

Buddy Line



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

August 2012

FO/UWSS REUNION May 16-19, 2013 Naval Support Activity Panama City, Florida

It is time to start your planning for attending the 2013 FO/UWSS reunion. The folks who gave us the biggest and best reunion yet in 2009 are getting ready to do it again in 2013.

Panama City is the home of the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center and the Experimental Diving Unit. Tours of these facilities are sure to be a part of the reunion activities which will get started with an Ice Breaker on Thursday, continue with a Friday evening Roundup, a Business Meeting on Saturday morning, and wind up with a Banquet Saturday evening.

Accommodations

Naval Support Activity Panama City is rolling out the red carpet for us again. They have blocked all of building 349 (the former BOQ) for us which includes 47 suites configured for 2 adults (max) with one queen bed.



At building 484 (the main bldg, where everyone will check in) there are 13 suites on block. These rooms will sleep 2 adults and 2 children (max). They have 1 bed and a sofa sleeper.



To make reservations, at the Q's contact Anne Sawyer: anne.sawyer@navy.mil or call (850)234-4217 or (850)234-4556. Let the front desk know that you are with the Underwater Swimmer's School Reunion and reference the 16-19 MAY 2013 group when calling for reservations. Be ready to provide the following information: first & last name, rank, active/retired, how many in party, last 4 of social, phone number, credit card number + expiration date + billing address.

Because of a coming rate change they have not been confirming reservations, but are making a list of callers and will contact them in the order received for confirmed reservations. The new rate will be known, and confirmed reservations may be made after Labor Day (starting Tuesday, September 4th).

Cabin & Campsite reservations will be opened up for the Reunion 1-15 Jan 2013. After the 15th of Jan 2013 they do normal reservations 90 days out for other patrons. For the Cabin & Campsite reservations call 850-234-4402/1000-1600.

They can also accommodate campers and have cabins at the Marina. For details and/or reservations on those, contact Gary Smith gary.k.smith@navy.mil Phone 850-234-4091 FAX 850-230-7115.

UWSS LOGO ITEMS



All prices include shipping.

- Beefy-T t-shirt..... 19.00 ea, 2 for 33.00
white or ash gray,
large logo on back, small logo on pocket
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*
 - Long sleeved t-shirt..... 21.00 ea, 2 for 37.00
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..... 21.00 ea, 2 for 37.00
white or ash gray, small logo on pocket.
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*
 - Pique polo all cotton..... 23.00 ea, 2 for 41.00
birch gray, embroidered logo left front ,(no pocket)
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*
 - Blue denim shirt, short sleeves 31.00 ea, 2 for 57.00
embroidered logo above pocket
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*
- *All shirts size XXL add \$2.00 ea**
- Cap – natural with logo 15.00
 - Baseball cap – blue, embroidered logo.....21.00
Cap 3.00 less if ordered with shirt
 - Mug-old logo front, UWSS back, hand wash 10.00
 - Embroidered Patch7.00
 - UWSS logo decal2.00
transparent or white background
 - UWSS plaque - Bright brass logo on blue35.00
 - UWSS commemorative coin7.00
enameled brass, raised design, 1 5/8 inch diameter
 - UWSS all-service commemorative coin..... 10.00
enameled brass, raised design, 2 inch diameter
 - Key Chain with enameled logo medallion7.00
 - Tote Bag, zipper top, blue and black, white logo 12.00

**Send payment with order to Don Stone,
1440 SW 5th Ave
Boca Raton, FL 33432**

All logo items are pictured on the web site

Secretary/Treasurer’s Report

Membership August 2012	272 members
Account Balance May 2012	14,577.94
Dues	+525.00
Logo gear sales	+321.00
Buddy Line printing	-59.65
Postage	-207.05
Web expense	-29.94
Logo gear expense	-597.10
Account Balance August 2012	14,530.20

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. Membership is open to all U.S. military trained scuba divers. Family, friends, and others who share an interest in the goals and activities of FO/UWSS are welcomed as associate members.

