

Buddy Line



Newsletter of Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School

May 2001

IT'S LITTLE CREEK IN 2002

The vote is in! By over two to one, the voting members picked Little Creek as the site for our 2002 reunion. Now we need to get organized!

A reunion committee, consisting of Bob Clark, Chip Provaznik and Bernard Diggs, all of Virginia Beach, and Don Stone, is already at work. Bob Clark has already supplied lots of information about the facilities and tours available.

The amount of activities we can have depends on the number of days we choose for this reunion. At the last reunion, in Panama City Beach, we had registration and an ice breaker on Friday; the business meeting was on Saturday morning; the banquet was Saturday evening; and Sunday morning we had tours of the dive school and EDU. By 1:00 PM Sunday most attendees were on their way home.

Do most of you want to repeat a three day format, or would you prefer activities on Thursday also? We welcome suggestions as to the number of days

and additional activities you would enjoy, such as picnic, fishing trip, golf, swim, run, walk, crawl, you name it and we'll consider it.



EDU – Panama City Beach 2000

President's Corner

by Don Stone

I received a letter from Ralph Klotz, who lives in Gamaliel, Arkansas, asking about a membership card that would state the member's scuba qualification. He wants to use it as proof of certification to be able to fill scuba tanks. I think it is a good idea. I have been using a copy of my graduation certificate that was reduced in size by a photo copier.

It just so happens that Bill Garnett is working on a membership card for us. Hopefully dive shops will accept it as indication of the member's scuba certification.



Conch Tour Train - Key West 1998

UWSS T-SHIRTS



T-shirts, Sleeveless Shirts and Tank Tops:
 Small, medium, large and X large 10.50 each
 XX or XXX large 11.50 each
Sport shirts - 3 buttons & collar, with or without pocket
 Small, medium, large and X large 16.00 each
 XX or XXX large 17.00 each
Shirts have the design on front and back and are available in white or ash gray.

Coffee Mugs 7.00 each
Logo on one side, name or whatever on other side.

Order by phone or mail. Prices include shipping.

MWR Graphics Department
 Building A515
 Naval Air Station
 Key West, FL 33040

Phone: (305) 293-2976

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Membership 5/04/01

59 regular members (3 still unpaid)

36 associate members (4 paid FOUWSS Boosters)

Account Balance 2/15/01	\$ 1,206.91
Dues received	100.00
February Buddy Line expense	-67.93
Account Balance 5/15/01	1,238.98

FO of 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 of 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 of UWSS Officers

President Don Stone
 Vice President..... Andy Anderson
 Secretary/Treasurer A. Dee Clark
 Historian Erasmo Riojas

Buddy Line editors are Don and Art Stone.

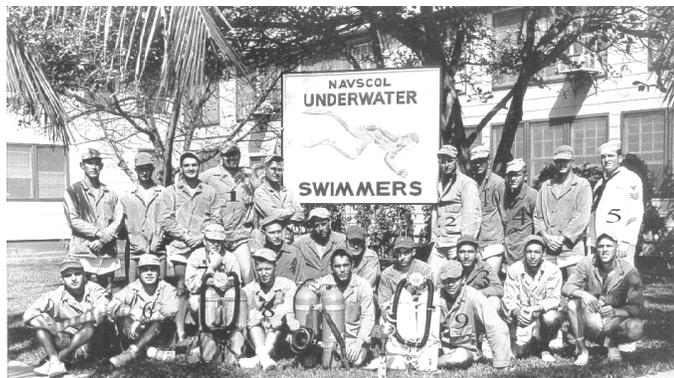
e-mail: stonefish7@cs.com

snail mail: 1440 S.W. 5th Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432

fax: (850) 913-0602

From the editors: We need your stories and pictures to continue getting out an interesting newsletter. You guys have had fantastic, funny, and scary experiences in your naval careers. How about sharing them with us. Material will be returned to you if requested.

Doc Riojas has requested that contributions to the FOUWSS archive be sent to him at 4819 Meadowglen Dr., Pearland, TX 77584. Or e-mail him at elticitl@mi-vida-loca.com. He has a web site for FOUWSS at <http://members.spree.com/travel/laloula/uwss/uwssindex.htm>



Jim Tribon's UWSS Class
 1. Lt. Rodkey 2. Lane 3. Art Dougren was Jim Kennard's swim buddy. 4. Stalling
 5. Stanley 6. Snow 7. Jim Tribon 8. Photographer (relieved Lewis) 9. Jim Kennard
 10. C.D. Smith, Jim Tribon's swim buddy.

Scuttlebut Corner

Creature Feature by Don Stone

Today's story involves two strange creatures, both unpredictable and potentially dangerous.

One of them was the MK5, a diving apparatus "designed by geniuses to be used by idiots".



To refresh your memory, it was an N_2O_2 semi-closed circuit, non magnetic, low noise unit that contained a canister of Baralyme to remove carbon dioxide from the exhaled gas. The gas then entered a breathing bag to which was added a small amount of fresh N_2O_2 , and the diver breathed this mixture. The percentage of N_2O_2 was selected before a dive and the liter flow was preset in the lab according to depth and mix used. The liter flow adjustment and mix had to be right, because hypoxia or oxygen toxicity was right around the corner.

The rig was designed especially for EOD work and could give you three hours at 180 feet plus enough gas for decompression – at least that's what we were told.....

One of the many special things about the MK5 was that if you worked particularly hard on the bottom, you would decrease the O_2 in your breathing bags so much that as soon as you started to ascend, you could pass out because of hypoxia and drown. Consequently there was an iron clad rule that the diver had to purge his breathing bags and fill with a fresh supply of mix before ascent.

The other creature in this story is a moray eel. There are several species, varying in size, but all fiercely territorial.



One of the spotted variety had taken up residence in an old torpedo that was placed in 40 ft off the swim area and used as a training aid in the EOD Diver/MK5 program.

Buddy pairs equipped with the MK5 would descend to the torpedo, record all the data and measurements on plastic slates, and then just hang out getting bottom time in the rig until their time was up.

I was instructing in the MK5 program at the time and had taken my turn as open circuit safety man on bottom with two young ensigns. The divers finished getting their data quickly and were sitting astride the torpedo playing tic-tac-toe by scratching on the marine growth with their fingers. They were definitely comfortable with the MK5.

We had no idea that the torpedo was occupied, but we soon found out differently, because that little spotted moray came streaking out of the opening in the torpedo, grabbed one of the ensigns' hand and gave him a nasty bite between his fingers.

I will really give him credit – he looked over at me, indicated he wanted to ascend, then both swam over to the descending line, purged their apparatus and ascended – exactly like they had been instructed. No panic, even though one was bleeding and hurting. That kind of cool behavior really let an instructor know he was getting his ideas across and that UWSS was turning out capable divers..

Membership Application

Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School

Full Name: _____

Wife's Name: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Branch of Service: _____ Dates of Service: _____

Dates & Class # at UWSS: _____ or Associate Membership: _____

Send copy of class picture if you have one. 2 Year Membership \$25.00

Make check to A. Dee Clark, Treasurer and mail to 1315 Garner St., Nacogdoches, TX. 75961

The way it was....



Carl Otto Schultz had no time for nonsense. Everything in life was very serious for Carl, and heaven help the student who messed up or goofed around.

However, the guys who arranged for this Key West lovely to present Carl with a hat when he made chief didn't succeed in embarrassing him.

He loved it!

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