
Buddy Line



Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School. Kev West.

Executive comments

with Danny Mize

Another Reunion is on the Radar.

All pings are coming from Southern California in the vicinity of San Diego. Our specific destination is un-known. However, the dates are set for April 21 – 25, 2025.

Jim Lake is working hard to determine the possible numbers of members. He has, if not, already sent out another inquiry of members that have an interest in attending what might be the next to last re-union for our Fraternal Order. We are hoping many may re-consider and try to attend. Please help Jim with our next last reunion. We do understand that some are unable to travel, and others have lost interest. We are hoping to keep the Shipstore, BuddyLine, and the Website going to the actual last man standing. We are looking for enough interest to make the last reunion in Key West. Help us if you can.

Smile this is not the end but a shift in how we do business and maintain a spirit of friendly good-fellowship.

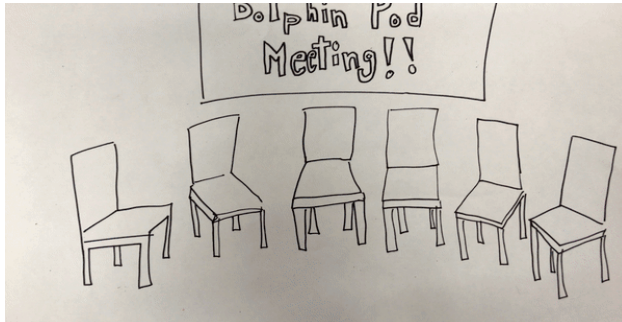


Can we con any of you with a party on the beach?

If you are worried about being in shape you may attend a Yoga class to work out the kinks before the party.



The Members Meeting



Our member meeting should be exciting as we determine the outcome of our Fraternal Order. Join us as we seek new board members and a fresh look at the best way to keep the group together until the last man standing or offer membership to all military divers. We will be evaluating whether to modify our mission statement. Note we already have a few members from other military diving schools. So please let us know if you have (1) lost interest, (2) unable to travel, or (3) just waiting for reunion to get closer to your location. If you pick the third choice, please let us know if you have a location that you might be able to attend.

Danny Mize, President of FO-UWSS



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(continue from BL May 2024)

I had a great deal of respect for many of the instructors at the school. In my view, their capabilities far exceeded enlisted ratings. The Navy is a tradition-oriented organization. Its officer leadership is primarily derived from four year educated graduates of the Naval Academy, OCS, and ROTC. Without the requisite education, it becomes extremely difficult for a non-college enlisted man to become a commissioned naval officer. To keep the door open for promising enlisted personnel, the Navy initiated the Limited Duty Officer program and came up with occasional officer selection programs based on merit and competition. It was my privilege to recommend four of our best enlisted instructors for conversion to officer. Three of them passed with flying colors, the other would panic at the sight of a competitive exam. I always felt Chief Stanley had the work ethics, determination, recall ability, and drive to overcome a complete lack of education. I encouraged him to "do it on your own - Read books, study math, spend spare moments reviewing college placement tests and other challenging examinations." Shortly after making Chief, the window opened, and I threw Stanley's name in the hat. I knew he could do it, and he did. Stanley passed the exam and was slated for OCS. With as little math background as he had, I knew the school's navigation course would be too much for him. I decided to spoon feed him celestial navigation, excluding all the theory by concentrating on method only. I taught him how to calculate a sun line of position, three-star fix, and meridian transit of the sun, moon fix, and great circle sailing. Jay proved to be an excellent student. He absorbed everything quickly and seldom made errors in arithmetic, generally

