

# Buddy Line



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

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## **BUOYANT FREE ASCENT TRAINING**



**Fraternal Order of  
Underwater Swimmers  
School Officers**



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As editor for the BuddyLine, we are thankful for those who have contributed with memories of UWSS so far. Please keep them coming.

It has been about 65 years since arriving at UWSS for duty. That comes out to about 3,380 weeks or about 23,660 days and after all that time and age related forgetfulness only a few days stand out, stand alone of my time as an instructor at UWSS. I don't know how many students



went through UWSS while I was there from the first class in 1954 to October 1957, but I've lost most of the faces and names over the years with just a few exceptions to those who had an significant impact on me.

Looking at it from a students perspective with just a few weeks of training at UWSS there are probably also only a few things that still stand out and have influenced your lives too. Maybe free ascent (later known as buoyant ascent) training is one of those things for you. I had a particularly memorable experience teaching free ascent. Here is what happened.

It was a good Key West weather day. I had breakfast at the mess hall and something was bothering my stomach. We were almost finished teaching the free ascent procedures. My assignment was the deeper diving bell and I was responsible to review the procedures for free ascent before each student left the bell to return to the surface.

As the training progressed I was feeling poorly. But there were just a few students to go. I was giving the last few instructions to a student when my stomach and breakfast were on a collision course. You probably remember how little space there was in the diving bell with two people standing face to face, just a few inches apart. I tried to get my hand to my face but it was too little too late. My stomach emptied it's contents and I threw up all over myself and the



student. He didn't panic and followed instructions and made a picture perfect ascent. Because he had his face mask on I didn't recognize him.

There was usually a lot of banter at UWSS. I was embarrassed and was expecting some feedback from the students and instructors about our experience. It was the perfect opportunity for some friendly ribbing about my mishap in the diving bell, but there was not a word. I categorize this experience as one of humiliation before humbleness.

What memories do you have of free ascent training? Send them to [buddyline@uwss.org](mailto:buddyline@uwss.org).

**VOLUNTEER  
NEEDED!**

*UWSS Chaplain*

*Contact Ken  
Recoy for more  
information.*

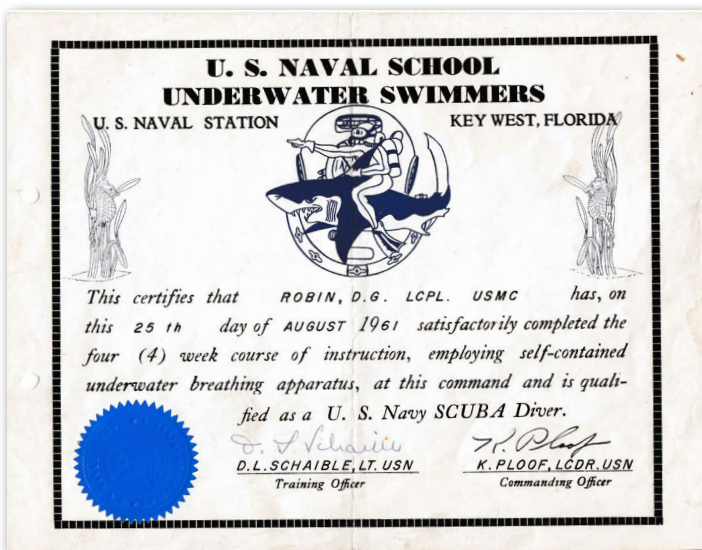




Sorry, I don't have any particular memories about the sign. As you can see from the attached picture, it still had the "NAVSCOL" sign as of 25 Aug 1961. (I am standing at the far right, as you look at the class picture, center with yellow face mask, and on the left in the picture of main gate.)

As for the November BuddyLine question I'm probably one of the few students to have walked all the way to UWSS and without any food or water. I was stationed





But the rest of her statement wasn't going unchallenged. So, I unbuckled my belt and dropped my trousers to the bar room floor so she could see with her own beady eyes that I did not have hairy legs.

Dave Robin  
SSgt 1957-1972  
Force Recon Co.



at Marine Barracks, Key West at the time. It must of been more than a quarter of a mile, so you can well imagine, I was exhausted.

The following story is true in that the barmaid actually made the statement as claimed.

