

# Buddy Line



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

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May 2008

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## 2009 Reunion Update

Woody Woodward, Chairman  
2009 Reunion Committee

The Garnetts, Bob Barth, and I met with the Deputy Director, NSA Panama City (affectionately the Navy Lab), who assured us they could handle our reunion and gave us a grand tour of the facilities we will require. The Deputy Director blocked rooms for us in the BOQ and some CPO rooms in the BEQ (which are equally well appointed and equipped). We came away satisfied that we would be in good hands.



Now, as we all know, a National emergency could crop up which could have an effect on the base use. However, the Deputy says that even in emergencies, NSA PC is not affected as major "Operational" naval installations are and we shouldn't worry.

We requested the use of the VOQ, BEQ, MWR facilities and the galley. By the way, the VOQ (formerly BOQ) has won the Zumwalt Award for Excellence annually since the award was created. Further, the galley chef is from industry and has, himself won several awards. The galley is NOT like anything we remember as sailors. This is a class act that all will be impressed with.

There will be more detail to come, i.e., RV parking, Marina cabin rental info, etc., etc. We are still just over a year out and in good shape.

## The Executive Corner

By Gerry Flowers with Bob Holmes

I would like to again start by wishing all of you the very best of health and peace of mind. I was speaking to Bob Holmes the other day and let him know that I was in Toronto, Ontario, visiting my father. He is a Canadian WWII Infantry veteran and lost his left hip to a German machine gun in Oldenburg, Germany. He has never said much to me about it other than nine infantrymen protected each tank. I asked him if he ever went to a reunion of his old warrior friends. I got a gruff "No!!". I spent the last nine or ten days visiting him and he shared very little. He has been disabled all his life and worked until retirement. I now understand why he is like he is.

It has made both Bob and I think how important it is for each and every one of you to attend reunions or at least keep in touch thru these connections. A lot of you do and it is wonderful. I personally think that my father would be very jealous of the patriotism shown by his neighbors to the south. I can guarantee he would never admit it.

Most of you attend other reunions and maybe more than one and they are all over the place. I have listened to Aaron Farrior speak of his U.S.A.F.P.J. friends and of his reunions, the same with Doc Rio, Bob, Jerry and others speaking of Museum get togethers, SEAL team reunions all across America and the camaraderie that exists between the special forces groups.

Tonight, I sit here thinking how proud I am to be associated with this group and all of you that I have come into contact with. I get regular emails from Bob Shouse and I smile when I think of the time he spends putting a smile on most of ours faces.

Continued on Page 3.

**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..... 15.00 ea, 2 for 26.00  
Large logo on back, small logo on pocket  
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL
- Ash gray Beefy-T shirt..... 16.00 ea, 2 for 28.00  
Large logo on back, small logo on pocket  
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL
- White long sleeved T shirt ..... 18.00 ea, 2 for 32.00  
Large logo on back, small logo on front (no pocket)  
Sizes S, M, L, XL
- Ash gray 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
- 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 – light tan, embroidered logo ..... 19.00  
Mug or cap 3.00 less if ordered with shirt
- New!** Embroidered Patch (photo pg 4).....7.00
- UWSS logo decal
- Transparent background .....2.00
- White background .....2.00
- UWSS logo lapel/tie pin.....6.00
- UWSS plaque - Bright brass logo on blue.....27.00
- 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 May 2008 240 members

Account Balance February 2008	\$10,100.31
Dues	+550.00
Logo gear sales	+833.00
Buddy Line expense	-280.66
Logo gear expense	-1463.72
Postage	-328.08
Web site expense	-42.38
Account Balance May 2008	\$ 9,368.47

**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.

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**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 mailout.

To receive the Buddy Line by email, send your request to [stonefish7@cs.com](mailto:stonefish7@cs.com).

## Reunion 2009 takes us back to the birthplace of FO/UWSS

Our roots are in Key West at the U.S Naval Underwater Swimmers School, but the birthplace of our fraternal order is Panama City.

The first reunion of UWSS was held in Key West in May 1998. Neal (Pappy) Hewett and Mike Driscoll contacted as many of the former staff and students as they could locate and made all the arrangements.

At the Key West reunion it was decided to meet again in two years. Erasmo Riojas (Doc Rio) volunteered to arrange the next reunion in Panama City. Rio sent out periodic notices to keep us informed and enlisted help from members in Panama City.

At the YK2 reunion in Panama City, May 2000, the Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School was formed. The first officers were President: Don Stone, Vice Pres: Andy Anderson, Sec/Treas: A. Dee Clark. Don and Art Stone volunteered to publish a quarterly newsletter to be called the Buddy Line.

Look at us now! 240 members and growing!



**YK2 in Panama City**

## The Executive Corner . . . Continued from Page 1

Both Bob and I are new to being the President and Vice President of an organization like this, and we have big shoes to fill following Don Stone and the others. It is not something we claim to be proficient with.

Having said that, our team that is planning the next reunion some 50 weeks down the pipe is going to get busier.

In Woody Woodward's update, see story on page 1, he and his team of volunteers has advised us that they are happy with the progress so far. However he and his group are forming a back up plan at the same time this is moving toward a confirmation.

