

Buddy Line



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

August 2002

The UWSS Shark Found in San Diego!

by Dave Byers ('66 UWSS Graduate)



Many of you may remember the full-scale Shark and Diver that sat in front of UWSS from 1964 until the school was decommissioned. It was my understanding that the Shark, built by my father, Dow Byers (YNCS [SS/UDT]), with a lot of help, subsequently bounced around the country, ultimately ending up somewhere in California.

In 1998, my sister told me that someone had seen the Shark lying in pieces in some trash pile in San Diego. Since I had plans to be in the San Diego area later that year, I made it a mission to hunt down the Shark and see if it could be salvaged.

Not knowing its exact location, I started by going over to Coronado to visit BUDS. Being a civilian for the past 25 years and with no official sponsor, it was not easy schmoozing the gate guard into letting me on base. (This was during a ThreatCon 4 or something like that, I think may have been after the bombing of the USS Cole).

Anyway, they eventually let me on to visit Seal Team One just inside the gate so they could keep an eye on

me. I talked to the sailor on watch on the quarterdeck who had no idea what I was talking about. He asked around and finally the Master Chief came out (turns out he had known my old man) and told me the last time he had seen the Shark, it was over at the 32nd Street Base.

Driving over there, I had to go through the same ritual of explanations but at least they knew exactly where the Shark was and let me on Base to check it out. As I came around a corner, there it was - sitting on top of the Consolidated Divers Unit (CDU) and looking just as I had remembered it nearly 35 years ago. I started taking pictures and eventually someone came out to ask what I was doing. When I explained to him about my dad building the Shark, he got all excited and took me to the QD where he then summoned the CO and XO. They all started peppering me with all kinds of questions about the Shark's origins and early history. Soon I was surrounded by 10-15 people, all interested in hearing about the Shark's background and how it was built. They showed me a framed copy of the unofficial history of the Shark that was hanging in the QD and I was able to elaborate on some of the gaps and inaccuracies in the story.

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UWSS LOGO ITEMS



We currently have the following items available:

- Beefy-T shirt** -Large logo on back, small logo on front
- White (no pocket) 13.00
 - L, XL .
 - Ash gray (with pocket) 15.00
 - M, L, XL, XXL .
- Caps**
- Natural 11.00
 - □ □ □ □ □

Prices include shipping. On orders for multiple items excess shipping charges may be refunded. If other items are desired, we will order upon request.

President's Corner by Don Stone

California, here we come!

Although it is almost two years away, we are already planning our 2004 reunion in Southern California. There are a great many military installations in the San Diego/Coronado area, as well as a huge number of attractions out in the community that would make great pre and post reunion activities. The ocean, the mountains, the desert and Mexico are just short drives away.

I wrote to the visitors' bureau for info and have been swamped with responses from hotels and attractions.

San Diego's military installations include Naval Amphibious Base Coronado, Naval Air Station North Island, Naval Station San Diego, Marine Air Station Miramar, and several others.

There are two Navy Lodges that are close to Coronado, NAS North Island and San Diego Naval Station. We'll try to get a block of rooms at one of the Navy Lodges if we can.

Bob Shouse and Bernie Campoli volunteered to act as reunion investigation committee. Bernie has already been in touch with a friend and former team mate in the San Diego area, Peter Dirkx, who said he would help set up the reunion.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Membership 8/1/2002
 103 regular members
 72 associate members

Account Balance 5/22/2002	2900.20
Interest	+10.53
Dues	+600.00
Reunion refund	-35.00
Buddy Line expense	-45.05
Logo items purchased	-115.47
Postage/photos & logo items	-74.95
Account Balance 8/1/2002	3,240.26

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

The Buddy Line newsletter is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. Buddy Line editors are Don and Art Stone. e-mail: stonefish7@cs.com or uwssbuddyline@cs.com snail mail: 1440 S.W. 5th Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432 phone: (561) 391-6727 fax: (509) 472-6492

You can view many pictures from the 2002reunion, as well as other selections, on Rio's website: <http://elticitl0.tripod.com/reunion/uwssreunionmay.htm>

Dow Byers,
UWSS
instructor,
builder of
the Shark.

