

Buddy Line[®]



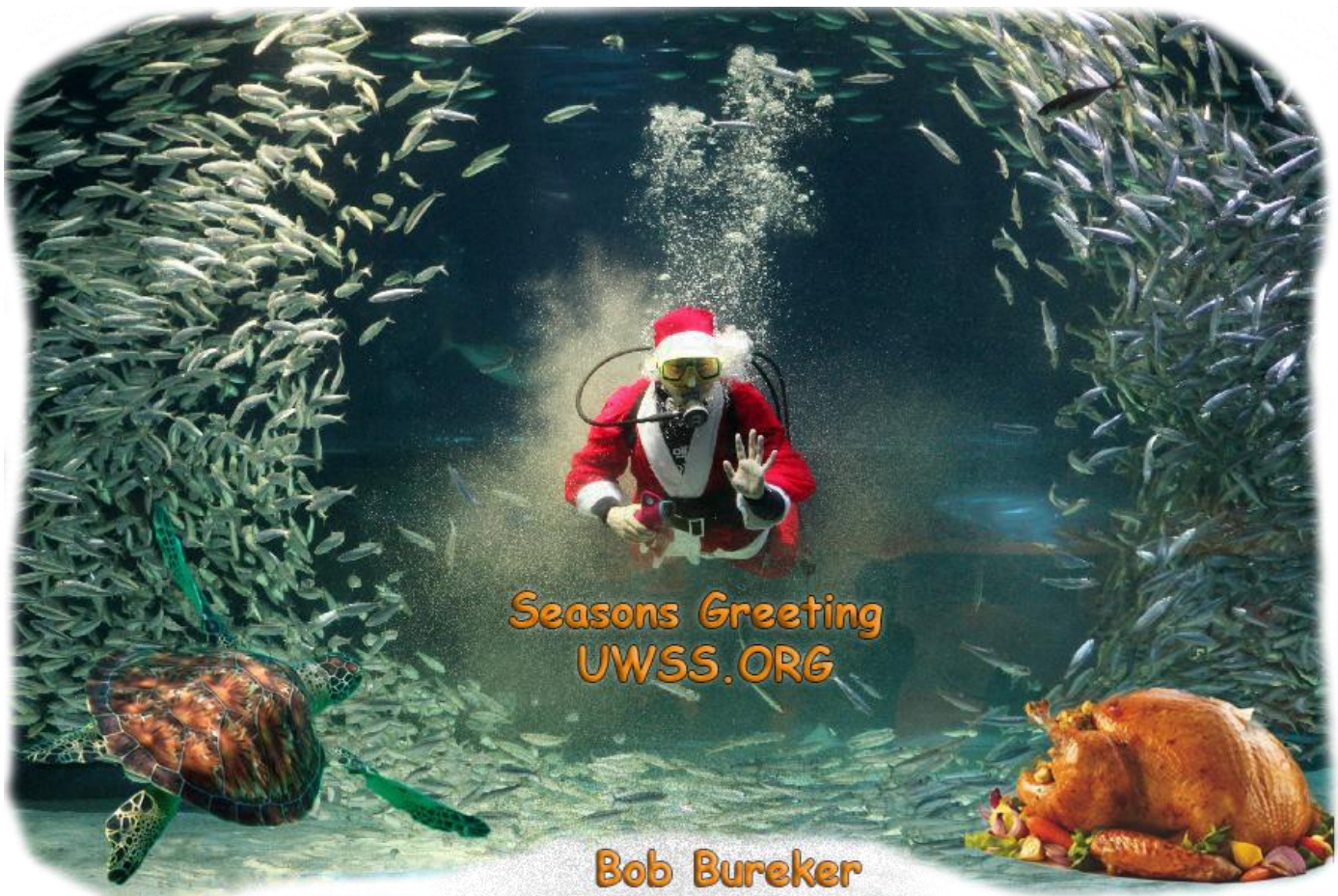
Newsletter of Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School, Key West, Florida

November 2015

The Executive Corner

Bob Bureker, President Dave Byers, Vice President Bob Shouse Jr., Secretary/Treasurer

It is hard to believe that we are looking forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas is just around the corner and coming on fast. I hope all of the UWSS members are doing well as we near the end of 2015.



We all have a wonderful plethora of memories of our adventures in the Underwater Swimmers School at Key West, Florida and the Buddy Line team will be posting more of those reminiscences as they come in from the dark corners of our personal files. Please take a few minutes to look around for something to share with your shipmates.

