

# Buddy Line



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

February 2009



## The Executive Corner

By Gerry Flowers with Bob Holmes

"Pioneers and History Makers"

As we approach the May 2009 reunion, I sit here asking myself, "Who are you guys"?? I have had the pleasure to know many of you personally now, but I know you as gentlemen who have gone through their lives with an unshakable resolve for serving their country. I have re-read every newsletter over the last two weeks, and what I am now seeing in each and every one of you...is a Pioneer go for broke spirit. At the last reunion, we heard from Bob Shouse and listened to his experiences in World War II. We heard excerpts from the life file of Rudy Enders and hopefully, this year, Bob Holmes will share with us a little of his deep diving experiences. Gents, this is all U.S. Naval Diving history that leads diving to where it is today.

In the early stages of WWII, as you know, diving apparatus was not extensively used because there was no suitable equipment. That means, as a UDT man, you may or may not have access to fins and masks. Swimming ashore in Saipan with a knife and a devious smile, wow...How things have changed.

Don Stone, UWSS instructor, Bud's instructor and SEAL Team 2 Plank holder like most of you has witnessed the evolution of some serious technological change. Woody Woodward is in a lot of those pictures showing diving gear of the time and it clearly displays the evolution of change. Looking at class photos from UWSS is an amazing experience if you were a part of it....

History gents, that is who you are. This reunion, there will be a little less history there. I offer up a hand salute to those who will not be with us.

Why did you become a diver and unknowingly, a pioneer? I remember a little of the spoken challenge Officers of 2nd Recon offered us as we took the first tentative steps to becoming a Navy Trained diver. I suspect that every service offered the same challenge.

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## GET READY FOR THE REUNION

Our reunion committee has planned a fine reunion for us at the Naval Support Activity, Panama City Beach from May 14<sup>th</sup> to May 17<sup>th</sup>. This issue contains all the information you need to get ready for the 2009 reunion of FO/UWSS

You'll find the **schedule of events** showing tours, meals and meetings on page 3. Meals included in your reunion package are Thursday evening cookout, Friday evening fish fry, Saturday morning breakfast, and Saturday evening banquet. **Directions** to help you find your way to and around the base are also on page 3.

**Lodging** and reservation information is on page 4. You'll find a description of the facilities and a list of the information required by the VQ when making the reservation.

The reunion registration form is on page 5. The **logo order** is on the back of the registration form. Many logo items are available at the reunion for a reduced price because there are no shipping costs. The Logo Store will be open during the Ice Breaker and the Fish Fry, however pre-ordering assures the availability of the items and sizes you want. Items ordered and paid with the registration will be distributed at Check-in and at the Ice Breaker..

When filling out the registration form be sure to circle your **entrée choices** and copy the total from your logo order. **New members** should fill out the membership application form on the bottom of the logo order page.

Send in your registration form and check early to save the late fee and to help the reunion committee prepare for your attendance. Bring memorabilia and photos to share. Photos will be scanned for the Buddy Line.

**UWSS LOGO ITEMS**

The following logo items are currently available. We can obtain other items if there are enough requests. Prices include shipping.

- White Beefy-T shirt..... 17.00 ea, 2 for 30.00  
Large logo on back, small logo on pocket  
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL
- Ash gray Beefy-T shirt..... 18.00 ea, 2 for 32.00  
Large logo on back, small logo on pocket  
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL
- White long sleeved T shirt..... 19.00 ea, 2 for 34.00  
Large logo on back, small logo on front (no pocket)  
Sizes S, M, L, XL
- Ash gray long sleeved T shirt..... 20.00 ea, 2 for 36.00  
Large logo on back, small logo on front (no pocket)  
Sizes S, M, L, XL
- White polo shirt, 50/50 cotton/poly.. 20.00 ea, 2 for 36.00  
Small logo on pocket. Sizes M, L, XL, XXL
- Ash polo shirt, 50/50 cotton/poly..... 20.00 ea, 2 for 36.00  
Small logo on pocket. Sizes M, L, XL, XXL
- Pique polo, all cotton, birch gray..... 22.00 ea, 2 for 40.00  
Embroidered logo left front. (no pocket)  
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL
- Coffee mug with old logo front & back ..... 15.00
- Cap – natural with logo ..... 14.00
- Baseball cap –tan or blue, embroidered logo ..... 19.00
- Mug or cap 3.00 less if ordered with shirt
- Embroidered Patch ..... 7.00
- UWSS logo decal ..... 2.00  
Transparent or white background
- UWSS logo lapel/tie pin ..... 6.00
- UWSS plaque - Bright brass logo on blue ..... 30.00
- UWSS commemorative coin ..... 5.00  
1 5/8" diameter, enameled brass with raised design

