

C.V./BIO

Dick Rutkowski (Overview)

- 1975-present Founder of Hyperbarics International, Inc. in Key Largo, Florida. President and co-owner of Dive Incorporated. Past president and vice president of the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society, Gulf Coast Chapter. Co-founder of International Association of Nitrox and Technical Divers (IANTD); American Nitrox Divers International (ANDI); the International Board of Undersea Medicine; Undersea Breathing Systems; Undersea Research Foundation; the Alliance for Marine Ecology and Conservation (Costa Rica); and the Association of Marine Ecology and Conservations (Florida). I also organized and founded diving safety organizations such as the Florida Underwater Council and the Society of Diving Safety (SUDS).
- 1967 The Board of Geographic Names named a glacier in the Antarctic after me. Rutkowski Glacier-Latitude: 85°11' S Longitude: 166°21' E.
- 1995 Elected as Fellow in the Explorers Club.
- 2011 Presented with the Craig Hoffman Memorial/Charles W. Shilling Award at the 44th UHMS Annual Scientific Meeting for outstanding contribution to teaching, education and/or diving safety, with particular reference to supporting the goals of the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society in educating the diving community and the public about the science and practice of diving and clinical hyperbaric medicine.
- 2012 Received the History of Diving Museum Dr. Joe Bauer Memorial Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Diving Community.
- 2012 Received the DEMA Diver Hall of Fame Reaching Out Award.
- 2015 Received the NAUI Hall of Honor Award, given at the Hall of Fame.
- 2017 Received the NAUI Lifetime Achievement Award.
- 2017 Elected into the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame.
- 2018 Inducted into the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame.
- 2018 Awarded Fellow Emeritus in the Explorers Club.
- Accolades For my long, dedicated service, I have received many awards and honors. Some of which include: Rutkowski Glacier in Antarctica (Latitude: 85°11' S Longitude: 166°21' E) named for me in 1967 by the U.S. Board on Geographic Names; the 1976 NOAA Public Service Award; a nomination for the 1976 Dade County (Florida) Outstanding Citizen Award; and a nomination for honorary Ph.D. from Florida International University. In 1995 I was elected to the Explorers Club as a Fellow. Organizations such as the U.S. Army, U.S. Navy, the Florida Underwater Council, Divers Alert Network, the National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI 4005), and the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI 536) have bestowed various honors and awards upon me during my career, including the Oldest Active Instructor 47 Year Appreciation Award (June 2011).

(Continue reading below for complete C.V./Bio)

C.V./BIO

Dick Rutkowski (1950 through 2018)

- 1950 Joined the U.S. Navy and served during the Korean War.
- 1950 Entered boot camp, then Radio/Teletype and Morse Code School.
- 1951-1952 Transferred to Pensacola, Florida aboard the USS Monterey carrier. This was used for training cadets for their first carrier landing. I was in communications.
- 1952 Made my first SCUBA dive (recreational).
- 1953-1954 Transferred to Tripoli, Libya, North Africa, Wheelus AFB to the Navy's Communication Center for relaying communications from the 6th Fleet to other commands, earned WWII Occupation Ribbon.
- 1954 Honorably discharged from the U.S. Navy.
- 1954 Attended IBM (punch card) computer training.
- 1954-1956 Worked for St. Regis Paper Company in chemistry lab.
- 1956 Rejoined the U.S. Navy as a 2nd class Radioman/Teletype Operator.
- 1956 Assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Franklin Roosevelt, CVA 42, as a recommissioned Plank Owner at the Bremerton Shipyard in Washington state. Sailed around Cape Horn and became a Shell Back. (The ceremony of Crossing the Line is an initiation rite in the Royal Navy, U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, and other navies that commemorates a sailor's first crossing of the equator by ship.)
- 1958 Transferred to Antarctic Support Activities (USARP) as a radioman and was sent to Byrd Station (Marie Byrd Land Antarctica) for one year (KC4USB).
- 1959 With no communications in Antarctica due to poor ionospheric conditions, I worked in the meteorological department to become a Meteorological Technician.
- 1959 Honorably discharged from the Navy.
- 1959 I joined Polar Operations which was run by Environmental Science Services Administration (ESSA), whose charter was to provide weather stations in the Antarctic and the Canadian Arctic to keep sovereignty rights of these areas.
- 1959-1960 Attended Meteorological Training in Peoria, Illinois through the U.S. Weather Bureau.
- 1961-1962 Sent to the South Pole station 90 degrees south latitude for one year. The coolest day was 110 degrees below zero and the warmest was 19 degrees below zero. The mean for the year was 59 degrees below zero. I served as a Meteorological Technician/Radioman. Served as president of the Antarctic Lions Club.

