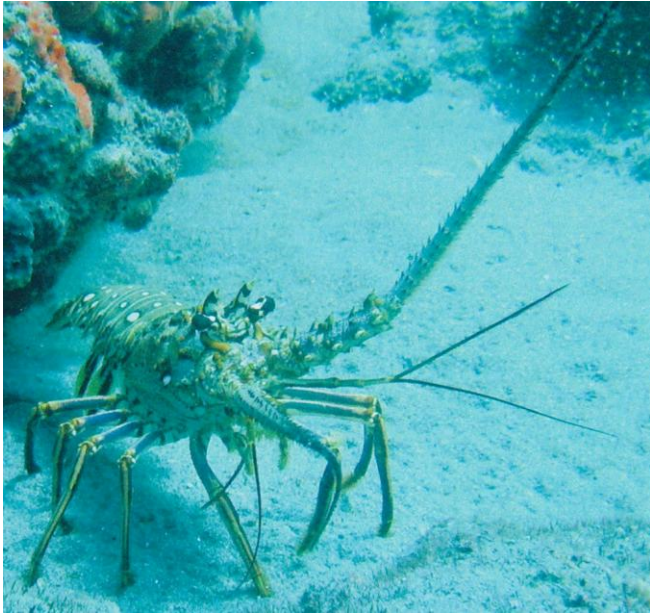
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The way it was.

The Florida spiny lobster was a very common and delicious sea critter that we encountered on our underwater activities. Although then abundant on the reefs, the state of Florida had open and closed seasons for their taking.

Two UWSS instructors, mistakenly thinking the season was open, went out and caught a large cooler of those tasty critters the day before the season actually opened. When they discovered their mistake, they tried to keep it quiet, but some loud mouth let it slip around the XO.

This resulted in the XO having a fine lobster dinner and the instigator awarded weekend duty.

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