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

**Secretary/Treasurer's Report**

Membership February 2009 251 members

Account Balance November 2008	\$10,436.81
Dues	+75.00
Logo gear sales	+44.00
Buddy Line expense	-119.67
Logo gear expense	-657.82
Postage	-39.95
Reunion expense	-69.30
Internet fees	-23.94
Account Balance February 2009	\$9,645.13

**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..... 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](mailto:stonefish8@gmail.com)

snail mail: 1440 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432

phone: (561) 391-6727 fax: (509) 472-6492

**WEBSITE:** [www.uwss.org](http://www.uwss.org)

**All logo items are pictured on the web site**

**Buddy Line by email**

If you use 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](mailto:stonefish8@gmail.com).

## FO/UWSS 2009 Reunion - Panama City Beach, FL

### Directions to Naval Support Activity Panama City Beach

#### Approaching from the east on US 98:

- Cross Hathaway Bridge to Panama City Beach, stay in left lane
- Left turn at the second red light
- Follow sign for Thomas Drive, NSA, Bay Point

#### • Approaching from the west on US 98:

- Take US 98 to Panama City Beach
- Do not cross Hathaway Bridge
- Take a right and follow sign to Thomas Drive, NSA Main Gate, Bay Point
- Then left at red light and follow sign to Thomas Drive, NSA Main Gate
- Turn right onto Thomas Drive

#### • Once on Thomas Drive:

- Left at second red light, Coastal Palms Blvd.
- Proceed to gate – give name, show ID, etc.
- Exit gate and bear right on Vernon Ave.
- Left on Skylark Drive. Pass Bldg. 485 (Seashore General Mess)
- Proceed to Bldg. 484 for check in at the Navy Gateway Inn and Suites
- Registration for out of town guests and pick up packets. Return to Vernon Ave.

#### • Reunion site:

- Left on Vernon Ave. to blinking stop sign
- Left on Solomon Drive to Navy Gateway Inn and Suites, Bldg. 349
- Main Deck Club directly behind Navy Gateway Inn and Suites

### Schedule of Events

#### Thursday May 14

- 1500 Out of town guest check in and pick up reunion packet after 1500  
Navy Gateway Inn, Building 484
- 1500 Main Deck Club opens  
Locals pick up reunion packets
- 1700 Main Deck Club - Wine/Beer Open Bar
- 1800-until Main Deck Club - Ice Breaker Cookout  
Share photos & memorabilia  
Logo Store Open

#### Friday May 15

- 0930-1030 Dive School Tour
- 0930-1500 Women's Shopping Tour/Lunch – Pier Park
- 1100-1200 Experimental Diving Unit Tour
- 1200 Lunch – on your own
- 1430-1530 Dive Locker Tour – NSA and EOD Locker
- 1700 Marina Pavilions – Wine/Beer Open Bar
- 1800-until Marina Pavilions – Fish Fry  
Logo Store Open

#### Saturday May 16

- 0900-1000 Seashore General Mess  
Men's and Women's Breakfast
- 1015-until Members Business Meeting
- 1015-1100 Women's Program
- 1200-1800 On your own  
Visit beautiful Panama City Beach  
Visit the Man in the Sea Museum
- 1800-2200 Long Glass Club – Banquet  
Guest Speakers:  
Captain Norm Olson, USN (Retired)  
Commander Tim Richardt, CO Navy  
Diving & Salvage Training Center

#### Sunday May 17 On your own

#### General Info - Breakfast and lunch on base

- |                         |                           |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Seashore General Mess   | 0500-0800 Daily Breakfast |
|                         | 0900-1200 Sat/Sun Brunch  |
| Seashore General Mess   | 1100-1300 Daily Lunch     |
| C Street Café (Mon-Fri) | 0700-1030 Breakfast       |
|                         | 1030-1400 Lunch           |

