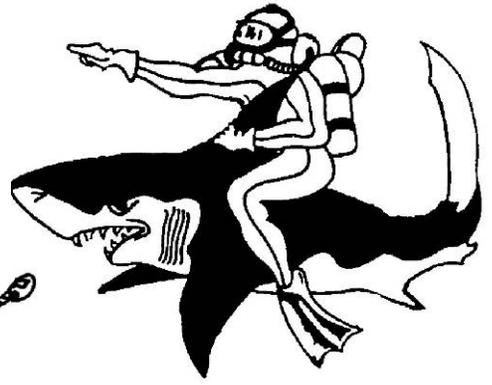
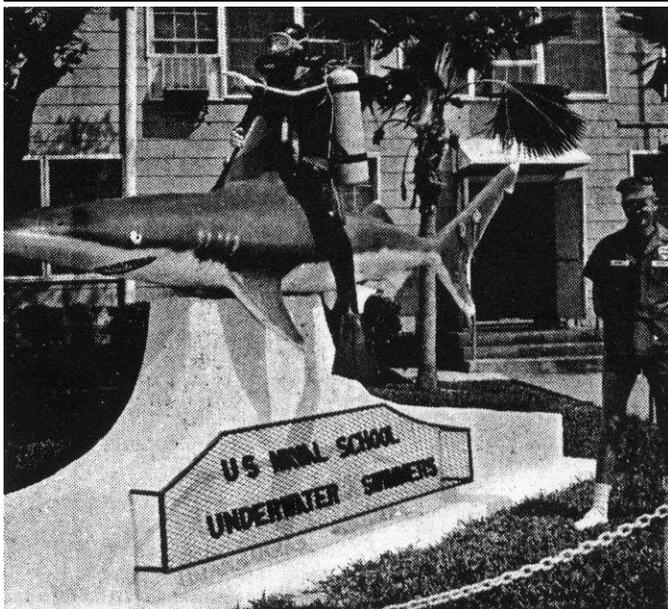


# Buddy Line



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

February 2004



NEW STATUE of the insignia of the Naval School of Underwater Swimmers is the work of Dow F. Byers, chief yeoman. The two ribbons on the shark's tail were won at the Monroe County Fair where the statue highlighted the school's exhibit. (Story written by Eric Greenberg, SA, appeared May 1966 in the Key Outpost and in Navy Times) Thanks to Ernie Caltenback for sending picture and story.

## What possesses a man to build a shark?

Chief Yeoman Dow F. Byers wears on his chest the wings of a qualified parachutist and the dolphins of an experienced submarine sailor — and some say that the tall instructor at the Naval School for Underwater Swimmers should be wearing a shark there, too.

Byers earned the new decoration, they say, during a two-year project, which resulted in the life-sized wood and fiberglass statue of a scuba diver astride a fourteen foot long shark which now decorates the front yard of the UWSS. The thirty five year old chief, a native of Blasdell, New York, has eighteen years in the service and is an Underwater Demolition Team diver as well as a parachutist and submariner. Nothing in his background, however, had prepared him as a sculptor when he, his wife Annice and their four children arrived

## Reunion 2004 Coronado

### Schedule at a glance

#### FRI May 7

1200

Cookout lunch with Consolidated Divers at 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Naval Base, San Diego. Look for the shark and rider on the roof.

1800-2200

Ice Breaker, Club Coronado, Amphibious Base. Food & drink; logo gear orders distributed; antique diving gear display.

**Check-in at Cookout or Ice Breaker**

#### SAT May 8

0900-1130

Continental breakfast and business meeting  
Lunch on your own

1300

Visit to NSWG3 and Spec Boat Unit 12

1800-2200

Buffet Banquet with speakers at Club Coronado, Amphibious Base.

in Key West in 1962.

For Byers, carpentry started out as a hobby and evolved into a duty. He began puttering around in the Swim School's carpentry shop shortly after his arrival; within a year, he was assigned charge of the shop. The idea of building a life-sized model of the School's symbol, a scuba diver riding a shark, started revolving in his mind early in 1964.