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UWSS LOGO ITEMS



All prices include shipping.

- Beefy-T t-shirt.....25.00 ea
white or ash gray, large logo back, small logo pocket
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*
- Long sleeved t-shirt.....28.00 ea
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.....28.00 ea
white or ash gray, small logo on pocket.
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*
- Pique polo all cotton.....29.00 ea
birch gray, embroidered logo left front ,(no pocket)
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL*
- Blue denim shirt, short sleeves38.00 ea
embroidered logo above pocket
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL*
- *All shirts size XXL add \$2.00 ea**
- Cap – natural with logo20.00 ea
- Baseball cap – blue, embroidered logo.....30.00 ea
Cap 3.00 less if ordered with shirt
- All service mug – old logo front, new logo back..20.00 ea
- Embroidered Patch 12.00 ea
- UWSS logo decal – transparent or white3.00 ea
- UWSS Plaque – bright brass on blue60.00 ea
- UWSS commemorative coin 12.00 ea
enameled brass, raised design, 1 5/8 inch diameter
- UWSS all-service commemorative coin..... 15.00 ea
enameled brass, raised design, 2 inch diameter
- Bright LED pocket flashlight, shark rider logo10.00 ea
- Key Chain with enameled logo medallion 10.00 ea

Make check to FO/UWSS

**Send with order to Bob Shouse Jr., Treasurer
274 Boca Ciega Point Blvd N.
St Petersburg, FL 33708**

Questions? e-mail: stonefish8@gmail.com
or phone (561) 391-6727

All logo items are pictured on the web site

Secretary/Treasurer’s Report

Membership November 2015	270 members
Account Balance August 2015	13,600.52
Dues	+50.00
Logo gear sales	+600.21
Buddy Line printing & mailing	-187.70
Logo sales mail expense	-73.41
Account Balance November 2015	13,989.62

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 U.S. Naval Underwater Swimmers School Key West, Florida from 1954 to 1973.

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 Bureker
 - Vice President..... Dave Byers
 - Secretary/Treasurer..... Bob Shouse Jr
- The Buddy Line newsletter is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. Buddy Line editors are Don and Art Stone.
e-mail: buddyline@uwss.org 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 buddyline@uwss.org.

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. Make check to FO/UWSS and send to Bob Shouse Jr., 274 Boca Ciega Point Blvd N., St Petersburg, FL 33708.

Executive Corner – continued from page 1

Recently I attended the Navy Nuclear Weapons Association Reunion in San Antonio, TX. It was a nice visit with a lot of very old looking guys and I did not know many of them at all. I was a GMTC before going to Key West and the few members I knew then that are still living looked old. Smile! The San Antonio area has some interesting history and I would recommend it highly for your bucket list.

Bob Bureker, President FO/UWSS

Lee Barber Update from Bob Bornmann

Don, Today I received from his daughter this e-mail with photo attached about Lee Barber in his retirement (at Perry Point VA Medical Center, Maryland). It does cheer up a gloomy, rainy day here. As aye, Bob



Daughter Lisa wrote "I just wanted to give you a update on dad. He turned 90 this August and is still hanging in there. They are so good to him up there and all the nurses adore him. His care is unbelievable. Thanks again for all you did for him and helping us keep him there. Here is a recent picture of him at the Prom they had for the Vets last month! Please feel free to share with anyone that knows him."

YOU WERE THERE! The diving duty summary sheet, which was contributed to the UWSS archives by Merlin Simonson, will bring back floods of memories to each of you. We want to hear about those memories, those life changing experiences, and the challenges mastered with your swim buddies. The assignment for all members, student or instructor, and sometimes both, is to share **your** recollections about any evolution that stirs up a story for you.

