

# Buddy Line<sup>®</sup>



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

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May-July 2017

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## The Executive Corner

Bob Bureker, President

It was great to see the good old Shark Rider looking as young as ever at the San Diego SWRMC entrance surrounded by many of his former shipmates. We did not have as good of a turn out for the 2017 Reunion as we have had in the past but it was a fantastic and informative get together. Our Hotel was perfect, the facilities exceptional and the trip to the SWRMC hosted by CWO Justin Anderson and Master Diver Trey Williams was filled with new and old technologies.

As you all are aware the school closed in 1973 and we are all getting on in years. Travel is becoming harder as we age and it was not surprising to get so many messages from the members that could not attend the 2017 Reunion in San Diego due to health problems. The time has come

to think about the future of the FO/UWSS Reunions and the organization itself.

We have posted on the website a "Vote Page" to allow the full membership a chance to decide the future status of FO/UWSS. In previous meeting and membership discussions the guidance has been decided by a few that could come to the Reunions in person. It is not fair to have a vote on final direction of the association when some members with limited mobility and ability to travel do not have a chance to be heard at a reunion business

meeting. This the logic to have a final vote by paper and the website. Please take a few minutes to read the text on the vote page for a brief history of the previous business meetings and discussion about, "where do we go from here"?

FO/UWSS reunion chairman, Dave Gholson, proposed Key West for 2019 by email. When it was discussed at the business meeting, the group decided that since we had such a small turn out this year we should move more quickly for the next Reunion. It was accepted at the 2017 San Diego reunion that the FO/UWSS have the next Reunion in 2018 at Key West. Dave Gholson has connections with the CPO club on the Naval Base Key

West and can arrange the use of their facilities for everything we need for a fantastic reunion back at our old home base. It would be wonderful to swap some tales about good times and bad at the place we all started our diving careers as military trained divers.

My term as president is over at the end of the next Reunion. The

webmaster job will be open but I can stay on with that duty as long as I am able to type some html code. However, we need new blood for all positions and we need members to step up and participate or we will need to shut it all down. Things like the Reunion, Buddy Line and Logo Store take a lot of work. Don and Art need a break especially since they have had some serious medical issues. Please get you hand in the air if you want this fine group to continue then vote and let us know what position you would be ready for.



**UWSS LOGO ITEMS**



**All prices include shipping.**

- Beefy-T t-shirt.....25.00 ea  
white or ash gray, large logo back, small logo pocket  
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL\*
- Long sleeved t-shirt.....28.00 ea  
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 ea  
white or ash gray, small logo on pocket.  
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL\*
- Pique polo all cotton.....29.00 ea  
birch gray, embroidered logo left front ,(no pocket)  
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL\*
- Blue denim shirt, short sleeves .....38.00 ea  
embroidered logo above pocket  
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL\*

**\*All shirts size XXL add \$2.00 ea**

- Cap – natural with logo .....20.00 ea
- Baseball cap – blue, embroidered logo.....30.00 ea  
**Cap 3.00 less if ordered with shirt**
- Embroidered Patch ..... 12.00 ea
- UWSS logo decal – transparent or white .....3.00 ea
- UWSS Plaque – bright brass on blue .....60.00 ea
- UWSS commemorative coin ..... 12.00 ea  
enameled brass, raised design, 1 5/8 inch diameter
- UWSS all-service commemorative coin ..... 15.00 ea  
enameled brass, raised design, 2 inch diameter
- Key Chain with enameled logo medallion ..... 10.00 ea

**Make check to FO/UWSS**  
**Send with order to Bob Shouse Jr., Treasurer**  
**274 Boca Ciega Point Blvd N.**  
**St Petersburg, FL 33708**

Questions? e-mail: [stonefish8@gmail.com](mailto:stonefish8@gmail.com)  
or phone (561) 391-6727  
*All logo items are pictured on the web site*