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 Holmes
- Vice President..... Gerry Flowers
- Secretary/Treasurer..... Don Stone

The Buddy Line newsletter is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. Buddy Line editors are Don and Art Stone.
e-mail: stonefish8@gmail.com phone: (561) 391-6727
snail mail: 1440 SW 5th Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432

WEBSITE: www.uwss.org

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 stonefish8@gmail.com.

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.

The Executive Corner

by Bob Holmes and Gerry Flowers

Here's hoping that his issue of the "Buddy Line" finds you all healthy, happy and enjoying life. Nine Months until our UWSS Reunion in Panama City. We are starting to count down. With that in mind, Bob Holmes has directed me to start contacting military groups and publications to request that our Reunion be posted on their sites and in their publications.

For the past six months, SGT. GRIT, at www.grunt.com a widely distributed U.S. Marine publication has been supporting our get together. The ad can be viewed by visiting the site and going to the Reunion Section. We have recently sent the modified ad to all Marine Division Associations, the Military Order of the Purple Heart Magazine, the PJ Association as well as all of the UDT / SEAL Associations around the country and the Naval Special Warfare Publication "The Blast". It is our hope to get this out to as many folks as possible.

The Reunion Notice is presently being sent to the Vietnam Veterans of America Magazine with the request that it is sent to all of the chapters. We will also include the American Legion Magazine, Leatherneck Magazine and the VFW over the next few days. Starting now, anything military will be getting a copy of our reunion notice. If any of you have thoughts on who we can notify, I can be reached at nomad52usmc@gmail.com. If you have a lead, we will follow it up.

Woody Woodward and his crew are moving forward with the planning and I am sure that we will soon be offered the email and addresses of those we need to contact to book accommodations in Panama City. I would also remind you that if you / we / us are interested in a trip to Pensacola to visit the U.S. Naval Air Museum, we should start thinking about it now so arrangements can be made a few months before we get together.

As a pleasant reminder, we would ask that all of you planning to attend, to please think about the next location for the 2015 Reunion as well as electing a new slate of Officers at the General Meeting to be held while in Panama City.

Did you know that the UWSS Coin is a coveted souvenir? I discovered that by accident when challenged by four Marines in Laguna Beach. Of course, it was in a bar, and while talking to active duty Marines, I was shown their coins. I guess they did not expect me to have one, but I did. I broke out the UWSS coin and all bought me a beer or three. After the coins were pocketed, they all wanted the UWSS coin for a souvenir. I ended up giving it to the Junior Marine. The word is, it is pretty classy. They can be purchased from Don and Art Stone from the Logo gear. I had better get a few more.



Until next time, start planning, save a few shekels, keep healthy and mark the reunion on your calendar. We are looking forward to seeing each and every one of you. I think we should tip a few and try Karaoke this time. Aaron, thoughts?

Warmest Regards
Bob Holmes, President, UWSS
Gerry Flowers, V.P. UWSS

From the Mailbag

To: buddyline@uwss.org

Regarding the picture of UWSS Class of 1965 in the May 2010 Buddy Line, that's me 2nd row from bottom 3rd from left. I was really happy to see that, it is the only picture I have seen of my graduating class. SMILES!!

Dave Salisbury nutts4vetts@yahoo.com



To: buddyline@uwss.org

In the photo in the February 2008 Buddy Line submitted by Andy Anderson, the unidentified individual is Dan Mattie. Mel, Mike, Dan, Andy and I graduated in 1962.

Jim Seidel eseidel@rochester.rr.com



"Photo from July 1962 of guys in UDT-R Class 27 handling those big twin 90 tanks. That's Melichick with back to camera, Mike Boynton pointing, person handling the tanks unidentified."

Mailbag continued on page 7

Editors Corner by Don Stone

Each month brings us closer to our next reunion, and we are looking forward to it with anticipation. Oh yes, it is going to be both fun and work for us, and especially for the reunion committee. As usual, we will have logo gear at special prices at the reunion (you save the postage fees) and pre ordering with your reunion registration will assure you get what you want.