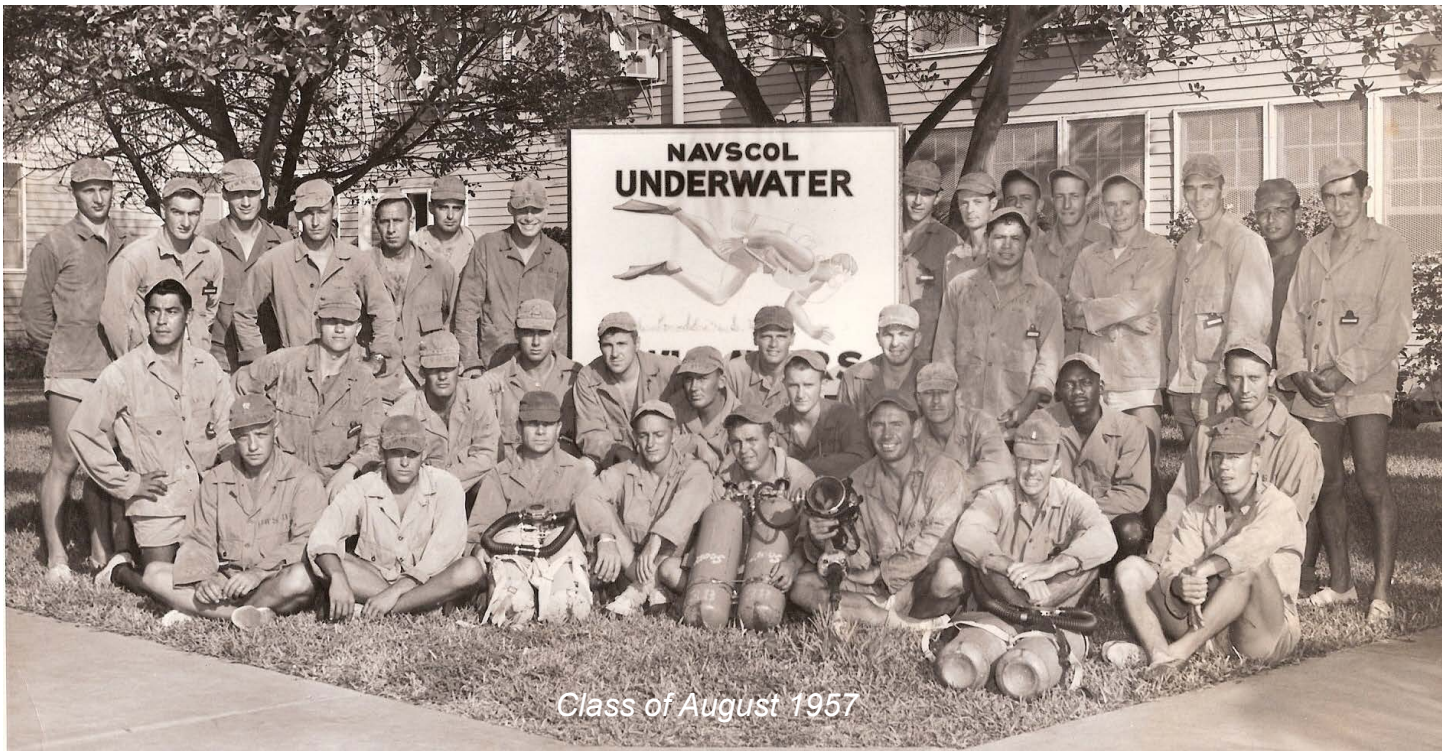
Shortly after graduating from UWSS, I was cruising Duval Street when I became engaged in a lively conversation with one of those wild and crazy barmaids of Key West. I made sure that I inserted in to the talk that I had recently completed the diving school. Surely, she would be impressed. "Oh yea" she said, "I've seen that group running down Duval Street early in the morning." "Yes, yes, that was us" I replied with pride. "Oh. I know you guys" she retorted. "Your the guys with the big watches, the hairy legs, and the little dicks."

Well now, that was a bit much. Of course I had a big watch. That much was obvious.

