

Buddy Line



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

August 2013

UWSS Uboat a Sub Chaser?

By Don Stone

In the late 50's period of the Cold War, several UWSS instructor and staff personnel were ordered to board the LCU with tanks and dive gear and head out into the Gulf at high speed. For the LCU that was all of 8 knots as I remember.

There was an aircraft from Boca Chica Naval Air Station over head equipped with MAD (Magnetic Air Detection) gear. Before long, the scuttlebutt trickled down that we were submarine hunting. We heard that the Navy had cornered a Soviet submarine in the shallow Gulf of Mexico and if it was sitting on the bottom, we were to dive on it. What we were supposed to do with or to it when we found it was unclear. Would we attempt to incapacitate it so it would be forced to surface, or would we just take pictures?



Well we chugged along, and along. No submarine.

After several hours of chugging, finally the plane directed us to a strong contact. We went into the water not knowing what we would find had triggered the "strong contact".

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What class is this?

Unidentified photo from archives.

That is Dow Byers on the right.

Dow was at UWSS 1962 to 1967

Almost half of our members were there sometime between 62-67

Do you recognize anyone?

Is this your class?

Send your comments to :

buddyline@uwss.org

UWSS LOGO ITEMS



All prices include shipping.

- Beefy-T t-shirt..... 19.00 ea
white or ash gray, large logo back, small logo pocket
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*
 - Long sleeved t-shirt.....21.00 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.....22.00 ea
white or ash gray, small logo on pocket.
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*
 - Pique polo all cotton.....24.00 ea
birch gray, embroidered logo left front ,(no pocket)
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*
 - Blue denim shirt, short sleeves31.00 ea
embroidered logo above pocket
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*
- *All shirts size XXL add \$2.00 ea**
- Cap – natural with logo 15.00 ea
 - Baseball cap – blue, embroidered logo.....21.00 ea
Cap 3.00 less if ordered with shirt
 - All service mug – old logo front, new logo back.. 15.00 ea
Mug 5.00 less if ordered with shirt
 - Embroidered Patch7.00 ea
 - UWSS logo decal – transparent or white2.00 ea
 - UWSS Plaque – bright brass on blue45.00 ea
 - UWSS commemorative coin 7.00 ea
enameled brass, raised design, 1 5/8 inch diameter
 - UWSS all-service commemorative coin.....10.00 ea
enameled brass, raised design, 2 inch diameter
 - Bright LED pocket flashlight, shark rider logo7.00 ea
 - Key Chain with enameled logo medallion7.00 ea

**Make check to FO/UWSS
Send 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 2013	234 members
Account Balance May 2013	15,092.87
Dues	+1,825.00
Logo gear sales	+410.00
Contributions made from reunion fundraising	-1,400.00
Buddy Line printing	-265.40
Postage	-229.98
Logo gear purchase	-527.88
Reunion fee refund	-85.00
Web expense	-29.94
Account Balance August 2013	14,789.67

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. 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

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. Send check same as for logo orders.



UWSS Class December 1963 Photo from Allan Archey Standing L-R: Blackmon, Goodson, Bailey, Archey, Thrift, Maratos, Hrabak, Whissel, Nance, Hunter, Langley, Ligon, Adamopolis, Henderson, Weisloe, McEvoy, Pallottini, Alexander, Jones, Owen, Nelson, Pap, Engleman, Truxell, Nesbitt, Hawes, Class Proctor Cahill. Kneeling L-R: Sutherland, Kleive, Salas, Spencer, Sen Spotwood, Keith, Wise, Pokrzyk, Brooker, Holloway



UWSS Class June 1973 Photo from John McAlevy

Fundraising to Help Wounded Warriors

The fund raising events at the 2013 reunion produced enough funds to donate \$1400 to charities that help wounded warriors and their families. \$700 has been donated to the EOD Warrior Foundation and \$700 has been donated to the SEAL Legacy Foundation.

The following information about each charity will describe how donations are used by them.



The EOD Warrior Foundation is a 501 (C) 3 non-profit organization that honors fallen EOD warriors and provides assistance to wounded EOD warriors and the families of wounded and

fallen EOD personnel. The Foundation's assistance includes grant awards, scholarships and additional supports such as morale-boosting events, peer-to-peer support, educational programs., connections to resources, and sustained contact with our EOD warriors and their families. They believe that families are an integral part of the healing process and strive to keep them together during the most difficult of times.

The Foundation maintains the EOD Memorial Wall, located at Eglin Air Force Base, in honor of fallen EOD heroes .The Wall bears the names of those who lost their lives in service to protect and defend freedom.



The SEAL Legacy Foundation is a 501(C)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing support to families of wounded and fallen United States Navy

SEALs, educational assistance for SEALs and their families, and other charitable causes benefiting the SEAL community. The Foundation was established in 2011 by SEALs to preserve their legacy of no one left behind.

The Foundation is committed to providing individual financial assistance through grants, focusing support on Education, Funeral, Health & Wellness, Living and Quality of Life expenses.

