

Buddy Line



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

November 2002

UWSS Memories from Bill Rice

Captain Bill Rice, USN Retired, wrote to us and shared some of his memories as a student at UWSS. Here is his letter:

"I don't remember my class number, but we were a combined pre-EOD school, squad of Marine recon, and a sprinkling of Navy sea rescue swimmers, who graduated in mid-June 1957. I believe my swim buddy was Don Shellenberg and I received a nickname of "Pipeline Rice". There were cables and pipes leading into our beach and I got caught giving myself pulling strokes on some of the cables. Jim Tucker, instructor, saw our float going like hell in a straight line and jumped in to observe us. One on one lectures occurred – then class lectures, and one warning was sufficient.

"We also had the Norway UDT XO with us, LT Anderson. He was an absolute fish and a great class leader. His wife was there – so at class evolutions she was our class's ball queen. Some of the other new ensigns like myself were Bill Fischer, Jim Gafney, Will Brown and two who dropped before going to EOD school. Kappesser was our class proctor, Tucker our demo leader, and LCDR John Roe the skipper of the school.

"I recall it being very hot, no such thing as A/C except at O Club, and we students had to play fast pitch softball representing the school. We were zero for everything and the staff promised us all kinds of things if we could win a game. There were some all-Navy players and a great pitcher for NAS Boca Chica. I still have my student book, less orange cover – but no pics to send.

"Some of the class members found a cannon ball on a swim off the fort and brought it in for the staff cradled in a towel. It was a good class, we worked together and enjoyed the mixed group of men, and the Marine squad was very professional. We were happy to graduate and had a week to get to EOD school in Indian Head and start second class diving school in the muddy Potomac."



Launching swimmers from sharktooth LCPR
Photo from Lee Barber

President's Corner by Don Stone

Bernie Campoli was in San Diego this summer and spoke with Peter Dirx about the scheduling of the 2004 reunion. Peter visited MWR and got them to block off dates for our reunion at the Club Coronado on the Naval Amphibious Base. We have the evening of 7 May for our ice breaker, the morning of 8 May for our business meeting, and the evening of 8 May for our banquet. Since this is the second weekend in May, it should not conflict with the annual EOD ball.

Bernie also checked with the Navy Lodge at North Island on getting us a block of rooms set aside. He found they will block rooms two months in advance for retired groups. We will have to keep up on that one plus explore other options.

As for active duty visits during the reunion, Consolidated Divers Unit (the present home of the UWSS shark) is certainly a must, as well as SEAL and EOD units, dependent on their commitments.

California is a long way for many of us to travel for a weekend reunion, however San Diego has many things to see and do before and after the reunion. We'll list some of these attractions and activities in future issues. Deep sea fishing and golf are two possibilities. The water is cold and clear for you divers. Please email, phone or write me with your ideas.



UWSS LOGO ITEMS



We have restocked our supply of logo items and have added a new one – ash gray polos with a small logo on the pocket. Bernie Campoli had asked for a couple to wear at a diving conference, and they looked so good we decided to add them to our stock.

We will be offering all items for sale at Muster in Ft. Pierce, and by mail. So send in your orders and they will be shipped pronto. Prices include shipping. Availability subject to change.

White Beefy-T shirts..... 13.00 ea, 2 for 23.00
 Logo front and back (pocket or no pocket – your choice)
 Sizes L, XL, XXL, Childs 10/12 (no pocket)

Ash gray Beefy-T shirts 14.00 ea, 2 for 25.00
 Large logo on back, small logo on pocket
 Sizes M, L, XL, XXL, Childs 10/12 (no pocket)

White Polo shirt 18.00 ea, 2 for 33.00
 Small logo on pocket, 50/50 cotton/poly
 Sizes M, L, XL, XXL

Ash Polo shirt 19.00 ea, 2 for 35.00
 Small logo on pocket, 50/50 cotton/poly
 Sizes M, L, XL, XXL

UWSS Plaques 30.00 ea

Coffee mugs with logo..... 11.00 ea
 7.00 if ordered with shirt

Caps - Natural 11.00

Send payment with order to Don Stone,
 1440 SW 5th Ave
 Boca Raton, FL 33432

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Membership 11/1/2002
 106 regular members
 75 associate members

Account Balance 8/1/2002	3,240.26
Interest	+8.32
Dues	+100.00
Logo items sold	+60.00
Buddy Line expense	-112.75
Logo items purchased	-740.41
Account Balance 11/1/2002	2,555.42

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 or uwssbuddyline@cs.com snail mail: 1440 S.W. 5th Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432 phone: (561) 391-6727 fax: (509) 472-6492

You can view many pictures from the 2002reunion, as well as other selections, on Rio's website:
<http://elticitl0.tripod.com/reunion/uwssreunionmay.htm>

Contacting UWSS Shipmates

By: Chris Seger – UWSS May 1961

It is difficult for me to believe, but my classmates and I graduated from U.S. Naval School, Underwater Swimmers over forty years ago. We were a group of young men who had aspirations to be part of the Navy's Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit, and because the Navy is responsible for all ordnance lying below the tidal mark, we first had to be trained as divers.