Photo from
Historian,
Erasmio
Riojas



UWSS Shark Found in San Diego

(Continued from page one)

When I mentioned my quest was begun by someone saying they had seen the Shark laying in a trash heap, the CO explained that it must have been during the time when they had taken the Shark down for some major overhaul and repainting. It was very apparent by my reception and our conversation that they are immensely proud of the Shark and intend to keep taking great care of it. It serves as a major landmark for giving people directions on base and as an icon for the CDU.

With the 2004 UWSS reunion in San Diego, perhaps we will have the opportunity to visit the CDU and celebrate the 40th birthday of the Shark.

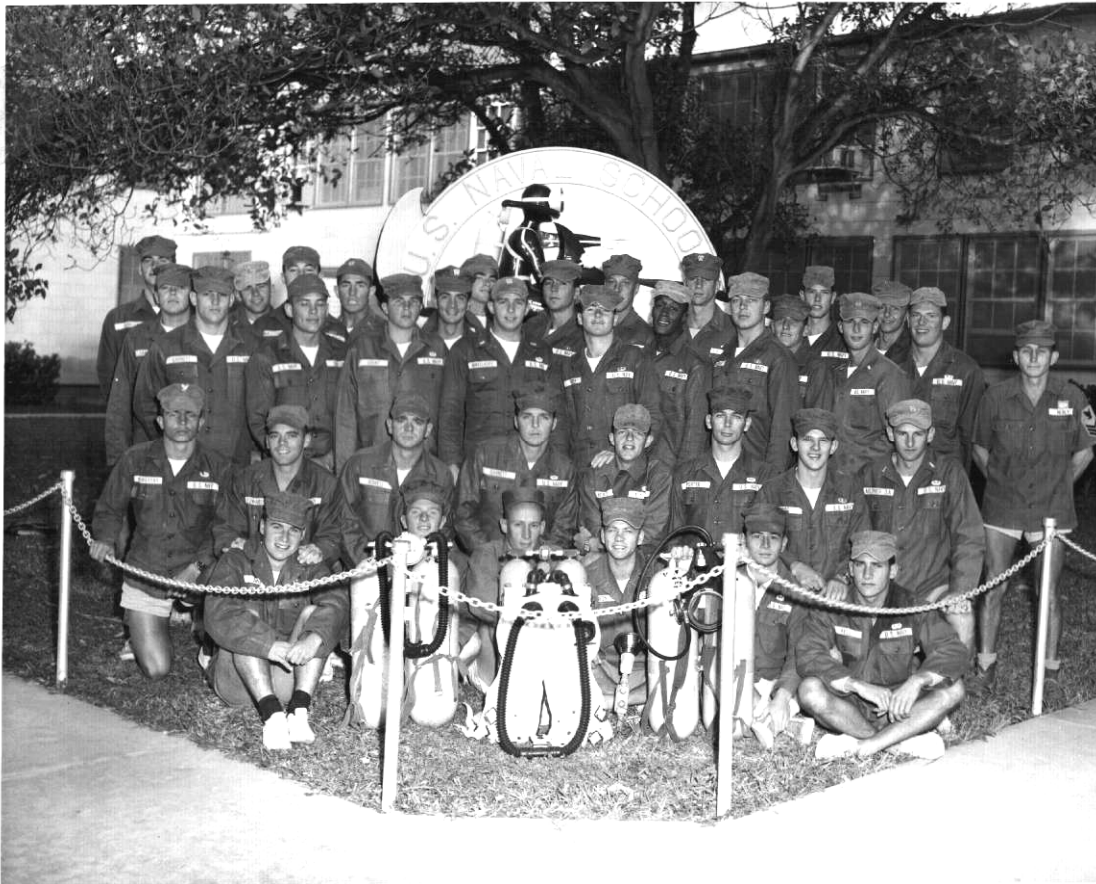
Note: You can check out the CDU at

<http://www.cdu.navy.mil/index.html>



Picture from Bob Shouse. MK-5 Training for Instructors on HeO2.

