

Buddy Line



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

May 2010



2011 Reunion Cruise News

From 2011 Reunion Coordinator, Jerry Padrta.

AHOY MATEYS, get your sea legs under you and prepare for a **FANTASTIC CRUISE** with all of your Underwater Swim School Shipmates. The cruise dates are 7-12 May 2011! Please note that 8 MAY 2011 is MOTHER'S DAY! What better way to honor your wife???

We will sail out of Miami, Florida on the Carnival Destiny, bound for Ocho Rios, Jamaica and The Grand Caymans. This gives us 2 fun-filled days at sea and 2 days touring and enjoying such things as Dunn's River Falls(Jamaica) and swimming with and feeding the sting rays at Sting-ray City(Caymans).There are other options, including none at all! Cost of tours varies from \$20-\$80, depending on length and complexity.

This cruise was selected with your board of directors after an exhaustive search of south and southeast US ports. When we set the requirement that it be a 4 or 5 night cruise sailing in APRIL/May 2011, the available list got short very rapidly! In fact, only 4 cruises made the cut, three 4-night and one 5-night. All of the 4-night included a stop in Mexico, which is NOT a good place to be these days, so we selected the 5-night cruise.

So what is included in the price of a ticket?

1. All food, including room service
2. Nightly floor shows
3. Casino
4. 24hr coffee
5. Demonstrations
6. Music throughout the ship
7. Pools and Jacuzzi
8. Fitness center
9. On deck entertainment
10. Our own hospitality room
11. More, more, more.

Cake-topper Shark & Diver Replaced



This beautiful wood model of shark and diver has been presented to FO/UWSS by Tony and Doris Gargano.

The seventeen inch high sculpture was created by *Designs by Dom* of Ft. Myers, Florida. Dom specializes in wildlife sculpture in wood, but this time he was working from an icing shark that had graced the cake at the 2009 UWSS reunion

Tony and Doris had taken it with them when they left the reunion banquet thinking it was discarded decorations. When they heard the members were disappointed at its loss, they commissioned Dom to create a permanent replica of the lovely fondant sculpture that was created by Pam Bartram for the reunion banquet cake.

Continued on page 3

UWSS LOGO ITEMS



All prices include shipping.

Beefy-T t-shirt..... 18.00 ea, 2 for 32.00
white or ash gray,
large logo on back, small logo on pocket
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*

Long sleeved t-shirt..... 20.00 ea, 2 for 36.00
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..... 20.00 ea, 2 for 36.00
white or ash gray, small logo on pocket.
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*

Pique polo all cotton..... 22.00 ea, 2 for 40.00
birch gray, embroidered logo left front
(no pocket)
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*

New!

Blue denim shirt, short sleeves 30.00 ea, 2 for 56.00
embroidered logo above pocket
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*

***All shirts size XXL add \$2.00 ea**

Cap – natural with logo 14.00

Baseball cap –tan or blue, embroidered logo20.00
Cap 3.00 less if ordered with shirt

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 with raised design
1 5/8" diameter

Key Chain with enameled logo medallion7.00

**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 May 2010 269 members

Account Balance February 2010	\$13,123.38
Dues	+400.00
Logo gear sales	+156.00
Buddy Line printing expense	-111.39
Postage	-103.45
Office supplies	-22.48
Website expense	-8.99
Account Balance May 2010	13,433.07

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 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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Reunion Coordinator: Jerry Padrta (772) 873-9950

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.

Cruise News continued from page 1

My wife Judy has been on many cruises. She says that there are wonderful things for the ladies on these cruises. Some include duty-free on board shopping, bingo, spas, salons , demonstrations by the crew, tasting parties, auctions to name a few. Of course ashore the girls can negotiate huge bargains on all manner of goods.

While the guys are having their "meetings" on board, the girls can get together and decide how to handle these crazy Underwater Swimmers. This can be the *best reunion ever* for the ladies! Judy says, "first wife, second wife or third wife" makes no difference.

I have looked at the cost of this cruise. At this time, approximate cost is as follows, per person, double occupancy

- 1. Base price, inside cabin \$270
- 2. Port charges and taxes \$150
- 3. TOTAL \$420
- 4. For an outside cabin, (with window) add \$70. With military and senior discounts, the cost MAY be less.
- 5. 3rd party in room, less than others

Passports are generally recommended. A raised seal birth certificate will be accepted by immigration. **HOWEVER, IF YOU GET SEPARTATED FROM THE.**

SHIP FOR ANY REASON, WITHOUT A PASSPORT, YOU WILL HAVE TROUBLE RE-ENTERING THE USA.

