
BuddyLine

Newsletter of Fraternal
Order of Underwater
Swimmers School
Key West, Florida 1954 to 1973



2018 REUNION - KEY WEST



Another great reunion in Key West, Florida was enjoyed by 68 paid members and guests. A big thank you to Reunion Chairman, Dave Gholson, and his helpers Don and Art Stone, Ken Recoy and others for a very successful and fun 2018 reunion.

For more images taken by Jim Houle go to
www.uwss.org/Reunions2018.html

MAY 2018



Doc Rio warned me several years ago my time would come. And so it has...As the newest president of the Fraternal Order of the Underwater Swimmers, I am honored to be chosen to serve the membership by continuing the traditions and legacy of the school. As one of the original plank-owners of the group, I watched us grow from 34 members in 2000 to a total of over 271 active members today, representing all four branches of the military, Coast Guard, international service members and the civilian world.

Our story is unique. The type of training (SCUBA) and the place (Key West) was special to both students and instructors that have served as a catalyst for the camaraderie we enjoy. We share our stories through the BuddyLine. We get together again literally decades after the last student graduated and UWSS was closed. Who else does that?



successful event. The hospitality of Command Master Chief Mark Aquirre, Chief Master-at-Arms {Christie Kehm}, and Senior Chief Sonny Williamson (who also served as our grillmaster for the barbeque) was awesome. Many thanks to them for making our stay enjoyable.



Our latest reunion brought us back to the island, long changed from the way it was, but still a place we hold fondly in our memories. We had tremendous help from a number of folks who made it a very





A special thanks goes out to Dave Gholson (our newly elected Vice President) who served as our “boots on the ground” for organizing the venue. Many don’t realize just how much work went into arranging the various activities, our accommodation, the food, etc. that went into organizing the reunion. Dave was there mostly as a committee of one, doing the heavy lifting. Help came later in the week preceding the reunion by Ken Recoy (our Secretary/Treasurer) and Ken’s wife Pat, Tom Hodges and wife Bev, who lent a hand to fill in some of the blanks prior to our arrival. We own them all hearty thank you for their hard work.

John “Mac” McAlevy to begin planning our 2020 reunion, place and date to be announced later this year so stay tuned.



Along with the recent election of new officers, there are a few other transitions taking place in the organization. For Bob Bureker, our immediate past president, he will leave big shoes to follow. I am beginning to understand the level of involvement he shouldered during his term and fully appreciate his leadership of the board. You wouldn’t think so but there is a lot of work involved in managing UWSS affairs and Bob certainly stepped up when called upon to lead us. I only hope I can do a good a job as he has. By the way, Bob has agreed to stay on and serve as our webmaster. He greatly helped to put it together for us as a way to share our legacy.



Frankly, I thought this would be our last reunion, however we had overwhelming interest to continue. To that end, we have a newly appointed Reunion Committee consisting of three volunteers. Tom Hodgins has agreed to serve as Committee Chair, assisted by Jim Houle and

Also, Don and Art Stone, a couple we will always be indebted to for all their hard work from the very beginning (we’re talking over 20 years folks!), will be stepping back to allow others to help carry the load. Just to demonstrate how hard they’ve worked, it is going to take quite a few people to do



the same things they have been doing for us. The BuddyLine, (Ray Hognlund and his daughter Raelyn Webster) the Ships Store (Jim and Faith Houle), the Reunion and other tasks are now being delegated to 4-5 volunteers. They will still continue to serve as advisors, staying involved in whatever they choose. And, as a small token of our appreciation, they were recognized at the business meeting by unanimous consent as our latest life-time members. We owe them our sincerest thanks for a job well done.

Don and Art Stone sent thanks to the officers and members of FO/ UWSS for all the honors and accolades received at the Reunion Banquet. They were overwhelmed and speechless.

After the banquet, a k-bar with belt was missing from the vintage dive gear display. If anyone knows where it is, please email Don at stonefish8@gmail.com



I don't have time to share with you some exciting new things we will be offering but suffice it to say that we are looking at several opportunities to enhance the benefits of membership. Stay tuned.

Dave



TOUR OF ARMY SFUO:



UNITED STATES ARMY
SPECIAL FORCES UNDERWATER OPERATIONS SCHOOL

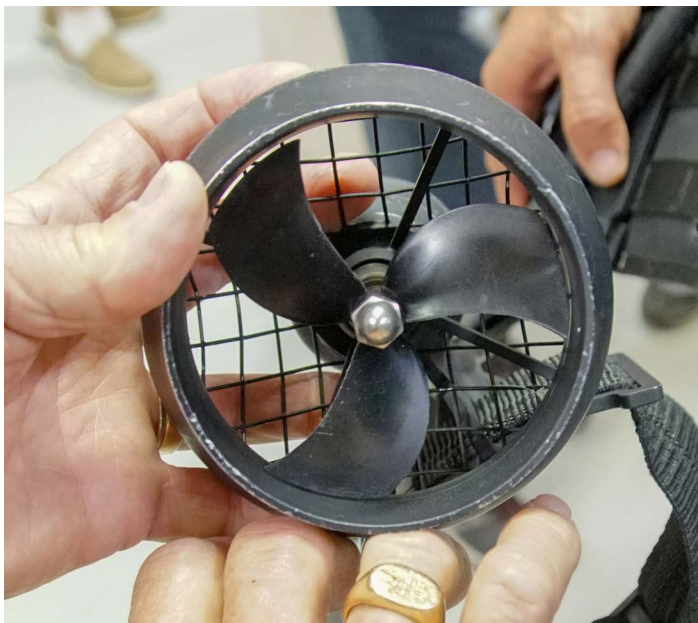


VISITORS REPORT TO BUILDING KW-100
CALL THE STAFF DUTY AT 305-797-2699

WARNING: YOU ARE ENTERING A RESTRICTED AREA

COMMANDER
MAJ COPP

SERGEANT MAJOR
SGM SMITH





On Friday we were warmly welcomed by the US Army Special Forces Underwater Operations School on Flemming Key. The tour was interesting and it was fascinating learning about the advances in technology and training.



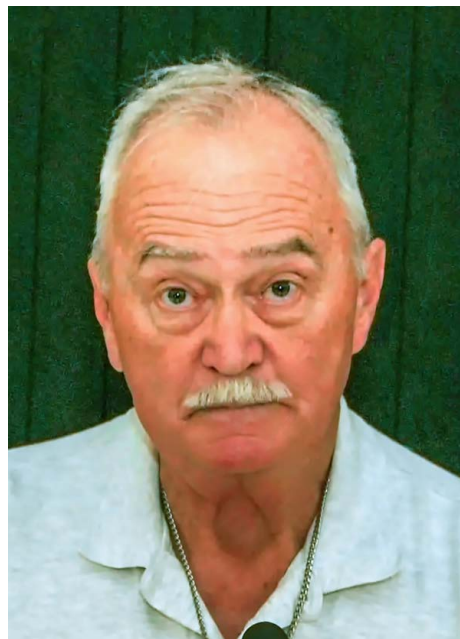


Members gathered at the CPO club for the business meeting on Saturday morning. The meeting was opened with flag salute, prayer, and a moment of silence to honor those who have gone before. Then they got down to the first order of busi-

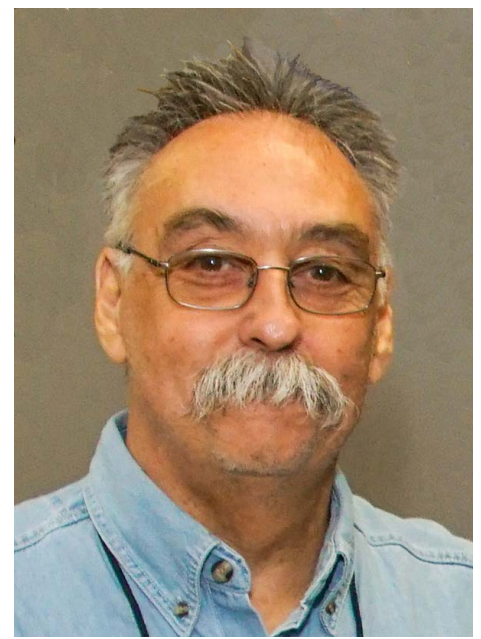
ness, election of officers, and the slate prepared by the board was unanimously accepted. The newly elected officers are Dave Byers as President, Dave Gholson as Vice President and Ken Recoy as Secretary/Treasurer.



*President
Dave Byers*



*Vice President
Dave Gholson*



*Secretary/Treasurer
Ken Recoy*



Tom Hodgins volunteered as reunion committee chairman. Jim Houle and John McAlevy volunteered to assist him. Jim is also the new Logo Gear Manager. The new BuddyLine newsletter publishers are Raymond Hoglund and his daughter, Raelyn Webster.

Jim Houle announced a change in logo sales at the reunions. He will bring a small amount of logo wear and some small items but will take orders only for other items.

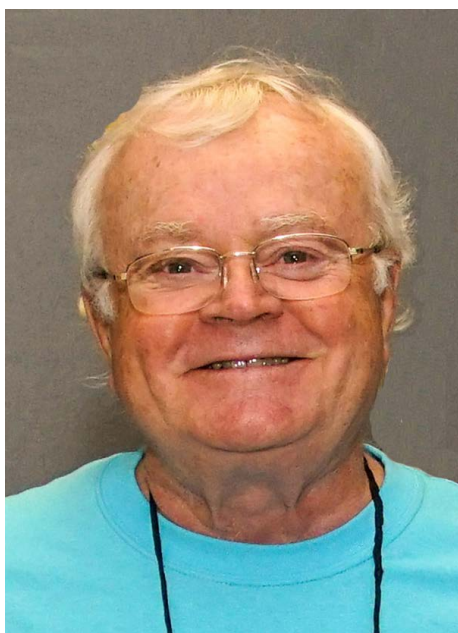
A discussion about distribution of the BuddyLine newsletter showed that while sending it out by email is free, the costs of printing, folding, addressing and stamps for mailing are increasing. A fee of \$5.00 per year for postal delivery of printed BuddyLine newsletters was accepted by vote.