Jones, Gairraia, Shouse, McLaughlin, Burnham, Provosnik, Lyons, Byers, Crutchfield, Salerna



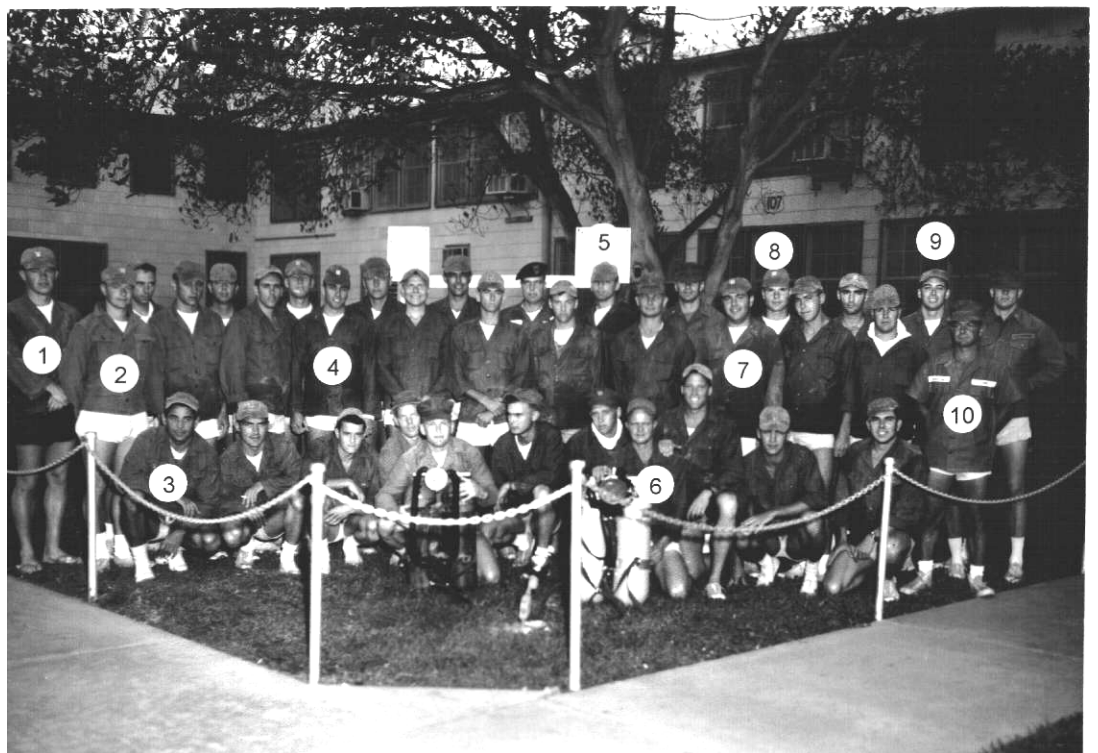
Class 28
December 1961

Picture from
George Wascovich

Class of February 1964
Picture from
Robert (Oscar) Singleton

Identified are:

- 1-Rick Goodrich
- 2-Singleton
- 3-CPO Knapp
- 4-Rob Masten
- 5-Len Picotte
- 6-Bill Lackey
- 7-Bob Zablocki
- 8-Lance Mabry
- 9-John Fitzwald
- 10- "Shorty" Lyons



Scuttlebutt Corner

Ed Gard shares his sea story which was first published in Naval Mine Warfare newsletter some years ago.

Wilbur finds the Fire Extinguisher

To understand a small story, it is necessary to define some terminology.

1. Clump - a one hundred pound iron weight with an eye bolt on the top side.

2. Descending line - a line (rope to land lubbers) fastened from the clump to a buoy on the surface. Ideally, the line has no warp so it will not spin in any direction.

3. E.O.D. Unit #2 - Explosive Ordnance number two located in Charleston, S.C. Each unit has approximately 50 enlisted men and 12 officers. All are trained in rendering safe explosive ordnance, from Civil War cannonballs to nuclear weapons. In addition, they are all qualified Deep Sea Divers and Underwater Swimmers. It takes ten months of intensive training to become qualified as an Explosive Ordnance Technician. The failure rate of personnel from start to finish is ninety percent plus. Consequently, the successful graduates are self-centered ego-maniacs and are a weird group of men, to say the least. The men are paid (in 1956) five dollars and fifty cents an hour and each part of an hour for diving. They also receive fifty-five dollars a month for life insurance, which is impossible to get anyway, so that money generally goes for wine, women, and song.

4. Fire Extinguisher - In this case the fire extinguisher is a twenty five pound cylinder complete with valving, hose, etc. which some graceful seaman dropped over the side of the mine sweeper, which was tied at the dock at the foot of Calhoun street on the Ashley River in beautiful and historic downtown Charleston, S.C.