We intend to send out a package to each of you, to include cruise info, ship info, registration info, tour info, payment info, travel info, insurance info, hopefully ALL the info you need to successfully sign on for the cruise.

We will get this to you in June 2010. When you get it, spend some time with it, fill out the registration and **MAKE YOUR PLANS! If you know you will not go, please let us know ASAP so we can save the cost of printing and mailing your packet.** See page 2 for contact info.

We all know that we will have diminishing numbers of shipmates as time passes, at some point we will ALL be HISTORY! So while we can, let's make the most of it! We want to see you on this cruise!

Jerry Padrta, Reunion Coordinator



UWSS Class of June 1965 - Photo from Tom Agerton



The Executive Corner

by Gerry Flowers with Bob Holmes

The 2010 Reunion is now just one year away. In this issue, Jerry Padrta, our reunion coordinator is going to tell us about the plan for next year's reunion. This executive hopes that all of the members would really take the time to think about this fabulous trip and give it very serious consideration. Both Bob Holmes and I had spoken about keeping an eye on everything that went on at the reunion, using the camera to capture the feelings of the men and women present. Doc Rio put it together for us and then another member made the photo album

As you are all aware by looking at our website, many great pictures were taken by Doc Rio and his assistant. When Bob and I got together to take a close look at the photos we concluded that the best times had were not at the EOD demonstrations, the new pool where the divers were in training and we watched with interest, nor was it looking at the young Sailors, Marines and others doing their Qualifications at the dockside on the world's largest jet ski. It was not the shopping trip for the wives or the tours we went on at the Naval Diving and Testing center and judging by the looks of everyone in the annual general meeting, it certainly was not there.

The most fun and the most electric times were (not when Rudy was caught vacuuming) but when everyone was mingling around at the icebreaker, having a drink, relaxing and talking. People were the most happy when purchasing Logo Gear from Don and Art, getting together, putting arms on each other's shoulders, taking pictures of each other and seeing wives and shipmates not seen for about two years. There were several new members that were introduced to the old guard and people were having a great time.

Evidence of a great time being had by all was captured on film at the icebreaker at the Main Deck Club. Folks were having a blast, we met the Crew that made the reunion happen and connected with each other. The second evidence of Sailors and their wives, significant others and us single guys, well that was seen and noted at the Fish Fry held on the beach at the Marina Pavilion. At the end of the evening, some members had such a great time, they had to pause and sit in the parking lot on the way back to the Lodge.

For Saturday night, when folks started walking into the Banquet, we purposely took photos of people looking around to see who was there, admiring the room, the cake, the way everyone was dressed. Each and every one of us had a smile on their faces. The evening was a blast until the cake-topper was kidnapped to add a bit of fun to the end of the evening. We lingered for a bit and many of us wanted to stay so we helped clean up and

square away the area. The last few minutes had Rudy showing his prowess on the vacuum cleaner.

In short, the most fun was had when everyone was together. Photos were taken in the mess hall when you were eating, talking and even going through the line getting your chow. Everyone was literally beaming. My point.....It doesn't matter about where the reunion is held, what matters is that we are all together, our wives and girlfriends are happy and as many people as possible turn out. I am turning sixty years old in about a week.....how did I make it this far....I don't know, but what I do know is that everyone is anxiously awaiting the next chance to see each other. You folks are the pioneers of Naval Diving History, don't miss the next get together, because we just never know.

What President Bob Holmes, myself and Don, and Woody and his committee had hoped was that we were part of something spectacular we could share with you folks. That is exactly how it turned out. Every couple at every table had a lovely photo taken of them. It was a great evening. This is what the reunion is about. It would not matter where it was held.

The cruise idea was brought up by Jerry and Judy Padrta and they do have a lot of experience taking cruises. He has done a tremendous amount of work to get this together and there will be more details to follow. We want you, your wives and your children to attend, get on the Ship, be together, be pampered and just have fun. (cannot really put the word "Pamper" and a lot of you in the same sentence, but you know what I mean)

I am asking all of you to speak to your wives, put a few extra shekels away each month and show up at the "Brow" of the vessel and sail away with us for five nights of fun, food, talk and camaraderie. Let's do it folks, we may not get another chance. Please read what Jerry and Judy have put together.

In Memorium

Jerry Foster, Navy EOD officer and graduate of UWSS class of February 1961, passed over the bar on Wednesday, April 21, 2010, after a three week battle with pneumonia.

