

Buddy Line



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

November 2010

Meet the New Webmaster

Have you noticed that the UWSS web site - uwss.org - has been undergoing a face lift lately?

The web site was started in 2004 by Art Stone as a learn-as-you-go project. Along with the Buddy Line Newsletter, it has been a big help in keeping members informed and attracting new members.

Having trouble finding time for the continuous updating the site needed, Art welcomed an offer of help from FO/UWSS member, **Paul Johnson**, especially since he is a graphic design professional.

Paul joined FO/UWSS in 2009, finding us with a Google search on Underwater Swimmers School. His first Navy duty station was on the staff at UWSS in 1963. Working on the U-Boat and LCPR's, he says he was the kid scraping and painting, scraping and painting, scraping and painting.

After his naval service Paul followed his dream to enter graphic arts by studying at night while working and raising a family. Graduating from the School of Visual Arts after 6 years of night school, he worked in advertising and printing for many years; then opened his own graphic arts company.

Paul lives in Brooklyn, NY with his wife, Joanne, and son, Paul, who is planning to enlist in the Marine Corps this year.

1954-1973

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REUNION 2009
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CONTACTS

12.180

Webmaster:
Paul Johnson
pjohnson1@gmail.com



U.S. Naval School Underwater Swimmers, Key West, Florida, welcomed its first class in 1954 and trained over 6000 divers before officially closing its doors in 1973. Students came from all branches of the U.S. military, from several civilian government departments, and from allied forces. Former staff and students look back on their days at UWSS with pride and fond memories.



The Fraternal Order of Underwater Swimmers School was organized to keep lines of communication open for former staff and students. Membership is open to all who share an interest in the goals and activities of FO/UWSS. One of the most important reasons for our existence is our biannual reunions held at various locations selected by members' votes. The Buddy Line newsletter is published quarterly.



Reunion 2011 May 7th to 12th

Here is your last chance to join us for the 2011 reunion cruise at our special group rates. Travel Leaders is still holding a few cabins but must release them to general sales soon. For more information, call Beverly Kelly at Travel Leaders (800-286-9839) or download the 2011 Reunion Information Package at uwss.org.

Some have asked about transportation to the cruise port and overnight accommodations so we did a little research.

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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*
- 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 – blue, embroidered logo.....20.00
Cap 3.00 less if ordered with shirt
- Mug-old logo front, UWSS back, hand wash..... 10.00
- Embroidered Patch 7.00
- UWSS logo decal2.00
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 medallion7.00

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

All logo items are pictured on the web site

Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Membership	November 2010	272 members
Account Balance	August 2010	\$12,166.53
Dues		+225.00
Logo gear sales		+408.00
Buddy Line printing		- 93.04
Postage		-47.45
Office supplies		-61.15
Logo gear purchases		-802.00
Account Balance	November 2010	11,795.89

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 are held at various locations selected by members' votes.

FO/UWSS Officers

- PresidentBob 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.

e-mail: stonefish8@gmail.com phone: (561) 391-6727
snail mail: 1440 SW 5th Ave., Boca Raton, FL 33432
Reunion Coordinator: Jerry Padrta (772) 873-9950

WEBSITE: www.uwss.org

Buddy Line by 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.

Dues (\$25.00 for 2 years) are payable in May of odd numbered years. Your paid thru date can be found on your label or in the Buddy Line delivery email.



March 1968 Photo from Ted Hunter (3rd from left, middle row)

October 1956 Photo from Joseph Brooks (behind #31 tanks) and George Kappes (6th from right standing)



The Executive Corner

by Gerry Flowers with Bob Holmes

As always, we hope this issue of "Buddy Line" finds all of you in good health and enjoying life. I wanted to start this by telling you of a wonderful experience I had two weeks ago as the Commander of the "Theodore H. Snow" Post # 75 of the AMERICAN Legion up here in Canada.

I and the Legion Chaplain had the Honor of presenting the American Flag to a Second World War Pacific Theatre Veteran. He lived his life here in Canada. Thanks to the Flag Folding demonstration by Bo Burwell at the Last reunion, we pulled it off perfectly. What made it great was that 95% of the people there did not know he was a veteran and a 40 year plus member of our American Legion. There was not a dry eye in the Church gents. He was a church Elder and a high ranking Mason, but our part was the best, and no one knew we were coming. Thanks for the confidence to pull it off guys.

As you are all aware, the next reunion is about seven months away. I am not sure about the numbers or the turn out, but we hope to see a lot of you there as we feel it will not only be a reunion, but a wonderful holiday to boot. Personally, I am excited about being on the vessel and seeing everyone there, every day and doing things with folks I admire and respect.

There are a few things we have to think about for May and starting now will take the pressure off of making a quick decision or two. At our reunion in Panama City, the general meeting was to be where we decided on the location of the next reunion and who would be running for the Executive. If you remember, we were in an ante room before the meeting trying to get a few things done. It is not easy when we are rushed.

So, with that in mind, please start thinking of where you would wish to have the next reunion. I think that with a little planning ahead, a Navy Base could be an option. Having said that, we have seven months to put out some feelers to find and agree on a suitable location. The membership has as a group, huge knowledge and contacts all over the country, can we use that hook. Panama could be an option and if it is, Bob and I were thinking that this group could grow by sending out applications to every member of the facility involved in

Military Diving. We really would not have to change the coin, the name or the reason for being. It is established by the First facility, the Key West Underwater Swimmers School. The Panama base could have a Chapter....Just something to think about.

We must also consider nominating members for the executive positions. Planning now would make it an easier and less rushed process. We saw how it went last time and Bob and I were able to take on the positions again on the basis of good looks and amount of visible hair.

