



TOPSIDE



June 2007

The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

TRAINING SCHEDULE

All individuals applying for any dive classes offered by the NDC must submit the following items; NOAA Diving Training Request and Authorization Form, completed NOAA diving physical (NF 56-57, DD 2807-1, DD 2808), Swim test, Dive resume, Standardized Equipment Measurement Form, Minimum Physical Fitness Standards Form, and current First-aid/CPR certificates.

All forms are available online at: www.ndc.noaa.gov/forms.html. Completed forms can be mailed or faxed to the Diving Center.

Events scheduled through January 2008:

August	Tentative WD Refresher	
Sept 10 - 28	Working Diver	Seattle
Sept 24 - 28	Divemaster	Seattle
Nov 26 - Dec 1	DMT	Seattle
Dec 3 - 14	MPIC	Seattle
Jan 11 -29	Working Diver	Key West
Jan 25 - 29	Divemaster	Key West

Please contact Laurie Barber at 206-526-6695 or via e-mail laurie.barber@noaa.gov.



FAREWELL

The NDC would like to wish Captain Al Exner farewell. He is departing his billet here at the NDC and NOAA, on June 22nd for a new job with the USCG at their training station in Elizabeth City, North Carolina. He has done an excellent job here at the NDC with quick responses to medical questions and physicals and he will be missed.

With his departure medical processing will shift back to LT Eric Johnson as the primary contact, with Captain Jane Powers in Silver Spring for consults and decisions on medical issues.

Please address all medical correspondence attention LT Eric Johnson, at eric.t.johnson@noaa.gov, or via e-fax at 206-529-2759

NDC STAFF ADDITION

While losing one, we have gained a new member of our staff. Please join us in welcoming Jennifer Carriere. She is Carla Feoranzo's replacement and will be handling all the issues that Carla previously did. So for all diver file updates, profile updates, training files, and general information, please contact her at

Jennifer.Carriere@noaa.gov, or via phone at 206-526-6623.

We are all glad to have her here and look forward to working with her in the future!



Director - David Dinsmore, (206) 526-6705
 Operations Manager - LT Eric Johnson, (206) 526-6460
 Equipment Manager - Steve Urick, (206) 526-6223
 NDP Dive Medical Officer - Capt Al Exner, (206) 526-6474
 SEP Technician - Bill Gordon, (206) 526-6450
 Chamber Supervisor- Jim Bostick, (206) 526-6450
 SEP Technician - Lisa Glover, (206) 526-6446

Budget/Program Analyst - Laurie Barber, (206) 526-6695
 Office Automation Secretary - Jennifer Carrkere, (206) 526-6623
 Fax - 206-526-6506
 E-fax numbers: LT Eric Johnson (206)529-2759
 Lisa Glover (206)529-2757, Steve Urick (206) 529-2758
 Mailing Address NOAA Diving Center
 7600 Sand Point Way NE, Seattle, WA 98115-0070

NW WORKING DIVES

On May 23, 2007 two divers from the NMAO Marine Operations Center - Pacific joined a dive team from the Bellingham International Maritime Museum to find and recover a historical anchor from the sailing ship UNION wrecked in 1875. CDR Michael Gallagher and LT Dan Simon represented the Marine Operations Center on the dives in waters north of Lummi Island, Washington. The dive team was supported from the 110 foot vessel ISLAND CAPER and cheered on by approximately 40 VIP's and museum benefactors who came to observe the recovery of the artifact. The mission was a practice run for the possible recovery of an anchor from the wreck of the CHATHAM, a vessel commanded by English Captain George Vancouver on one of the initial voyages of discovery by European explorers in the Pacific Northwest in 1792. Several NOAA components including the Office of Coast Survey, the Office of Response and Restoration, and the Dive Center have been assisting the Bellingham International Maritime Museum in searching for the wreck. The news story can be found at:

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/360/story/88864.html> .



Divers standing on the stern of the support vessel with the recovered anchor, estimated weight was approximately 1200lbs, LT Simon and CDR Gallagher are at the far right.

CLOSE CALL IN FLORIDA

Three divers from the Panama City FL lab recently had close contact with a large bull shark during a diving operation. There were no injuries but it was an eye-opener. The divers were collecting juvenile reef fish with spears for data collection. The dive occurred as part of a three dive day in the Gulf Of Mexico in 80ft. of water, 3nm offshore and 12nm West of the main pass in Panama City, FL. There were three divers in the water at the time. This was the 2nd dive of three planned ones, and was 0.5nm from the previous collection site of the 1st dive. The involved diver had speared and collected small snappers in a mesh collection bag. The visibility had been reduced during the collection of these samples and the two divers without samples lost sight of their buddy. At this point a large Bull shark (7ft., 250lbs) swam through the group and began harassing the diver with the samples in his bag. The shark was seen by all divers, and the harassed diver signaled to his buddies and began to ascend. The shark followed him and made repeated aggressive passes. After the fifth one the diver had to fend off the shark with his speargun, twice penetrating the shark's skin with the force of the effort. The last encounter was sufficiently shallow that the diver omitted his safety stop as a personal safety measure. He surfaced and boarded the support vessel. The remaining divers performed a search after losing sight of him, and had an uneventful ascent. The harassed diver breathed O2 at the surface as a preventative measure, and was observed for three hours. His profile was 79ft for 21 min with a three minute ascent, all divers were breathing Nitrox-31.

This encounter was thankfully without injury, but was definitely a close call. The UDS has evaluated their operational plan and they have made several changes to their collection methods. The collected fish will now be placed in a sealed container that is lowered and raised from the surface, and not carried on a diver. They are also now employing two diver teams, with one diver as a lookout, who will also be armed with a powerhead (bangstick) should it be needed.

The NDC hopes this story reiterates the need to continually review your operations and make them as safe as possible, and to avoid complacency when diving.