To the question, "What possesses a man to build a shark?", Byers answers with a laugh, "I wanted to see if I could do it." He began slowly, doing research on sharks in the base library. The object of the search was that kind of shark, that would be immediately identifiable to passers-by, which would bring forth the reaction, "That's a shark, all right!" Byers finally settled on the fine-tooth shark as the one closest to his ideal.

Continued on page 3

## President's Corner by Don Stone

Reunion 2004 is only a couple of months away now, and our schedule is firmed up. Activities begin at noon on Friday, May 7, with a cookout at the home of the shark, Consolidated Divers Unit, located at the 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Naval Base in San Diego – across the bridge from Coronado.

We will be joining the personnel of CDU for a lunch of grilled hamburgers, hot dogs and all the trimmings washed down by some good cold beer. Following the lunch we'll have a tour of CDU. Bernie Capoli's friend, Joe Kingsbury, retired Chief Warrant Officer who works at CDU, set up our tour; but it would not have been possible without the cooperation of CDR Melanie Branson, CDU's commanding officer, and Master Diver BMCS Jim Stanton.

After the tour, it's back to the amphibious base for the icebreaker at Club Coronado from 1800 to 2200. We'll have more good food and drink (hot and cold hors d'oeuvres, roast beef and rolls, veggie tray, beer and sodas) and lots of conversation and stories. Bring photos and memorabilia, to share with the group and to scan for the Buddy Line (slides too). Rocky Rockwell, a new member who's hobby is antique diving apparatus, will be at the reunion with some of his treasures, such as the Scott Hydropack; and Northhill Air Lung, on display. Logo gear will be available, including a newly designed plaque. Hank Holder, who produced the handsome UWSS plaques for our 2002 reunion, had an accident, sustaining several fractures, and is unable to make plaques for this reunion. However, Hank has already offered to make plaques for reunion 2006. We just hope that he will recover enough to attend this reunion.,

Saturday's activities begin at 0900 with a deluxe continental breakfast and business meeting. The business meeting has some important issues to discuss and decide:

1. Location of our next reunion.
2. Election of officers for the next two years:
3. Members' concerns.

After the business meeting grab a quick lunch and head over to Special Warfare Group 3 Headquarters for a presentation and weapons display at 1300. Then on to Spec Boat Unit 12 for a tour of a MK5 SEAL support boat. This tour has a few limitations - there are narrow ladders to climb and restricted spaces; and the maximum number that can go aboard is 40.

The banquet is at Club Coronado from 1800 to 2200. Capt. Bremseth, Commodore of Naval Special Warfare Group 3 will be our keynote speaker if operational commitments allow. There will be two entrees – let us know if you prefer (roast beef or pork) *and* (chicken or mahi mahi). – majority vote wins. A cash bar will be available for alcoholic beverages. The banquet officially ends the organized portion of the reunion.

## Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Membership February 2004

115 regular members

87 associate members

Account Balance November 2003	2775.03
Interest	+1.84
Dues	+ 325.00
Logo items sold	+ 55.00
Buddy Line printing & postage	-188.06
Account Balance February 2004	2968.81

## 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](mailto:stonefish7@cs.com) or [uwssbuddyline@cs.com](mailto:uwssbuddyline@cs.com)  
 snail mail: 1440 S.W. 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432  
 phone: (561) 391-6727 fax: (509) 472-6492

For those who can stay longer, San Diego has many attractions. The base golf course is beautiful and discount drift fishing is available. San Diego Zoological Gardens are some of the world's best and a trip to Mexico, the desert or mountains is easily done. A Man in the Sea reunion starts on May 9 in San Diego and some of our members will be attending. If you are interested, you can contact Bob Bornholt at 619-261-7503 or [bornhlt@aol.com](mailto:bornhlt@aol.com)

Please send in your registration forms and checks promptly. We have to contract with MWR for services and logo items must be ordered in advance. Make sure to fill in all the information required by security for gaining base entry. If you need assistance with anything upon arrival, you can call the Stone's cell phone number (561) 212-1276.

## Building the shark – continued from page 1

Drawing from a three-inch photo, Byers came up with an outline fourteen feet long and used this as a guideline for three-dimensional drawings. By May of 1964 he had cut out pieces of wood and was ready to start assembling the skeleton of the fish.