## Seashore Inn VQ, Panama City Beach



The Sea Shore Inn, located on beautiful St. Andrews Bay, has comfortable and attractively furnished guest rooms, including spacious suites, decorated with the latest furnishings. All rooms and suites offer a color TV with VCR, DVD players, in-room Internet access, microwave, refrigerator, coffee service, and modern kitchenettes. Services include exercise rooms, free movie check out, USA Today newspaper, a computer resource room, a game room, laundry facilities, hot tubs, saunas

### Lodging Reservations

- Contact Anne Sawyer: [anne.sawyer@navy.mil](mailto:anne.sawyer@navy.mil) or call 850-234-4217 or 850-234-4556
- Email/phone, please reference Underwater Swim School Reunion, May 14-17
- If no answer, not a problem. Leave a message and Anne will get back to you within 24 hours.
- **Required information:** first/last name, rank, active or retired, number in party, last 4 of social security number, billing address, phone number, and credit card with expiration date. Non U. S. Citizens contact Woody Woodward or Bill Garnett for sponsorship.

### Camper or Cabin Reservations

- Contact recreation manager Gary Smith: [gary.k.smith@navy.mil](mailto:gary.k.smith@navy.mil) or phone (850)234-4091, FAX (850)230-7115

#### Questions

- Contact Woody Woodward, Ocean Systems Consulting, 3813 Lowe Street, Panama City, FL 32405 or phone (850)785-7215, cell (850)814-9123, or NC phone (828)644-0044
- Bill and Sammie Garnett: [wagretseal@yahoo.com](mailto:wagretseal@yahoo.com)

## The Executive Corner

Continued from page 1

We were told...."You are in this unit because you have a strong sense of team. If you succeed in the qualification process, AND YOU WILL SUCCEED, you will attend this very intensive and challenging U.S. Navy diving course in Key West, Florida. It will add to your Recon Skill set and be sure of one thing. The Navy wants only those that are highly motivated and have mindset to excel, succeed and never show a hint of "quit". You will not embarrass the Marine Corps or Recon Marines that have preceded you".

"The candidates will possess above average physical strength, a very high level of fitness and be an extremely strong swimmer. You will be asked to complete mechanical tasks in deep water and possibly confined spaces. The instructors will expect nothing less than 110% each day, every day. The work is not just physical, there will be classroom work, and you will be prepared for every session. You will have a "swim buddy" a term new to you now, but by the time you graduate from the school you will never forget it, believe me".

"This course is physically and mentally demanding, but the individual who accepts the challenge is rewarded with dive pay (\$65.00) and extraordinary duty assignments that will allow you to dive the world. You will work in dangerous situations, hazardous environments and when you graduate, "AND YOU WILL GRADUATE" you will be fully prepared to handle all situations. Your instructors are human but you will not realize that while you are in their hands. You will be challenged daily and will learn basic gas laws as related to diving; you will learn and retain dive medicine, repetitive dive tables, diving physiology, general mathematics and computations of areas, volumes and temperature conversions. Every one of you that has applied for a chance to go to this school will be in formation at 0730 Monday morning with the gear required and will enter the water for the swimming portion of the selection process at exactly 0800. Have a good weekend gentlemen and I will see you Monday morning". (from a Recon Major)

This is my best memory of what was said when I, a young Recon Marine, was starting the selection process for the U.S. Naval School for Underwater Swimmers class 69-10. I am proud to be a small part of this elite history making group.

Bob Holmes and I are looking forward to seeing all of you in Panama City in May. Thank you for your service and your tenacity of purpose.

Please call and confirm your accommodations in Panama City at your earliest convenience. I used the number provided and it went very smoothly. Finally, thank you, again to Woody, Bob and the crew for all the work you have done and continue to do arranging our reunion. Don and Art, thank you for your guidance.

# FO/UWSS Reunion 2009 Registration

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ 90.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Late registration (after April 15th) 100.00

Includes: Icebreaker Cookout, Fish Fry at Marina Pavilions,  
 Sat. Breakfast, Banquet and Dues for 2009-2011.

**Circle banquet entrée selection:**

(Grilled Steak or Baked Chicken)

Wife/Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_ 65.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Late registration (after April 15th) 75.00

Includes: Icebreaker Cookout, Fish Fry at Marina Pavilions,  
 Sat. Breakfast, and Banquet.