DIVING DUTY SUMMARY SHEET

DATE	DEPTH	TIME	EVOLUTION	EVOLUTION	INST. SIGNATURE
4-19-66	15 FT.	17 MIN.	OPEN/CIRCUIT 500 YD. SCUBA	SWIM TIME	<i>[Signature]</i>
4-19-66	15'	17 MIN.	750 YD O/C SCUBA	COMPASS ACCURACY SWIM	
4-20-66	30'	28 MIN.	1000 YD O/C SCUBA	TIME SWIM	<i>[Signature]</i>
4-20-66	30'	28 MIN.	750 YD O/C SCUBA	TIME SWIM	
4-21-66	60'	0 MIN.	60 FOOT DIVE O/C SCUBA		<i>[Signature]</i>
4-22-66	40'	20 MIN.	O/C SHIP'S BOTTOM AND CIRCLE LINE SEARCH		
4-22-66	40'	10 MIN.	O/C HARBOR PRACTICAL		<i>[Signature]</i>
4-25-66	130'	10 MIN.	O/C 130' QUALIFICATION DIVE		
4-26-66	30'	35 MIN.	O/C 1500 YD SWIM		<i>[Signature]</i>
4-27-66	30'	20 MIN.	PLANK BOARD AND CLUMP LINE SEARCH O/C SCUBA		
7-27-66	30'	10 MIN.	COMPASS LINE SEARCH O/C SCUBA		<i>[Signature]</i>
4-28-66	15'	25 MIN.	800 YD COMPASS ACCURACY SWIM O/C SCUBA		
5-3-66	35'	9 MIN.	JACK BROWN MASK HARBOR BOTTOM SEARCH		<i>[Signature]</i>
5-4-66	35'	20 MIN.	JACK BROWN MASK 1-MAN FLANGE PROBLEM		
5-5-66	35'	27 MIN.	JACK BROWN MASK "SHIP'S FITTER'S NIGHTMARE" PROBLEM		<i>[Signature]</i>
5-6-66	35'	31 MIN.	JACK BROWN MASK 2-MAN FLANGE PROBLEM		
5-11-66	15'	15 MIN.	MARK II 500 YD. COMPASS ACCURACY SWIM		<i>[Signature]</i>
5-12-66	15'	20 MIN.	MARK II 100 YD COMPASS ACCURACY SWIM		
5-16-66	15'	10 MIN.	MARK II HAND HELD SONAR PRACTICE		<i>[Signature]</i>
5-16-66	15'	30 MIN.	MARK III HAND HELD SONAR PRACTICE		
5-17-66	15'	30 MIN.	O/C HAND HELD SONAR PRACTICE		<i>[Signature]</i>
5-18-66	15'	30 MIN.	O/C HAND HELD SONAR PRACTICE		
5-19-66	60'	20 MIN.	MARK VII 60 FT. QUALIFICATION DIVE CIRCLE LINE		<i>[Signature]</i>
5-24-66	150'	10 MIN.	MARK VII 150 FT. QUALIFICATION DIVE CIRCLE LINE		
NAME (LAST) (FIRST) (MIDDLE)			SER. NUMBER		DATE
SIMONSON MERLIN DAVID			700164		ENS.

Enjoy the stories in this issue from "Chip" Harman and "Doc" Riojas; then send in yours. Email stories to buddyline@uwss.org; or snail mail to Don & Art Stone, 1440 SW 5th Ave, Boca Raton, FL 33432.

Welcome New Members

Lawrence Keen, Cold Springs, KY
USMC 57-87 UWSS 6402

Herve St-Pierre, Arlington, TX
USMC 1970-1999 UWSS 1972

The 1500 Yard Swim and Memories of the Summer of '71 by Chip Harman

I remember NOTHING of the 1500 yard swim. Over the last 45 years I have been able to block it from my mind in order to stop the recurring nightmares so I can get some sleep. What I do remember from the summer of 1971 are some names and faces.

My class:

ENS Barry Graham ,
 ENS Bill Keckley,
 ENS Jeff Zachem later CAPT,
 ENS H.M."Chip" Harman,
 FTN1 John Knight my swimm buddy and later a CWO-3,
 GMT1 Tom "TC" Brandt later GMTCM and CMC, AO1
 Cecil "Eddie" Barlow later LCDR,
 AO1 Garry French,
 AO1 Thomas Harrell,
 EM3 James "Rope" Goerring – RIP,
 EMFN James "Rat" Hall.

Joined us at Ft. McClellan:

CWO-3 Livingston,
 EAC Bill Raschick, and
 BMC Jim "Gentleman Jim" Blosschell.



Shrimpers, Sailors, and Salvors. Living and drinking and fighting in Key West 1971.

Our staff instructors and command:

CO LCDR Pat Badger
 XO LT Schemerhorn
 TO LT John Allen
 CWO-2 Detme,
 HTC Holton made CPO while our class proctor,
 EO1 Sweezey
 HT1 Jaskey, HM1 Lapone SOT,
 PO1 Allen

CPO Clarke MK 6 locker,
 CPO Eddie Knaupe EOD and lead terrorizer of Ensigns,
 PO1 Ray, Native American and "Boat Bar" emptier.

