

Buddy Line



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

August 2003

President's Corner by Don Stone

Art and I returned from our two month trip to Alaska in mid August with a million things to get caught up on, including several orders of logo gear that came in the mail while we were away. A couple of the guys understandably were getting uneasy about the fate of their orders but should have received them by now. My yard no longer looks like the Amazon jungle., and most things around the house are working again.

Speaking about logo gear, we have gotten a couple of complaints about the logos on the T-shirts fading out too soon. I spoke with the supplier and was told for longer lasting logos they would have to use a silk screening process and the shirts would cost slightly more. So I am asking for input from you members; should we change to silk screened T-shirts at a slightly higher cost, or make no changes. Please e-mail, phone or write to us with your preference.

We would also like your ideas for pre or post reunion activities. Possibilities are drift boat fishing trip followed by a fish fry & beer party, golf tournament, group visit to Mexico. Let us know what you would like and we will arrange it.

Bernie Campoli has been busy setting up a visit to Consolidated Divers – the present home of the UWSS shark. He is also working with contacts at SPECWAR to get a visit for us at one of their commands. Bernie's contacts in the diving community continue to be very helpful in organizing this reunion and recruiting new members.

Former UWSS medical officers Robert Bornmann and Mark Hoffer became members recently, joining Charles Aquadro who has been a member for several years. We look forward to seeing them at the reunions and reliving some old times. No, we aren't going to hold sick call the morning after the ice breaker!

Congratulations are in order for our old diving buddy and FO/UWSS charter member, Dick Pence, on his wedding August 31st to Judy Reed. We wish Dick and Judy many happy years!



Instructor Bob Shouse and class heading for the boats.

Mackenzie's Diary

Robert B. MacKenzie, a 1957 UWSS graduate retired after 30 years service in the Marine Corps, shared the diary he kept of his days as a UWSS student. Here are more excerpts from his diary.

16May: Things didn't go too badly this morning. The calihoopies didn't start off killing me; and we swam today using sidestroke, breast and back without fins. Actually, it was a refreshing morning.

Afternoon came and we re-embarked - this time for our first graded session in the ocean. Taking an even 15 minutes for 750 yards, we had another three-way tie for first place. There was a slight disagreement with Keller and Wallace as to their out-of-the-water recoveries and between Al and me we convinced them that it might be wise to drop their times a minute or get smashed collectively. I'm sure it won't happen again.

At night, we went out again for another 750 yards - and again a tie for first place - three ways. We can't seem to beat those other two pairs into the beach. This one in 15 minutes also and dead tired after its completion – partly|

Continued on page 4

UWSS LOGO ITEMS



The following logo items are available, so send in your orders and they will be shipped pronto. Prices include shipping. Availability subject to change. We can obtain other items, such as sweat shirts, if there are enough requests.

- White Beefy-T shirts..... 13.00 ea, 2 for 23.00
Logo front and back (pocket or no pocket – your choice)
Sizes L, XL, XXL, Childs 10/12 (no pocket)
- Ash gray Beefy-T shirts..... 14.00 ea, 2 for 25.00
Large logo on back, small logo on pocket
Sizes L, XL, XXL, Childs 10/12 (no pocket)
- White Polo shirt 18.00 ea, 2 for 33.00
Small logo on pocket, 50/50 cotton/poly
Sizes L, XL, XXL
- Ash Polo shirt 19.00 ea, 2 for 35.00
Small logo on pocket, 50/50 cotton/poly
Sizes L, XL
- UWSS logo decal 2.00 ea
- Coffee mug with logo 11.00 ea
- Cap – natural with logo 11.00 ea
- 7.00 ea if ordered with shirt

Send payment with order to Don Stone,
1440 SW 5th Ave
Boca Raton, FL 33432



Is this swimmer riding a SPU or an SDV?

