

Buddy Line



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

August 2004

President's Corner by Don Stone

We return to our roots in 2006! All the members I have talked to lately have been excited about the location of our 2006 reunion in Key West. With CMC Mike Driscoll, Buck Werner, and other members presently living down there, the reunion committee should be able to put together a great reunion.

We will keep you posted as the plans develop. For sure it won't be the Key West that Robert Mackenzie wrote about in the diary that we publish. But we aren't the same 20 to 30 year old guys that were staff and students at UWSS back in the 50's, 60's and 70's either.

There are new adventures awaiting us in Key West that were not readily available then. One of them could be a day trip out to the Dry Tortugas, which is now a national park accessible via catamaran or seaplane from Key West. The reef out there is excellent for snorkeling and a visit to Fort Jefferson, the Civil War era fort where Dr. Mudd was imprisoned for treating the injuries of John Wilkes Booth after he shot President Lincoln, is memorable.



Navy Retirees can take advantage of MWR recreational facilities and rent a boat at Sigsbee Park Marina to visit Sand Key and other diving sites you remember from your days at UWSS. Golfers can check out the Key West Golf Club on Stock Island, and for those who really want a trip down memory lane, there is Sloppy Joe's and the educational institutions of lower Duval Street.

Mackenzie's Diary

Robert B. MacKenzie, a 1957 UWSS graduate retired after 30 years service in the Marine Corps, shared the diary he kept of his days as a UWSS student. Here are more excerpts from his diary.

24May: No calihooopies this morning, fortunately. After last evening's short respite from the daily routing, most of the boys could not have taken the strain which prolonged exercise would've entailed.

Yesterday we were given the Diving Medicine test. Seven hundreds in the class, one of which was mine, contributed in no small way to the class average of 88.8: the highest in the history of the school. We were all very proud of the record.

Yesterday also I met with Mr. Ruben. I had forgotten to turn in my liberty card, and despite Kapp's telling him that "this man is the outstanding member of his class," I was awarded two days restriction and two hours EPD. I was assured, however, that the incident would not affect my conduct grade in any way at graduation.

The day started with the nomenclature and maintenance of the Aqua Lung. After three hours tearing it down and reassembling it, no one yet knows the names of the parts.

Afternoon meant the start of a field day - an hour and a half of needless cleaning of already immaculate spaces. After all the work, there was no inspection. The Captain was in the boats with us.

1000 yards with the Scott. I had the compass and set the pace - 25 minutes and 900 lbs. later we came into the beach second in time and third or fourth in air consumption. All we have to do now is to speed up our kicks and maintain the same air consumption. Does it sound impossible? It is.

After the swim we again loaded our lungs in the waiting truck and were picked up by the boats and returned to the base. The only mishap was Kennedy's ditching of his lung. Tappy swam in with it.

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UWSS LOGO ITEMS

The following logo items are available, so send in your orders and they will be shipped pronto. Prices include shipping. Availability subject to change. We can obtain other items if there are enough requests.

White Beefy-T shirts..... 13.00 ea, 2 for 23.00
Logo front and back (pocket or no pocket – your choice)
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL
Childs 6/8, 10/12 (no pocket)

Ash gray Beefy-T shirts..... 14.00 ea, 2 for 25.00
Large logo on back, small logo on pocket
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL
Childs 14/16 (no pocket)

White Polo shirt 18.00 ea, 2 for 33.00
Small logo on pocket, 50/50 cotton/poly
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL

Ash Polo shirt 19.00 ea, 2 for 35.00
Small logo on pocket, 50/50 cotton/poly
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL

Coffee mug with logo 12.00 ea
Cap – natural with logo 12.00 ea
8.00 ea if ordered with shirt

UWSS logo decal
Transparent background 2.00 ea
White background 2.00 ea

NEW UWSS logo lapel/tie pin 4.00 ea

UWSS plaques
Original design, made by Hank Holder 45.00 ea
Bright brass logo on blue 45.00 ea
Subdued brass logo on blue 25.00 ea
Plaque price reduced \$5.00 if ordered with shirt.

<p>Send payment with order to Don Stone, 1440 SW 5th Ave Boca Raton, FL 33432</p>
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Photos and historical information on schedules, training events, testing, content of classes, etc. at UWSS are requested for our archives and for publication in the Buddy Line newsletter.

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Membership August 2004	
142 regular members	
117 associate members	
Account Balance May 2004	3447.86
Interest	+0.66
Dues	+ 1055.00
Logo item sales	+ 140.00
Logo item shipping	-25.13
Logo item purchases	-490.30
Buddy Line printing & postage	-169.45
Account Balance August 2004	3958.64

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 others who share an interest in the goals and activities of FO/UWSS. Associate members do not have voting privileges, but are encouraged to participate in all other activities.

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..... A. Dee Clark
Secretary/Treasurer Roger Lynch

The Buddy Line newsletter is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. Buddy Line editors are Don and Art Stone.

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In Memoriam

James Hazelwood passed over the bar Tuesday, June 1st, in Lynchburg, VA. Jim was an instructor at UWSS from 1956 to 1959. He touched many lives there, and in the teams, and is remembered by all who worked with him as an outstanding diver and leader, "one of a kind". He believed that actions spoke louder than words, and there wasn't much he couldn't do when he put his mind to it. Jim had 33 years active duty in the Navy. He was a Pearl Harbor survivor and was wounded in action during the Battle of the Coral Sea.

Chuck and Patti Allen brought their UWSS slides to the reunion, then helped scan them into the computer so we could share them with you.





