

# Buddy Line



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

February 2010

## Editors Corner by Don & Art Stone



### Cruise Selected for 2011 Reunion

Only thirty nine members answered the request in the November Buddy Line to choose between Branson and a Cruise for the location of our next reunion. Thirty nine members voted and made the choice for all 268 of us. Twenty one voted for Cruise. Thirteen voted for Branson. Five voted for either and made it clear they preferred our reunions be held on military bases. Let's hope our first cruise reunion is enjoyed by all. This is a deployment on which you will have no duties except having a good time! And please come with ideas for a location for our 2013 reunion.

**Welcome aboard** to five new members: Thomas "Buzz" Cranston USN SS, Don Collins USN, Donald LeBlanc USN EOD, William Lanman USN EOD, Jack Hamilton USA SpecForces.

Now the sad part, this winter was tough on old seals. We lost John Callahan, Swede Tornbloom, and Jack Lynch.

**John "Jack" Lynch, Jr**, Member FO/UWSS, President - UDT-SEAL Association, passed away February 15th. Obituary was sent to us by Bobby Cox, Executive Director of the Association.

It is with great sadness that the UDT-SEAL Association informs the membership about the passing of LT John "Jack" Lynch USN (RET), Class 29 and President - UDT-SEAL Association.

A native of Providence, Rhode Island, Jack joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 17 and served honorably for 22 years. He graduated from Underwater Demolition Team Replacement Training BUD/s Class 29 and had a distinguished and diverse career as a U.S. Navy SEAL, Surface Warfare Officer, Saturation Diving and Salvage Officer, and Navy Parachutist. After his career in the Navy, Jack consulted with numerous organizations and,

Continued on page 3

## The Executive Corner by Gerry Flowers with Bob Holmes

Well, it is hard to believe that it is February 2010. The Winter Olympics are being held here in Vancouver and we welcome the world with the 2010 Olympic Opening Ceremonies. All of Canada is hoping that the games go off without a hitch and that we finally can win a Gold Medal on our soil.

February also means that it is 15 months and counting, until our next UWSS reunion.

As it stands now, we are waiting on more information from all the Cruise Lines that are putting the 2011 schedules together. Our reunion committee, (Jerry and Judy Padrta) have been working on the details and they have just relayed to us that we have three or four months to commit to the cruise to get the best cabin rates and all around prices once the schedules are out. Jerry and Judy, thank you for all your work.

The Padrta's have been on MANY cruises and they enjoy everything about them. Mind you, Jerry is a former Submariner, so being on top of the water as well as going with Judy would be a lot of fun. Having the 2011 UWSS reunion on the ocean gives us many great options. The biggest thing about a cruise is the convenience and ease of doing everything. Did I mention sunsets?

We have all discussed the reasons for reunions and it boils down to **one** thing....**seeing your shipmates and their wives again**. It does not matter where it is held. **What matters is who and how many will be able to attend**. A cruise is a great idea and especially so, for the wives activities. Everything is there in our little floating city. As we gracefully age, easy is good and I ask you all... to keep that in mind.

Jerry reminded me that at our last general meeting, it was requested that our reunion be around the 1<sup>st</sup> of May, 2011. In 2011, Easter falls on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April. MOTHER'S DAY is on May the 8<sup>th</sup>, so it was decided on something in between. Continued on page 4

**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\*

**New!**

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 logo ..... 20.00

**Cap 3.00 less if ordered with shirt**

Embroidered Patch ..... 7.00

UWSS logo decal ..... 2.00  
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 medallion ..... 7.00

**Send payment with order to Don Stone,  
1440 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Boca Raton, FL 33432**

**Secretary/Treasurer's Report**

Membership February 2010 268 members

Account Balance November 2009	\$11,612.51
Dues	+800.00
Logo gear sales	+990.00
Buddy Line printing expense	-68.59
Postage	-173.75
Office supplies	-12.85
Website expense	-23.94
Account Balance February 2010	13,123.38

**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**

President ..... Bob 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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**WEBSITE:** [www.uwss.org](http://www.uwss.org)

**All logo items are pictured on the web site**

**Buddy Line by email**

If you use 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](mailto:stonefish8@gmail.com).