all that is required in celestial navigation if one excludes the theory. I would have gladly done the same for anyone else with the same enthusiasm and willingness to succeed as Stanley. Chief Hazelwood and Chief Delljocoma also made officer much to our delight. Both men were excellent role models. The bad news was they would be transferred from our command. The underwater world is unpredictable. Stay in it long enough and something bad is sure to happen. I had my share of close calls with all the shark encounters but never feared moray eels though I normally kept away from them. I had seen hundreds of green morays while looking under ledges, freeing speared groupers and crawling under large brain coral heads in search of lobster. One time I was cocking my Hawaiian Sling when I noticed a slight movement behind my right elbow. I swung my head around and noticed a giant green moray eel only inches from my arm. He kept opening and closing his mouth, but made no menacing move toward me. I was convinced they were uglier than harmful. We had just completed a series of deep dives off the outer southeast channel buoy when we decided to move closer to the reef for some recreational diving. After an hour or so, we tried to pull anchor without success, it was hung up in the coral. I dove over the side with Doctor Grunewald, the school doctor, for a quick look. He stayed on the surface as I descended the anchor line to the bottom. One of the anchor flukes was hung under a coral ledge. After a few tugs, I pulled it free. To conserve air, I crouched down in the middle of sand patch next to a large brain coral to spring to the surface. A fraction of a second later, I noticed the head of an enormous green moray eel striking across my



body. It had gone past my left arm and struck my right wrist. I had time enough to overcome my instincts to pull away. I knew morays had a retractable lower jaw which could dislocate and lock on to their victim.



Instead, I offered a limp arm as he pulled it to my left. I was all set to grab my right fingers with my left hand, plant my left foot and rip my wrist free when he suddenly let go. I felt no pain. For a moment I thought the eel had opened his mouth, letting go without a lot of damage other than teeth marks. On closer examination, however, the injury was far more severe. I looked through the green colored blood trail on my way to the surface and could see bone. There were three cuts on the top of my wrist and two on the bottom. The largest wound covered half my wrist and was over an inch wide. I could see several tendons, blood vessels and ripped flesh, yet I could move all fingers. "This is amazing," I thought. Dr. Grunewald had seen all this from the surface. He looked horrified. He immediately wrapped my wrist in a towel and started to take inventory. Only when he asked me to move my thumb did I realized it was not functional. The same thing happened when he asked me to move my wrist up and down.

On the way back to Key West, Dr. Grunewald told me there was a very gifted young surgeon assigned to the Naval Hospital. He said he would call him personally and ask him

to operate immediately. I took his advice and a few hours later he performed the requisite surgery. I really did not care about the pain. All I wanted him to do was taking time and do it correctly. To assist him, he kept referring to a surgical textbook, studying it for one hour as the Novocain set in. The only scary part was the size of the needle he tried to sneak on me. It was about eight inches long and would go through the top of my shoulder to my ribs. When it wore off a few hours later, he had to keep giving me injections through the upper part of my arm to deaden the ulna nerve. He ran five stainless steel wires through five cut tendons, grafted new sheath around one of the damaged tendons, sewed together a nerve and applied fifty-four stitches to the wounds before casting my wrist at a right angle pointing backward. The doctor later cultured slime off another green moray eel Scott Slaughter generously provided. "The germ count from the slime is far cleaner than a human bite," the doctor later said. Other than intense pain for a few days, there were no complications. (See Attachment (A) whose account by the author is not entirely accurate.) I was assigned to Miss Shay for rehabilitation. She was an ex-WWI nurse who looked close to seventy. There was not an ounce of compassion in her. The first thing she did was grab my thumb and bend it backward. The pain was excruciating. I felt sympathy for all those brave veterans of past wars under her care who obviously had to undergo far more painful rehabilitation than the little thing I was going through. After this first experience, I always approached her with my right wrist behind my back. At first, I could not lift a paper sheet with my right hand. Without a thumb the hand is virtually useless. According to Miss Shay, ultimate recovery was directly related to pain endurance. In other words, suffering was the key factor in rehabilitation. (to be continued)



First, we had an x-member ask why the newer BuddyLines are not on the website. He was told we hold the website newsletters back to encourage members to keep their membership up to date. We looked up this person only to find out he is not a paid member. He was told to join if he wanted an updated newsletter.

Again, we had another individual complaining about not getting his newsletter. His name was not on the master member list. He had never been on the member list. Again, another individual was told to join if he wanted a current BuddyLine.

I do hope those that have sent emails to the BuddyLine where not offended by the editor using actual names.

Help the editor keep the Mailbag stories and inquiries flowing. It has been the best part of the BuddyLine.

The editor has the following for the members:
Dear Esteemed Members of the Underwater Swimmers School Community,

As we grow older, the bonds we formed during our time at the Navy Diving School in Key West from 1954 to 1973 become even more precious. The BuddyLine has always been a beacon of camaraderie, keeping us connected through the years. Now, as many of us find it harder to travel or participate as actively as we once did, we want to ensure that the spirit of our community remains strong and vibrant.