At this point the project reached a snag. Byers became awed and a bit apprehensive at the magnitude of the project, and his spare time was more limited, Byers having been made assistant training officer in the Swim School's instructional program. The project was shelved for close to a year and a half.

Encouraged by the command to complete the man-fish sculpture, Byers went back to work on the project in December of 1965, putting the cut-out pieces of the shark's body together. He shaped the pieces of white pine into a "skeleton fuselage", and carved and attached fins and a tail. After covering the skeleton with fiberglass cloth, Byers moved his work outside. "I realized that if we'd done the next step inside, we'd never have gotten the thing out the door," he says.

The next step was the creation of the diver who would ride the back of the shark. Byers enlisted the aid of two of his fellow instructors, Chief Shipfitter Joseph Guerrieri and First Class Boatswain's Mate Ernest Caltenback, both First-Class Divers. Guerrieri joined in to aid Byers in practically every area; Caltenback . became a slightly unwilling model for the figure.

The model for the man-figure, as Byers had envisioned him, was to be tall and thin. After unsuccessfully scanning three classes of Swim School students, Byers turned to Caltenback, who stands about 5'10" and tips the scales, according to Byers' guess, at about 150.

With the aid of the school's physician, Lt. N. E. Peters, Byers encased Caltenback in a full body cast from the neck down, excluding hands and feet. Caltenback was thus immobilized for more than four hours, during which he protested a great deal and moved not at all.

"We started at about ten o'clock and they promised me I'd be out by noon," Caltenback remembers. "I barely made liberty call. Once I was out, though, I felt pretty good about helping with the whole thing."

Using himself for a model, Byers and his wife completed the hands and head for the man figure. Now there remained only to build a base and mount the sculpture on the lawn in front of the school. With the help of some thirty students, staff members and instructors, the job was completed in an afternoon. The result is a life-sized figure of a scuba diver in full gear, astride a fourteen-foot shark, grasping the fish's dorsal fin with his right hand, pointing forward with his left. Below is a sign proclaiming "U.S. Naval School, Underwater Swimmers" in large red letters.

The figure had been up, and stopping traffic, for four days when it was dismantled and transported to the Monroe County Fair, where it commanded the Underwater Swim School's display. The figure won two premium ribbons, one for craftsmanship and another for outstanding display.

The course of the shark project did not run smooth; there were mistakes and occasional false leads. Moreover, the shark itself lost a bit of its identity somewhere along the way. As it stands, it combines characteristics of not only the fine-tooth but also the mako, sand and nurse shark varieties. One characteristic remained intact from the start, however. It is, Byers states emphatically, a female.



Class of  
March-May  
1959

Photo  
sent in by

Manny Rocha  
front row, left

Class proctor,  
is  
Martial Lemay



Class Picture from Fred Lehman. Identified are:

- 8. Usry, 9. Wenter,
- 10. Worthy, 11. Terry,
- 12. Ballard, 13. Foster,
- 15. Concilioi,
- 17. Szczepanski,
- 22. Williams, 23. Behne,
- 24. Vizethann,
- 25. Hunnel,
- 26. Yankus, 28. Phillips,
- 30. Jake Jacoby,
- Class Proctor



4 Week Grad    Class Pictures from Denford Stevens    8 Week EOD Grad



New member, Rick LaRoche, doesn't need a UWSS logo on his shirt. He has one on his arm and it won't wash off!



Class Picture from Joe Reihl  
Class Proctor, Staff Photographer Lewis

## 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.*

**21 May:** We paid dearly for our two beers this morning, all right. Calihoopies under a very hot sun and in a very humid surrounding nearly left us all prostrate on the dusty ground of the track.

We drew our lungs and spent the entire morning under water once we hit the pool. Two hours in a Scott will make Christians of us all! We lost our second man this morning - claustrophobia with the lung. Ens. McGruder is no longer with us.