Membership dues were kept the same \$25.00 for two years.

Next reunion will be in 2020. Reunion Committee will bring details to board. Voted yes for activities for spouses at reunions. Voted yes for board to look into 501-C-10 status.

Voted yes to commission a plaque commemorating UWSS instructors and graduates to stay with the shark (which currently resides in San Diego at Consolidated Divers Unit).

UWSS is looking for a member to serve as our Chaplain. We didn't have any volunteers at the reunion. If you feel that you would like to fill position, please let Ken Recoy know.



*Logo Gear Manager
Jim Houle*



*BuddyLine Newsletter
Ray Hoglund & Raelyn Webster*





JAMES L. TUCKER JR.

MCPO James L. Tucker Jr., U.S. Navy (retired), passed away Jan. 3, 2016. Jim was a plank owner of UWSS, one of the first instructors at the school He was born Sept. 5, 1925, in Memphis, TN. After retiring from the Navy, Jim worked 10 years for the BLM and was a resident of Las Vegas from 1983. He is survived by his wife, Karin; eight children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

CLAYTON GRADY JR.

Clayton Charles Grady Jr. went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Sunday, March 5, 2017. He was born Nov. 2, 1938, in Bristol, CN. He is survived by his loving wife of 28 years, Margaret Enzweiler Grady, step-daughter, Pamela Bartram grandson, Cameron Bartram. Clay joined the Navy in 1956 with a dream of being a frogman. He served with Underwater Demolition Team (UDT) 21, UDT 22 and SEAL Team 2, as a senior chief after 22 years. Following his retirement from the Navy, he resumed his education and became a registered nurse, working in the emergency room at Bay Medical Hospital in Panama City, Fla., for 18 years. In retirement, Clay and Margaret enjoyed living life between their homes in Chipley, Fla., and Murphy, NC.

LAYTON BASSETT

Layton Bassett, age 81, of The Villages, FL, went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, April 20, 2017. He was born in Philadelphia, MS on November 6, 1935. Layton retired from the US Navy as a Master Chief after serving a distinguished 30 year career, including 26 years as a Navy Seal, finishing at the Naval Coastal Systems Command in Panama City, FL. He is survived by his wife Vickie Lee Bassett of The Villages, FL; four children, nine grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren.

DAVID SALISBURY

David Salisbury, U.S. Navy (Retired) EOD HTCS (DV/PJ), 79, of New Port Richey, died April 25, 2017 in his home from Parkinson's Disease. Survived by wife, Patsy; children, Cindy, Susan, Duane, and Joe; 8 grands; 4 great-grands; 3 siblings.

Chief Salisbury enlisted in the U.S. Navy on September 26 1956. He attended DC "A" School at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His tours of duty included USS Mercury, USS Antares, USS Pyro and USS Chipola. After graduating from EOD training in February 1966 in Indian Head, Maryland his assignment were USS Mount Katamai, EODGru One in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, EOD Team 33 in Saigon, Vietnam, Instructor Duty in Indian Head, Maryland and EODGru Two in Fort Story, Virginia.

UWSS LOGO ITEMS:



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

<http://uwss.org/LogoGear.html>



MEMBERSHIP MAY 2018

Members in database = 276

Members in good standing = 192

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

- Francis L. Gerould, joined 4/9/2018
Class of 7307
- Stanley Nye Reinold, joined 4/26/2018
Class of 7303

TREASURER'S REPORT

Account Balance:

February 1, 2018 \$14,805.34

Dues	+ \$1,299.02
Logo Gear Sales	+ \$1,604.02
Reunion Fees	+ \$6,730.85
Other (Interest)	+ \$0.05

Reunion Expenses	- \$4,587.30
Logo Gear Expenses	- \$928.71
BuddyLine Expenses	- \$168.34
Business Expenses	- \$197.37

Account Balance:

May 31, 2018 \$18,557.56

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: Dave Byers
dabyers@uwss.org
386-295-9050

Vice President: Dave Gholson
goatlocker@msn.com
(270) 945-0719

Secretary/Treasurer: Ken Recoy
kenrecoy@aol.com
(620) 305-9900

The BuddyLine newsletter is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. BuddyLine editors are Ray Hoglund and Raelyn Webster.

e-mail: buddyline@uwss.org
phone: (385) 222-9824
snail mail: PO Box 593, Provo, UT 84603

WEBSITE: www.uwss.org
Webmaster: Bob Bureker



Night Swims

As an instructor, we watched the night swims from boats, waiting to lend support if someone needed it. The worst was usually an encounter with a school of jellyfish or a Portuguese man o' war. I will never forget the night a student set off his emergency flare holding it high out of the water. He was covered in blood! We rushed over to help and were relieved to discover it was just the red light of the flare that made him look all bloody, but it sure gave us instructors a scare.

Ray Hoglund



*What do you remember about your
night swims at UWSS?*

Send them to buddyline@uwss.org

Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School
BuddyLine Newsletter
25810 East 330 Road
Chelsea, OK 74016-5262