

# Buddy Line<sup>®</sup>



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

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August 2016

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## Reunion 2017 Update

By Reunion Chairman Dave Gholson

Shipmates, here is the latest on the next reunion in San Diego.

First the timing, as May 2017 is tough, the second week is Mothers Day, the fourth Memorial Day. The middle two are city wide conventions. Concentrating on May 18-19-20 has brought in the best offers and allowed for some planning.

Working with 36 hotels in the San Diego area, we have had proposals from 14 facilities. Room rates range from 129.00 to 309.00 All with 12% San Diego taxes and offering meeting space and catering. Most have surcharges on the rooms.

Being disappointed in the cost and fearful it would hurt attendance, I had conversations with the managers of all four area Gateway Inns. Fred Garcia, Manager of the Naval Base Inn is holding 50



rooms on an interim basis with a promised room commitment by November and firm numbers and money March 18. The cost is 57.00 per day, no tax (on the base). MWR runs the Anchors Catering and conference Center a few blocks away and has ...

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## Night Navigation

By Larry Hill

Thanks for the Buddy Line's engaging article by Dave Byers on the challenging 1,500 yard swim test. It took me back. Truthfully at 76 my 'gray matter' fails me on much of that swim requirement in the winter of 1964-65.

What I vividly remember was another night navigation open-ocean swim test. One of our ex-SEAL instructors grinned and reminded our boat on the way out of the harbor, that "sharks like to troll the coast for dinner at night." I was uptight as my buddy and I left the boat and dropped into sea. We took a long careful surface compass reading in hope that it would take us to the truck headlights on the beach a very long way off. Nodding each other we dove for the bottom.

It was a full moon/no cloud night and the water seemed warm but the dim light was very eerie. The moonlight filtered to the sea floor below us and gave rippling shadows. We leveled off, took a compass reading and struck off into the shadows.

Onward for what seemed like endless minutes. On this evolution the challenge was to swim (1,000yds?) to the surf... emerging within a set distance of the truck lights. I don't remember the current being a factor. I was relieved that each team trailed a line with a small flashlight bobbing on the surface for tracking. You weren't allowed to come to the surface to check your progress. You had to rely totally on your compass.

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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 sleeves .....38.00 ea  
embroidered logo above pocket  
Sizes M, L, XL, XXL\*
- \*All shirts size XXL add \$2.00 ea**
- Cap – natural with logo .....20.00 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 white .....3.00 ea
  - UWSS Plaque – bright brass on blue .....60.00 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 logo .....10.00 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](mailto:stonefish8@gmail.com)  
or phone (561) 391-6727

*All logo items are pictured on the web site*

**Secretary/Treasurer’s Report**

Membership July 2016	
Members in database	271
Members in good standing	202
Account Balance May 1, 2016	\$14,688.75
Dues	+375.00
Logo gear sales	+302.00
Logo Gear Purchase	-299.98
Logo Gear postage	-94.10
Buddy Line printing & mailing	-199.89
Account Balance July 31, 2016	\$14,771.78

**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](mailto:buddyline@uwss.org) phone: (561) 391-6727  
snail mail: 1440 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432

**WEBSITE: [www.uwss.org](http://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](mailto: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.

## The Executive Corner

Bob Bureker, President

Dalia, my wife, enjoyed the recent trip to Hawaii for the Navy EOD Association 2016 Reunion. It was a great trip. I proudly wore my new UWSS hat with a miniature gold EOD pin on it. Dalia thinks I should start a Pineapple Plantation over there, what do



you think? Check out the Navy EOD Reunion video at the Hilton in Hawaii.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nzdy-VklaxE>

We are working on the UWSS Reunion for 2017 in San Diego. Dalia also loves the great weather in San Diego and we are looking forward to this fantastic location for 2017 Reunion. There are lots of things to enjoy in the San Diego area. Sea World San Diego is a real treat and you can get discount tickets via Waves of Honor program. If you would like an evening dinner cruise, don't forget to bring some animal crackers to feed the Sea Gulls on the way back into the pier. They do some amazing dives, spins and rolls when you sail the animal

crackers off the fantail. I hope to see all of you in beautiful San Diego.