This afternoon we took two 18-foot free ascents off the diving barge - same procedure as yesterday. Everyone did well, and all hands were complimented by Commander Roe. Then - 500 yard surface swim without fins. Al and I were first again - 9 minutes beating Bostain and Anderson by 30 seconds. We finished up the afternoon early and had a chance to skin dive for an hour before coming back into port. During the free dive, Al got another conch and stirred up a Leopard Ray - the first one I've seen. Back into the boats: "Let's say hello to Bravo!" "Hello, Little Girls." "Let's say hello to the Little Girls!" "Hello, Bravo!"

Cleaning stations, showers and chow. Then, since Section 3 had the duty, we had a charging detail on the Scotts in the lung locker. We filled all the lungs to full capacity and began the tedious job that would thereafter mark every duty period.

Had a nice talk with Mr. Ruben on the barge today. He swam for Illinois and knew all the swimmers I have known for the past ten years. In a sense, it was just like meeting old friends all over again.

**22May:** 500 yard Scott swim. Al and I were first in time, and Al was first in air consumption: 350 lbs. I used 500 lbs. and lost a few points in the class race for first place.

**23May:** 750 yard Scott swim in the afternoon - used 750 lbs. of air and lost out again. At night we were to've had a 1,500 yard surface swim, but in the darkness Mr. Dolan and Kapp could not find the far 1,000 yard buoy, so only 1,000 yards. The water was choppy, but we made good time any way - 17 minutes. Unfortunately, Anderson and Bostain were into the beach ahead of us.

After the swim, Gunny, Dutch, Dillon and I went to Sloppy Joes for a beer. I left early and stopped by the USO on the way into the base. Bill Fischer (Williams '56) had gotten himself into the little combo which was playing there, so I stayed and listened to the music for a good bit prior to returning to the base and hitting the rack. The rest of the troops, plus Al, Joerres and Bostain, came in in the wee hours of the morning in no great shape at all. "Wake up, Jarhead! We're in!"



**Women of Naval Special Warfare** was formed by Paula Sitter under the premise that the women would like a place of their own. Membership is open to female relatives and girlfriends of the men of NSW. Their purpose is to help the women, support their men thru patriotic projects, and lend a helping hand where they can. Paula, whose brother and cousin were Navy SEALs, has also created a web site for the organization at [www.wnsw.org](http://www.wnsw.org), where you can find more information about the organization, read their online newsletter and make donations. They are hoping the generosity of people visiting the site will help them assist in many areas. The funds raised will go to support the women, the wnswfoundation, nswfoundation, Navy SEAL Museum, SEAL Association building fund, and FINs, "Family's in Need" within the NSW community.

Luellen Fain is heading up their Freedom Memorial Quilt project. The memorial quilt will be made up of squares sewn by women of NSW to honor those men KIA or accidents down thru time from Naval Special Warfare. The quilt will be assembled by the Mistress Quilters of Nacogdoches, TX. When completed, tickets will be sold and the quilt will be presented to the winner at a reunion. All women in the NSW family are invited to make memorial squares for the quilt or donate funds for filling, border, etc. Contact Luellen at [lullie@cox-internet.com](mailto:lullie@cox-internet.com) for details on making quilt squares, or write to her at 1315 Garner St. Nacogdoches, TX. 75961.

A second project being planned is the Freedom Art Project. Done by Navy SEAL, Lt. "Mokie" Martin. Ret., it will depict Navy SEALs from the past to the present, and will hang at NSW Command Headquarters in Coronado, CA. For more information about the organization and their projects, checkout the website, or write to Women of Naval Special Warfare, c/o Paula Sitter, 1675 South Birch St. # 901, Denver, Co. 80222-4145.





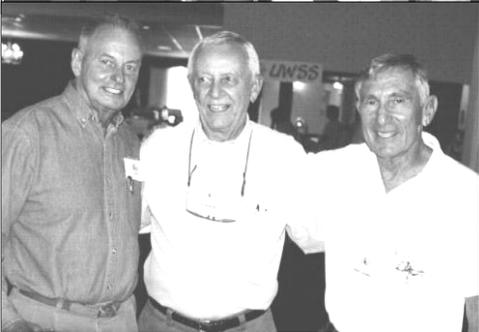
Key West 1998



Panama City 2000



Little Creek 2002



Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School  
Buddy Line Newsletter  
1440 S. W. 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Boca Raton, FL 33432