

Buddy Line



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

November 2012

School History in Pictures Added to Web Site

Check out the web site uwss.org to see the new school history section.

Reunion 2013 - May 16-19 Naval Support Activity, Panama City, FL

It is time to get your room reservations for the FO/UWSS 2013 reunion at the home of the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center and the Experimental Diving Unit. You don't want to miss what promises to be our biggest and best reunion ever.

Reunion activities will get underway with an Ice Breaker on Thursday, May 16th, followed by a Friday evening "roundup" and the Business Meeting on Saturday morning. The grand finale will be a Banquet Saturday evening featuring speakers and an elaborate cake with the debut of the wood sculpture of shark and diver. Photo on page 3

Naval Support Activity Panama City has blocked all of building 349 (the former BOQ) for us which includes 47 suites configured for 2 adults (max) with one queen bed. At building 484 (the main bldg, where everyone will check in) there are 13 suites on block. These rooms will sleep 2 adults and 2 children (max). They have 1 bed and a sofa sleeper.

To make reservations, at the Q's contact Anne Sawyer: anne.sawyer@navy.mil or call (850)234-4217 or (850)234-4556. Let

the front desk know that you are with the Underwater Swimmer's School Reunion and reference the 16-19 MAY 2013 group when calling for reservations.

Be ready to provide the following information: first & last name, rank, active/retired, how many in party, last 4 of social, phone number, credit card number + expiration date + billing address

Cabin & Campsite reservations will be opened up for the Reunion 1-15 Jan 2013. After the 15th of Jan 2013 they do normal reservations 90 days out for other patrons.

Continued on page 3

US Naval School Underwater Swimmers



SCHOOL HISTORY IN PICTURES



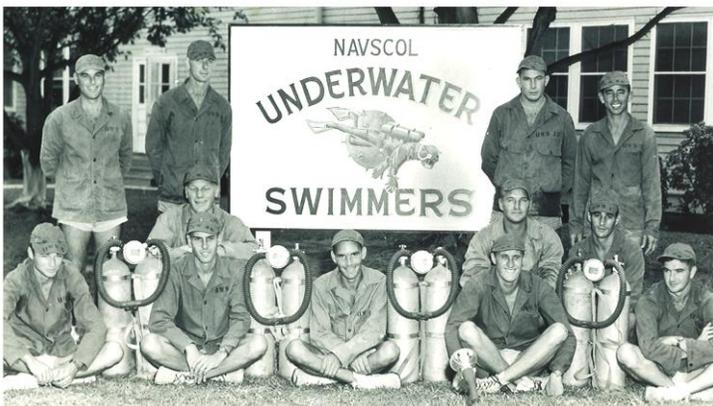
The 50's

The 60's

The 70's

Class Photos

A Collection of UWSS Class Photos



EOD 1-54 First UWSS Class 01 November 1954

A plan for a school history page for our web site was announced in the February Buddy Line with a request for stories from UWSS students and staff. Only a few stories were received but the archives were full of pictures.

Determining the dates of many of the pictures was like solving puzzles, and you are invited to tell us if we have them in the wrong time frame. We still have a large number of unidentified class pictures. We will print some of them in the Buddy Line and see if anyone spots his class or someone he knows in the picture and lets us know.

Continued on page 5

A vertical navigation menu for the UWSS website. It includes links for Home, School History, Reunions, Next Reunion, Newsletter, Logo Gear, Contact, and In Memoriam. There is also a date display showing 16.4.99 and contact information for webmasters: Art Stone and Paul Johnson.

UWSS LOGO ITEMS



All prices include shipping.

Beefy-T t-shirt.....	19.00 ea, 2 for 33.00
white or ash gray, large logo on back, small logo on pocket Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*	
Long sleeved t-shirt.....	21.00 ea, 2 for 37.00
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.....	21.00 ea, 2 for 37.00
white or ash gray, small logo on pocket. Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*	
Pique polo all cotton.....	23.00 ea, 2 for 41.00
birch gray, embroidered logo left front ,(no pocket) Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*	
Blue denim shirt, short sleeves	31.00 ea, 2 for 57.00
embroidered logo above pocket Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*	

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

Cap – natural with logo	15.00
Baseball cap – blue, embroidered logo.....	21.00
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 August 2012	275 members
Account Balance August 2012	14,530.20
Dues	+375.00
Logo gear sales	+178.00
Buddy Line printing	-162.66
Postage	-33.50
Account Balance November 2012	14,887.04

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.