**Secretary/Treasurer’s Report**

Membership May 31, 2017	
Members in database	271
Members in good standing	202
Account Balance February 2017	\$13,632.10
Dues	+1,040.77
Logo Gear Sales	+865.54
Logo Gear Purchase	-179.76
Logo Gear Postage	-96.19
Buddy Line Printing & Mailing	-201.99
Reunion Fees	+2,822.86
Reunion Expense	-5,430.61
Misc Business Expense	-39.58
Account Balance May 31,2017	\$12,413.14

**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 to1973.

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
- 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](mailto:buddyline@uwss.org) phone: (561) 391-6727  
snail mail: 1440 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432

**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](mailto: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.

### Reunion 2017

The spacious Harborview Room with it's beautiful view was the gathering place for Reunion 2017

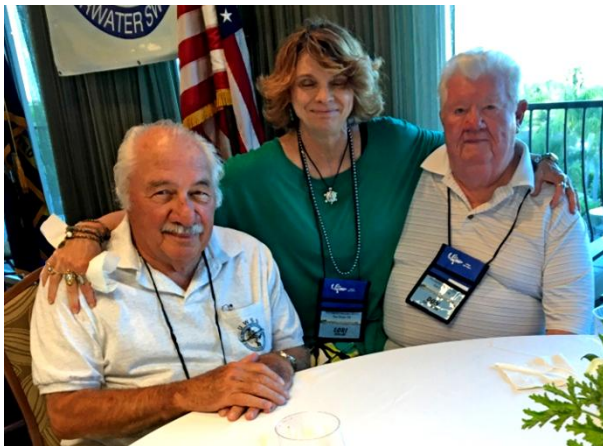
At the Ice Breaker on Thursday afternoon, we signed in, picked up badges and checked out the surprises in the goody bags. There was a very



different surprise this year, as Dave Ghoulson had arranged to have a spatula with the UWSS emblem made for each member. Additional spatulas and a matching set of four stainless steel coasters will be available soon.



Pat Recoy, Shirley Reider and Art Stone made sure the food table was ready



John & Lori Sedlak Don Tatterson



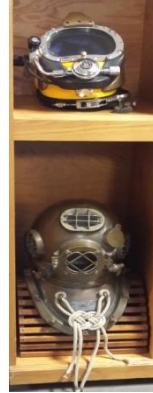
Carl Swebston and Jack Reider.

Jack and Shirley Reider and their helpers assembled the popular class photos display

Dalia & Bob Bureker



Friday brought - a trip to SWRMC Dive Center in the morning where we compared the old and the new.



CWO Justin Anderson and Master Diver Trey Williams explained the features of the new equipment.



Touring tank

Reunion photos taken by Bob Bureker, Ken Recoy & Art Stone.

Tacos in the Park



Justin and Trey and their crew served up some fine tacos with all the trimmings.. Then they visited the tables to talk with the guests, moving around to different tables and visiting with everyone.. After lunch they got a couple of horse shoe games going which were fun whether you were playing or watching.



Saturday brought the business meeting and the decision that the next reunion be in Key West in 2018. Then attention was turned to the Banquet. Our guests from the Dive Center, CWO Justin Anderson and Master Diver Trey Williams, accompanied by their wives, felt right at home with this bunch of old divers.



The program, MC'd by Vice President, Dave Byers, was a presentation on the pioneering role UWSS played in NASA's space program. In 1966, UWSS instructors trained members of astronaut corps including Neil

Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and many others in basic scuba. That training resulted in many more hours the astronauts spent working in simulated weightlessness conditions underwater preparing for the Apollo missions. The highlight of the presentation was a YouTube video that captured pool training and buoyant ascent exercises.

The video can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bf9S79iqkiw>



**VOTE**

There are many ways to vote. **Best:** Go to the web site [UWSS.ORG](http://UWSS.ORG) and select vote from the menu. **OR** Mail your printed ballot included with this Buddy Line. **OR** Email your vote to [Buddyline.uwss@Bellsouth.net](mailto:Buddyline.uwss@Bellsouth.net) All votes must be received by August 19, 2017.



# The way it was

## Reunions in Key West

First reunion 1998



Reunion 2006



Reunion 2007



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