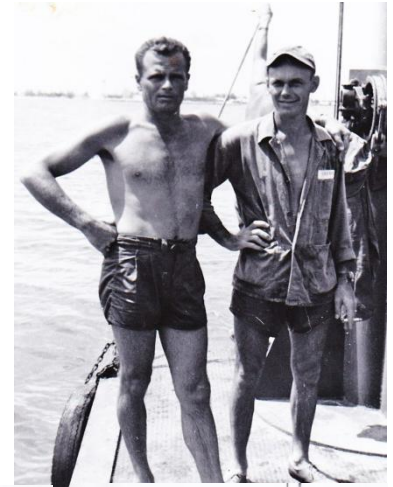
The SEAL Legacy Foundation has partnered with the UDT-SEAL Association on scholarship & educational assistance programs, both vocational and degree seeking.

The Mailbag

From Al Brown: I saw in the Buddy Line that Dr Aquadro attended the reunion. He was in the class with me and MacKenzie (June 1957). I was a dumb 19 year old Marine and he treated me with the respect he gave all of the men. Great guy! He is in the first picture – in back sitting. The other pictures are our instructors.



Lemay & Crowell ->



Crowell & Huett?



Bob Shouse

Welcome New Members

Harold (Hal) Goforth Jr of Islamorada, FL
USN(R) 67-93 UWSS 6708

Robert Bruce Cullen of Maryville, IL
USN/USMC 63-90 SD 67

The Executive Corner



Bob Holmes
Gerry Flowers



We have to tell you, it was sure great to see you all in Panama City. Our reunions, and especially this last one, gives each and every one of us an inside view to seeing how much goes on in coordinating and producing an event like this. Woody Woodward and his entire committee have given us another reunion that has enriched our lives. Thank you so much folks.

Seeing everyone together and having the opportunity to meet the supportive families of the men that pioneered and brought Navy Diving to where it is today, was a wonderful thing. To see the pride that the sons and daughters hold in their hearts for their fathers who are a huge part of this Machine, made it very clear to us and helped us understand why we have reunions and why it is so important to tell **YOUR** stories to your families. It was great to meet each and every one of them and see the pride in their eyes.

One of the most vivid and patriotic memories for everyone that attended had to be the events that took place at the banquet. From our great speakers to the dinner, every event and presentation was outstanding.

To see all of the UWSS trained Divers Representing their respective branches, be they SEALS, Recon Marines, Para Rescue, Sub Mariners, Army SOG, UDT, FBI, CIA, Allied Trainees, Astronauts (did I miss any one), and all the others and their loved ones standing and singing "**I am Proud to be an American**" gave us all "Goose Bumps". From where I was standing, I saw that it made all of us stand a little taller for those moments.

It displayed to all of us even if it was subliminally, that America still has a very solid base of patriotic men and women that love the United States of America and want this country back on course. Both Terry and I were almost in tears looking out at all of you from the Head Table. You all know that this is a seat I am not comfortable at, but at the same time, very proud to be there. I thank you for that opportunity.

You all know that I am a Canadian, but those few minutes reminded me of the reasons that 33,000 Canadians came south and joined the United States Military to support this great country. To this day, I to, stand a little taller due to having had the honor of serving the United States of America and being a small part of the United States Marine Corps. My association with the men and women who are the "Fraternal Order of U.S. Naval Underwater Swimmers" makes me very proud man.

The Flag Folding Ceremony could not have had a better voice than Bo Burwell's handling the microphone. Thank

you so much for giving us that pleasure and reminding us of the history of "Old Glory". Be honest, what other country can be the leader of the Free World.

I have spoken to our new Reunion Committee leader, Aaron Farrier and we are in great hands. We have agreed to talk once a month and a little more as the next reunion gets closer. I have spoken to Woody Woodward and again thanked him and his crew for the wonderful job that they did for all of us. I know you all feel the same way. Woody has provided me with a comprehensive list from the Commanding Officer to the Master Chief of the Experimental Diving Unit in Panama City. I will be in contact with them soon regarding the placement of the UWSS Shark and Diver in their museum. I will be asking Woody for guidance throughout this procedure and hopefully sneaking the responsibility back to him. The wording on the plaque has been confirmed after speaking with Woody, Aaron, Bob and Art Stone. Thank you for taking care of this Aaron.

I am supposed to write this article and have it in on time, but I do not always do that, so I can tell you that I have in fact spoken to both Don and Art. Don calls me, more often than not, to get my "Butt in Gear" and write this and get it in.

I have included a photo to show all of you two things....

1)...why I am sometimes late in getting it done as I am out having fun or somewhere in the world paying it forward to the U.S. Military.

OR

2)... the having fun part is getting checked out on a helicopter I have not flown in 20 years and the best part of that, is I learned on the G.I. Bill how to fly helicopters and jets and had a great career....Thanks in Total to the United States of America, the United States Marine Corps and what I gleaned from being a part of something greater than myself.