**Editor's Corner** continued from page 1

with his diverse areas of expertise, worked with sensitive government programs involved with national security and anti-terrorism. He held a Bachelors Degree in Business and was a commercial airline pilot, Master Firearms Instructor, and former Virginia Special Deputy Sheriff. Jack took great pride in serving as President of the UDT-SEAL Association and a member of the Board of Directors of the Naval Special Warfare Foundation. He was a member of the American Legion, VFW, and the Knights of Columbus.

Survivors include his wife, Captain Jeanette F. Lynch, Nurse Corps, U.S. Navy (Retired); daughter Tisha Shelley and husband Mark of Cottonwood Heights, UT; son Brett Lynch of Los Angeles, CA; daughter Cady Pinell and husband Stephen of Virginia Beach, VA; grandson Austin Shelley; three brothers; and numerous nieces, nephews, friends, and comrades world-wide.

**John F. Callahan Jr.** UDT/R (West) Class#19, UDT-11, UDT-21, ST-2( Plank owning first CO), Chart House Restaurants executive, passed away November 26th from complications of liver failure in Peru Vermont where

he had been staying with his daughter, son in law and grandsons since his wife Michelle passed away. John went through UWSS class 6/61 with several FO/UWSS members. I was his class proctor and then six months later he was my CO when I reported to Seal Team 2 as a plankowner.

**Per-Erik Tornbloom** "Swede", another ST2 plankowner and bigger than life character, passed away November 27<sup>th</sup>. His immediate family is in Sweden; his only family here was his fellow members of SEAL Team II.

Neither John nor Swede were members of FO/UWSS but will be remembered and missed by teammates.

**Dues Update**

It will now be easier for members to see if their dues are up to date. The mailing label or email will show the year paid thru.

\$25.00 dues are payable every two years in May of odd numbered years. Members who find their dues are not up to date can mail them to secretary/treasurer Don Stone, 1440 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Boca Raton, FL 33432.

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Class Picture from Ernest Slattery.....Graduation 4-29-55

**Executive Corner** continued from page 1

Let us all get behind this, try a different venue and enjoy the many benefits made available for the UWSS attendees. We will have access to venues in the daytime to hold our meetings and then be able to go to an evening show held in the same room. Some cruise ship lines offer a 10% discount to our Military and Veterans. Jerry has informed me that it is also possible to get a free cabin for every 12 we book. That will again reduce the overall price. As on all cruises, there are 3-4 meals per day including a sumptuous Banquet like dinner each evening. In addition, free room service food and Non-Alcoholic beverages are available 24 hours per day. Some Cruise lines do in fact keep the coffee hot and available with other items around the clock. So, a late night stroll could not only find someone else doing the same, but you could have a coffee, juice, snack while catching up with a friend.

In addition to great food, Cruises offer a floor show each night and ships have a casino on board for those of you that may like to gamble a tad. Aside from numerous daily activities, the ships offer optional shore tours or you can just meander around on your own with a couple of friends you want to hang out with.

For the ladies and the seven sailors that like to shop, there is great shopping on board as well as in the ports of call. For many of you that remember being on a ship, this time there will be personalized service for every cabin. This of course, will leave every one of us lots of time to spend yakking and catching up with shipmates. Basically, this is what any reunion is all about. Jerry did want to be sure to get the word out now, in plenty of time, because a **passport is required** for travel outside of the United States. So, if you need one, you could start working on it now. Having a current passport will make all travel now and in the future a whole lot easier.

Jerry has advised us that there are many ports available for departures and he is watching them all for us. The Ports include Cape Canaveral, Fort Lauderdale, Miami, Tampa, Galveston, New Orleans and Jacksonville. I know that a majority of our members live in Florida to Texas Gulf area. Our goal is convenience for our members, fun for our significant others, good friends and most importantly, **keeping the expenses reasonable**. Fortunately, we have **15 months** to budget for this.