Reunion Update – Continued from page 1

For the Cabin & Campsite reservations call 850-234-4402/1000-1600.

They also have cabins and can accommodate campers at the Marina. For details and/or reservations on those, contact Gary Smith gary.k.smith@navy.mil Phone 850-234-4091 FAX 850-230-7115.



The shark and diver wood sculpture, making its debut at the 2013 reunion banquet, 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 fondant shark that had graced the cake at the 2009 UWSS reunion

Tony and Doris Gargano 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.

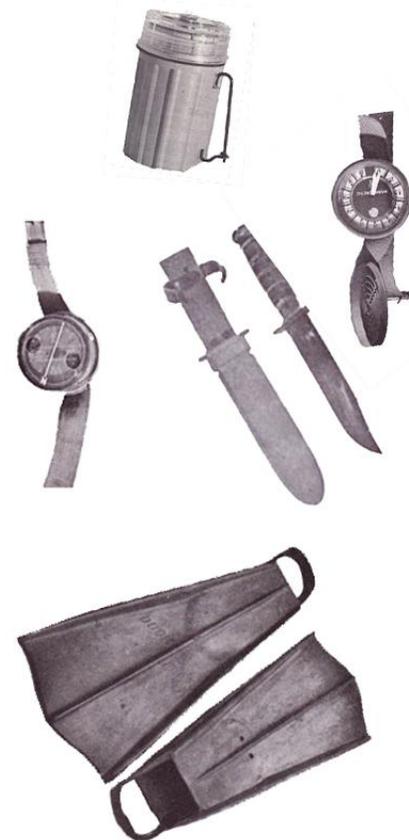
There has been some interest in a side trip to the National Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola. Since it is about a 2 ½ hour drive from Panama City, it is best done the day before or the day after reunion activities.

The huge aviation museum is an awesome collection of naval aircraft from the earliest to the most recent. With two buildings, outside exhibits, three or four I-Max shows, flight simulators, and, of course, lunch at the Cubi Point O-Club bar and café, you'll want to spend a whole day or more. The museum is free. The well-done IMax shows have a \$5-\$7 charge and have military discounts.

You may even be able to see the Blue Angels perform practice air shows down at the NAS flight line before starting through the museum. They practice most Tuesday and Wednesday mornings starting @ 0830 and it's the same as going to an air show. Following most Wednesday practices, they have an autograph session with the pilots inside the Museum.

Reunion chairman, Woody Woodward, has suggested a fundraiser raffle and/or auction of UWSS memorabilia and he wants you to join him in donating stuff from your attic or old locker box.

He suggests blasting machines, [hand-held or the big 50-cap one] blasting crimpers, compasses, old K-Bars, UDT life vests, UDTs, patches, old SCUBA regulators, face masks, depth gauges, tach boards, posters, etc. Please bring them with you to the reunion.



The February Buddy Line will have your reunion registration and a logo order for gear that can be pre ordered for delivery at the reunion at a reduced price – you save the shipping charges. There will be some logo gear for sale at the reunion, but pre-ordering assures you get the size and color you want.

And remember, look out your UWSS memorabilia for the auction.

The Executive Corner by Bob Holmes and Gerry Flowers

Here is hoping that the November 2012 issue of "Buddy Line" finds you all healthy, happy and enjoying life. We are starting to get excited at the thought of seeing you all, once again. Saying hello, shaking hands, sharing a meal, talking, and just touching base is such an important part of the military experience that continues to enrich our lives. To be able to once again, see those of you that are travelling to Panama City in May of 2013 is really what this is all about and truly, worth waiting for.

Bob and I were talking last week and concurred that it is hard to believe that we only have six months to go before we meet once again. That is another two years that will have just flown by. For whatever reason, sharing stories, renewing friendships and just seeing your friends, is of course, why we do this. Many things have transpired since our last get together and they will certainly make for good conversation. There are many that will not be with us, and we will have the chance to "hoist a glass" in their memory and thank our lucky stars for having had the opportunity to know such men and women.