God Bless you all and we will keep you posted. Until next issue..Warmest regards to all of you. For Bob Holmes, President
Gerry Flowers, Vice President



UWSS Class February 1960 Photo from Floyd (Gene) Terry



UWSS Class Summer 1968 Photo and email from John Lipp Lt Col USAF (Ret)

This group of Air Force Academy cadets (Class of 1970) attended UWSS the summer of 1968. Most of us had just finished Army Airborne at Ft. Benning, GA prior to arriving in Key West. Most later ended up going to pilot school and then off to Viet Nam.

I don't remember our instructor's name (middle of the group), but think he was a Viet Nam Purple Heart SEAL. I know he was "Tough". We were in great shape but he still put us through our paces.

I'm very proud of having graduated from UWSS. I still have nightmares about pool "harassment"! LOL



Ahoy Members,

We sometimes print UWSS Class pictures taken from the archives with no information about the date of the class or names of students, or class photos sent it with only the class date and one or two names remembered. We print these with the hope that someone will recognize them and send us names or dates we can add to the archives and share with other members. Well we are happy to send out thanks to several members who have done just that.

Gib Hanley added names for Class 1, 1954. Gaylord White and Dave Byers both recognized Shorty Lyons, far left in the unidentified photo in the November issue. Dave also identified his Dad, Dow, far right same photo. Dave reminded us that Shorty was EOD and went to Vietnam where his claim to fame was standing by the doctor in a bunker to extract an unexploded mortar round from a South Vietnamese soldier.

Arnold Feller was also helpful in supplying names for two photos. He recognized himself, Briggs, Gerard and Snowden in Class 1-61, and himself, Skaggs, Sybole, Doyle, Murray, Murphy, Lang and Merrill in Class 1-56. We'll reprint with names in future issues.

So keep an eye out for people you recognize in these old photos and let us know about them. The more information we can add to the archives, the more useful they will be.

We received this email from Dick Takahashi:

Hi Don, Hate to be the bearer of a sad note, but our fellow UWSS member, Cdr. Alfred Lagan, passed away last night. Al Lagan was in my UWSS class, as well as Basic EOD School.

At the time of his death, Al was the Chairman of Congress Asset Management Company, which he founded in 1985. He was also Co-Chief Investment Officer of the Investment Policy Committee. Al was also Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of Congress Trust, N.A. Prior to starting Congress, Al held senior investment positions at several financial service firms. Most recently he was Senior Vice President, Senior Portfolio Manager, and director of several investment subsidiaries of the Putnam Companies.

Uboat

Continued from page 1

Well, it wasn't a submarine. What we found was a beautiful old steamship wreck encrusted with corals and teeming with sea life. The huge boiler, the gauges, the framework of the engine room, all were covered in many kinds of coral. The wreck appeared to be completely untouched.

We spent the rest of our bottom time exploring the wreck and harassing the sea life. No one thought about the historical value of the wreck; no one thought about recording the coordinates. Who knows if it has ever been seen again.

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### LESLEY WADE FORD

Nov. 21, 1938 - June 5, 2013.

Les Ford, member of FO/UWSS since 2010, served in the Navy from 1955 to 1973. He attended UWSS in 1962 and again in 1963 and served with the Special Forces Unit.

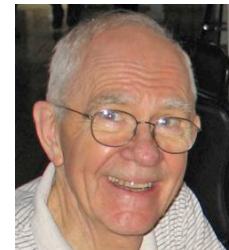


After his Naval career he served 20 years with Civil Service; then Les retired and moved to Oklahoma where he enjoyed cattle ranching for 15 years. He later moved to Fairview, Missouri, became very active in the community .and served on the Fairview city council.

Les is survived by his wife, Connie; four sons, Mark, Norman, Alton, and Dana; four daughters, Muriel, Nadia, Stephanie and Kim; 20 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

### ALFRED A. LAGAN

Al Lagan, 77, died July 23, 2013 at his home in Natick, Mass. Al joined the Navy in 1956, graduated from UWSS in October 1956, and became a member of an Underwater Explosive Ordinance Disposal team.



In 1959 he married Joan and began his career on Wall Street shortly afterwards. In 1985, Al fulfilled a dream of starting his own Asset Management company. It currently employs over 50 people.

A member of FO/UWSS since 2004, Al was also a member of the Navy EODA. He has assisted many charitable organizations and colleges, both financially and through active service and will be remembered for his generosity as a philanthropist. Al is survived by his wife Joan , eight children and 21 grandchildren.

## Membership Application Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Service: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Class at UWSS: \_\_\_\_\_ 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 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Boca Raton, FL 33432

## The Way It Was . . . .



Photo from Lee Barber

### Pool Training with the Scott HydroPak

The full face mask Scott HydroPak scuba was originally designed for use by firemen entering buildings where it was dangerous to breathe the ambient air, or even get it in your eyes.

It was adapted, with a few changes, for scuba divers that were working in water that was polluted by substances that were dangerous.

With scuba, small quantities of ambient water can seep by the mouth piece and enter the diver's mouth. Not so with a full face mask scuba.

But it is more difficult to equalize pressure when diving if you can't easily close off your nostrils and snort. It was the least liked scuba apparatus by students and instructors alike.

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