**Circle banquet entrée selection:**

(Grilled Steak or Baked Chicken)

**Total of pre-ordered logo gear:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks, for registration and logo gear, payable to Don Stone, Treasurer **Total:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Mail forms and checks to: Don Stone  
 1440 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
 Boca Raton, FL 33432  
 Phone 561-391-6727

## Registration Information

Name of member \_\_\_\_\_

Do you hold a valid active duty or retired military ID or other US Government ID? \_\_\_\_\_

Address of member \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Name of other room occupant(s) if staying on base \_\_\_\_\_

Check in date \_\_\_\_\_ Departure date \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR GATE ENTRY** – EVERY PERSON entering the base must have some type of government photo ID (can be a driver's license). Person driving vehicle must have valid driver's license, registration and proof of insurance.

**OR RENTAL CAR** – place rental agreement on dash. Name on rental contract must match driver or other vehicle occupant.

**Logo Gear Order (for pickup at reunion)**  
**Special Reunion Prices – Save Shipping Charges**

Coffee mug	Old logo front and back	10.00 ea _____
White Beefy-T t-shirt	– logo on pocket and back Circle size: S M L XL XXL	14.00 ea _____
Ash gray Beefy-T t-shirt	– logo on pocket and back Circle size: S M L XL XXL	14.00 ea _____
White Beefy-T long sleeve logo t-shirt	Circle size: S M L XL XXL	15.00 ea _____
Ash gray Beefy-T long sleeve logo t-shirt	Circle size: S M L XL XXL	15.00 ea _____
White polo shirt	–50/50 Cotton/Poly - logo on pocket only Circle size: S M L XL XXL	16.00 ea _____
Ash polo shirt	–50/50 Cotton/Poly - logo on pocket only Circle size: S M L XL XXL	16.00 ea _____
Pique polo	–all cotton, birch gray – embroidered logo left front (no pocket) Circle size: S M L XL XXL	18.00 ea _____
Cap	– natural, printed logo	8.00 ea _____
Baseball cap	– light tan, embroidered logo	12.00 ea _____
UWSS Coin		5.00 ea _____
UWSS Plaque	– Engraved bright brass on blue, wood backer	25.00 ea _____



**Total for Logo Gear \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

***We will have logo items available for sale at the reunion,  
but preordering will assure you get the items and sizes you want.***

**New Member 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 & Class # at UWSS: \_\_\_\_\_ or Associate Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

Bring copy of class picture if you have one. 2 Year Membership of \$25.00 is included in reunion registration fee.

## Editors Corner by Don Stone

Well, gang, it is back to Panama City Beach nine years after our YK2 reunion there. Panama City Beach is actually the birth place of the Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School.

Yes, Key West was the site of the first reunion, and if it wasn't for Doc Rio's volunteering to set up the next reunion in Panama City Beach, our group might not exist today. We decided in 2000 to form the FO because we liked getting together for fun and sea stories every couple of years.



The first officers were Vice Pres: Andy Anderson, Sec/Treas: A. Dee Clark and President: Don Stone., Our initial membership has grown over 10 times what it was in 2000, and we are still growing.

The Buddy Line newsletter is both the glue that holds the organization together and a record of what we have done at the reunions. And remember, our web site [www.uwss.org](http://www.uwss.org) contains copies of the old newsletters so they are available to all.

The 2009 reunion committee has set up a great reunion for us, so make sure to be there with your old shipmates and teammates and have a great time.

### Roy Boehm

Roy Boehm, member of FO/UWSS, died January 8, 2009 at age 84. He was born March 9, 1924, joined the Navy at age 17, and served honorably for thirty years.

Roy was a veteran of WWII, Korea, and Vietnam, and rose through the ranks from SA to LCDR.

He was the first Officer In Charge of Seal Team Two and as XO was largely responsible for the success of Seal Team Two's early operations.

He stood by his men, and his men stood by him. He will be missed by those who knew him and served with him.

## Photos from Reunion 2000



MC Bob Clark presenting an award to Doc Rio for all of his efforts in setting up the reunion.



Some of the guys gathered for a group picture...



And so did the ladies.

## 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 & Class # at UWSS: \_\_\_\_\_ or Associate Membership: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

### The Way It Was



A morning run downtown past Sloppy Joe's back in the 50's.  
The instructors had to keep a sharp eye out to prevent defections to the bar.

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