5. Visibility - In diving, visibility refers to how well one can see underwater, which most generally, is nothing. At the bottom of the Ashley River is a second river of mud. Visibility there is worse than one might experience if he were inside a cow.

6. Circle-line search - One of the two man diving team attaches a line to the clump (generally about 50' long), stretches it out and swims a circle around the clump. The second diver swims back and forth along that line, searching for the missing article. This is repeated over and over until everybody is satisfied said article is not there to be found or until the article is indeed found.

Most of the members of the E.O.D. Unit #2 had just returned from Savannah, Ga, where they searched, unsuccessfully, for a hydrogen bomb jettisoned in that area by a crashing Air Force bomber. (The bomb is still out there someplace.)

But anyway, Wilber and I got volunteered to look for the fire extinguisher. We carried our gear down to the dock

in the pick-up truck, donned wet suits, weight belts, dropped the clump - splash!, buoy - splash!, harnessed up our eighty pound aqualungs, swim fins, face mask, etc. Splash! - Wilber. Splash! - Ed.

Wilber swam the circle, I swam the line. We did this for thirty minutes or so, probing with our hands and arms into the soft deep mud. Unable to locate the fire extinguisher, I surfaced. Hanging onto the buoy, I spit out the mouthpiece and holler up to the sailors on the minesweeper, "We can't find it". About that time, Wilber appears beside me clutching the fire extinguisher. I say, "Wilber, where did you find it?" "Under the clump", he says. Thereafter I always looked under the "clump" first.

□ □ □ □ □ □



Picture from Dave Robin



Picture from Doug Casavant

Membership Application**Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School**

Full Name: _____

Wife's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

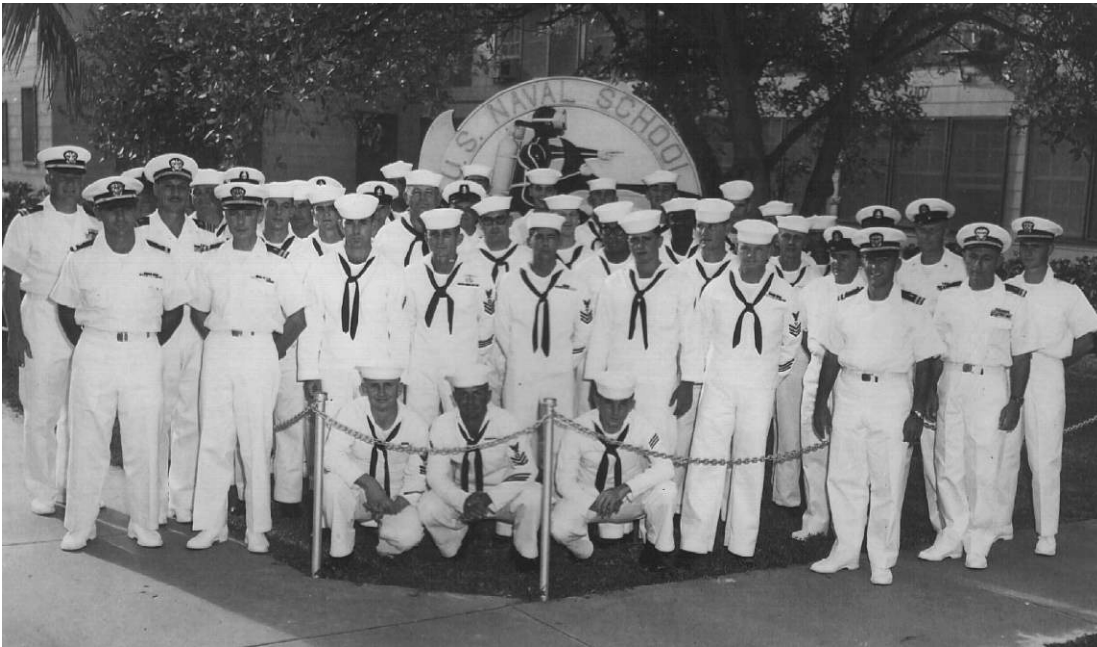
Mailing Address: _____

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...UWSS Staff
November 1962Picture from
Dave DaltonFraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School
Buddy Line Newsletter
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