

File RVOC 1985

UNIVERSITY-NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC LABORATORS SYSTEM

RESEARCH VESSEL OPERATOR'S COUNCIL

\* \* NEWSLETTER \* \*

EDITORS NOTE

This is the first newsletter for the Research Vessel Operators Council. The periodicity of this newsletter will depend upon the interest of the members. As the present editor, I welcome any comments, criticism or articles. The purpose of the newsletter is to keep the RVOC members informed about events of interest to them in a fashion more timely than our annual meeting. It would seem that at least two newsletters annually would fulfill this need but more will be published if warranted.....J. F. Bash

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REPORTING SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE OBSTACLES

The Defense Mapping Agency Hydrographic/Topographic Center (DMAHTC) is the point of contact for ship operations that use sonic emitters, towed devices or explosives charges. Such operations present special hazards to submarine operations and navigation. DMAHTC has agreed to disseminate information concerning underwater hazards as part of the Notice to Mariners system. The intent of the new reporting procedures is to eliminate mutual interference problems and equipment damage between ongoing and planned operations by advising units at sea of surface and subsurface obstacles. To be effective, the revised Notice to Mariners system relies on the cooperation of the maritime community (military, government and commercial). Timely notification is needed by DMAHTC for all operations that install moored underwater instrumentation, tow or drag devices of any kind, use sonic emitters or explosives. DMAHTC will disseminate information as follows:

(a) For moored instrumentation in depths of 300 meters or less (the maximum depth where damage could result from normal fishing operations), information will be broadcast as a radio navigational warning and reprinted in Section III of the Notice to Mariners.

(b) For depths greater than 300 meters, the information will not be broadcast. Documentation will be forwarded to appropriate Naval Commands for their use.

The DMAHTC point of contact for information and notification is Mr. Mitchesll Kalloch, Chief, Navigation Department, Defense Mapping Agency Hydrographic/Topographic Center, 6500 Brooks Lane, Washington, DC 20315, telephone (202) 227-3130.

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MEDICAL ADVISORY SYSTEM (MAS)

The use of MAS has been a great leap forward for the health and safety of our crews while at sea. The service is very responsive to the ship's needs. If you are not using this service you're missing a good deal. To compliment their at sea service MAS provides several other programs. They provide training at their Maryland office for basic first aid. This is geared to their program and affords the crew member and MAS to better appreciate each other. MAS encourages a medical report form on each crew member and on scientists. At URI we are expanding this program by having each crew member take an annual physical with a local doctor. This physical is sent to MAS and provides a vehicle for our local doctor, the ship and MAS to work as a team. Overall the MAS experience gives the crew a higher level of health care and enhances morale.

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USERS MANUAL

If you have not already done so, all RVOC members are encouraged to send their User's Manual to each of the members.

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UNOLS SAFETY STANDARDS

The revised UNOLS Safety Standards are on the street in a draft form. Tex has done a momentous job. He urges that all UNOLS Member Institution's designate representatives to see to appropriate reviews and take those intra-institutional steps to assure that their institution address adoption of these Standards. The Safety Standards will be introduced to the assembled UNOLS Membership for their adoption at the May 22, 1985 UNOLS meeting.

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NEW EQUIPMENT

Several new pieces of equipment are working their way into the oceanographic community and will probably become standards before long. These include INMARSAT commercial satellite communication equipment; Global Positioning System GPS; Amtek Straza Doppler Speed Log and Current Profiler and the new "Smart" winch being developed by R.J. Boudreaux. RVOC members that have experience with any of these new pieces of equipment are encouraged to provide this newsletter with operating experiences and potential pit falls.

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FIRE FIGHTING VHS TAPES

John Donovan of Texas A & M gave us a presentation in Bermuda on Firefighting tapes that were made at the Texas A & M firefighting facility and are commercially available. A preview tape has been produced that previews the five VHS tapes. A copy of this tape is presently held by Dolly Dieter and is available to our members. The commercial company that is marketing these tapes also has a copy for distribution. The preview tape and the five training tapes can be arranged through Gerald Babin of Gulf Publishing Video, 3301 Allen Parkway, Houston, Texas 77001, Tel (713) 529-4301. A brochure and catalog are also available.

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OSMOSIS DESALINATOR

Cliff Tetzloff at the University of Michigan has a reverse osmosis desalinator for sale. It's manufactured by Offshore Marine Laboratories Inc. and produces 400 gal/day. This can be upgraded to 600 gal/day with an add on membrane. It works best in warm water and must be operated in pollution free water unless a filtration unit is added. If you're interested contact Cliff (313) 763-3183.

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NEW SHIP DESIGNS

Exciting things are happening with new ship design. The University of Texas has gone to the preliminary design stage with John Gilbert. UNOLS, through Bob Dinsmore, is proceeding with conceptual design studies for a large (260' - 280') high endurance ship, an intermediate (210' -220') medium endurance ship and a high performance SWATH ship. In addition LDGO is proceeding with a conceptual design for a medium endurance, MG & G kindly vessel. The Navy is also looking into a SWATH hull that will eventually end up in the Academic fleet. By our next meeting there should be much more to report, on this subject.

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1985 RVOC MEETING

Dolly is still receptive to agenda items for our fall meeting which will probably be at Moss Landing.

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