

Buddy Line



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

November 2011

New UWSS All-Service Coin

In response to the many suggestions and requests from UWSS graduates, we have commissioned an additional UWSS coin that honors graduates of all American armed services who trained at the school to become qualified underwater swimmers and divers.

The face of this coin is similar to our embroidered patch with the shark riding swimmer and the words "United States Navy Underwater Swimmer."

The reverse side has a raised rim and raised seals of all five American armed services. This two inch diameter coin is slightly larger than our original UWSS coin so that the seals can be significantly portrayed.

The all-service coin is now available for purchase from our gear locker at \$10.00 each.



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Editors Corner by Don Stone

We gained two new members since the last Buddy Line.

Michael Prebula of Muluane, Kansas, USN 69-78, UWSS June 1972, writes "I remember a bunch of PJ's and RECON marines in the class and a few sub sailors. EN1 Dave Wright and I came from Pax River, MD."

Robert Fay of San Antonio, Texas, UWSS 1073, writes "I am a retired "rope diver" and enjoyed my time at the school in 1973 when Pat Badger was C.O." He sent two pictures taken at the school. (see page 3)

We were also notified about the passing of member Dan Barlow by his wife, Joan Barlow: She wrote:

"This is to notify you that **Daniel A. Barlow**, Plantation, Florida, a UWSS member, passed away on June 11, 2011. He fought a very courageous battle with cancer for a year, the only battle he ever lost. He was born in Orlando, Florida, January 10, 1933.

In 1951 he moved to San Diego, CA and enlisted with the U.S. Navy, serving our country from 1951-1959, and left a Korean War Veteran. He served at the U.S. Training Center, San Diego, CA; U.S. Naval Station, Adak, Alaska; the U.S.S. Piedmont (AD17); the U.S.S. Dixie (AD14); the U.S.S. Howard W. Gilmore (AS 16) in Key West, FL, the U.S.S. Petrel (ASR14), and the U.S.S. Bushnell (AS 15).



He graduated from the U.S. Naval School of Underwater Swimmers on the third of February 1956. In 1957 he completed the prescribed course of instruction at the U.S. Naval School (Salvage), New York Naval Shipyard, Bayonne Annex, Bayonne, New Jersey. He was proud of his Navy career.

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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*	
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 – blue, embroidered logo.....	20.00
Cap 3.00 less if ordered with shirt	
Mug-old logo front, UWSS back, hand wash.....	10.00
Embroidered Patch	7.00
UWSS logo decal	2.00
transparent or white background	
UWSS plaque - Bright brass logo on blue.....	35.00
UWSS commemorative coin.....	7.00
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 medallion	7.00
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 November 2011	265 members
Account Balance August 2011	12,967.00
Dues	+500.00
Logo gear sales	+294.00
Buddy Line printing	-87.78
Postage	-120.30
Logo gear expense	-575.00
Account Balance November 2011	12,977.92

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.

New member, Robert Fay, sent a couple of pictures of the school and the following notes.



This picture is of my father, Robert Joseph Fay, when he opened the school in 1954 and was the first C.O. (K.I.A. in Viet Nam 1965).



This picture is when President J.F.K. visited the school in 1962, and is being greeted by the then C.O. David Schiabe (later C.O. of SEAL TEAM ONE... now deceased).

The Executive Corner

by Bob Holmes and Gerry Flowers

President Bob Holmes

Hi everyone. We hope this finds you all healthy, safe and enjoying life. How time flies. It has already been six months since our last reunion in Miami. With 18 months to go before we see each other again. Our last trip to Panama City was a terrific success and we would like to see that happen again.



Both Gerry and I are hoping that you can pencil that in for May 2013 and start planning to make the trip Panama. It would be very satisfying if each of us with our connections could contact a former graduate or two from our own UWSS class and let them know about the Underwater Swimmers Organization and see if they may be interested in joining us in Panama City.

We realize that it would not be that easy. The difficult part would be finding and communicating with them. I can tell you that meeting the new members in Miami, former graduates of the UWSS and their better halves was pretty exciting. Somehow, they found out about us and they got there. I know we all had a lot of fun hearing their stories and meeting the better halves that have guided their lives. There are probably, as Gerry and I discussed, at least two thousand graduates we have not been able to contact.

If for no other reason, contacting them with the aim of getting together with Military men and women with similar experiences should be reason enough. Each and every one of you, from SEALS to Submariners have all helped shape and hone an important segment of Special Warfare. Pride, for all of us being involved in the initial development of all aspects of today's Military Diving Programs should be the catalyst. Can we commit to trying to find a few of our shipmates?

Several things were discussed and voted on during our last business meeting and one of them was to ADD a day onto the length of the reunion. There was a very good reason for that being done and at this point, I will turn this over to Gerry.

Thanks, good health and best wishes in advance for the upcoming Holiday Season.

Warmest Regards,
Bob Holmes, President, UWSS

Vice President Gerry Flowers

Hi all. This summer, I embarked on another 10,000 mile motorcycle trip with a few goals in mind. This trip took me from Vancouver, British Columbia across the northern United States to the east coast, then south to Parris Island to watch a Marine Graduation, south to Florida then west along the south coast.



One of the goals was to stop and see the United States Naval Aviation Museum located in Pensacola, Florida with a view to reporting my thoughts to Bob. Why? At our annual general meeting it was suggested that part of our itinerary could include a trip to Pensacola from Panama to spend a day visiting the Museum. Would it be interesting enough to be worthwhile? You bet it would be...

