

Buddy Line



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

August 2010

UWSS Reunion May 7th to 12th, 2011



The Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School invites you to join us for a different kind of reunion - aboard a 5-day cruise in the Caribbean with port calls in Ocho Rios, Jamaica and Grand Cayman Islands. We embark from Miami on Saturday, May 7th and return to Miami on Thursday, May 12th.

Reunion chairman, Jerry Patrta, has worked closely with a very capable travel company, Travel Leaders of Palm Beach Gardens, and with the beautiful Carnival Destiny cruise ship, to find the best cruise available for our reunion requirements at the lowest cost.

Whether it is because you like cruising, or you just want to get with your shipmates again, we hope you will share this adventure with us.

An information packet with all the details is available on our web site www.uwss.org for viewing and/or downloading. If you do not use the internet, you can call Reunion Chairman, Jerry Padrta at (772) 873-9950, or Beverly at Travel Leaders 800-286-9839, and ask about the Underwater Swimmers Reunion Cruise.

The special pricing in the cruise information package has been extended until the middle of September.

The Executive Corner by Gerry Flowers with Bob Holmes

Well folks, time is getting short for booking at the guaranteed best prices for our reunion. I finally followed the instructions in the reunion package. It was painless and to my surprise, very easy to do. Mind you, I did put it off as I initially felt it was going to be quite a chore. It was not.

I then called Beverly Kelly, our contact from Palm Beach Gardens Travel Leaders. I felt great about the trip, the reunion and being on board a ship and explained to her that others may be putting it off because it is a "ship" and it conjures up all kinds of memories. Beverly was patient with me as I told her about our members.

I did mention to her, that our members were the pioneers of Military Diving and each and every one of the men could handle any hardship the Cruise sent our way, from great food to the wonderful ports. I told Beverly that the group is comprised of former Special Forces, Naval Spec Warfare operations, Para Rescue, hardened Submariners, some of the Original Navy SEALs and even a few Recon Marines. I bragged a bit and told her that anyone who was anyone to be "reckoned with" was a graduate of this Key West Diving school. I referred her to our UWSS website so that she could be more familiar with who we were. She said she would check it out. She did.

Beverly got back to me and had several questions to ask after reading the history of the U.S. Naval School, UNDERWATER SWIMMERS, looking at the photos and getting a feel for the group of "hardened Military men" that we are suggesting we bring on her vessels for an extended Party. Her first question was..."who was the man vacuuming the Banquet Hall" at the end of the last reunion as he looked vaguely familiar.

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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 –tan or blue, embroidered logo20.00
Cap 3.00 less if ordered with shirt
- Mug-old logo front, UWSS back, hand wash..... 10.00
- Embroidered Patch 7.00
- UWSS logo decal2.00
transparent or white background
- UWSS plaque - Bright brass logo on blue.....35.00
- UWSS commemorative coin.....7.00
enameled brass with raised design
1 5/8" diameter
- Key Chain with enameled logo medallion7.00

**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 2010	270 members
Account Balance May 2010	\$13,433.07
Dues	+325.00
Logo gear sales	+320.00
Buddy Line printing	- 67.31
Postage	-225.60
Website expense	-23.94
Cruise package mail-out	-344.69
Refundable deposit – cruise ship	-1250.00
Account Balance August 2010	12,166.53

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 will be held at various locations to be selected by members' votes.

FO/UWSS Officers

- PresidentBob 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.

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snail mail: 1440 SW 5th Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432
Reunion Coordinator: Jerry Padrta (772) 873-9950

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.

September 1959

Photo from
John Smith

Class proctor
"Curly" Crowell



February 1962

Photo from
Lesley Ford
Middle row
2nd from right

Class proctor
"Pee Wee" Nealy

Editors Corner by Don Stone

Reunions are lots of fun for the attendees, but lots of work for the reunion committee, which sometimes ends up as one person working his tail off to set up the reunion. At the 2009 business meeting, a reunion in Branson was suggested. There was little support for it but no other suggestions were made. Jerry Padrta agreed to be reunion chairman as he was familiar with Branson, and a couple of members agreed to help.

Jerry's research showed Branson would be very expensive and limiting, so a reunion cruise was suggested as an alternative and it was put to a vote through the Buddy Line newsletter. Only thirty one members responded, with one third of them voting for Branson and two thirds of them voting for the cruise. Both choices were more expensive than our reunions usually are, and we understand that with the economy like it is, expense is important. Also paying for a boat ride may seem silly to an on old salt! However, with no other suggestions coming forth, Jerry proceeded to make arrangements for a reunion cruise. Nineteen have signed up as of August 30th.

There is a lesson here. At the reunion business meeting we need to decide on a location where most of the members will want to attend. While it seems most want the reunion to be on a base, we didn't hear any suggestions. Speak up! Come prepared! Do some research on your own, or with others. If you live near a base, check with MWR and the base command to see if they would welcome a UWSS reunion there.

Our 2009 reunion in Panama City Beach was a great success because of the connections, effort and work that the members and their wives who lived there put in to it. Everyone really enjoyed that reunion, but it isn't fair to ask them to do it every time. We need our members to become more proactive in researching and setting up reunions.

