

# Buddy Line



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

November 2007

## **THE EXECUTIVE CORNER**

By Gerry Flowers with Bob Holmes

So, what has happened since the last newsletter folks. First off, we are nineteen months away from the gathering in Panama City. The 2009 reunion is creeping up on us. I say that, because every time you turn around, it seems that Christmas is right around the corner. I ask the question again.. "Where does the time go?"

Over the last month, I have taken the time to read all of the "Buddy Lines" that are posted on the UWSS web site, and I would urge you that have time to have a look and read one now and then. There is, above all, a wealth of history there. The neat thing is that it is about each and every one of you, your wives and your friends. The 2000 reunion in Panama City had only forty nine in attendance. Don Stone, Dee Clark and Andy Anderson were the executive back then. By November of the same year, the membership had doubled. That was a tremendous accomplishment right out of the gate.

If there is one strand that weaves through every UWSS reunion and every "Buddy Line", as well as the Logo Gear and managing the business of the group, I would have to say it would be "Dedication", hard work and caring by all those involved in making this work.

Pictures have been sent in, stories have been told, Banners have been displayed, and this Fraternal Order has grown into something very special. My personal observations have discovered that each and every one of you, your wives, and families are a part of a marvelous portion of military history.

From reading of Dave Byers finding the broken down UWSS SHARK & DIVER that we have come to know as the symbol of the United States Diving Fraternity to the fast talking he had to do to get onto the base. These stories capture everyone's interest. Then he ultimately mesmerized the military men present, with the story of the "Shark's" history and relevance to the Naval Diving community.

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## **FROM THE EDITORS:**

### **You Can Help the Troops**

The following heads-up was sent to us via FO/UWSS member, Wally Westfield, and Bill Coombs, Special Forces Association. The Army Special Forces Teams in Afghanistan have a need for several items which are not available to them locally.

With the weather cooling off there, many team members have colds and coughs, so they need Vitamin C and cough suppressant lozenges (it is unhealthy to cough on night patrols). They could also use Christmas cards, ball point pens and writing paper.

If you are interested in helping out, you may send your packages to Judson Nally, FSB North Carolina, 207 ARSIC West, Herat, APO AE 09354 or to Jason Trommer, North Carolina, 207 ARSIC West, Herat, APO AE 09354 for distribution where needed.

Or you may send a package direct to a team by choosing one of the following names (Tim Leival, Rich Salve, Greg McKenna, Matt Bray, Matt Valis, Dave McGlynn) and mailing to CJSOTF-ATF32 Kandahar, APO, AE 09355.

Some help is already on the way, thanks to FO/UWSS member Jim Pearson, his friends in California, and some friends here in South Florida.



Happy  
Holidays  
From  
Don & Art

**UWSS LOGO ITEMS**

The following logo items are currently available. We can obtain other items if there are enough requests. Prices include shipping and have slightly increased to reflect the recent postage increases.

White Beefy-T shirt..... 15.00 ea, 2 for 26.00  
Large logo on back, small logo on pocket  
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL

Ash gray Beefy-T shirt..... 16.00 ea, 2 for 28.00  
Large logo on back, small logo on pocket  
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL

White long sleeved T shirt ..... 18.00 ea, 2 for 32.00  
Large logo on back, small logo on front (no pocket)  
Sizes S, M, L, XL

Ash gray long sleeved T shirt ..... 19.00 ea, 2 for 34.00  
Large logo on back, small logo on front (no pocket)  
Sizes S, M, L, XL

White polo shirt, 50/50 cotton/poly.. 20.00 ea, 2 for 36.00  
Small logo on pocket. Sizes M, L, XL, XXL

Ash polo shirt, 50/50 cotton/poly..... 20.00 ea, 2 for 36.00  
Small logo on pocket. Sizes M, L, XL, XXL

Pique polo, all cotton, birch gray..... 22.00 ea, 2 for 40.00  
Embroidered logo left front. (no pocket)  
Sizes S, M, L, XL, XXL

Coffee mug with old logo front & back ..... 15.00  
12.00 ea if ordered with shirt

Cap – natural with logo 14.00 ea  
10.00 ea if ordered with shirt

Baseball cap – light tan, embroidered logo 19.00 ea  
16.00 ea if ordered with shirt

UWSS logo decal  
Transparent background 2.00 ea  
White background 2.00 ea

UWSS logo lapel/tie pin 6.00 ea

UWSS plaque - Bright brass logo on blue 27.00 ea

UWSS commemorative coin 5.00 ea  
1 5/8" diameter, enameled brass with raised design

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

**Secretary/Treasurer's Report**

Membership November 2007	239 members
Account Balance August 2007	\$9,651.52
Dues	+125.00
Logo sales	+384.00
Buddy Line printing & postage	-84.80
Logo expense	-233.90
Account Balance November 2007	\$9,841.82

**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 others who share an interest in the goals and activities of FO/UWSS. Associate members do not have voting privileges, but are encouraged to participate in all other activities..