I can think of a couple of folks if anyone would like to think about it with Bob and myself. Say, for instance, we had two handsome firefighters in the Florida area, close to Panama and full of P&V. This is hypothetical, but one could be other, a former SEAL and one, to keep the Balance, a Marine. What a combination to push this group forward.

In closing, this is a very special group with outstanding resumes and it should be carried on. The new Navy and Army Divers would be proud to have the initial coin in their pockets gents, think about it. Next "Buddy Line" Bob and I will have a few more questions about these thoughts.

Both Bob and I would like to again thank Jerry and Judy Padrta for putting this together for the group, Woody and his committee for the fantastic experience in Panama and of course Don and Art for keeping us in line. To all of you, Hand Salute.

Looking forward to seeing you and getting some input.

Warmest Regards

Bob Holmes, President, USN
Gerry Flowers, Vice President, USMC

Welcome New Members

The following new members have joined FO/UWSS since the last Buddy Line :

Donald J. Maglio of Abington, MA
USCG, UWSS Class March 1959

Michael C. Reed of Olcott, NY
USN, UWSS Class March 1972

David Wale of Maryville, WA

Editors Corner by Don Stone



Major Robert B "Jock". MacKenzie USMC RET passed away Sept. 29, 2010 in Thousand Oaks, California. Mac had a total of thirty years military service, serving in the National Guard and the Navy before enlisting in the Marine Corps.

He attended UWSS in 1957 graduating at the top of his class. Mac's swim buddy at UWSS, Al

Brown, was very helpful in filling many of the details of this exceptional man's life and career.

Jock was born Jan. 24, 1928 in Rochester, Minn. His father was a chemist at Mayo Clinic and his mother was a school teacher. Jock graduated from Carleton College, Northfield, Minn., in 1953 where he was an All American swimmer. Some of his records still stand.

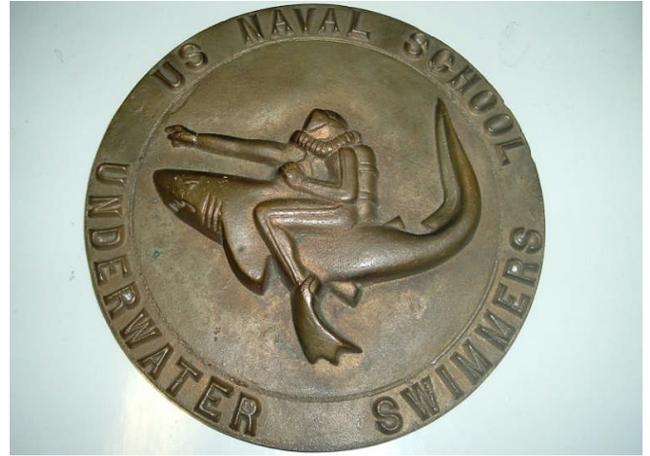
Mac had one of the highest IQ's in the USMC, and true to form, he graduated from UWSS with the highest instructors grades given up to that time. After UWSS he went to Force Recon and rose rapidly in rank. He was sent to language school for a year to learn Russian and went to Germany where he intercepted and translated Russian Naval communications. Next, as a Warrant Officer, he went to Scotland for counterintelligence. Back to language school to learn Vietnamese, then to Vietnam making captain as an intelligence officer. On return to CONUS Mac became an intelligence instructor in the Army Language School.

Retiring as Major he settled his family in California where he received his M.B.A. at CLU and became a stock broker. He also taught finance in the CLU graduate program. When completely retired he stayed active with Rotary, editing 5 newsletters and maintaining a couple of databases

Mac is survived by his wife, Lynn; daughter, Suzie; son, Doug and wife Lisa; and their four children. Doug became a Marine and served in Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom.

I arrived for duty at UWSS shortly after Mac and Al's class graduated so I never met him. He contacted us in 2003 and asked if we would like a copy of the diary he kept as a UWSS trainee. Most of our students found the course challenging – it was a piece of cake for him. So much so that he had the excess energy to keep a detailed day to day diary and read literary classics as well as party at night on Duval Street with the rest of the students. We never expected the chronicle we received. It brought back many memories for UWSS alumni when we published it in the Buddy Line.

The following e-mail and photo was received from A.H. Vernatte a.vernatte@verizon.net
I was attached to the USS Bushnell in Key West from July 64 until June 66. I worked in repair division, and some times in the foundry. I have a bronze plaque that was cast on the ship.



We have a similar plaque. Chief Pattern Maker Neal "Pappy" Hewitt designed the original mold for this plaque and several were cast in various metals in the Bushnell foundry.

2011 Reunion Cruise

[continued from page 1](#)

The following information, found on the internet, may be helpful for reunion attendees who want to drive or fly in to Miami the day before the cruise. All have free airport shuttles. **Stay Park Cruise Packages**

SpringHill/Marriott  Rate: \$99.00

One Night Hotel Accommodation for 2
 Free parking up to 14 days
 Free breakfast, Free internet
 FREE Cruiseport shuttle

Red Roof Inns  Rate: \$99.00

One Night Hotel Accommodation for 2
 Free parking up to 14 days.
 Free breakfast, Free internet
 FREE Cruiseport shuttle

Hyatt Place  Rate: \$99.00

One Night Hotel Accommodation for 2
 Free parking up to 14 days
 Free breakfast, Free internet
 Cruiseport shuttle \$12 per person

Others can be found at www.stay123.com.

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 5th Ave, Boca Raton, FL 33432

The Way It Was

May 5, 1955 Demo Island

This photo from the Archive shows students making up shape charge firing assemblies.

Blasting and scuba diving are both operations where a mistake can be the last one that you ever make.



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