Our incoming group consisted of many Navy ratings, including Boatswains Mate, Aviation Ordnance, Gunner's Mate, Corpsman, and Electronics Technician--plus several Ensigns, fresh out of Officer Candidate School. The class convened in March of 1961 at Key West, and we graduated in May as Second Class Divers. The requirements of physical training, diving, and classroom problems thinned the ranks of our class considerably, and at graduation day there were only 21 men who proudly received their Second Class Diver designation, in addition to three others that were in Key West only for the mixed gas course.

Some forty years later, I was wondering how to contact those long lost classmates for the Little Creek UWSS reunion held last year. I had stumbled onto the notice of the event in the Navy League magazine, and found to my delight that Don Stone was President of the organization and spearheading the gathering. Don was the same guy who led my class through physical training every morning on the grinder at Key West. I had never held my arms out straight for more than ten seconds before I met Stone, but several weeks later I could rotate them in that position for what seemed like hours.

In recent years, I've taken an interest in the computer and the information it can produce through its mighty search engines. The internet is truly an astounding resource for finding out about almost anything on earth, including where your classmates of forty years ago are living, and what is their phone number.

So, with the reunion in mind, I embarked on a quest to contact my UWSS buddies, and I encourage you to do the same for the 2004 reunion in San Diego. If you have access to a computer you can have a lot of fun running them down, and even more fun when you actually get to speak to them on the phone, or write to them by e-mail.

The first step in the process is to contact anyone you already know in your class. Even if you're only in touch with one other person, he can help you widen the circle of buddies. In my case I had a valuable aid: the official Navy list of graduates from the class of May 1961. That list gave me the exact full name and correct spelling of all my classmates. It also gave me their rank in class standings, which was interesting to view years later. Look in your service jacket; such a list might be there too. So, contact anyone you might know in the class and start the ball rolling with the easiest and most accessible

names you can remember. Be sure to keep notes so that you'll be current on whom you have contacted and who is still missing. Once you have a first and last name, go to the computer and let it do the work for you.

On the internet find "The Ultimate White Pages" at <http://www.theultimates.com/white>. There you will see a list of internet services for locating telephone numbers. For purposes of this article, let's concentrate on the Yahoo service, which is the third column in the listing. Yahoo has the best search engine, and it does not require that you know the state in which the person lives.

When you find the "The Ultimate White Pages" you'll see that there are four fields of information you can provide: Last Name, First Name, City, and State. Clearly, the more information you have, the better, as it narrows the search, but you can still find someone with a minimum of information. Let's use my name as an example.

If you type in "Seger" and then ask Yahoo to search, you will get 200 listings! If you narrow the search by typing in Chris Seger, you will get 22 possibilities. Now here is where things get interesting, and a little imagination is required. If you had a flash of recall and remembered that Christian was my real first name, you could reduce the list to only two.

Here again, things get a little tricky. One of the Christian Segers is my cousin, who lived in Tulsa, and recently died. The other is me, and I live in Houston, but the Yahoo directory somehow has only the telephone number of my *Galveston* beach house. However, there is a recording machine and I would soon get your message. See how it works?

Also, the Yahoo site has a place to look up e-mail addresses. One of our classmates lives in Antigua, West Indies, and did not show up in any U.S. telephone directory, but the Yahoo search engine finally gave me his e-mail address, and we corresponded. Searching for lost classmates is actually a lot of fun, even though you might take a wrong turn here and there. One of the more amusing telephone calls I made was to the ex-wife of a classmate. The spurned woman reported with excruciating detail on the life style and dimensions of her husband's new girlfriend!! You will also learn, sadly, which of your shipmates has crossed over the bar. We believe we have lost four of our group to date.

Using Yahoo—and with the help of others as we went along—we eventually tracked down 13 of the 21 shipmates in our class. Better yet, we whipped up enthusiasm for the reunion, and 9 of them attended the gathering at Little Creek in 2002. Give this process a try for yourself, you'll see how interesting the search can be—plus you'll encourage some of your classmates to attend the San Diego reunion in 2004.

P.S. we are still looking for the following persons from our class; any help would be appreciated: Don William RITTER, Edwin Bradford DUNN, John George ECKERT, and David Max BURNS.

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

Doc Rio and friends on a Caribbean Cruise



Scuttlebut Corner

This picture of ST2 members aboard the USS Sealion, is from Erasmo Riojas,

The Sealion was a WWII snorkel equipped diesel attack sub with a distinguished war record. After the war she was converted into a troop carrier to accommodate the need of US special operations, with the forward torpedo room converted into a berthing space.

The ship was used extensively by SEALs and Marine Recon for operations involving day and night underway lock-outs, launching of SDV's, and other clandestine activities. She was the only sub in the Navy at that time with deck guns. The Sealion was a good ole boat, and she sure was a feeder!

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