Jerry has given us this is an **example** of a 4 day cruise. Please note that the estimated prices below are PER PERSON and for an INSIDE CABIN.

Basic cruise	\$210
Port charges	\$99
Government fees	<u>\$50</u>
Total	\$359 (per person)

Please note: Since we will probably only sleep and shower in the cabin and use the rest of the ship's amenities, there is really not a lot to gain by booking a more expensive outside or Balcony cabin unless that is what you would like.

Again, I would like to stress that, once the cruise options have been narrowed down to three or four, Jerry will send us all the information we need to make our decision. We are reminded that we will have to make some commitment in about 3-4 months or so to guarantee rates and the less expensive cabins. If we are the first group, we will certainly have an upper hand in booking and getting set up with designated hospitality area.

A five day cruise may better suit our needs, as getting aboard, and sailing overnight is one day and getting off at the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> day is another day. Historically at our past reunions, the fourth day has always been, in a word...leaving.

This way, we can just relax and enjoy each others company on day four. Cruising is one of the most relaxing things we could do together at this time in our lives. The big plus is that there is always something to do. There would be no expenses paid out for food, no buses to rent, no chairs to rent, no table cloths to rent and no bartenders to pay for and some, no vacuuming at the end of the get together. Hey, when our logo gear is out for sale, the whole darn cruise could theoretically leave wearing a UWSS T-shirt.

If you have ever been on a cruise, you are no doubt aware that wine and spirits are expensive. Other than a gratuity to the cabin crew and dining room staff, it is the only other expense we will really have. There are remedies for this minor issue.

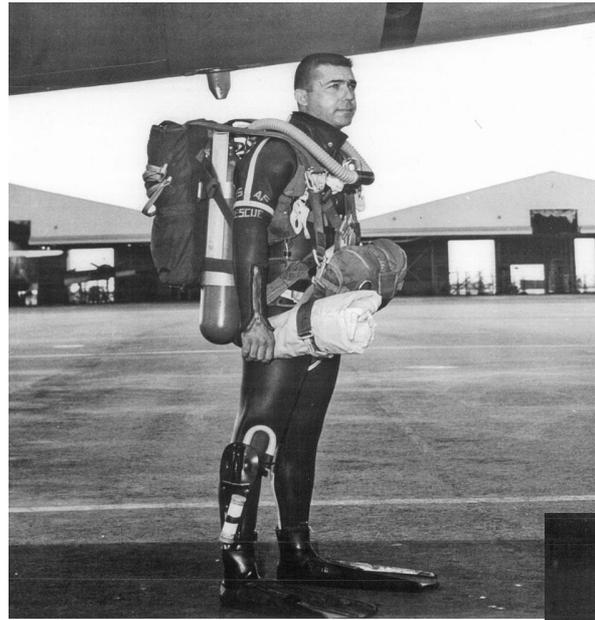
So, to all of you, we wish you all good health and we look forward to keeping you apprised of the news the "Padrta UWSS Reunion Committee" will be giving us in the next few months.

Both President Bob Holmes and I feel that this change of venue could lead us to the best turnout and most relaxing reunion ever. We urge you to make plans to meet at the dock, wherever that dock may be. Let us plan, save and look forward to enjoying each others company while we relax, eat and drink together, one more time in 2011.

Thank you to Jerry and Judy for taking this project on. Please start thinking of our get together in Late next April. We sure are looking forward to seeing you all and taking the time to relax and catch up. Please feel free to make any comments or suggestions or ideas or special needs you might have to make this an "Outstanding and Memorable event". Security will be better for us and anyone trying to make off with our SHARK and DIVER, well, they will not get far away. One other thing, with all the members of this special community, I am sure we can arrange tours of this monster ship and go to places the regular folk will never see.