We understand that some of you may have lost interest or find it challenging to stay involved. We want to hear from you. What can we do to help you continue to be a part of our cherished community? Whether it is through the Reunion, the newsletter, the website updates, or the Shipstore sales of memorabilia, your input is invaluable.

Here are a few questions to consider:

- **Reunion Participation:** Would virtual reunions or smaller, local gatherings be more accessible for you?
- **Newsletter Content:** What kind of stories, updates, or features would you like to see in The BuddyLine?
- **Website Updates:** How can we make our website more engaging and easier for you to navigate?
- **Memorabilia Sales:** Are there specific items you would like to see in the Shipstore? Would online sales be more convenient for you?

Your feedback will help us tailor our efforts to better serve you and keep the camaraderie alive. Please share your thoughts and suggestions with us. Together, we can ensure that the legacy of the Underwater Swimmers School continues to thrive.

Warm regards, Your editor.

Thinking of the young girls.



Glory Days

Harry, can you see any young girls? No, my wife has my glasses.





Next, as you might have guessed by now, we are trying to get a response from all our members; at least we will know if the members are getting the BuddyLine. If you did not get the survey from Jim Lake here it is:

Dear Members of the FO UWSS, greetings. As the UWSS VP I have volunteered to organize the UWSS Reunion 2025 to be held in San Diego CA, April 21-25, 2025.

I have attached the draft agenda for your review. Please note that the agenda could change depending on the number of attendees, hotel and restaurant availability, transportation requirements, etc. But the basic premises are 4 days, 2-3 group dinners, and tours.

I cannot start to work with any hotels in the San Diego area to negotiate the room rate and block rooms until I have an approximate number of UWSS members who would attend or at least very interested in attending.

Therefore, it is imperative that all who will receive this email please respond with your intentions as soon as possible. Only with your cooperation can I move forward with the work of contracting a hotel, identifying restaurants for group dinners, organizing tours, etc.

Please respond with one of the 3 options.

- 1. I am planning on attending. – Your name and guest**
- 2. I am interested in attending. Your name and guest**
- 3. I will not attend. Your name.**

Note: Please respond even if you cannot attend.

I will provide updates as I make progress with the agenda. A registration form will be developed and provided later for those who have responded to this email either planning or interested in attending the UWSS Reunion 2025.

Thank You for your time and hopefully a positive response.

Jim Lake, VP UWSS

Preliminary Draft Agenda

FO UWSS Reunion 2025

April 21-25, 2025, San Diego, California

As of August 6, 2024

Monday April 21:

Check-in Hospitality Room (Hotel TBD) – Meet and Great - Snacks and Drinks Provided
Dinner – Your Choice

Tuesday April 22:

Breakfast – Your Choice
0800: Hospitality Room Open for Coffee
0930: Depart for USS Midway Tour
1000: USS Midway Group tour – Veterans \$22ea
1300: Balboa Park:
Lunch and Museum visits on your own
1600: Return to Hotel
1730: Group Dinner – San Diego Old Town – Casa Guadalajara or Casa De Reyes?
1930: Return to Hotel – Hospitality Room Open for Desert and Conversation

Wednesday April 23:

Breakfast – Your Choice
0800: Hospitality Room Open for Coffee
0930: Depart for Group Tour for one of the following Commands depending on Availability
EOD Mobile Unite Three
or EOD Training Unite One
or Mobile Diving Salvage Unit One
or BUDS
1300: Lunch TBD
1500: San Diego Bay Boat Cruise – 2 hours - \$33ea
1800: Group Dinner at Toms Light House or similar.
1930: Return to Hotel – Hospitality Room Open for Desert and Conversation

Thursdays April 24:

Breakfast on your own
0800: Hospitality Room Open for Coffee
0800: Members meeting-Elect new officers, Vote on next Reunion (Key West)
0900: Depart for San Diego Pacific Coast Highway



tour with site seeing stops.
Lunch - time and place TBD
Tour will continue with a wine tasting stop TBD
1600: Return to Hotel
1730: Farewell Group Dinner – Little Italy?
1930: Return to Hotel – Hospitality Room Open for
Desert and Conversation

