



TOPSIDE



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The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

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TRAINING

Training requests are still being accepted for the **DMT Prep** and **DMT** courses in December and **Working Diver/Divemaster** courses in January. Please contact Laurie Barber for enrollment or if you have any questions about requirements. Diver candidates must submit the following items to Laurie Barber by December 01, 2003 for the January class: NOAA Diving Training Request and Authorization form, **completed** NOAA diving physical, and Standardized Equipment Measurement form. All of these forms are available at the following web address: www.ndc.noaa.gov/forms.html. Completed forms can be mailed or faxed to the Diving Center. Please contact Laurie with any questions about class enrollment requirements.

The **DMT Preparation** course has replaced EMT – see last month’s TOPSIDE for more information.

Course schedules through September 2004:

2003:

Dec 01 - 06	DMT Prep	Seattle
Dec 08 - 13	Diver Medic	Seattle

2004:

Jan 12 - 30	Working Diver	Key West
Jan 26 - 30	Divemaster	Key West
Mar 16 - 19	Diver Refresher	Seattle
May 10 - 28	Working Diver	Seattle
May 24 - 28	Divemaster	Seattle
Sep 13 - Oct 01	Working Diver	Seattle
Sep 28 - Oct 01	Divemaster	Seattle

NDSB MEETING



Members of the NOAA Diving Safety Board met at the NDC Nov 03—06 to discuss various issues. L to R: LCDR Mike Lemon, CAPT Mike Vitch, Bill Valley, Jules Craynock, Frank Parrish, Dave Dinsmore, Steve Urick.

Topics covered included developing a DAM plan for dive-intensive operations in remote locations, At-sea organizational structure for diving and roles of individuals, review of medical, safety, and diving equipment and procedures, chamber operations, and diver certifications.

A condensed version of the meeting notes will appear in next month’s TOPSIDE.



PHYSICIAN'S CLASS



Congratulations to the October Physician's Diving and Hyperbaric Training Class ! L to R: Christine E. L. Fowler, MBBS, MRCP, Eric J. Lavonas, M.D., John M. Dunford, M.D., David D. Weisher, M.D., Mitsuhiro Ota, M.D., Claude E. Wreford-Brown, Jeffery M. Ramos, M.D., C.H.T., Monty J. Menhusen, D.O., M.P.H., J.D., Albert J. Exner, M.D., Harriet D. W. Hopf, M.D., Thomas J. Duncan, M.D., Paul L. Claus, M.D., B. Newton M.D., FAAN, Willma Padilla, M.D., Sherwood Smith, M.D., Julie A. Anderson, M.D., Eric D. Lucas, M.D., Gordon P. Anderson, M.D., John M. Montminy, M.D., Jan Stepanek, M.D., M.P.H., Robert P. Briggs, M.D., M.P.H., Herbert Matias Nochetto, M.D., Afshin Khazei, M.D., Peter G. Fitzgibbons, John R. Tesman, M.D., Dario Gomez Castillo, M.D., Gregory A. Juhl, M.D., Victor E. Tuckler, M.D., Renata Uribe Lopez, M.D., Bradley B. Bailey, M.D., and Raymond C. Shields, M.D. The NOAA Diving Program graduated thirty-one physicians from a two-week Physician's Diving Medicine Class on October 31st, held in conjunction with NOAA and the Undersea Research Foundation (USRF). The physicians came from the U.S., Mexico, Canada, Japan, and the UK. The course trains physicians to handle diving medical emergencies and to safely operate a hyperbaric chamber and its support equipment. The course included operating and working inside recompression chambers and the use of commercial and military diving equipment, with guest lecturers on physical and physiological effects of pressure, hypothermia and hyperthermia in undersea and hyperbaric systems, life support parameters/systems, diving in polluted water, fundamentals of gas exchange, decompression theory and procedures, oxygen toxicity, recompression therapy, saturation diving, ear, nose and throat problems, recreational diving, patent foramen ovale, hyperbaric technology, and hyperbaric oxygen therapy.



CHAMBER DEDICATIONS



During the Physician' Course the NOAA Diving Center dedicated two hyperbaric chambers to honor two men whose contributions helped make the NOAA Diving Program into the world-renowned organization that it is today: Dr. J. Morgan Wells (top) and Mr. Dick Rutkowski (bottom), who served as Program Director and Training Director, respectfully, during their tenure with NOAA.. They continue to support the Diving Program to this day as co-directors of the NOAA/UHMS/USRF Diving Physician's Course.

DIVER SAFETY WHISTLES

The NOAA Diving Program is adding Diver Safety Whistles (DSW) to the equipment issued through the Standardized Equipment Program (SEP). The DSW will give the diver a means to signal the boat or dive buddy on the surface when in need of assistance, and is to be secured to the diver's equipment in a position that is easily accessible.