Comments to:

President, Bob Holmes at [deepdivebob@yahoo.com](mailto:deepdivebob@yahoo.com)  
V.P. Gerry Flowers [nomad52usmc@gmail.com](mailto:nomad52usmc@gmail.com)



**Photos from Aaron Farrior**

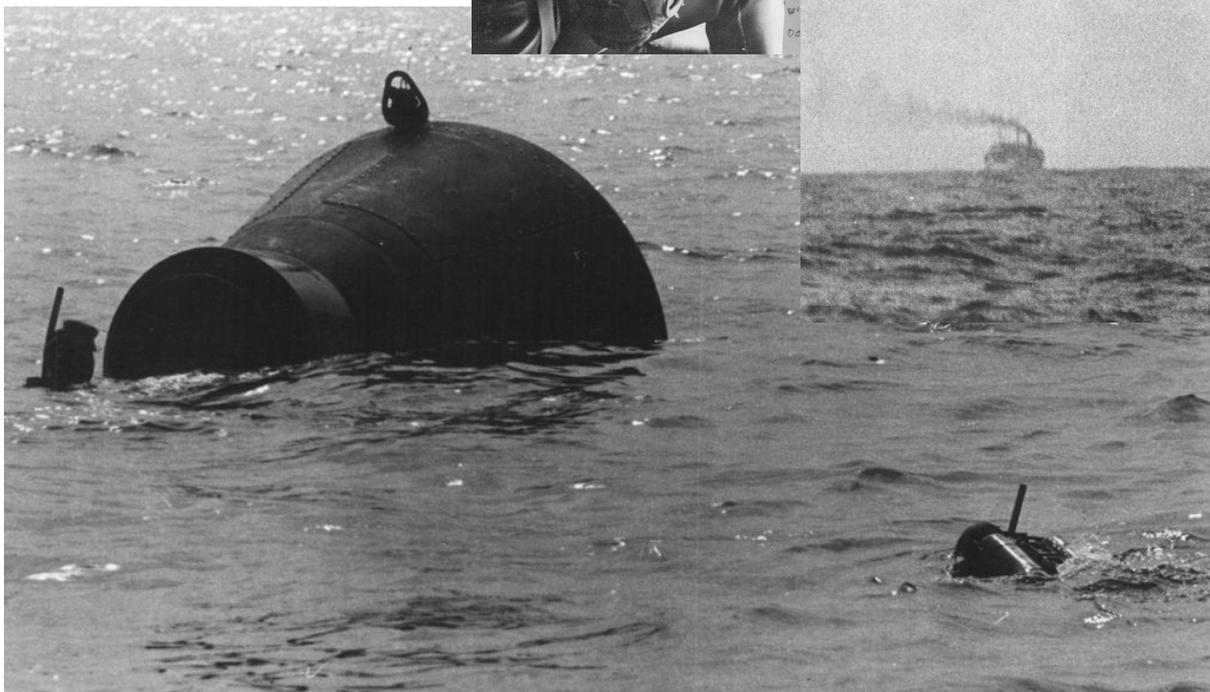
These photos show some of the equipment and procedures used by the PJ's as they jump into the oceans of the world to deliver medical aid to anyone, anywhere. This includes both civilian and military ships and over 47 years supporting NASA.

First photo shows UWSS member Joe Vigare prepared for a jump into the ocean in 1961.

Second photo shows Jack Bennett ready to jump. They jumped on the space craft in three man teams, but only one at a time because they only had three chances to catch it and stop it. They could not swim fast enough to catch it. They jumped on a line down wind and drifted to catch it as it went by.

In third photo a PJ loosens one set of risers in order to throw them when he hits the water. He had to do this to keep from getting dragged by the wind.

In fourth photo, the PJ's are attaching their reserve parachute and swimming it straight down to open it up and stop the space craft. It floated pretty fast down wind and down drift. After this, the aircraft would fly over at 200 feet and drop the flotation kit.



## 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 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Boca Raton, FL 33432



### The Way It Was

This photo of a shark toothed LCPR, about to tie up at the dock after a training evolution, was sent by John Marinovich, UWSS class 5/57.

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