Another discussion point we had was, how lucky we all are, to again have Woody Woodward and his team organizing our get together in Panama City. All the behind the scenes work that we do not see or know about, is quietly taking place. People work very diligently to pull this together and we can show our appreciation by getting to Panama City and personally thanking all of them from Woody and his team to Don and Art Stone for all the work that just magically happens to allow us to arrive, pick up our U.W.S.S. packages and head to the Icebreaker. This event and making it happen, is truly a labor of respect and kindness that deserves our participation.

On another note, we would like to ask all of you, once again to think about the possibility of a trip to Pensacola to the U.S. Navy Aviation Museum. It is a spectacular display of Naval and Marine Military Aviation History. We would also again like to remind you that we will be having our Annual General Meeting and topics for discussion will include the location of the next get together in 2015 as we should be considering electing a New President and Vice President for the next term. In the past, we have not been quite as prepared as we could have been in selecting the next location.

In the next few months, we will be finding out about what is required to get onto the base, book accommodations as well as other pertinent information we will need to

know, so please be ready make these decisions.

During the last few months, our reunion has been posted in a few military publications and few more will be coming out as we get closer but if you personally have contact with any former classmates, please advise them of this opportunity to get together.

Two weeks ago, after years of asking, pushing, calling and not taking "NO" for an answer, I was treated to a chance to spend five days with "Doc" Rio, aka Erasmios Riojas of Pearland, Texas. Doc was in Seattle for a Reunion of **Submarine Rescue and Salvage Divers** and I could not let this opportunity pass by as he was just 100 miles away.

I drove down to Seattle and picked him up and brought him up to Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, to show him "my turf" and where I live. Let me tell you, that getting a Corpsman, Navy SEAL, M.D. with a Mexican heritage into Canada took a lot of wheeling and dealing, but Rio's charm swayed the Customs Officers and he was in with a promise to get out in five days, or else.

We had a great time folks and made the most of the visit. We took a one hour helicopter flight around the city, mountains, ocean and other points of interest in a friends Bell 206-B Jet Ranger. Doc was in the front seat, doing what he does best. He took 8,000 pictures and talked to everyone from Vancouver air traffic control to the Coast Guard. We shared a trip to one of our best Burger joints in the city, a driving tour of the city and a visit to the famous "Stanley Park", its Totem poles, Sea Wall and magnificent views of the mountains and harbor. We shared great meals, local beer and of course, Fish and Chips (fresh Halibut) at one of the best places on the oceanfront.

This relationship with Doc Rio started at a U.W.S.S. reunion almost ten years ago and it has morphed into a great friendship. Other friendships and side trips have blossomed from meeting you folks at these get togethers and I cherish them. I personally have had the pleasure of visiting Don and Art Stone in Boca Raton, Jerry and Judy Pardta at their home as well as several fabulous trips to Galveston to visit and stay with Bob Holmes and Janet Hassinger. So, for me, these events have turned into more than just four days at a reunion, they have turned into wonderful friendships with those with common experiences.

So if you are vacillating on whether to attend or not, our vote goes with "ATTEND". (For those of you in Para Rescue, please google "Vacillating", then make your plans to attend). Aaron, "come on down" with all of your men, but be advised, we will be watching the UWSS Cake and Shark this time buddy!!!

Continued on page 6

New on the web site

Continued from page 1

Since webmaster Paul Johnson's illness is preventing him from working on the web site, Art Stone has taken back management of the site and designing the new content. After a slow start while learning the design software Paul was using, she has created the new School History section and a new home for the Reunions.

The reunion pages are the history of the fraternal order. The new design for displaying reunion information and pictures will make it easier to add reunions in the future, and to include additional pictures for past reunions.

The Memorial page has also been reformatted and new information added. If you have information that should be added to the memorial page, please send it to Buddyline@uwss.org.



The first reunion of U.S. Naval Underwater Swim School was held in **Key West May 28, 1998**, twenty-five years after the closing of the school. Neal (Pappy) Hewett and Mike Driscoll contacted as many of the former staff and students as they could locate and made all the arrangements. Eighty three former staff and students plus their guests attended the reunion.



Editors Corner by Don Stone

It is with great sadness we report of the passing of FO/UWSS member A. Dee Clark in Costa Rica on September 8, 2012. A. Dee was a UWSS graduate in 1956 and came back to become an instructor from 1969 to 1973. He served in UDT 21 and was a plank owner in Seal Team Two. A memorial service was held in Golfito, Costa Rica in September. He will be buried at sea during the 2012 SEAL Museum Muster in Ft. Pierce, Florida. The service will be on Sunday morning, November 11th.