June 1957
Class Photo
from
Charlie Aquadro

Class standings-first five:
Lt Willy Andersen,
Royal Norwegian Navy
Sgt McKenzie, USMC
Sgt Quentin, USMC
Lt Aquadro (MC) USNR
Sgt Brown, USMC

Class proctor
"Kap" Kappessor BM2 USN

October 1958
Class photo
from
Ed Boyle

Class proctor,
Jim Hazelwood.



August 1960
Class Photo
From
Richard Blackburn

Back row:
Hooper, Batts, Norton,
Bauer, Helms, Cook,
and class proctor, Kappesser.

Front row:
Brown, Blackburn,
?, ?, O'Donnell

Mackenzie's Diary

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Wilson was dropped for having a broken ear drum, so Sawyer swam in with Alexander and Joerres.

The weekend starts: 2 1/2 days on the LCU-529 out at Sand Key!! Seven members of the ship's company and twenty students. The students were: Kennedy, Alexander, Snellenberg (Valley Stream, LI) Lanson, Joerres (Divers School, DC), Wallace, Burke, Train, MacKenzie, Brown, Quinton, Bill Fischer (Darien, CT), Bill Rice (Mankato State, '58), Gibson (Wm. and Mary '56), Fenner, McGruder (Western Reserve, '56), Ridgeway, Keller, Bostain (Tampa), Sawyer and Gafney.

John Dolan and Kappesser were the only instructors to accompany us - plus Chief Vann, the ET-cook.

Al and I had mess duty for the evening meal, after which the movie began: "The Harder They Fall," Humpy and Jan Sterling.

BEER, BEER, BEER! No one rowdy and everyone in high spirits, literally. Mr. Dolan sang every Johnny Ray song I've ever heard. I'm certain that if I never remember another thing from this school, I shall remember the renditions presented this night by Dolan. He was inebriated, obviously, but sincere. This small ex-white hat is now a Ltjg. He and Kapp had served together for seven years before Dolan was commissioned. What a marvelous pair.

Gunny had gone over to the Key's lighthouse earlier for bunks, and so everyone had a place to flop - but me. So I curled up with my life jacket in the starboard 20mm gun tub and slept out the remainder of the night - from 0200 on, that is.

25May: Everyone managed to make it to breakfast. Most of the early risers went into the water right after that and stayed most of the morning in the vicinity of the lighthouse - spearing and swimming. What did I do - what anyone would do who had spent the night in a gun tub. I slept, after trying manfully to read through "just a few more pages" of Tute's "The Cruiser."

After the noon meal and after finishing my book, I finally got back into the water. Kapp and I and Alex swam into the Key and laid in the water admiring the scurrying efforts of the snails and the activities of the school of small bait-fish and the well-worn pile of coral which made up the "beach."

Finally, I brought up some conchs off the bottom - 20 to 30 feet down near the U-boat. I shall have goodies to take home after all.

Don Snellenberg invited me to go home with him for a few days of my leave. I shall toy seriously with the idea.

The late afternoon found me with Kapp in the small Thompson boat which we brought with us. A thirty horsepower Evinrude engine moves us along quite

nicely, so nicely that Kapp nearly swamped the fool boat on a swell.

We are all waiting for the movies now: Card playing, sleeping, small groups in conversation, a few just lying and thinking. How restful this all is.

26May: Another excellent meal in the morning, and another book read. It appears that this was somewhat of a good idea for us to raid the library prior to this trip.

Had another long talk with Bill Fischer. He's a jazz enthusiast and I thank God that part of my background has been in that field. After all the hours spent with Jack Lucas, I feel that I have come into my own as a semi-literate critic of the art.

Swam into the Key with Joerres - dove for awhile and then brought the boat in after it had slipped its moorings in the tide. There were all sorts of small submarine canyons just under the surface of the water, and it was quite an experience to drift over some of them. There were no fish to be seen swimming about in the depths, but the sensation of expecting something any minute stayed with me until the boat was finally beached on the Key proper.

Mr. Gibson showed me the inside of the lighthouse after the two of us made like a couple of monkeys climbing on the outside of the frame to get in through the top. The circular staircase was the only way in, and it took a great deal of gymnastics to get in even that way.

The place obviously hadn't been lived in for years, outside of the usual litter left by the classes which preceded us who slept in the lighthouse instead of on the U-boat, as we did. There were no electrical fixtures in the many rooms, though it wouldn't have taken but a short time to get the whole operation in running order again.

From atop the living quarters, then, I guided the barracuda hunt that was progressing below. Dutch, Joerres and McGoo were chasing one but, as these fish do, were unsuccessful. These "cudas" are remarkably fast. One flick of their tails and they're twenty feet away from their last position.

Returned to the ship with Gibson and Fenner in time for another outstanding display of the culinary art; cleaned and hung the conchs we brought up yesterday, finished another book and basked in the sun with the last beers available.

Finally, and regretfully, back into Key West; another adventure has ended. Showered and shaved and went to a movie: "Men in War," with Aldo Ray. It all passes the time.

A few fruitless games of ping pong with Bostain at the USO closed out this week's activities. Now to another week of work.



Membership Application

Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School

Full Name: _____

Wife's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Branch of Service: _____ Rank/Rate _____ 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 Roger Lynch, Treasurer and mail to 422 Sarahwoods Drive, Red Lion, PA 17356



The Way It Was

1956 Photo
From
Dan Barlow

Shark-toothed LCPR preparing to tie up across from two very different submarines, a WW II fleet type sub, and behind it, a much more modern boat

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