

# Buddy Line



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

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May 2002

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## Reunion 2002 Business Meeting



Saturday morning at 0900 a continental breakfast and business meeting was held in the Gallery Room at the Focsle Club. During discussion of the reunion date, the conflict with the EOD Ball activities was brought up. A vote confirmed that the first weekend in May is the time preferred by most. It was decided the next reunion should be held on the West Coast the first weekend in May 2004. Coronado, California was suggested as the location. Bob Shouse and Bernie Campoli agreed to act as a reunion site investigating committee to research the best and most practical site in that area.



Then the business of election of officers was begun. Chris Seger was elected the new Vice President and Don Stone was reelected to a second term as President.



A. Dee Clark continues as secretary/treasurer. His 4 year term expires in 2004. Doc Rio is continued on "forever" as historian.



After the meeting, some repeated their concern about the conflict of dates for the UWSS reunion and the EOD Ball activities, and thought changing the reunion from even numbered years to odd numbered years might solve the problem. Don checked with Berny Diggs, who edits the NEODA Disposaleer, and learned that the EOD Ball has been held on the first weekend in May every year for the last 20 years. Further input from the FO members is requested on this issue. Comments will be printed in the Buddy Line.



## President's Corner

by Don Stone

The Reunion was great fun for me and, I think, for everyone who attended. Comments from many members at the reunion and emails we have received have been very positive: "Best reunion I ever attended", "So much fun", "Not boring like some", "Great job", etc.

MWR did a fine job on the food preparation and service at the ice breaker and the banquet. There was lots of good food, drink and fun. The logo gear we brought was almost completely sold out at the ice breaker, so much so that we had to purchase some items for the door prizes. Speaking of door prizes, Bob Clark's performance as the ornery MC was a work of art – we'll have to be careful TV doesn't steal him away.

The Bob & Tom presentation by Bob Rieve and Tom Hawkins was funny and informative. It is good to know that the Navy is adapting to the changing world conditions.

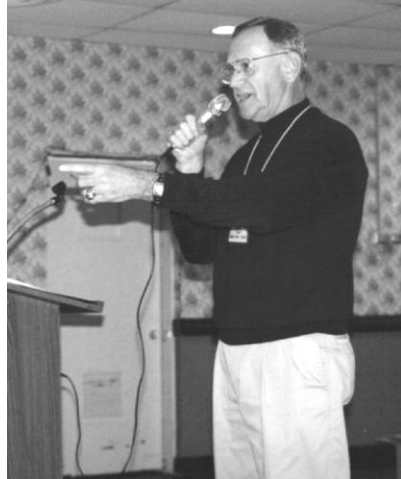
Thanks to Bob Clark, Rudy showed up at the ice breaker and everyone had a chance to talk with and get their picture taken with him. Former team mates or not, it didn't matter. He has become famous, but he is still the same Rudy Boesch – a great guy in every respect.

The plaques that Hank Holder so carefully produced were in great demand, and we sold out of the blue version. Additional plaques will be available from Hank. That was a great idea he had, duplicating the old plaques.

If you want any additional logo gear or plaques, contact us and we'll put an order in when we get sufficient requests. We did get a dozen new caps printed and these are available now.

The visits to the active duty components SDV2 and MDSU-2 were well attended. It is always interesting to see the new high-tech operational equipment, weapons, and diving gear. You can't help but envy the active duty guys for the neat stuff they have to work with now. But when you come right down to it, it is not the gear, it is the men using the gear who are most important.

The reunion was a pretty busy time for us, and it was hard to squeeze in a visit to the huge NOB mall exchange – but we did. Wow, what a BX! It was fun being back in the Little Creek/Virginia Beach/Norfolk area for a few days but the best part of any reunion is seeing your old buddies again.



## Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Membership 5/22/2002

100 regular members

70 associate members

Account Balance 2/1/02 1843.14

Dues +1625.00

Reunion Fees +3200.00

Logo item sales +1888.00

Buddy Line expense -91.55

Reunion expense -3497.87

Logo items purchased -2066.52

Account Balance 5/22/02 2900.20

## 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 associates of UWSS students and staff who share an interest in the goals and activities of the FO/UWSS. Associate members will not have voting privileges.

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..... Chris Seger

Secretary/Treasurer ..... A. Dee Clark

Historian ..... Erasmo Riojas

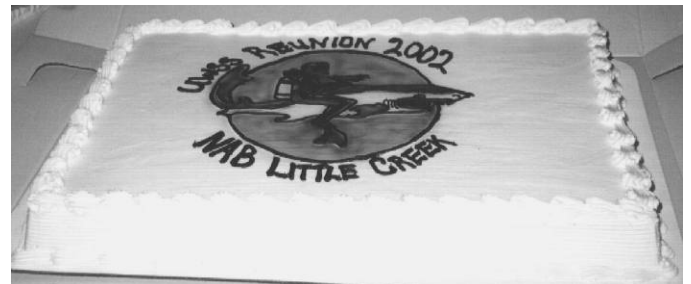
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**Buddy Line editors are Don and Art Stone.**

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## Reunion Banquet

The banquet was held Saturday evening at the Focslie Club's Gallery Room, which was decked out in red, white and blue for the event. The ample buffet was enjoyed by



all. A beautiful white cake with a large blue logo was almost too pretty to eat, but it was as good as it was pretty.

To get the program started, Master of Ceremonies, Bob "Doc" Clark, gave away some door prizes amid much laughter!

Joe Kennedy led off the speakers with a story from his Pentagon years. When an American escorted tanker hit a mine in the Persian Gulf, Admiral Crowe, then Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, asked advice from Captain Kennedy, his EOD expert. Joe suggested sending a small EOD unit to investigate. His boss and Operations were upset with him. They thought he jumped the chain of command. But after several setbacks, the unit did get over there, located, and RSP'd the mines.