A. Dee was my friend as well as fellow ST2 team mate. I don't think he was afraid of anyone or anything in those days.

President Kennedy had ordered that all the armed services would have unconventional warfare units and SEALs were the Navy's answer. Shortly after we were commissioned, the president, along with an assortment of Navy brass and senators, was inspecting us as to our readiness to perform our mission.

A. Dee broke ranks and spoke to the president, "Mr. President, we are being forced to take M14 rifles and they are unsuited for our mission. We need AR15 rifles that are smaller, lighter, and better suited to our mission". Of course the admirals and politicians were shocked! Kennedy thanked A. Dee for the info, turned to an admiral and said, "Admiral will you see to it that these SEALs get AR15's? And so we did!

Welcome New Members

Steven Waterman of Rockland, Maine
US Navy/USNR/USAR 64-77

John Sedlak of Lillian, Alabama
US Navy 65-88

James H. Seidel of Henrietta, New York
US Navy 59-64

Ember Alan Curry of Dover, Pennsylvania
US Air Force Pararescue

A second email was received correcting the names we listed in the May Buddy Line for Class 1-62 (UDT 27). New member Jim Seidel identified all class members in the photo so we are printing it again with the names.



Front: Richard Larson, Melvin Melichick, Jack "BlackJack" Macione. Row 2: Bill Shirley, Ken Goss, John Rzeznikiewicz, Andy Anderson, Ronald Woodaman, Pete Smith, Len Conti, Gordy Ablitt. Row 3: Peter Swartwout, (Greek officer) Pemitrioj Kanellopoulos, Jim Finley, Frank W. Soltis (Class 26), Bill Painter, Pete Smith, Gerry Larson, Ralph Pepe. Row 4: Ron Fox, Ed Clark, Walder "Red" Griffin, Richard "Hook" Tuure, Russel "Scott" Gugino, Harry Mattingly. Row 5: Pedro Corro, (Class26), Wayne Gough, Mike Boynton, Dan Mattie, Jim Tyree, Richard Brozak, Thomas Haydn, Roy Lumalla, James Seidel: Proctor: Martial Lemay. Back Row: James Soltis, Phil Mees, Dave Watts, Robert W. "Pete" Peterson, Bill Reagan, H.L. Brown Jr., John Sjostrom, James Wallace, Richard Hoff.

Executive Corner – Continued from page 4

From scheduled events to Reunion packages, dinner choices to speakers, Ice breakers to the General meeting and accommodations to raffles, a core of folks working together, are making this happen for us. meeting and accommodations to raffles, a core of folks working together, are making this happen for us.