*What do you remember about buoyant free ascent training at UWSS?*

*Do you have other memories of UWSS that you would like to share?*

*Send them to [buddyline@uwss.org](mailto:buddyline@uwss.org)*



Rudy Enders wrote:

Lt Rudy Enders (lower right) returned as training officer and later XO after graduating from EOD school at Indian Head, Md. Later ran into classmate SF Lt. Kurt Terry (seated next to me) who was with MAC/SOG in Saigon while I was serving with CIA. While at UWSS served with Cdr Roe, Cdr. Hinman, Cdr, Ploof and Lt William Hamilton who later commanded UDT -21 and also served with CIA.

Still relish the great days with our wonderful instructors.

Hi Henry O’Berine what class were you in I was in the class Nov 1962

I was there when we line the street in front of the school because the president Kennedy came through and the 1st Seal team came there if you were in that class with me then you should remember we unload there equipment I remember the name Jarbo my partner was Brown a marine and shorty Lyons was our instructor also Cahill Nearly, also big moose. Capt Snible who later took command of the Seal teams in the west coast did I stay there to December until I got orders. If you were in that class still have the picture.

ED Pospisil





from Rudy (cover of an old BuddyLine)





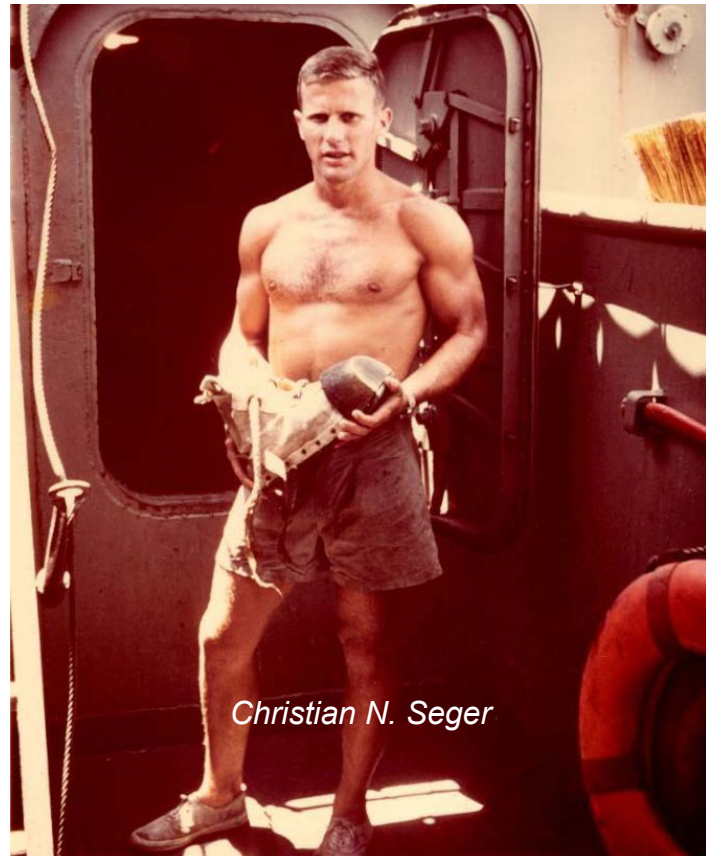
I and my class of roughly 20 Pararescue trainees left Orlando and arrived at the UWSS Key West I think in May of 66. My memories are of tough instructors and PT, first time in the ocean at night, and a 30 year old Force Recon dive buddy that had absolutely no fear.

I was 19 and on our first night surface swim we were the last pair in the water and immediately heard someone in front of us screaming. The ramp was still down so my first thought was to return to the boat. The Marine roughly informed me that the mission was that way, pointing at the jeep lights on the beach. I responded with something like "what ever is eating that guy is that way" and away we went. I was relieved when it turned out to be a bunch of Portuguese Man of War. Many were stung. We were in good shape when we arrived but I was no where near the top.

One morning we reported for PT and were told drop. It seems someone had puked in the "Officers Head" (we don't have those in the AF) and they knew it was one of us Air Force pukers because Navy Enlisted knew better. It seemed like an eternity and I said I'm getting up. One of my class mates Luke Jones , nick named Crusher said if I moved he would kill me. I did not move. He started singing "Someone puked in the officers head" to which we all responded "Doo Daa Doo Daa". Just about that time the Conch Train showed and the Chief told us to shut up. We did not and he then told us to recover. Luke is gone now as are

many others of my class but those were some of the best experiences of my life. Nearly all of us went to Viet Nam resulting in many saves and numerous awards. The best memories ever.