When Tom Hawkins was introduced, Bob Rieve got up and identified himself as Tom Hawkins amid much laughter. He spoke about the reorganization of the SEAL teams, then introduced Tom as Bob Rieve amid more laughter. Tom described the new organization and the deployment of Spec War units in a squadron complete with EOD, SEALs, SDV and other support units.



Following this, president, Don Stone, honored the individuals who helped to make Reunion 2002 a success. Don presented a UWSS plaque to Bob Rieve, Executive Director of the UDT/SEAL Association. Bob's rapport with many base activities enabled him to help us with base entry problems, initial MWR contacts, our SDV2 visit and all kinds of support whenever we needed it.

Certificates of appreciation were presented to Bob Clark, our "point man", who was able to facilitate, advise and help solve problems on a day to day basis; to A. Dee Clark for his work as secretary/treasurer and recruiting new members; to Chips Provaznik, for helping set up our MDSU visit; to Berny Diggs for the publicity notices he placed in numerous service publications resulting in a large increase in membership and attendance at the reunion; to Hank Holder for donating his time and talent to duplicate the UWSS plaques; and to Chris Seger who tracked down eleven of his UWSS classmates and got many of them to come to the reunion. See group below.



Seventy two members and guests attended the reunion, forty seven guys and twenty five ladies

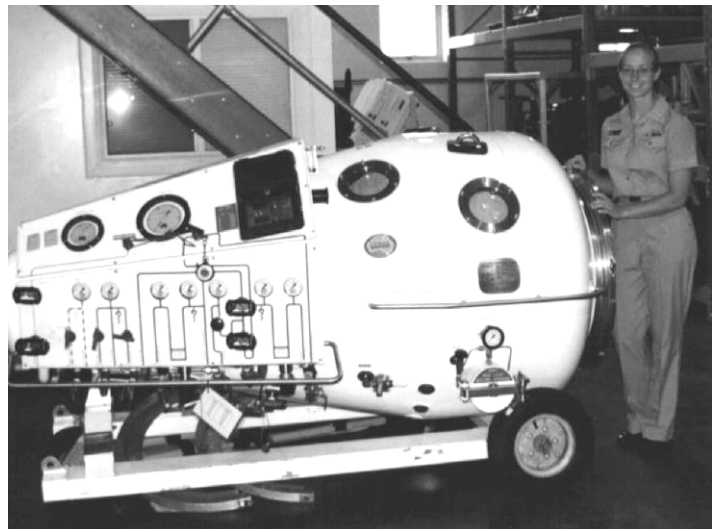
After the banquet, the group was assembled for pictures. In order to get all the guys in their picture, the front row had to kneel. The ladies took so long taking pictures that some of the guys had trouble getting up!

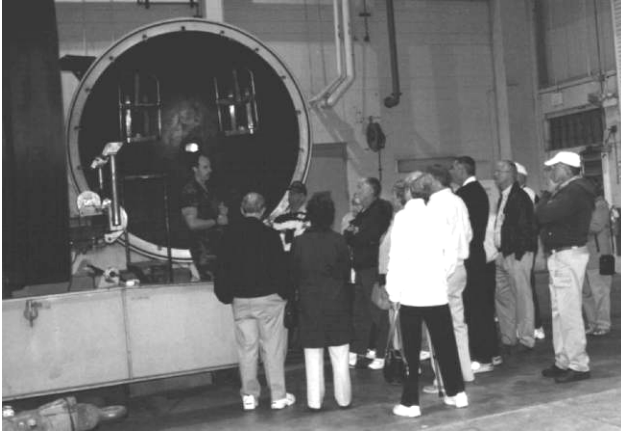


The visit to MDSU2, was led by Diving Medical Officer, Juliana Lippert and four of MDSU2's divers. On display was the

old cumbersome MK5 hard hat rig that many of the members first trained with, and also a new, light weight plastic helmeted hard hat rig that even had provisions for an emergency come home bottle. The new portable aluminum recompression chamber is a great improvement over the old coffin-like portable chamber.

A Power Point presentation of MSDU2's ongoing project of USS Monitor salvage was given by ENCS Lyle Becker. Last summer the steam engine was raised and this summer the large revolving gun turret and guns. These artifacts will become part of the Monitor museum. A plaque was presented to MSDU2 in appreciation for the visit.





During our visit to SDV2, we were shown static displays of some of their advanced equipment. A huge pod that could be mounted on the deck of a submarine would accommodate a large group of SEALs locking out at the same time.

Diving gear seen included an N2O2 closed rig with extended bottom time and other specialized scuba.

Weapons included the dependable stoner in desert camouflage and an assortment of hand guns and other lethal tools of the trade.



A plaque was presented to MCPO Bryan Brackett of SDV2 in appreciation for the visit.



## 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 A. Dee Clark, Treasurer and mail to 1315 Garner St., Nacogdoches, TX. 75961

### The way it was...

Once upon a time, in a much different navy, before neoprene rubber wet suits, combat swimmers had the choice of wearing an uncomfortable and difficult to don dry suit (that usually wasn't dry too long), or gutting it out and trying not to shiver.

Cast and recovery was a technique developed by UDT Teams to launch swimmers for missions against an enemy shore. Swimmers would roll off the IBS, which was towed along side an LCPR going at "high" speed. Swimming back from the beach, they would form a line with enough distance between swimmers so that the pick-up man could pull them aboard as the boat sped down the line. If the swimmer didn't kick hard enough to raise himself out of the water to help the pick-up, or if he missed the sling, he was in for it! He just might have a very long swim home.

Photo from Lee Barber



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