



M.O.S.T.

McMillan Offshore Survival Training

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M.O.S.T. Newsletter – January 2008

From the desk of John McMillan

To Our Friends:

As we begin a NEW YEAR, the staff of McMillan Offshore Survival Training would like to “Thank” our friends for your continued vote of confidence in our training. When I am asked “How long has McMillan been offering Water/Helicopter survival training”, I respond with “My first classroom lecture was in Ventura, California in August 1982. Prior to that, I was instructing trainees in the water for the past 5 years.” For those of you that can remember those days of the “orange T-shirts” and the plastic chairs with the broom stick (reference point), PVC window and the woman instructor (Margaret McMillan) we realize that training equipment may have changed since then but not the passion for the subject matter.

McMillan Offshore has always realized that human life is at risk when working over water as accidents happen, people die and training gives the extra mental/physical advantage necessary to dominate the environment. Man has never and will never be “water friendly” as we do not have scales, fins or gills to justify aquatic existence. Skills must be learned thru proper instruction.

With this in mind, I received a call the other day requesting to sign up for the “Old Timer” class. This individual had heard that a course was being offered for Old Timers who had taken the class before. My initial thought was “What high school buddy is this?”

I asked what he considered an Old Timer. He immediately responded “Over 50 years old”. Being 51 years old I could relate to the sore elbow, lower back pain and don’t get me started on the extra floatation I wear daily around my waist. I also thought what would the ‘Course Content’ consist of? Videos, written test of only multiple choice, instructor demonstrations with “volunteer” participation , long breaks with early dismissal, lengthy discussion on the instructor and all the wonderful war stories they could tell/make up and don’t forget the Boudreaux/Thibodeaux jokes. So, have

any of you been to this class and received a “certificate of completion?” They are in the industry and as I age, I do not fault the instructor but those that think this is what survival training is suppose to be like...even if a grant pays for it!

We are excited about 2008 and our future. Not only are we providing training to the offshore oil industry but new customers are requesting our services. I just completed a training program for NOAA and their personnel that fly in small fixed wing planes. Our commercial fishing vessel training has now trained over 2500 commercial fishermen in the Gulf of Mexico and East Coast. With the popularity of the show “Deadliest Catch” people are now realizing the crabs, lobster, haddock and those McDonalds fish sandwiches we enjoy are caught by people risking their lives every day. Another group of people that has taken an interest are those that own/operate large Mega Yachts. Folks like Tiger Woods, Donald Trump and others at that financial level have invested in the ocean going yachts and many get there by helicopter. Who knows, I may one day meet Tiger and show him a few of my golfing tips...and invite him to play at the Gulf Coast Safety and Training Tournament.

On the international side of training, McMillan Offshore Survival is the United States representative to the International Association for Safety and Survival Training (www.iasst.com). With the interest in Water/HUET survival training on a global scale, we have linked up with training companies in the following countries of Doha, Qatar (Middle East), Port Harcourt, Nigeria (West Africa) and Bogotá, Colombia (South America).

Who would have thought that 30, years later from a plastic chair with a wooden stick that this training would reach this level? Well, we did!

Once again, to all our friends and instructors that have gone to other venues in life, your contributions have made a lasting impact on those we have trained and for that, we are grateful.

Have a Safe and Blessed 2008.

John McMillan, President
McMillan Offshore Survival Training