Another thing to think about is your choice of candidates for the executive offices. Who do you want to lead you in the next couple of years? The offices of President, Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer are up for election. President and Vice President are two year terms and Secretary/Treasurer is a 4 year term.

Sometimes the best way to get names for a class photo is to print the wrong names. That often inspires a correction note to the editor such as this one from Andy Anderson, last CO of UWSS.

“Thanks for all your work in putting together for us a great newsletter and keeping our group going. I expect you’re likely to get a few emails however, regarding the names you recognized in the UDT Class 1-62 picture in the May 2012 Buddy Line. You got me and Melichick right, but the other people you mentioned were not part of our group. They were already at ST2 having come over from UDT-21 in January ’62. Except for a few people, this is a picture of Basic Training Class 27. We’re having our 50th class reunion this summer at Little Creek. Unfortunately not many in this picture are still around. Looking forward to seeing you in Panama City.”

We received an article from the “Key West Citizen and Bait Wrapper” with the headline “Diving Icon’s Ashes Spread Off Key West – Christian J. Lambertsen, the father of combat swimming.”

Dr. Lambertsen died February 11th, 2011 at the age of 93. His ashes were spread in the waters off Key West on March 10, 2012 after a gathering of his family, colleges and Special Operations Forces members at the Army Special Forces Underwater Operations School on Fleming Key to say goodbye.

Dr. Lambertsen invented the self contained underwater breathing apparatus and is responsible for developing what evolved into the most advanced scuba systems used by today’s Special Operations Forces, as well as leading marine researchers and explorers. He has touched every aspect of military and commercial diving from the first U.S. military combat swimmers in the early 1940s through the evolutions of the U.S. Navy Deep Submergence and Naval Special Warfare developmental programs. He is recognized by the Naval Special

Warfare community as “The Father of U.S. Combat Swimming.”

We are sad to report the loss of two FO/UWSS members.

FRANK J. GODWIN, 85, of Golden Valley, Arizona, passed away March 12, 2012. Frank served in the US Navy from 1944 to 1964 and was a student at UWSS in 1954



THOMAS O. BIDDLE, 70, of Louisville, Kentucky, passed away March 6, 2012 after a prolonged illness, with his wife, Sherry, at his side. Tom served in the US Marine Corps from 1959-1962 and was a student at UWSS in 1960.

Since the Underwater Swim School Key West closed in 1973 and most of our former staff and student members are in the 60-90 age group, you would think our number of members would decrease as the years go by. But strange as it seems, we are growing. Many of our new members learned of our organization through the web site, others from current members spreading the word. Some of the younger military divers are joining as well as former staff and students. On that note, we would like to welcome these new members:

Welcome New Members

Charles M. McMillan of Carmel, California
US Naval Reserve 54-76

Patrick D. “Pat” McKinney of Albany, New York
US Navy 65-87

Albert J. “Jerry” Byers of Tavares, Florida
US Navy 54-76 EOD

Kenneth Carlson of Danbury, Connecticut
US Navy 57-77

James Norman “Jim” Jarrett of Mogadore, Ohio
US Coast Guard 66-70

Larry Bailey of Chocowinity, North Carolina
US Navy 62-90

Peter A. Noonan of Los Angeles, California
US Army 63-66

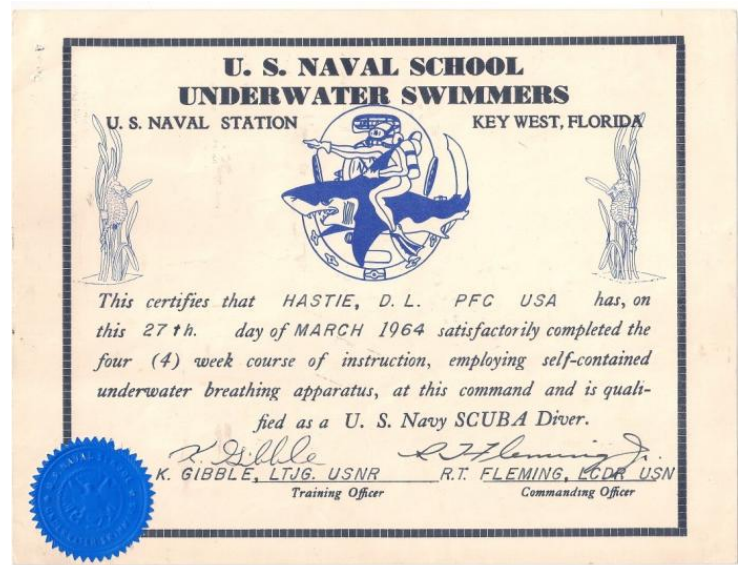
Norman Garon of Pensacola, Florida
US Navy 60-85



EOD CLASS 1B70 - June 1969
 MN3 (DV) PATRICK MCKINNEY, USN FRONT ROW, 4th FROM LEFT

Photos from new member, Patrick McKinney.

MN3 McKinney (left) with swim Buddy ENS. HENRY MIXTEV
 MKVI MIXED GAS TRAINING.



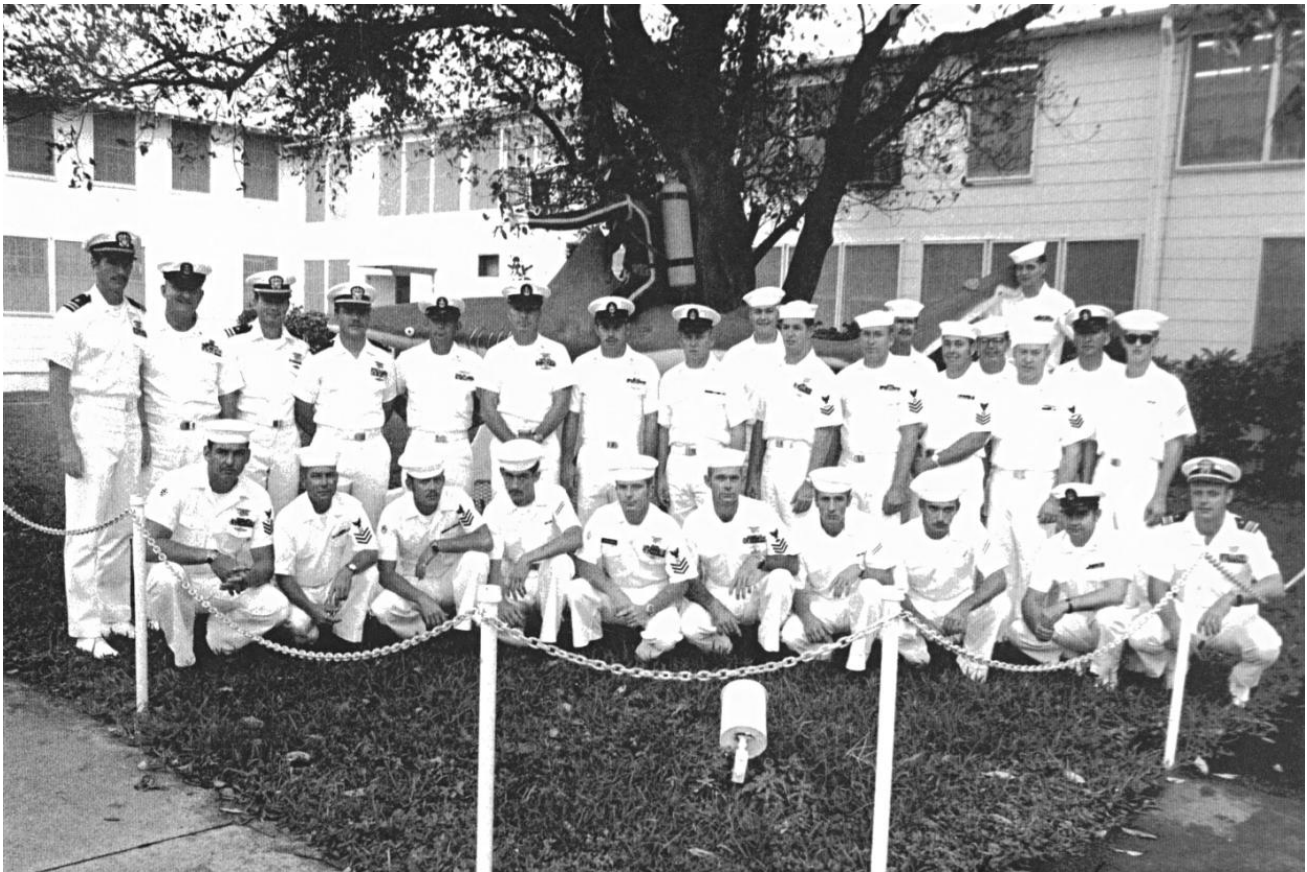
Certificate from new member, David Hastie