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 mailout.

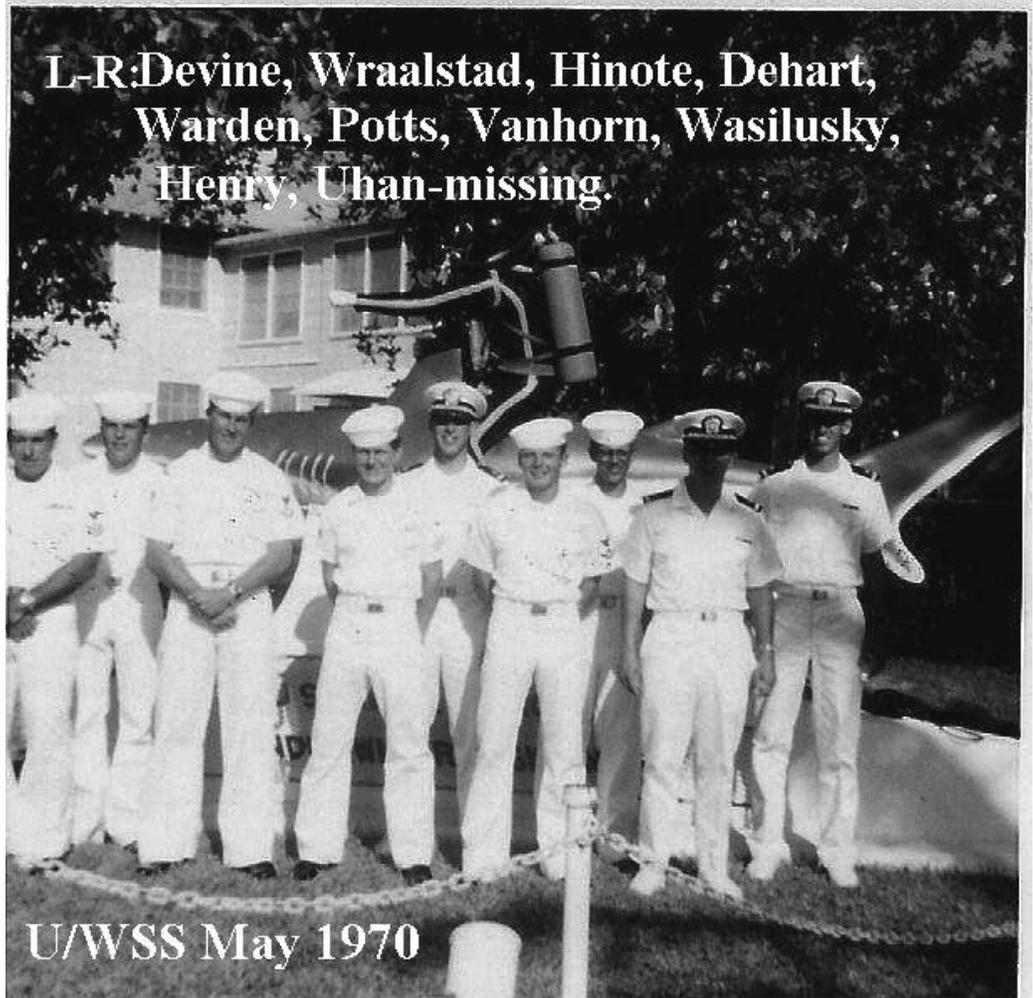
To receive the Buddy Line by email, send your request to [stonefish7@cs.com](mailto:stonefish7@cs.com).

**NEW MEMBERS**

We've welcomed ten new members since the reunion last May

- Michael Warman
- Larry Palmer
- Philip Knauth
- Nancy Heinz
- Bruce Moore
- Dave Sullivan
- Peter Rundquist
- Jeffrey Fisher
- Kenneth Moore
- John Marinovich.

**L-R: Devine, Wraalstad, Hinote, Dehart,  
Warden, Potts, Vanhorn, Wasilusky,  
Henry, Uhan-missing.**



**Class of May 1970**  
Photo from Berny Diggs



**EOD Class of July 1963 – Photo from Gene McNeill**

More Pics from Reunion 2007 Key West Thanks to Jerry Padrta, Gerry Flowers, Don Stone and Rio Riojas



## **THE EXECUTIVE CORNER**

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The Buddy line archive photo of it sitting on top of the Consolidated Dive Unit, is U.S.N. Diving history.

This group, like the others you are all affiliated with are a chronicle of significant narrative of past events. These stories, from this school that was Key West, will never be repeated.