We are very fortunate to have Dave Gholson as the point man for the Reunion. Please take a look at his article in this **Buddyline**®. If you have question drop us a line at [board@uwss.org](mailto:board@uwss.org).

As many of you may know I got this job by default since there were no volunteers to step up and take the position of President and the other board positions. I asked for help and Dr. Dave Byers and Bob Shouse Jr. stepped up to assist. I know that it does not say much for the process of filling positions in the UWSS.ORG. I truly value this group and would like to keep it viable. I think it is really not fair to the current membership at large to make rules without By-Laws and to do things for the entire group without some means of the membership expressing their opinions on matters that would affect us all.

I am working on making a vote page for the website so **all** members can make their wishes known on things like location for the next reunion and who you want to be your representatives in the organization. I would like to get feedback from all members on things you believe are important.

The terrorist situation is getting seriously dangerous and in my humble opinion the government has failed in the job of protecting our country. I know there are several opinions out there on the political scene and I hope our members do their duty and get out there and vote for your choice. Contact your friends and neighbors to do the same. Support the party of your choice and get involved.

A little history, I have mentioned my swim buddy Frank Marshall and Vietnam before, but I thought it might be interesting to know how Frank became my partner. One of my most vivid memories of UWSS was the check in at the Quarter Deck my first day at the School in Key west. In latter part of 1964 I was wearing a nice new Chiefs uniform with two new hash marks. I just had completed a total of eight years of service and was so proud of that

Continued on page 4

## Executive Corner Continued from page 3

accomplishment. The new GMTC (Nuclear Weapons Tech) rate was wide open at the time. The young sailor at the quarter deck looked me over as I placed my orders and the sealed folder of documents down on the podium. His first remark being "Welcome aboard Chief, are you one of our new instructors?" I smiled and proudly said "No, I am checking in as a student for the next class."

He looked at me with a puzzled brow and replied "Don't unpack your bag Chief, I don't think we have ever graduated a Chief out of here. You won't make the first week!"

That remark would stay with me forever and it was further engrained by Chief Cahill while the class was being paired up for swim buddies. Chief Cahill gave me an evil grin and directed me off to the side of the class so I could get a "special" swim buddy since I was a "leader" of men. Before long there was a really big black guy that dove in the pool and went straight to the bottom. I looked down at him on the bottom and could see he was kicking and flapping his huge arms.

Chief Cahill smiled at me and said "Hey Chiefy, it looks like your swim buddy might be drowning down there; you better go see if you can save him. I jumped in and big black Frank Marshall was my swim buddy from that morning forward. That night I taught him to "Dog Paddle".

Frank and I did well together he was extremely strong and pulled more than his weight in all things but he was never really comfortable as he should be as a diver. Frank Marshall helped me to beat all the officers in the class and graduate as honor man. We went on to EOD school and then to a full year as PCS with Naval Support Activity DaNang, Vietnam.

After Vietnam we went our separate ways, but I understand that Frank Marshall worked as an Instructor and as a member of the Secret Service later. He passed away much too early in Jan 1983. A truly fine man and great partner in Vietnam. If you would like to see a YouTube video of Frank in Vietnam check out this link.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IL2nLZK3PK4>

## Richard O. Johnson

FO/UWSS member, Richard O. Johnson, 75, passed away May 30, 2015 in Kingston, TN. Richard served in the U.S. Navy from 1956 to 1968 and graduated UWSS May 1960 as an EOD diver. He served three tours in Vietnam, receiving two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star. A professional bull rider and bronco buster and an avid motorcycle rider, he worked as a logger in Oregon, Washington and Alaska. Richard is survived by his wife, Linda, 4 children and 3 stepchildren.