Thanks to John Thiel for sending this item from the "Today in Keys History" section of the March 23, 2012 issue of Key West's "The Citizen."



Underwater Swimmers School Key West Class of 1955

The Navy's Underwater Swimmers School graduated it's largest class to date when 53 of a class of 82 complete the course.



UWSS INSTRUCTOR STAFF FALL 72/EARLY 73

From the Mailbag

Continued from page 3

To: buddyline@uwss.org

I was a instructor from 1971 until just prior to the school closing. I have been looking for a few old friends that were instructors there at the same time. **Charles E. Martin MMCS(DV) Ret. cemartin04@bellsouth.net**

To: buddyline@uwss.org

I'm looking for the name of the Training Officer back in May/June 1967. I remember LCDR Willits was the C.O. and Nash was one of the instructors. If anyone remembers, please let me know. **Joe Mattie <joseph.mattie@verizon.net>**

To: buddyline@uwss.org

I've often wondered what ever happened to the UWSS. I was in the class from 11/12/66 to 12/12/66. Back then I was in the Coast Guard, and went to school to fill a billet on the USCGC HAMILTON out of Boston, Mass.. what great memories, and anyone that did not make it thru the

school has no clue about what it took. I'm 65 now, and even though I did not make a career out of the military, I still keep in touch with the other "Coastie" that was there with me. It's interesting, even though we were sent there together, and were going to be on the same ship and diving together, the administrators of the program did not make us buddies. I ended up with a civilian from Washington D.C.!!! to say the least... it was quite an eye opener for him. I sure would like to know what ever happened to him too. We were in school with RECON AND FROCE RECON Marines. Some of the "things" that went on during that class were "one of a lifetime" experiences, and I still feel proud to have been a part of it. I am a Viet Nam vet. & I have DD-214, but have lost all the paper work/diploma, etc that would tell me what class no. I graduated with, so I'll be able to provide you with all the info but that.

Like your email address. What great memories of that line!!! (if I hadn't had it hooked to my buddy in Thailand, I wouldn't be writing this)**Jim Jarrett <healthfinders@neo.rr.com>**

➤Some pictures from the 2009 reunion in Panama City➤



Membership Application Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Wife's Name: _____ Buddy Line Newsletter by email _____ or snail mail _____

Branch of Service: _____ Dates of Service: _____

Military scuba training place/date _____ or Associate Membership: _____

Send copy of class picture if you have one. 2 Year Membership \$25.00

Make check payable to FO/UWSS and mail to Don Stone, Treasurer, 1440 SW 5th Ave, Boca Raton, FL 33432

The Way It Was

UWSS training included learning to locate objects under water with various methods such as circle line search, running jack stay, magnetic detector, etc. In the late sixties a diver-held sonar was developed to improve and augment the more primitive methods – especially for locating ordinance. An operator could distinguish between metallic and non metallic objects by their sounds and often locate the object more quickly. This photo shows an MK5 diver learning to use the sonar with instructor supervision



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