Friday April 25: Checkout

Assumptions:

UWSS will provide all group transportation.
Hotel will be selected based on cost/location and number of attendees.
Group dinners will be individual checks, regular menu.
UWSS will pay for Hospitality Suite and drinks and snacks.
May need to have a onetime charge \$25 - \$100 per person to cover suite drinks and snacks
Must have a good count of who will attend. Need this information to search for hotels, restaurants, tours, and transportation.
Hotels that will be consider for the group:
Paradise Point Resort – Great Location with plenty to do on site
Marriot Old Town – Great location
Hampton Inn and Suites – Liberty Station – Great location
Humphreys Half Moon Inn – Great location
Fairfield Inn & Suites Old Town – Great Location
La Quinta Inn and Suites Old Town – Great Location
Courtyard San Diego Liberty Station – Great Location
And Many more to consider.

From: John C Schofield

John's message: Message--
I graduated in early 72 (Feb?) from UWSS. 2nd Class Diver. The diving corpsman at the time was either Ron Holden or Rod Holden. Is he still alive? It would help me because I am trying to get my NAUI card replaced, the original one that Ron provided us for passing the course. It was an Advanced Diver card. Since NAUI moved from California to Florida, they

cannot identify having my card number or at least the instructor's correct name. And help would be appreciated. Thank you. If there is someone out among the readers that can help John, please feel free to help him.



Reconciliation Report

UWSS Bank Account – 8631

SUMMARY

6/30/24

Beginning Balance		\$14,594.98
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Cleared Payments	1 Item	-\$10.60
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Cleared Deposits	3 Items	\$ 125.00
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DETAILS	Beginning Balance	\$14,594.98
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Cleared Payments	1 Item	
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6/17/24	USPS	- \$10.60
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Total Cleared Payments as of 6/30/24		-\$10.60
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Cleared Deposits	3 Items	
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6/20/24	BKOFAMERICA MOBILE 06/20 DEPOSIT	\$50.00
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6/20/24	BKOFAMERICA MOBILE 06/20 DEPOSIT	\$25.00
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6/20/24	BKOFAMERICA MOBILE 06/20 DEPOSIT	\$50.00
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Total Cleared Deposits as of 6/30/24		\$125.00
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Ending Balance as of 6/30/24		\$14,709.38
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Register Balance as of 6/30/24
\$14,709.38



UWSS ORDER FORM

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	SIZE	NUMBER	PRICE	TOTAL
	DECAL TRANSPARENT	4"		\$4.00	
	DECAL WHITE	4"		\$4.00	
	EMBROIDERED PATCH	4"		\$12.00	
	BLUE FACE MASK			\$10.00	
	WHITE FACE MASK			\$10.00	
	KEY CHAIN			\$11.00	
	LED FLASHLIGHT			\$12.00	
	POLO SHIRTS S,M,L,XL			\$32.00	
	POLO SHIRT 2XL	2XL		\$34.00	
	GRAY MICROFIBER TEE S,M,L,XL			\$34.00	
	GRAY MICROFIBER TEE 2XL	2XL		\$38.00	
	BLUE MICROFIBER TEE S,M,L,XL			\$34.00	
	BLUE MICROFIBER TEE 2XL	2XL		\$38.00	
	LONG SLEEVE TEE S,M,L,XL			\$30.00	
	LONG SLEEVE TEE 2XL	2XL		\$33.00	
	BLUE DENIM SHORT SLEEVE SHIRT S,M,L,XL			\$42.00	
	BLUE DENIM SHORT SLEEVE SHIRT 2XL	2XL		\$44.00	
	BLUE BASEBALL CAP			\$35.00	
	KHAKI BASEBALL CAP			\$35.00	
	ALL SERVICE COMMEM. COIN	2"		\$15.00	
	UWSS COMMEMORATIVE COIN	1 5/8"		\$12.00	
Name					
Adress			SUB TOTAL		
City/St/Zip			TOTAL AMOUNT DUE		

Mail completed form with check to:
U.S. NAVY UWSS
 James Houle, 3220 W. Pebble Beach CT
 Lecanto, FL 34461