A military reunion of a special organization like FO/UWSS isn't like going, or not going, to a movie, where it really doesn't matter if you go or not. It does mean something when you get together with your shipmates and teammates and support your organization and its goals. A missed opportunity to be with teammates may be your last opportunity to be with some of them.

Buddy Line is the way that we keep in touch with fellow members, and I usually enjoy passing the word about reunions and members' activities. But again, there is a sad duty to perform: Fair winds and following seas to these warriors who, although retired, continued to serve their country and community.

WILLIAM "BILL" HODGSON ARENS June 1, 2010
Capt USA Ret., member American Legion. Bill began his military career in the Coast Guard in 1960, and was a Coast Guard diver serving in the US and Far East. In 1965 he enlisted in the Army and was commissioned. After retiring in 1986 Bill attended the University of New Mexico, and taught school. He spent the last 20 years of his life in the Morton, Texas area with his dear friend Konnie Simpson, working for farmer's rights and supporting the troops.

HENRY JACK RHINBOLT, June 19, 2010
LCDR USN Ret. Known as "Jake" in ST2, enlisted in 1948, was commissioned in 1962, and served with distinction until 1970 receiving many medals and awards. One of the guys referred to him as an enlisted man's officer. After retiring he and his family moved to Maine where he worked with the Forest Service as a ranger, devoting his life to conservation and the wise use of natural resources.

On a lighter note, we are happy to introduce the following new members who have joined this year:
Donald LeBlanc of Fall River, MA William Lanman of Covington, KY Jack Hamilton of Little River, SC Lesley Wade Ford of Fairview, MO John Cribbs of South Daytona, FL Richard Paul Conti of Covent Station, NJ and Arthur (Art) W. Parry of Signal Mountain, TN



Photo in UWSS archives
from Lee Barber

President Kennedy visits
Key West in 1962

Executive Corner - Continued

She also wanted to know who the fellow was wearing the lovely blue print summer dress. Beverly asked... letting me know that it was really none of her business, but who was the tall blond man kissing the other man at what appeared to be an evening party on the beach.

I answered all the questions with as straight a face as I could muster over the telephone. I told her that the man vacuuming was one of the Original Navy SEAL's. AND yes, it was in fact, Rudy Boesch, from the Original show of the "Survivor Series". A question was asked to zero in on who was wearing the lovely blue summer dress. I told her. That man in the dress was no other than the infamous "Hell Raiser, former Navy Corpsman, Navy SEAL, Korean and Vietnam Veteran from Pearland Texas. Mexican Extordinaire", "Doc Rio", and he is as tough as nails. I answered the third question before she had the chance to say a thing. I said, yes, Bev, the taller guy kissing the other sailor is the current President of the UWSS, Bob "Deep Dive" Holmes of Galveston and it is a Navy thing. We have reassured the cruise line that this group is in fact normal and well behaved. I did not mention the Para Rescue antics or anything about "Submariners".

She stopped me there and told me that regardless of what she has seen of a few of our members, a cruise is

the chance of a lifetime to take part in a holiday and reunion that will be second to none. I booked on the spot and she was absolutely delighted after seeing the photos, that I am bringing a woman.

Guys, we only have until September to be positive we will capture the best rates. I also asked if many guys have booked...she told me.....NONE. The wives are doing the booking. What does that tell you gentlemen? Your wives will love this cruise and as thrifty as most of us are, it really is a chance for the group to have a wonderful time.

On Behalf of Don Stone, Jerry Padrta, Bob Holmes and myself, I would like to re-invite you all to a different kind of Reunion, ONE WE ALL DESERVE...A magnificent five day cruise in the Caribbean, with stops in Ocho Rios, Jamaica and the Grand Caymans. Whether you just like cruising or you just want to get together with old friends, we hope that you will share this adventure with us. Please go to the website and download your cruise package and get in touch with Beverly to get "Aboard". We look forward to seeing all of you come "up the Brow".

Regards from all of us and again, thanks to Jerry, Judy, Don and Art for making this happen. Guys, for your wives and friends, knock the dust off your wallet and give Beverly a call. See you all soon.

Bob Holmes and Gerry Flowers



Photo from Lee Barber. Lee was the class proctor of this scuba class. Date unknown – between 1956 and 1961. One of the twin scuba rigs is a Scott Hydro-pack. It was a full face mask with a short snorkel tube that screwed shut. If the diver didn't shut it completely the mask would flood. The twin 90's shown were very heavy but lasted a long time.

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

Pictured on the "U-Boat" are three outstanding UWSS instructors. Frank Kappessor is wearing an old UDT life jacket and diving underwear bottoms. Before wet suits, wool diving underwear or dry suits were worn for protection and warmth, but dry suits were over kill for diving in Key West.

Talking to Frank is Carl Otto Schultze. Seated, wearing a CDBA (British N₂O₂ semi closed circuit rig) is Neal "Pappy" Hewitt. Pappy was instrumental in promoting our first reunion in 1989 along with Mike Driscoll.



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