### Editors Corner by Don & Art Stone

Ken Recoy has written to us several times about his search for a Reunion 2015 group picture. We don't have one, but he was sure one was taken and he was in it. We contacted Jim Houle, who was the official photographer for Reunion 2015. Jim replied, "One was taken by one of the on-duty swim guys. They went around my request so I wasn't able to get a shot." Mystery solved but still no picture. If anyone has a copy of that group photo, Ken would sure like to have a copy.

Dean Ab-Hugh sent this memory of Richard Nealy: I went through UWSS from Nov 1961 until March 1962, more or less. Our instructors were Don Shultz and Richard Nealy. Dick, as he was known; was one of the toughest men that I've ever known. We were doing PT one morning, and one of the exercises was to sit down with our legs spread, behind us, and lay back until you were flat on the ground. Nealy could do that in a heart beat. However, I could never get more than about 2/3's of the way down. So, Nealy walked over to me one morning when we were doing that exercise and stood on my thighs and bounced up and down a few times to make me go back further. Then he stepped off, and said; "I guess there are some people who just can't do that exercise," and he never bothered me again, as long as I was trying.

Charlie Aquadro called to let his friends know he and Jerry are moving from Beaufort to Savannah to be near their daughter. New address coming.



**EOD Class 2-64 Aug 23 – Oct 4, 1963** 1.Ross L. Johnson, 2.Jerry L. Winningham, 3.Carlton R. Adams, 4.Bobby J. Pippin, 5.Earl T. Popa, 6.James L. Patton, M.M. Wright DM1, 8.Richard M. Potter, 9.Allen B. Lancaster, 10.Louis Schmiz (D), 11.Tim L. Porter, 12.Gerald P. Daly ENS, 13.Robert E. Evers, 14.Ronald E. Evans, 15.Francis Y. Colbath



**EOD Class 1-63 from the archives**

## Night Navigation Continued from page 1

While the ocean floor was gradually rising we had no clue how close we were or how accurate we were. As doubts began to turn into "...Crap, something must be wrong. This is taking too long. And I'm about out of steam!..."

Suddenly, two dark shadows passed toward us and then over us! SHARKS?!!!

NOPE. Another student team "booking it.... I mean moving!!!" I recognized them but then. . . they were GONE! And gone swimming strongly in the direction of the black open ocean!

I thought, they must have been too close to the surface to see the ocean floor and the fact that it was dropping away and moon beams were disappearing into the deep.

My swim mate looked down our 6' buddyline at me and shook his head in disbelief. I checked the compass bearing again and pointed to the route it read. He gave me a thumbs up and we started off again. Finally, we surfaced in the light surf maybe 30 yards from the truck lights. Exhausted we stood and walked toward dry sand talking about 'what the hell was up with those guys'?!!!

I remember turning and looking out to sea. The LCPR landing craft instructors had spotted them and were hauling seaward to reel them in.

The lesson: trust your compass, watch for clues, finally 'Love many, trust few. Always paddle your own canoe!' (Burma Shave).

The whole class laughed about that pair, and their apparent desire to swim to Vietnam. They joined in the laughter all the way through training and ultimately through our very proud "SCUBA Diver Qualified" Graduation day at Key West's U.S. Navy Under Water Swimmer's School.

Larry Hill  
Lt USNR 1963-1971,  
EODS '65; Argentia, Nfld; Keflavik, Iceland;  
EODS(Staff)  
Frederick, MD  
301-275-4042

## Reunion Update Continued from page 1

penciled us in for three events, the Thursday Ice Breaker, Friday evening BBQ-beach party and banquet Saturday evening. I am in contact with Command there and there is a chance we can do our own, for those that remember the Beach Patio.

For members that are not Military retired, we can arrange guest status at Gateway with supplied UWSS credentials which brings passage through the gate, so our member who got out before 20 years can be afforded some base privileges and more importantly base prices. Security will be tight, so early commitment is needed for everyone.