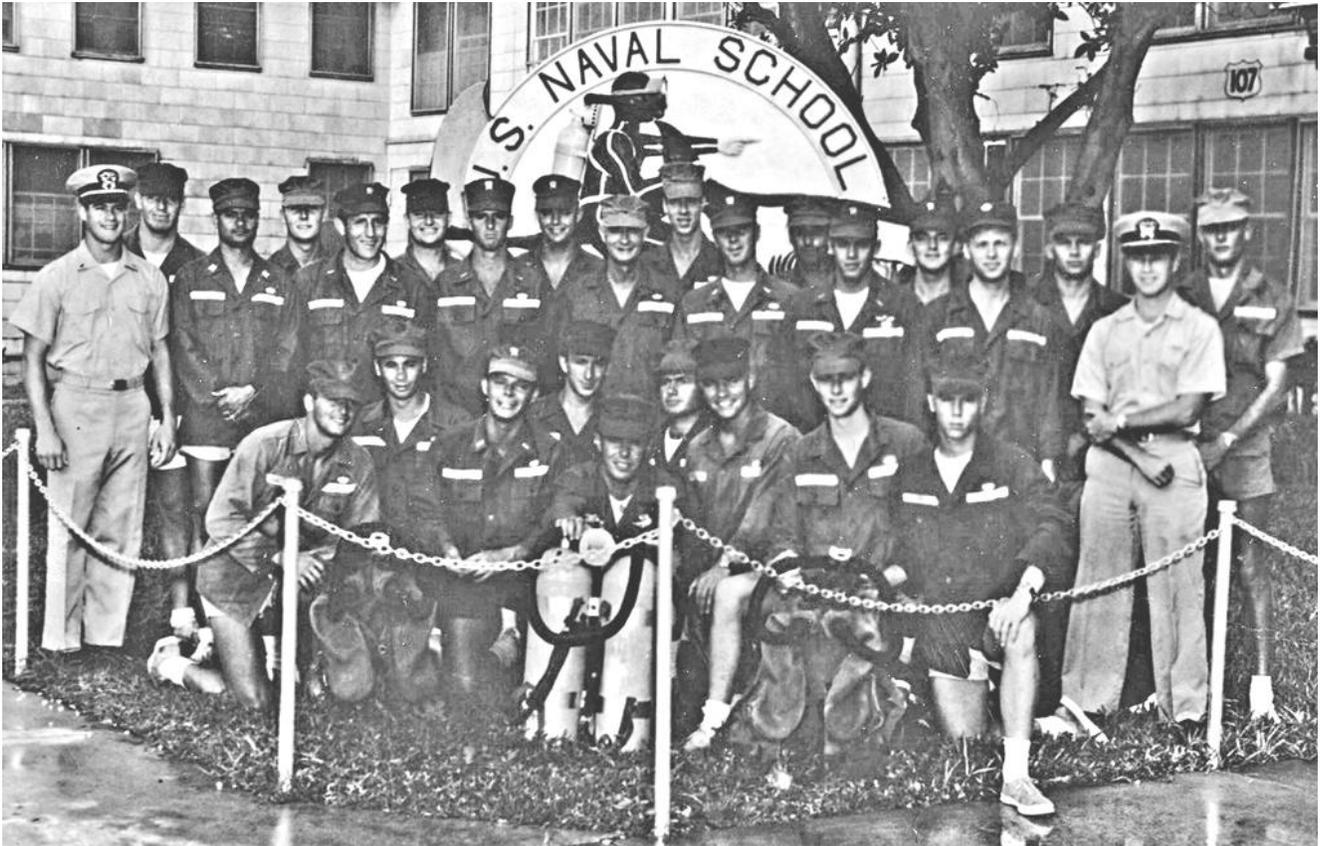
Woody, again, a big thanks to you, Bill and everyone on the reunion committee for all you are doing on our behalf. To Don and Art, we know that you are plugging away working quietly behind the scenes to make this event another success. Thank you both.

Several months ago, we put our Reunion notice in several Military Publications. One of them was the Military Order of the Purple Heart. Since that time, we

have had several new calls from men that had been through the school and were surprised and pleased to learn about the group and were excited to attend.

By the way, I am writing this while sitting on the patio, overlooking the Pacific Ocean on the tiny Hawaiian Island of Lanai'. Last night we had a Tsunami Warning set off by the 7.7 Magnitude Earthquake in The Queen Charlotte area off the Coast of British Columbia. The sirens were wailing here most of the night and Waikiki and all the other low lying areas were evacuated. We are up at about four hundred feet overlooking the beach, so I did in fact sleep soundly. This morning, we woke up to hearing that there were no problems, as a Canadian based Tsunami was about 5 inches tall, travelling about 800 kilometers an hour. Kilometers....hmmm go figure.

All the best to you folks, see you in May. Plan on it.



December 1964 Class Photo from E. F. Chiasson

Standing: Philip King, Charles Conklin, Paul LeBanc, Robert Newton, Francis Cleary, William Bishop, William White, Roger Bates, Martin Every, Vassilli Yannakakos, Timothy Jones, Helge Oi, 3 instructors.
 Kneeling: Edward Chiasson, Louis DeCrose, Roland Samuelson, John Enos, Frederick Welch, Constantine Revis, Roger Neault, Eugene Warta, Douglas Drummond.



Unidentified class photo from the UWSS archives. Is this your class, or do you recognize anyone in it? Let us know.

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

These EOD diving students are using the MK5 semi closed circuit, which could give you very long bottom time and adequate decompression time because of the rebreathing of some gas.

One of the purposes of this training was to give the students bottom time with the gear, and locating and identifying ordinance. A dive pair finished the required training operations and were sitting astride an old inert torpedo, placed in the training area for practice, and playing tic-tac-toe by scratching on the marine growth that covered the torpedo.

A very irritated small speckled moray dashed out of an opening in the torpedo and bit one of the guys on the finger. The student coolly purged the breathing bag and ascended to get his injury dressed.

A lesson learned – don't mess with a moray's house!



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