Jerry and his wife, Shirley, lifelong boaters, enjoyed professional careers in yachting as well as preserving the history of classic yachts. Most of his life was spent close to or on the sea.

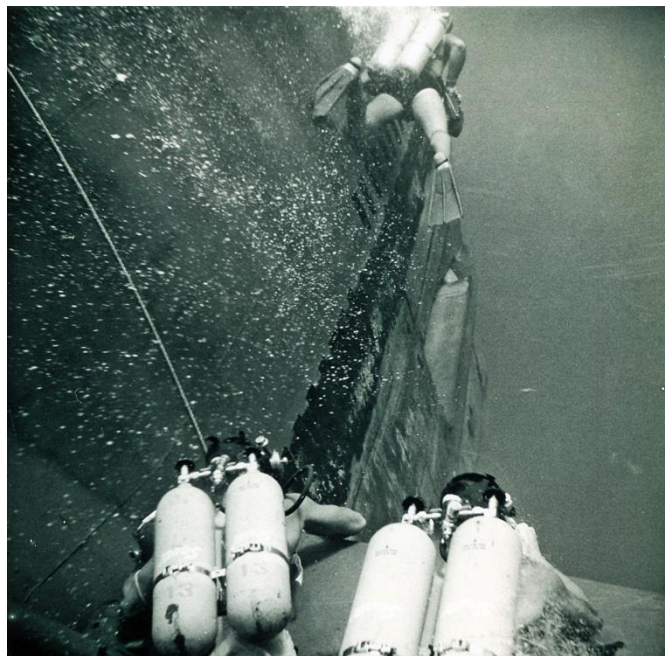
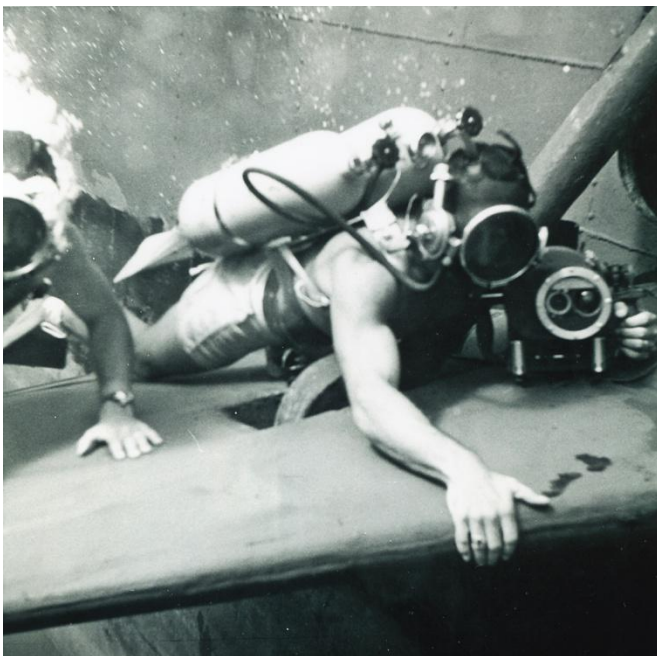
Jerry will be greatly missed by his many friends and his large and loving extended family.

UWSS Class One – Oct-Nov 1954



The photos on this page were received from Russ Van Billiard. The students in the first class are Van Billiard (row 1 #2), Edwards (Row 1 #4), Hanley (Row 1 #5), Miller (row 2 #1), Collins (row 2 #3), Alexander (Row3 #4), Rives, Snow, Sumner, Morgis, and Wechtenhiser. Russ writes, "Myself, Miller, Collins & Edwards were all from the Naval Ordinance Unit which was located over at Pier D-1 where the Coast Guard is now. We tested underwater stuff (torpedoes & mines) that were being developed for the Navy

"The other 2 pictures show on the bow planes of a fleet boat at periscope depth in the sub operating area about 15 miles south of Key West. I'm the one with the movie camera. We were there to see why the early wire guided torpedoes were getting the wire snarled up outside the sub. From the bow planes we had a good view of the torpedo swimming out of the tube."



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



In the days of two hose Aquamaster and Northhill regulators, scuba maintenance was of vital importance. The corrugated black rubber hoses were easily degraded by sunlight, heat and salt water, so frequent inspection and part maintenance and replacement was vital to prevent salt water cocktails for the diver.

Improper maintenance could also cause free flows and other breathing problems as well as "scuba sickness" from disease germs incubating in the folds of the hose.

Adopting the single hose regulators made most of these problems disappear.

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