This is why it is so very important to attend. This is why it is so very important to find someone that you may know and urge them to attend. It is also why those that do attend, continue to come. If your health allows it, go to your reunions, be they SEAL Team Musters, Museum Openings, E.O.D. get-togethers, Para Rescue events, or even local, chapter or state gatherings or musters, attend them while you are able to.

All of you have 19 months plus or minus a few days to get it together and make it to Panama City. We hope to see you there...

When I attended Amphibious Reconnaissance in Roosevelt Rhodes, Puerto Rico, 1968, one of the most horrible swimming events that ever took place was in the pool not the ocean. After reading the past Buddy Lines, I guess I now know who we have to thank. Frank Kappesser started the "Wet Towel Relay" when he was back at Key West. It must have been after a hard partying weekend the instructors went through. Way to go Frank. %\$#^&\*\*

I enjoyed Robert MacKenzie's comprehensive Diary entries, Bernie Campoli's aerial shot of Key West as it was then, it was great to see that, thanks. I enjoyed Jerry Padrta's photos and each one I read, made me feel very very proud to be in the company of you folks. I saw Bob Shouse as an instructor and can only imagine the experience he brought to that school. I looked at every photo of every class and wondered where mine may have ended up.

I saw some great trivia opportunities. Does anyone know or remember which UWSS grad has the logo tattooed on his right shoulder...no cheating if you already know. Can anyone find the word "facile" in any of the Buddy Lines? How long was that shark? Ten feet, twelve? Which member has a hobby of collecting antique diving apparatus? Oh, and what did Dave Byers tell us of the sex of that UWSS shark?

I would like to see photos from you folks in every "Buddy Line" because history calls you to do it. Just a few days ago, I searched through a bunch of my stuff and found the original patch I was given from the school in 1969. If I can figure out how to do it, maybe Don will include it in this Buddy line...I was in class 69-10 and would love to see the photo of the class, even though I do not remember having one taken.

On a different note, Woody Woodward and his crew have informed me that they are getting ready to start in earnest in the early days of 2008. They are looking into accommodation, activities and everything else we have enjoyed from the past executive and volunteers. Woody and your posse, thank you in advance for your upcoming efforts. It is good to have experienced "feet on the ground" in the Panama City area.

Bob Holmes and I have put together an email address for all of you to send us thoughts, ideas, news, email address changes, holidays, anything special you are doing, send them to [executiveUWSS@gmail.com](mailto:executiveUWSS@gmail.com) we will see them, and if possible, send everyone an update on anyone who would like to share something important.

New members are joining. We have one from Hong Kong, Philip Knauth, former Army Lt, Ranger and Vietnam Veteran from the Herd. We have a fellow who was looking at the Moore's Marauders website, found the link and joined the UWSS, he is presently with JPAC. (Joint POW/MIA Command) Ken Moore, CEO and founder of Moore's Marauders, also an avid diver has joined the ranks. I urge you all to visit [www.mooresmarauders.org](http://www.mooresmarauders.org) to see the terrific men trying to make the promise a reality.

In a chance meeting at the border, I met one Michael Bailey, Navy SEAL and Homeland Security agent. Michael is a graduate of the school and used to work for Captain Larry Bailey, Navy SEAL. I have asked him to consider joining the UWSS.

So, if I can find a few men, and sign up a couple of new members, you guys can spend the next nineteen months staying healthy, planning on attending, telling others that are sitting on the fence to come, use every excuse, but hound them until they say yes. It is worth it, because "time flies".

One of our new members of the Marauders, brings us a fabulous military history and a tremendous amount of experience to the group. Most of you know him as our own Chief Mike Driscoll.

We are proud to have him. Goes to show you, that someone listened to my talk. I realize that following Bob Shouse and Rudy Enders is tough, many of you were nodding off on me, but at least Mike listened, mind you, he was right up front.

Most of all, I want to go back to the start of this organization and recognize Don and Art Stone, Doc Rio our historian, and everyone that got this started. All your hard work, time, effort and caring for your brothers-in-arms and going to the great lengths you have, is an outstanding achievement.

I thank you very much for trusting me to help Bob Holmes, Don Stone and the teams in the field make this thing a little better. Until the next newsletter...

## Membership Application

## Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Wife's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Buddy Line Newsletter by email \_\_\_\_\_ or snail mail \_\_\_\_\_

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 payable to UWSS and mail to Don Stone, Treasurer, 1440 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Boca Raton, FL 33432

### The Way It Was

This photo was received from new member, John Marinovich, who attended UWSS March - May 1957.

It shows swimmers, working off the U boat, just entering an IBS.

The tough inflatable IBS was a work horse for many units in the service. UDT, SEALS, EOD, UIWSS, and fleet divers all swore by and swore at that old black, heavy duty rubber boat. It was short on comfort but safe even in very turbulent sea conditions.



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