We are working on a few spouse-guest friendly tours to fill in the time between functions, and for those who want to continue group fellowship. Examples are harbor boat tours, The USS Midway and museum, whale watching trips and sport fishing trips. Another reason for advance commitment to attend is we are able to purchase tickets through ITT on base at 40-50% discount. A better list will be printed in successive issues of Buddy Line.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone there, Dave Gholson

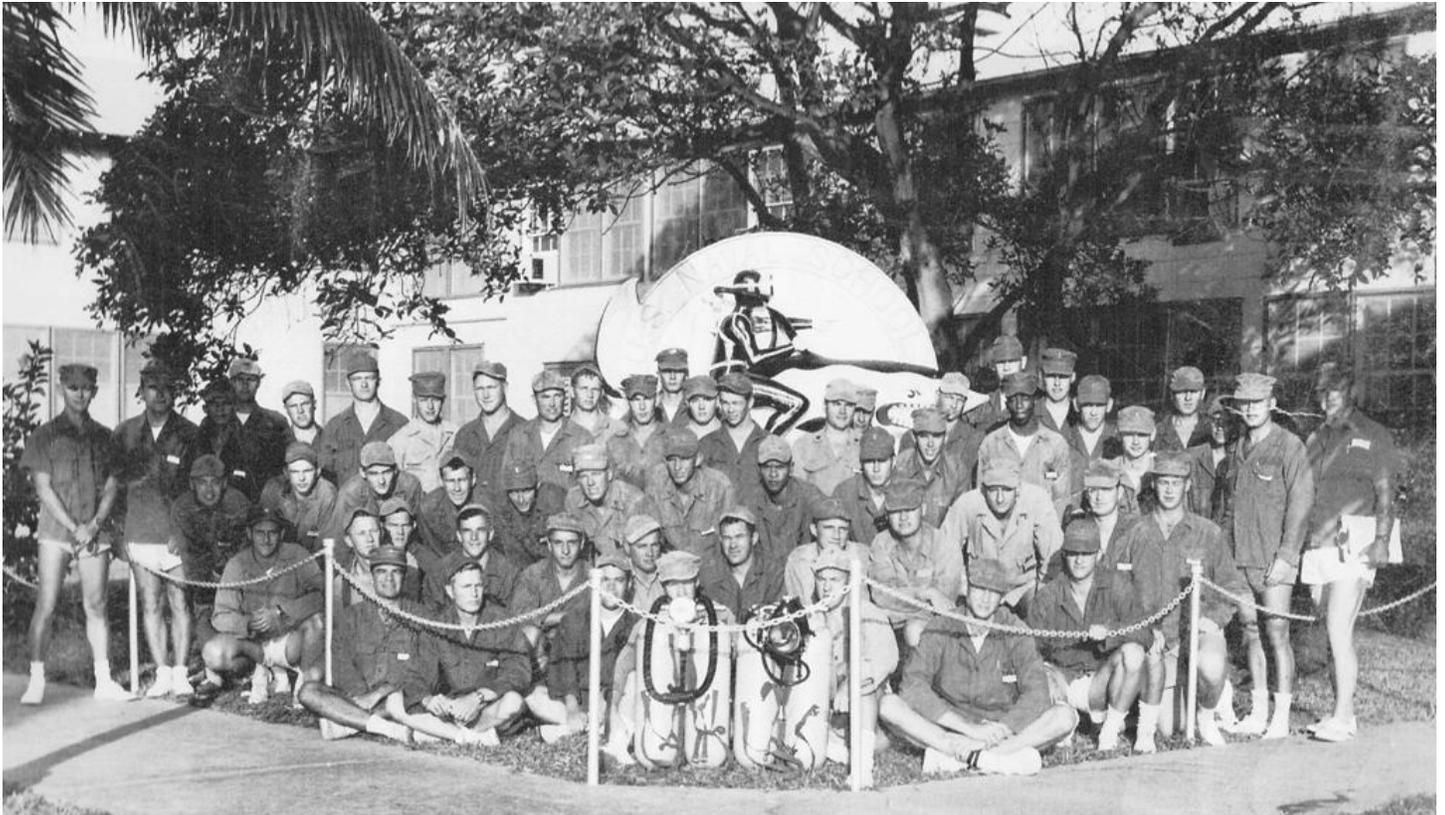
### Welcome New Members

Roger L. Simmons, Brookfield, CT  
USN 1970-1972 – UWSS 1971 (EOD)