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Membership August 2003
101 regular members
75 associate members

Account Balance May 2003	2,769.08
Interest	+4.69
Dues	+ 75.00
Logo items sold	+ 171.00
Logo gear expense	- 167.69
Buddy Line expense	-106.17
Account Balance August 2003	2745.91

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. Associate membership is open to family, friends, and associates of UWSS students and staff who share an interest in the goals and activities of the FO/UWSS. Associate members will not have voting privileges.

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 Don Stone
- Vice President..... Chris Seger
- Secretary/Treasurer A. Dee Clark
- Historian Erasmo Riojas

The Buddy Line newsletter is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. Buddy Line editors are Don and Art Stone. e-mail: stonefish7@cs.com or uwssbuddyline@cs.com snail mail: 1440 S.W. 5th Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432 phone: (561) 391-6727 fax: (509) 472-6492

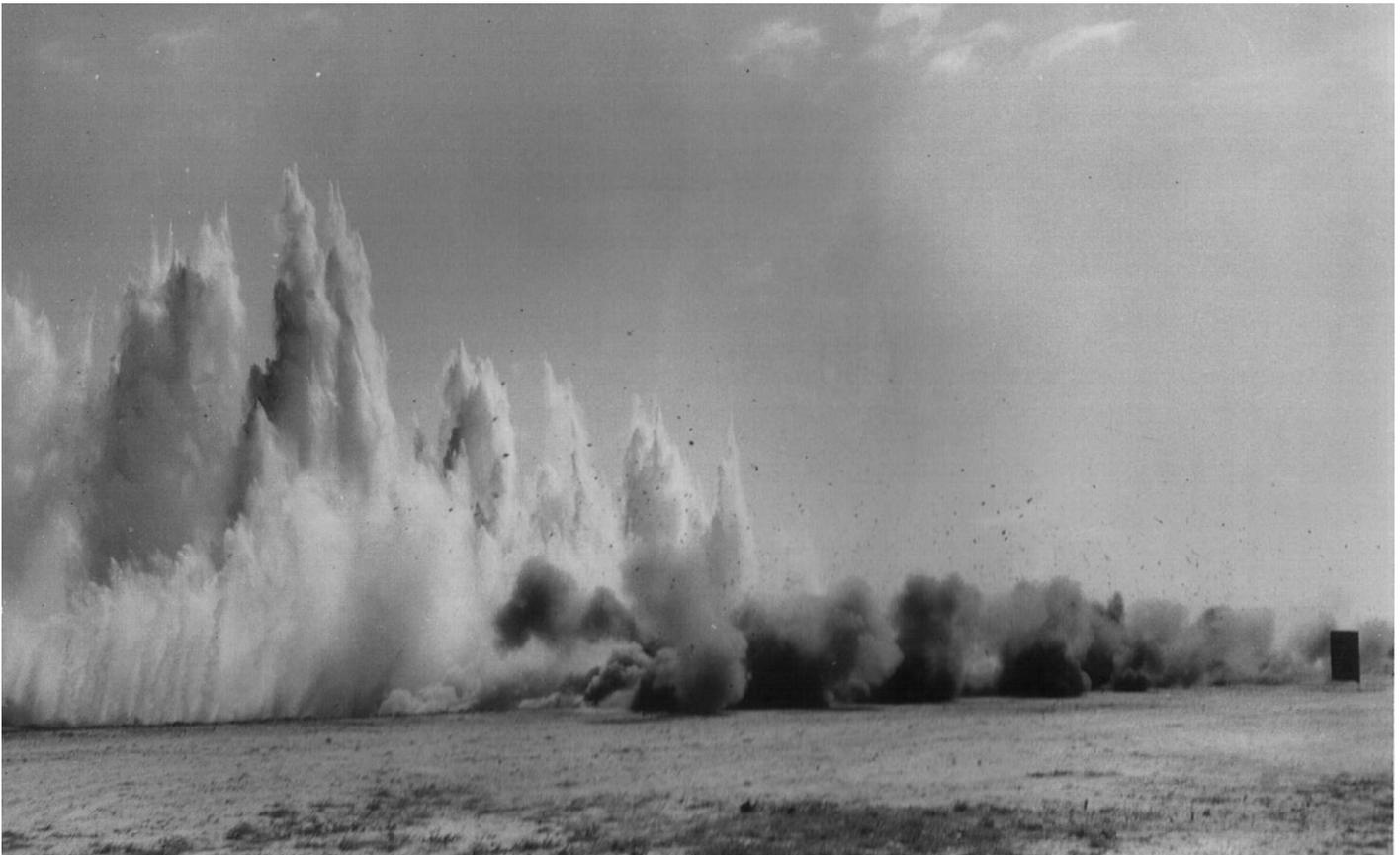
Historical Information Requested
Specific information is needed on schedules, training events, testing, content of classes, etc. at UWSS for inclusion in a history of Navy Diving being written by Tom Hawkins for the Office of Naval Research. Please contact Doc Rio, UWSS Historian, by phone at (281) 485-0177 or e-mail at elticitl@mi-vida-loca.com.