Folks this museum is one of the most visited museums in all of Florida. I saw Billboards promoting it all over the United States. This place is a "MUST" for every veteran of the United States Military. I was blown away with all the history. There is something there for everyone. I now know we would all come back saying how much we loved that field trip. It is open seven days a week, it is completely wheel chair accessible and they supply wheel chairs at the door. There are self guided tours and guided tours as well as an Imax theatre with a seven storey screen.

For those well traveled Navy Veterans that are familiar with NAS Cubi Point in the Philippines and the folklore associated with the famous Officers Club there, this museum is a must see. From the fabulous aircraft that have been meticulously restored to the Diorama's of WW1, WW11, Korea, Vietnam and our present conflicts, I am certain that this would be a major highlight of our reunion. One hundred Years of Naval Aviation.

Now, the best thing. The Admission is FREE and if we play our cards right and get onto notifying them, our group will be treated like royalty. I inquired at the desk and they told me they host Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, School tours, youth groups, ROTC groups, Big Brothers and Sisters, so they think that with proper notice, they could successfully host the UWSS as long as certain members promise not to get light fingered and decide to take anything home with them. Navy Chiefs will have to be supervised and all Para-Rescue personnel will be strip searched on departure. I would ask Aaron to set this up.

Over the next few months, we can poll the interest factor for a tour like this and if it is significant, we can start arranging the details and plan on how to make it happen. Bob, Don and I will personally pay for everyone's admission and guarantee a great day. (it is free).

Continued next page

The Executive Corner

Continued from page 4

We urge you to visit this website to peruse the wide array of Military memorabilia there to help you in your decision.

I can tell you that after visiting, I almost bought a U.S. Navy Sticker to put on my motorcycle with all the Marine Stuff already on it because it re-kindled my pride in being a U.S. Veteran. Please check out this website www.navalaviationmuseum.org

In closing, we would like to again thank Jerry and Judy Padrta, Woody Woodward and his reunion crew and Don and Art and all those that continue to put in time to make this happen. I would also like to thank all those that are continuing to support the members of UWSS. Bob and I are proud to be associated with all of you.

P.S. ON this trip, not only did I ride my motorcycle, I had the opportunity to fly both the F-18 and Osprey Helicopter simulators for an hour each as well as have a great tour of both Flight lines, compliments of the G-3 and his staff at MCAS Miramar.

All the best to all of you, and let us all try to find another Sailor, Airmen, Soldier or Marine that was fortunate enough to attend UWSS Key West and let us collectively "Pipe them Aboard.

Warmest Regards
Gerry Flowers, V.P.

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Editors Corner

continued from page 3

Coming out of the service he continued with a commercial diving career. In the 1980's, he retired from diving and became a Captain in the U.S. Merchant Marines. In 1990, he retired to travel the world with his wife Joan. They enjoyed traveling in all 50 states and 75 countries on all seven continents. He was awarded a Guinness World Record in 2002 for the Largest Private Collection of Restaurant Menus which in 2008 he donated to the Broward Historical Commission.

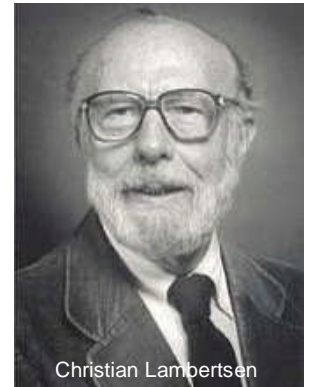
We started attending the UWSS Reunions in the late 1990's and would drive to the location in our motor home. It was always wonderful to meet up with everyone and he really enjoyed sitting and swapping sea stories with you all.

Dan is survived by myself, his wife of 21 years, our combined four children, seven grandchildren, (one a Marine and one a U.S. Coast Guard), and two great grandchildren. He was devoted to all of his family and they to him. He will be greatly missed. Please remember Dan at your next reunion.

Joan Barlow

CHRISTIAN J. LAMBERTSEN 1917-2011

ADM (ret) Eric Olson was one of the guest speakers at the memorial service for Dr. Christian Lambertsen held in Philadelphia on 10 Oct 2011. Dr. Lambertsen died at age 93 on February 11, 2011.



Christian Lambertsen

Inventor, pioneer in undersea and aero-space medicine, medical doctor and professor at University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Dr. Lambertsen was extremely influential in all diving matters related to our profession. He continued to help the NSW community throughout his life. He is also a recipient of the USSOCOM Medal.

During his medical school period, he invented and first used forms of the initial U.S. self-contained closed circuit oxygen rebreathing apparatus for neutral buoyancy underwater swimming and diving. In 1940, he performed twelve SCUBA dives in his Lambertsen Amphibious Respiratory Unit (LARU) prototype in Lake Nokomis, Minnesota. The LARU was the first rebreather designed and built in the United States and these dives are the first closed-circuit oxygen dives in U.S. history.



As a student, he aided the early Office of Strategic Services (OSS) in establishing the first cadres of U.S. military operational combat swimmers. Dr. Lambertsen became a U.S. Army medical officer on graduation from medical school in early 1943, and immediately joined the OSS Maritime Unit on active duty through its period of function in World War II. He joined the University of Pennsylvania Medical Faculty in 1946. While a faculty member he combined diving research and further development of underwater rebreathing equipment for the Army and Navy.



Dr. Lambertsen 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."

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



The three swimmers, engaged in cast and recovery from an LCPR of WW2 vintage, are wearing thin smooth rubber Pirelli dry suits to preserve body heat in cold water.

Why weren't they wearing wet suits? We didn't have them yet. The Pirelli suits had seals at waist and wrists but they weren't very effective, and of course a leaking dry suit doesn't keep you comfy

Today's dry suits, for very cold water, are made of heavy gauge rubber with warm under garments, sometimes heated.

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