From Cole Panning



*Christian N. Seger*

Just a quick note to say how interesting this new email Buddy Line is. Congratulations on putting out a fine newsletter here.

Still diving the MKV in 1961...I weighed 160# and the full rig was about 185 #. Conditioning courtesy of Don Stone and morning PT. Remind me to tell you about throwing up in the MKV helmet...

Chris Seger UWSS May 1961



## MEMBERSHIP JANUARY 2019

Members in database = 279  
Members in good standing = 224

Wonder if you are up to date on your dues? Contact Ken at [kenrecoy@aol.com](mailto:kenrecoy@aol.com) or 620-305-9900 and he will let you know.

## FINANCIAL QUARTERLY REPORT

Account Balance:  
November 1, 2019                   \$18,076.68

|                        |            |
|------------------------|------------|
| Dues Income            | + \$148.99 |
| Label Fees Income      | + \$0.00   |
| Logo Gear Sales Income | + \$430.31 |
| Other Income           | + \$324.00 |

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Reunion Expenses                   - \$0.00  
Logo Gear Expenses               - \$406.28  
BuddyLine Expenses               - \$62.14  
Business Expenses                 - \$0.00

Account Balance:  
January 31, 2019                   \$18,511.56

We are still in need of a chaplain for our organization. This won't take a lot of time, so if you are willing to serve as chaplain, please contact Ken Recoy at [kenrecoy@aol.com](mailto:kenrecoy@aol.com) or 620-305-9900

1. We still need a volunteer to join our 2020 Reunion planning committee. Please let us know if you can do.
2. We need a volunteer to be our UWSS Chaplain.
3. Don't forget about our UWSS Logo Wear Program. You can order by going to the UWSS Website [www.uwss.org](http://www.uwss.org) or by sending an email to me at [kenrecoy@aol.com](mailto:kenrecoy@aol.com)
4. UWSS Members please be sure to pay your "Label fees" if you want to continue to receive the Buddyline by regular mail.
5. UWSS Members be sure to check and send in your UWSS Dues as needed. And if you want to pay UWSS Dues for your buddy, send those in too! Donations accepted.
6. UWSS Class pictures. If you do not see your Class picture on the UWSS Website, please send in a copy for our UWSS Archives.
7. UWSS Members please be sure to reach out to your UWSS buddies and check on each other from time to time. None of us are getting any younger and it is always good to hear from a brother.

If I can help with a question about FO UWSS give me a call anytime.

HooYah!

Ken Recoy 620-305-9900 Cell





*All prices include shipping.*



**UWSS logo decal – transparent or white  
\$3.00 each**

**UWSS commemorative coin  
\$12.00 each**

enameled brass, raised design,  
1 5/8 inch diameter

**UWSS all-service commemorative coin  
\$15.00 each**

enameled brass, raised design, 2 inch diameter

**Key Chain with enameled logo medallion  
\$10.00 each**

Make check to FO/UWSS

Send with order to Ken Recoy, Treasurer  
25810 East 330 Road.  
Chelsea, OK 74016-5262

Questions? e-mail: [jhhoule@me.com](mailto:jhhoule@me.com)  
or phone (352) 249-9140

*All logo items are pictured on the web site  
[www.uwss.org/LogoGear.html](http://www.uwss.org/LogoGear.html)*

## **LT JEFFREY M HUDSON**

Graduating Class from UWSS May 1962

At age 79, Jeffrey Hudson died on December 15, 2018, following a stroke 8 months earlier.

Jeffery was born in Detroit to Dr. J. Stewart and Julia Hudson and raised in Grosse Pointe Farms. He graduated from The Hotchkiss School in Lakeville, Connecticut and continued his education at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut where he was a member of The Hall.

Upon graduation he enlisted in the U.S. Navy and during his four-year commitment completed UDT school, the forerunner of the Navy Seals, and traveled much of the world on the USS Mauna Loa.

He then married Polly Kammer and began his career in Philadelphia in the financial industry and attended The Wharton School on the GI Bill.

A memorial service is being planned for early summer in Harbor Springs.

### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

*2020 Reunion Planning Committee*

*Contact Ken Recoy for more  
information. 620-305-9900 or  
[kenrecoy@aol.com](mailto:kenrecoy@aol.com)*



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**FO/UWSS**

**MISSION:**

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*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.*

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