Picture from Lee Barber's collection.

Demo Island briefing...

You yell
"Fire in the Hole",
twist the little handle
and - - -



Picture from Roger Lynch

Mackenzie's Diary continued from page 1

due to the large fins I was wearing. My legs just couldn't take them and make do with them the work they were designed for.

17May: Alfa and Brave groups split up this morning - one group (Alfa) going into the officers' pool, while Bravo stayed with the enlisted pool. I was a bit late getting out because I wanted to swap those big heavy fins for the lighter ones.

A mile and a half around the track and many, many goodies drove me into the deck in short order.

The morning's training consisted of lifesaving techniques - breaking holds and Holger-Nielsen artificial respiration. Some goodies were thrown in, though: underwater swim - 83 yards the first time with fins and 40 the second without fins. I'll learn eventually to keep my mouth shut. I was the only one that "got to" swim it twice after telling Kappesser that I thought I could do better without the fool fins. He caught me without breath - or at least that's what I keep telling myself.

They had dreamed up a relay with wet towels in the hands - 67 yards per man with MacKenzie swimming twice, as usual. This time, our team lost its collective shirts. The first time. It can well be imagined by the reader just how we all felt after coming through that distance. After all that I was dead. Knees wobbled, ankles failed, and the head spun in weariness. A 1000 yard swim this afternoon, too.

A class in lung charging, a short cleanup period, and off to the boats. One thousand yards doesn't seem too far to the average landsman, but to us who had to race it, it seemed an eternity. Today the instructors will enforce the no-hands and on-the-side rules. Some people, including Al, might be lost without both of these crutches to help them along.

With my new fins, Al and I started fast, kept it that way, and finished first and fast. Now that he doesn't have to wait for me, we can really move out. We won over the next two couples by three minutes, thus ending the first week in first place position in the class. At least in performance. We probably never will find out what our attitude grades are, I don't imagine.

At night, with the week's work behind us, Al, Gunny and I took measure of our vast opportunities in the area and:

1. Hit the slop chute right after chow for a fast Ballantines before going to the movie.
2. Found out after getting to the movie that it was "The True Story of Jesse James".
3. Left the immediate neighborhood of that honker.
4. Went to town to "Massacre at Dragon Wells." a winner.
5. Ambled into and out of the USO-YMCA on Southland Street.
6. Had one Schlitz at the Marine Barracks slop chute - the "Globe and Anchor" room.
7. Returned to the rack.

18May: When I think of the torture a human body can go through without complaining too loudly, I shudder. I was awakened at 0630 for chow - on a Saturday. It was for a good cause, though. The boat leaving for the reef went at 0900. We all hoped to see, though avoid close contact with, the barracudas, manta rays, sting rays, sharks and Portuguese Men o' War which abound on the offshore reefs - at least the instructors say they do. Happy hunting, Vacationers!

The trip was wonderful. In company with assorted Air Force Colonels, Majors and Captains we had a good time - swimming, diving, and spearing; eating ham sandwiches, sleeping and sunning. Just a relaxed day of relative inactivity.