I may have misspelled some of the names and forgotten a few. Please forgive the mistakes.



This would have been close to graduation in August of '71. That's why I'm smiling. Notice the shiny "Butter Bar" on my collar. I'd been in the Navy all of about 7 months. Really salty.



And then we went to Ft McClellan. Notice the coffee mug from the first class mess in swim buddy FTN1 JOHN KNIGHT's paw. And notice the cool new dive watch on ENS Harman's wrist. I was afraid to wear it till after graduation.

We have all changed some over the years as has Key West. But the memories are still strong.

The Sea Story of the UWSS Midnight Run by Doc Rio (Erasmus "Doc" Riojas)

When Doc Rio was stationed at the UWSS, USNavSta, Key West FL back in the 1960's his primary job was to be the School's Corpsman and the Instructor in charge of teaching the Medical Aspects of diving. He also participated in other functions such as being a monitor at the students early morning P.T. and the "down town runs." Although sometimes he was not running but rode the UWSS truck which is the safety vehicle and "ambulance."

Doc Rio, of course, also had to be present in all the SCUBA swims as well as the open sea SCUBA dives on the U Boat and any UWSS events that would present a need for a medical Corpsman. This story is about an event that occurred during the training of a totally U.S. Air Force SCUBA class of officers and enlisted men.

A bit of information that does not concern this story has to be mentioned here because Senior Enlisted Instructor YNCS Dow Byers, for reasons too lengthy to be included, had set a precedence for a non scheduled NIGHT SWIM in year past.

It all happened when working hours were over and everyone was free to go home or on liberty. The base's Acey Ducey club was located right across the street from the UWSS compound. Doc Rio was on his way home when he was approached by a couple of his co-instructors to stop by the club for one beer. They made plans to return later that night for a few more beers and spend the rest of the night at the school in the empty dorm at the opposite side of the students dorm. It was around 2300 hours when they left the Acey Ducey Club for the UWSS barracks.

It happened that there were a couple of irritated Air Force enlisted young men that approached Doc Rio to vent some of their frustrations. They complained that the UWSS instructors were overly rough and mean towards them because they thought they were Air Force students. They specifically complained that some of the instructors did not participate in the P.T. and also added that some of the instructors were probably not in good a shape as they expected the students to be.

Doc Rio was unable to convince the students that they were wrong and that any instructor could do the exact P.T./run as they were instructed to do each A.M. They added that Rio was hardly ever seen on the PT field or the runs. That did it!

It was almost midnight and most all the students were asleep. Doc told them to go up their dorm and wake up everybody and tell them to get ready to go for a run! "What? The two Air Force students shouted!" "You heard me" said Doc, "get your assed up there and I'll meet you clowns at the PT field."



This is the story of the MIDNIGHT RUN! About four AM, doc Rio told them to go back to bed and be ready for their day that soon would begin.

Doc Rio told Senior Instructor John Hobbs about the incident. John laughed and so did every one of the instructors that were present in the instructors room. John said he had to tell the Training Officer and then he would let Doc know what would come down from the CO's office.

The word got out to the Air Force students that Rio was not going to be punished for the Midnight Run. One of the students father was a General in the Air Force, Active duty. He wrote his "daddy" that he was made to run at midnight for about four hours.

The Base CO got a call from the A.F. General and it was passed down to the CO of the UWSS concerning this man's complaint.

Now the students got the word that Doc Rio was going to go to a Captain's Mast. About 99% of the Air Force Students, on their own, wrote letters to the UWSS CO that "THEY" saw Doc at the school that night and asked him if he wanted to go for a lil' run with them. They wrote that Doc Rio agreed to go run with them and that he forced them to stop running at 4am because they had to start class at 8am that morning.

Now the entire instructor cadre were really cracking up! The problem was that the CO was not laughing. Doc Riojas got a six month suspended "BUST."

End of story.

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 of Class at UWSS: _____

Send copy of class picture if you have one. 2 Year Membership \$25.00 Make check payable to FO/UWSS and mail to Bob Shouse Jr, Treasurer, 274 Boca Ciega Point Blvd N, St. Petersburg, FL 33708

The way it was.

Looking West down Southward street, with the Gate Bar to your left, and the Main Gate center stage.



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