

Buddy Line



Newsletter of Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School

August 2001

Reunion Planning Moving Ahead at High Speed

Several members of the reunion committee met in Little Creek in June to work on the details and publicity for the next reunion which will be held at the Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Virginia, May 3rd, 4th & 5th, 2002.

Reunion notices have been sent to a number of publications and we had an information and recruiting table at the July Seal/UDT Reunion in Little Creek.

The reunion schedule is shaping up like this:

Friday afternoon – Stop by the Focsle Club to check in and have a cool one.

Friday evening – Ice-breaker in the Gallery Room of the Focsle Club with substantial hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks, beer and wine. Very casual.

Saturday – Visits to Special Warfare, EOD or diving activities, dependent on operation commitments.

Saturday evening – Banquet with guest speakers.

Sunday morning – Continental breakfast followed by a business meeting.

Note: Saturday and Sunday morning schedules may be switched, dependent on when we can visit active duty components.

Bring all of your class pictures and other photos from UWSS. We will have a scanner and computer to scan them in for future issues of the Buddy Line and they will eventually go to the FO UWSS historian.

Reunion accommodations information on page 3.

President's Corner

by Don Stone

We are publishing detailed information about the reunion nine months in advance so that you don't have to make last minute arrangements which often are not very satisfactory. Because of the early publication, there may be changes to the scheduling of events. We will keep you posted via Buddy Line. If you have suggestions, write in and we'll consider them.

Reunion committee member, Berny Diggs, has been handling publicity for the reunion and has gotten notices out to several service publications: Navy Times, Leatherneck Magazine, Marine Corps Times, American Legion Magazine and others. As a result, I have gotten requests for information from Marine, Army and Navy personnel.

Bob Rieve, Executive Director of the UDT/Seal Association, has also helped the FO UWSS in many ways including introducing me to the people at Little Creek who make things happen in MWR, giving us space to display a banner and Buddy Lines at the UDT/Seal Reunion, displaying Buddy Lines in the UDT/Seal Association small stores, and generally giving support and advice when needed. Incidentally, Bob is now a member of FO UWSS.

It looks like we will also have a table at Muster this November in Ft. Pierce where we will be able to hand out information on FO UWSS to prospective members.



Key West Reunion 1998

UWSS T-SHIRTS



T-shirts, Sleeveless Shirts and Tank Tops:

Small, medium, large and X large 10.50 each
 XX or XXX large 11.50 each

Sport shirts - 3 buttons & collar, with or without pocket

Small, medium, large and X large 16.00 each
 XX or XXX large 17.00 each

Shirts have the design on front and back and are available in white or ash gray.

Coffee Mugs 7.00 each
Logo on one side, name or whatever on other side.

Order by phone or mail. Prices include shipping.
 Phone: (305) 293-2884 (Corrected phone number)

MWR Graphics Department
 Building A515
 Naval Air Station
 Key West, FL 33040

From the editors: We are still looking for your stories and pictures. Material will be returned to you if requested.

Doc Riojas has requested that contributions to the FOUWSS archive be sent to him at 4819 Meadowglen Dr., Pearland, TX 77584. Or e-mail him at elticitl@mi-vida-loca.com

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Membership 8/15/01

58 paid regular members
 4 paid FO UWSS Boosters
 39 associate members

Dues received 150.00
 Interest earned 11.93
 Account Balance 8/15/01 1,442.10

FO of 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 of 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 of UWSS Officers

President Don Stone
 Vice President..... Andy Anderson
 Secretary/Treasurer A. Dee Clark
 Historian Erasmo Riojas

Buddy Line editors are Don and Art Stone.

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Class picture taken May 19, 1961 was sent by Chris Seger. Listed from left to right are – standing: Childress, Elliott, Peterson, Van Beaver, Hulbert, Dunn, Ritter, Foster, Phillips, Kennedy, Sargent, Caughlan, Kinney, Barber, Callahan, Stone; kneeling: Wells, Abel, Eckert, Casavant, Tapscott, Seger, White, Holmberg, Snyder.

Reunion Accomodations On Amphib Base

Navy Lodge

The new Navy Lodge has beautiful large rooms with kitchenettes for \$64.00 per day. Retired individuals can make reservations one month in advance. Phone numbers are 800-628-3335 and 757-464-6215. They will hold 25 rooms for us. We have to send them a room list for these saved rooms, so if you want to stay there, email or write Don Stone (address on page 2) with name, rank, social security number, and number of guests for each room. We must have this information by March 1, 2002.

BOQ/CBQ

These are very nice recently renovated accommodations with microwave and refrigerator and are quite inexpensive. They are holding 25 for us. If you want to stay there, email Don Stone ASAP with name, rank, social security number, and number of guests for each room. The early birds get this one.....

Campground

Wooded sites with full hookup and cable TV. There are restrooms, a playground and laundry facilities. If you want to stay there, contact Don Stone early.

Reunion Accomodations Elsewhere

Ft. Story

RV campground and cottages are available but you must reserve early. They take reservations up to a year in advance. Phone 757-422-8818.

Dam Neck Fleet Combat Center

The Navy Lodge has 50 units, slightly more expensive than Little Creek. Phone 757-437-8100.

Nearby Hotels

Howard Johnson's (Shore Drive)	800-446-4656
Comfort Inn (Shore Drive)	800-228-5150
Days Inn (Northampton Blvd)	800-325-2525
Roadway Inn (Northampton Blvd)	757-460-3414
Lake Wright Motel (Northampton Blvd)	800-228-5157



Student MK5 divers using the hand-held sonar in a training exercise

Scuttlebut Corner

Last issue's Scuttlebut told the story of two student divers getting some bottom time with the MK5 when one of them was bitten on the hand by a moray eel. One of the calls we received as a result of the reunion publicity gave us the ending to the story.

The caller, Chris Seger, had kept in touch with several of the guys in his 1961 swim school class and was setting up a mini reunion with them when he saw the FO UWSS reunion notice in Naval Institute Proceedings. He was surprised to find the Stone in the reunion notice was the same Stone as the one in his class picture. During the mutual reminiscing Chris informed us the two ensigns in the moray eel incident were Topper Sargent, who was bitten by the eel, and his swim buddy, Otto Holmberg. He finishes the story thus:

"I was topside in the LCPR when they surfaced. The water was turning blood red from Topper's wound and when he raised his arm to grab the ramp it was running down his arm. No panic, but I about peed in my shorts. I forget how many weeks Topper had to stay in Key West to recuperate, but we were glad to get him back in Indian Head after the wound healed."

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....



Diving on the Uboat

Dick Tappy, seated, is ready to dive a CDDBA, an English N₂O₂ semi closed circuit we used briefly before the MK5. This rig was walked rather than swam. Or it could be rigged as 100% O₂ closed circuit and swam for limpet attacks.

This was before we had wet suits, so if you wanted to be warmer or have protection from coral, diving under-wear was worn, seen on Frank Kappesser in this picture. Others in the picture are Dick Pence behind Tappy and J. Stanley rigging an open circuit scuba.

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