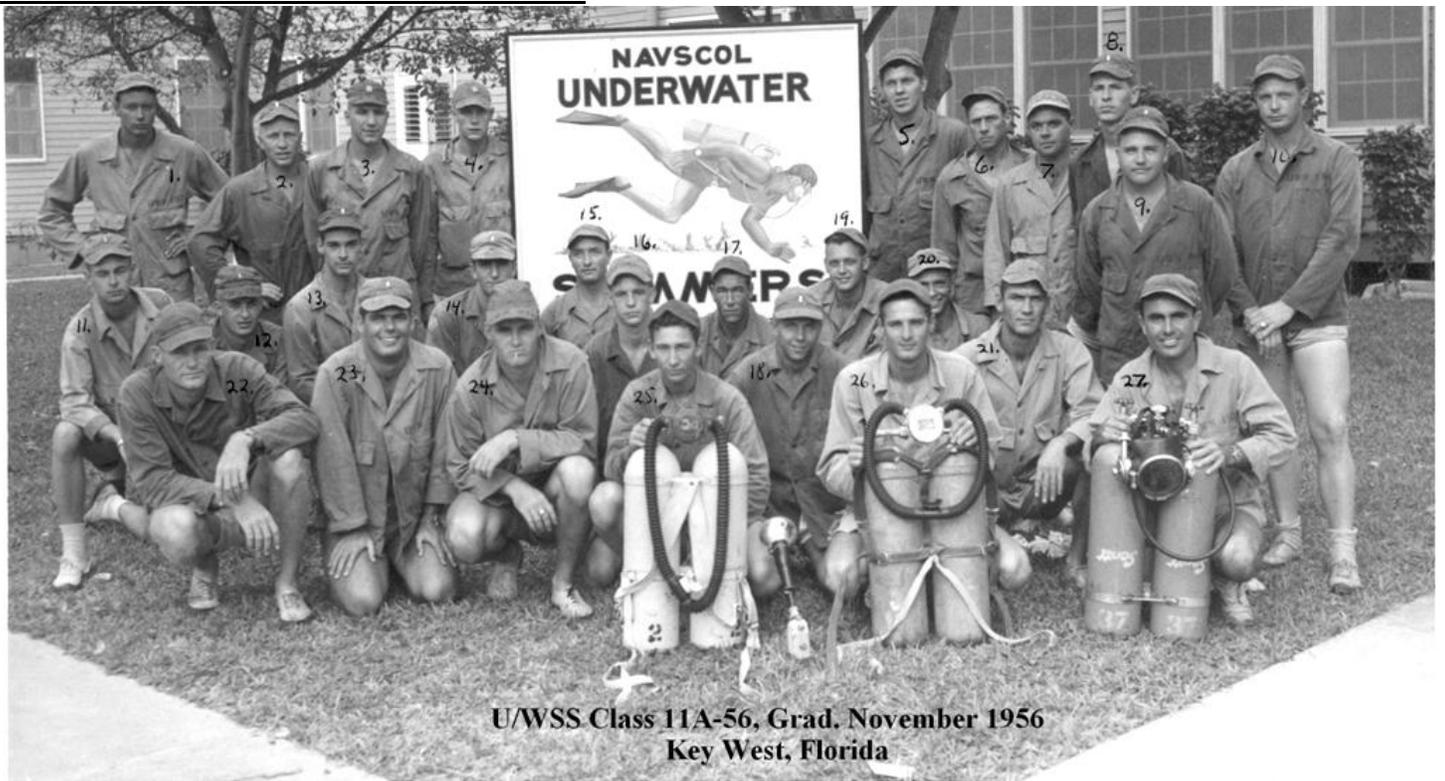
Edward Popisil, Corinth, VT  
USN 1960-1964 UWSS 1962

