



# TOPSIDE



AUG 2004

The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

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## TRAINING SCHEDULE

Take the time now to review your complement and see if you will need to add divers either now or in the future. It is not too early to start looking ahead to the January and May classes for slots. They have already started to fill.

Diver candidates must submit the following forms to Laurie Barber by December 17th, 2004 for the January Working Diver Class:

- NDP Training and Authorization Request form
- NOAA NDC Standardized Equipment Measurement form
- **Completed** NOAA Diving Physical package, (there are new forms for NOAA Corps officers and Wage Marine employees DD-2808, 2807-1)

Forms are available at the following web address; [www.ndc.noaa.gov/forms.html](http://www.ndc.noaa.gov/forms.html). Fax or mail completed form to NDC.

Course schedules through January 2005:


Sep 13 - Oct 01	Working Diver	Seattle
Sep 27 - Oct 01	Divemaster	Seattle
Nov 29 - Dec 10	MPIC	Seattle
Dec 13 - Dec 17	DMT	Seattle
Jan 10 - Jan 28	Working Diver	Key West
Jan 24- Jan 28	Divemaster	Key West



## NEW WORKSHOP

NOAA will be conducting a *75-hour Medical Care Person In Charge (MPIC)* course, in conjunction with Diver Medical Technician (DMT) training this year. The course will be held at the NOAA Diving Center from November 29, 2004 through December 10, 2004; with DMT training from December 13, 2004 through December 17, 2004.


NOAA has received approval from the U.S. Coast Guard certifying the upcoming *75-hour Medical Care Person In Charge* course, as meeting all STCW Code requirements; and STCW certification will be granted upon successful completion.

In addition, the *75-hour Medical Care Person In Charge* course has been approved by the National Board of Diving and Hyperbaric Medical Technology (NBDHMT) as a prerequisite for the DMT course; and all successful candidates of the DMT training, will be eligible to seek DMT certification by NBDHMT as well. 

## NEW CORPS DIVE ORDERS

Effective immediately, NDC will be responsible for issuing dive orders for **all** NOAA Corp officers, not just NMAO as in previous years.

It is now the Officers' responsibility to initiate his/her own dive orders on the dive order request form, available on NDC website soon.

All Corps divers received an email detailing the procedures for the new order processing. If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Barber at (206) 526-6695 or at [Laurie.Barber@noaa.gov](mailto:Laurie.Barber@noaa.gov). 

## NOAA DMO

On August 14, 2004, CAPT Michael L. Vitch, USPHS, graduated from the Recognition and Treatment of Diving Casualties Course, taught at the U.S. Navy Diving and Salvage Training Center (NDSTC) in Panama City, FL. This is the only DoD course available to physicians in diving medicine, specific to military diving operations. Successful graduates have fulfilled all U.S. Navy criteria for designation as a Hyperbaric Medical Officer, and as a DMO for NOAA.

CAPT Vitch is a prior graduate of the NOAA/UHMS course in Hyperbaric Medicine, and has been a NOAA Working Diver since 1988, and a PADI Diver since 1973; as well as the Chairman, NOAA Diving Medical Review Board since 2000.

The course consisted of two weeks of graduate level instruction in diving medicine, designed to provide military physicians with the basic training necessary to safely and effectively perform as the medical advisor for hyperbaric treatments, and to effectively evaluate divers and diver candidates prior to diving.

Instruction not only included the recognition and treatment of diving casualties, but also included issues of fitness to dive and physical standards, and other aspects of medicine unique to diving and the hyperbaric environment. In addition, treatment shams of various diving casualties were run in the hyperbaric chambers at NDSTC by the students.



## NEW NDC EMPLOYEE

The NDC has a new addition to its staff, effective July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2004.

Jim Bostic is filling the newly created Diving and Recompression Chamber Supervisor position. After joining the Navy, Jim attended Navy Second Class Dive School in 1985 and First Class Dive School in 1989, and became an Instructor at the Naval Diving and Salvage Training Center from 1994-97. After gaining experience in the supervision of chamber operations, underwater salvage and ship husbandry, Jim retired from the Navy and began working as a commercial diver and dive supervisor.

Jim's responsibilities include supervision and maintenance of NDC's new containerized recompression chamber system, and supervising dive operations while underway. Here at NDC he will assist with diver training and other day-to-day duties. Welcome Aboard Jim!



## UPDATING PHYSICALS

All Divers and UDS's should be keeping an eye on the due dates for updating periodic physicals. The cycle runs as follows; up to age 49 every 5 years, 50-59, every 2 years, and over 60, annually. These due dates can be viewed in your profile on the NDC online dive log, and your UDS's can also let you know when you need to update your physical. If a physical lapses without a replacement, you are not authorized to dive until a physical is received at NDC and approved.