I was sick most of the morning - a combination of bouncing LCPR and unfamiliarity with the water. Sleep and food beat it down, though, and I managed to enjoy myself thoroughly during the remainder of the day.

When we were to have come in, the motor broke down, and Henry Staples and Dr. Kirker had to swim to shore for another boat.

We finally arrived back at the base at 1730 instead of the scheduled 1600. Burke, Bostain, Al and I were the only students to have made the trip. We were all followed by barracuda at one time or another during the day, but nothing happened; they're just normally snoop animals that wonder just what these strangely garbed people are doing nosing around.

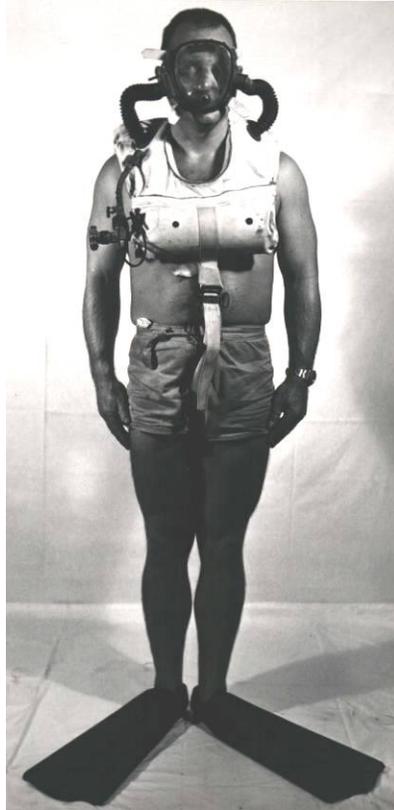
At night after chow, we attempted the movie on the base. "Rumble on the Docks." Surprisingly, it was good. After the flick, Gunny and I hit the White Hat club for "one beer." I left early with Don Snellenberger, and Gunny made it in at 0600 the following morning with Tappy and Lanson. Don and I felt that we made a poor showing, indeed.

19May: Tappy tried hard to hold reveille on us this morning, shaking racks and yelling about "Candy Ass Marines." It seems that Burke put in a call for him with the duty NCO to get him up at 0615 - fifteen minutes after he got into bed.

Studied, wrote letters and slept all day. Washed dirty clothes and studied for the diving medicine test coming up early next week some time. I haven't been out of my swim trunks all day - except for breakfast this morning.

Soon I shall return to the books, take a shower and spend half the night reading "The Cruiser" - unless something else comes up requiring my immediate attention, such as a visit to the local pub. As usual, a lack of money is in evidence, and temperance and inactivity are the only ways to solve this ever-present dilemma.

Something came up. I got hungry. After a couple sandwiches and a strawberry malt, Gunny and I adjourned to the "Yea Room" and had a couple with Dillon, Dutch and Kennedy. Dillon thinks marriage is a working and very agreeable pastime - but then his wife can cook, stay home, keep track of money, and likes the Navy. He's either lying or his wife is nuts (or exceptional)



Can you name the SCUBA rigs?

Pictures from Lee Barber's collection.



Class picture from Paul Brown.....Proctor is Frank Kappesser

Membership Application

Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School

Full Name: _____

Wife's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Branch of Service: _____ Dates of Service: _____

Dates & Class # at UWSS: _____ or Associate Membership: _____

Send copy of class picture if you have one. 2 Year Membership \$25.00

Make check to A. Dee Clark, Treasurer and mail to 1315 Garner St., Nacogdoches, TX. 75961



The Way It Was

Portuguese Man-O-War jellyfish were a hazard to the surface swimmer and even hit scuba divers when surfacing. They could be avoided if you looked where you were going, but at night in choppy conditions almost impossible to avoid. Their stings caused intense pain and sometimes a shock-like condition that required quick medical intervention.

This unfortunate student, his swim buddy, and several others were stung during a one mile night surface swim. As you can see in the photograph, many Man-O-War tentacles were wrapped around his arm and body. His rescuers were also stung getting him out of the water.

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