*Your stories are what make the Buddy Line interesting. Thanks to Larry Hill and Dean Ab-Hugh for sharing memories. We hope they will remind you of a story you would like to share.*

**Class off March 1962 from Delbert Ray Crum**



**EOD 11A-56 GRADUATIO: NOVEMBER 1956**



**U/WSS Class 11A-56, Grad. November 1956  
Key West, Florida**

1.Walter Dennison 2.Ritter ,ENS 3.Campbell, LTJG 4.Yonker, ENS 5.Wayant ,RM3 6.Jack Wheat, SFC 7.Norman Keys, BM2 8.Connell. ENS 9.Friheit, ENS 10.Joel McDuffie, BM3 11.Bodin, ENS 12.Sherman, ENS 13.Hill, ENS 14.Hujick, ENS 15.Paul Willoughby, DSL 16.Woods, ENS 17.Chester Broyles, BM2 18.Slumburger, ENS 19.Billy Stacey, AO3 20.Parker, GMC 21.Holland, CS1 22.Howard W. Cartwright, BM2 23.Andersdon, ENS 24.John J. Price, MN2 25. Johnson, AA 26. Mann, FA 27.Casey,QM1

## Membership Application Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School

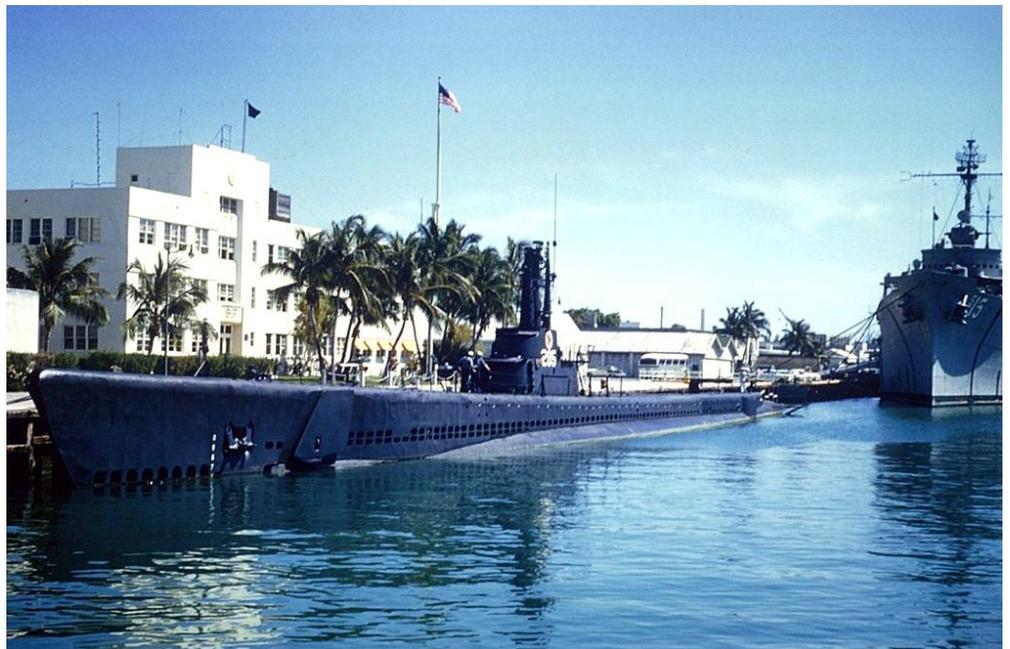
Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Wife's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Buddy Line Newsletter by email \_\_\_\_\_ or snail mail \_\_\_\_\_  
Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates of Service: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates of Class at UWSS: \_\_\_\_\_

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

The submarine USS Balao, moored in front of the Admin building, and Sub Tender USS Bushnell were familiar sights at the Key West Naval Station in the 50's and early 60's.

They were a convenient, controlled, and relatively safe place for the students to practice bottom searches and to participate in mock sneak attacks.



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