Again, I want to thank Woody for being patient with us, as we do get our wires crossed occasionally I would also like to thank Aaron Farris for calling me the other day and telling me although it is a long way off, he is getting the word out to the USAFPJs.

This outfit has a very rich and illustrious past. Many of you used this training as a springboard to other training for your careers, so, please do your very best to stay healthy, follow the "Buddy Line" Articles and encourage those you know that attended, to consider this reunion. I think that even my father would attend this if he had been fortunate enough to be a part of it.

We would like to welcome seven new members who have joined FO/UWSS since the last newsletter.

Larry D. Rose, USN, UWSS Class 7/69

Enrique "Rick" Prado, USAFPJ, UWSS Class 6/72

Richard S. Pere, USN/USA, UWSS Class 6/72

Paul L. McCraw, USN, UWSS Class 6/63

Patrick Weyand, USMC, UWSS Class 6/62

Leslie R. Herring, USMC, UWSS Class 8/62

Randy Thompson, USN, UWSS Class 7/67

### In Memoriam

James Noble, FO/UWSS plank owner, passed away in his sleep at his home in Pensacola May 14, 2008.

Jim was an old school navy diver and a valued member of the fraternal order. He made it a point to attend the reunions and participate in activities. His good natured presence will be missed.

Jim's ashes will be consigned to the deep.



### UWSS Patch

In response to several requests, we have resurrected a UWSS patch.

It is an exact copy of one of the favorite patches that many of us remember and is the same design currently on our mugs.

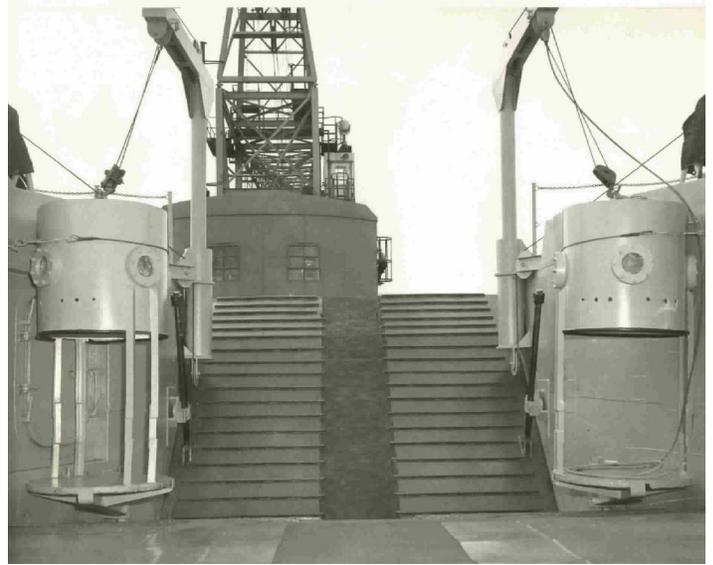
The embroidered patch is priced at \$7.00 each. Ordering details are on page 2.



Swimmers wading out from swim beach to board LCPR  
Key West 1955 – photos from Bob Shouse

The U boat moored on the quay with several Naval craft including a submarine and the submarine tender USS Bushnell



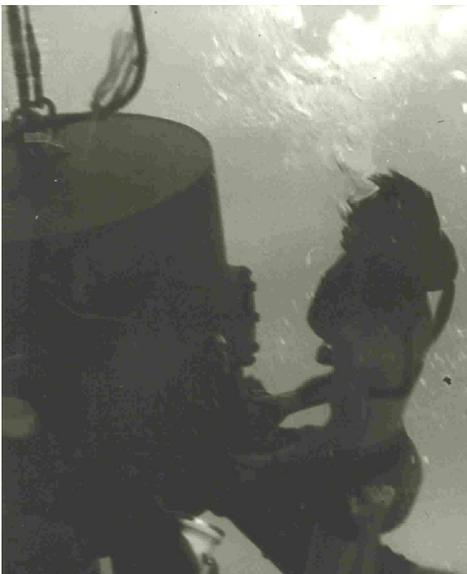


These 1955 photos from Bob Shouse show our LCU from stern and bow with actual buoyant ascent training.

The two bells, deployed from the bow of the "U boat", are being used for open sea training of buoyant ascent, a procedure that, if followed correctly, will enable a scuba diver to safely ascend from depth to the surface despite a loss of his air supply.

In the underwater photos you can see the safety men holding down the trainee until he follows the correct procedure. "Look to your right, look to your left, put your head back and blow out all of the air in your lungs." "Keep your head back and keep blowing through your lips like you were whistling until you reach the surface."

Those instructions will stir memories for both instructors and students



## 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



## Graduation Day

Charlie and Jerry Aquadro arrived in Key West in May of 1957 where Charlie became a UWSS student. Their daughter, Jeana Lauren, was born just a few weeks later on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

Jerry, Charlie and Jeana posed for his June graduation photo and put it on their Christmas card that year.

Charlie became acquainted with another student in his class, Jim Gafney, who after returning home, told his wife about this nice guy he met in Key West, Charlie Aquadro. She surprised him with "That's my cousin!"

Charlie stayed on for two years as UWSS Medical Officer and then enjoyed Key West for a third year as Medical Officer at Subron 12.

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