- 1962-1963 Transferred to Canadian Arctic, Northwest Territories, Resolute Bay and Mould Bay; 500 miles from the North Pole as Radioman/Meteorological Technician (HAM radio operator number VE8MC).
- 1964 Transferred to Antarctica, New Byrd Station, as a Meteorological Technician/Radioman (number KC4USN).
- 1965 Departed Polar Operations and joined Atlantic Oceanographic Meteorological Lab (AOML) in Miami, Florida which in 1970 became National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).
- 1965 Sent to commercial diving school (Divers Training Academy) by AOML/ESSA to begin diver training for scientific government underwater operations. In addition, I earned diving certifications from the Professional Association of Diving Instructors (PADI), National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI), and the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).
- 1965-1985 Began conducting the first dive training for government agencies in Underwater Diving Operations.
- 1965-1985 Worked for AOML (Atlantic Oceanographic Meteorological Lab) which was administered by ESSA (Environmental Science Services Administration) and NOAA (National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration) as a diver and scientific technician installing meteorological equipment in the oceans, atmosphere, surface, and sub-surface; including locating and recovering lost scientific equipment and recovering with diving and electronic equipment.
- 1967 The Board of Geographic Names named a glacier in the Antarctic after me. Rutkowski Glacier- Latitude: 85°11' S Longitude: 166°21' E.
- 1970 Worked with Dr. Morgan Wells to institute diving procedures for use of oxygen enriched air diving (NITROX) for scientific research diving.
- 1970-1980 Co-founded Dive, Inc. with Ed Brown and serviced oil rigs underwater for Reading and Bates when needed.
- 1973 Went on scientific missions to NOAA undersea lab called Hydro-Lab in Freeport, Bahamas to become a NOAA Aquanaut. Involved with undersea habitats from 1970 to 1985.
- 1973 Directed by AOML/NOAA to obtain a recompression chamber to serve South Florida, Central America, and South America as there were no chambers in the area to serve recreational or military diving community. At this time, helped Grand Cayman to establish and train their personnel for their chamber facility, as well as working with other facilities around the Caribbean to treat recreational divers.
- 1974 In addition to my government duties and working with the Dade County Fire Rescue (Ed Brown, chief), with the help of the Florida Underwater Council (which I helped co-establish), we received a U.S. Navy 78-inch diameter chamber and worked night and day with volunteer help to build a building and install the chamber at no government expense.

- 1975 The first Diving Medical/Hyperbaric training took place at NOAA/AMOL as my hyperbaric facility. I was the director of the program which was called "Medical and Physiological Aspects of Recompression Therapy". Speakers included George Bond, M.D., U.S.N.; Jeff Davis, M.D., Col, U.S.A.F.; Bruce Basset, Lt. Col., U.S.A.F.; Morgan Wells, PhD, NOAA Diving Director; and me as Facility Director.
- 1975-2008 Served as Co-Director of the NOAA Physicians Diving Medical Program. This program was for physicians only and had more than 700 attendees from all over the world.
- 1975-1985 Upon my retirement from NOAA, more than 500 divers had been treated at the chamber under my direction. In 1985 Marc Kaiser, director of the NOAA Chamber Facility, and another 300 people were treated in the chamber. Before the chamber was shut down at AMOL, Virginia Key, and relocated to the NOAA Diving Center in Seattle, Washington, more than 800 divers were treated by me, Marc Kaiser, Florida Underwater Council volunteers, Dade County Fire and Rescue volunteers, directors Dr. Ron Sampson and Dr. James Loewenherz.
- 1975-1985 Helped build numerous hyperbaric facilities for NOAA – NOAA Miami; NOAA Aquarius Habitat (now located in Key Largo, Florida); NOAA in Alpena, Michigan to help support research activities in the Great Lakes; NOAA Juneau, Alaska to help support diving activities in the Bering Sea; as well as shipboard facilities.
- 1980-1985 The NOAA Experimental Diving Unit was established in Virginia Key at my facility with Dr. Morgan Wells as Director. Research was conducted at this facility with NOAA, the U.S. Coast Guard, the EPA, and the Army on polluted water diving environments, dress, and other research for diving equipment and diving physiology.
- 1980-1985 Started the first diving training at the NASA Johnson Space Center Neutral Buoyancy Center for the support of divers who train astronauts to work in weightless environments before their EVA (extra-vehicular activity) in space. This training center is called NBL – Neutral Buoyancy Lab. I also co-wrote their diver training manuals, was on their first safety board, and conducted their Hyperbaric Training Program. Their M.D.s still come to my facility, Hyperbarics International, in Key Largo, Florida for diving medical training. I also conducted Hyperbaric Training at NASA Huntsville, Alabama.
- 1980-2003 Started the first EPA diving training, diving safety board, and Oxygen Enriched Air (NITROX) training.
- 1985 Retired from NOAA with 33 years of service with the U.S.N., Polar Ops, ESSA/NOAA. While with NOAA, I was director of the AOML/NOAA Hyperbaric Facility; Deputy Diving Coordinator; on the NOAA Diving Safety Board; Director of the NOAA Diving Training Program; and an AOML Diving Officer.
- 1985-present Formed Hyperbarics International, Inc. and continued to build hyperbaric facilities and teach Diving and Clinical Medical Team Training throughout the world.
- 1985 Hyperbarics International, Inc. introduced Oxygen Enriched Air (NITROX) to the recreational diving community, and at that time was the only center in the world offering NITOX certifications to recreational divers.

- 1985 Hyperbarics International, Inc. established a hyperbaric facility in the Turks and Caicos Islands, Providenciales to conduct hyperbaric training programs for physicians and all allied medical persons from around the world. I sold the facility to a local physician and left the island to establish my hyperbaric facility in Key Largo, Florida, located at Ocean Divers.
- 1986 Hyperbarics International, Inc. began to teach the use of recreational NITROX. Formed IAND (International Association of Nitrox Divers), which in 1991 became IANTD (International Association of Nitrox and Technical Divers). The first Board of Directors for IANTD included such dive luminaries as Tom Mount, Brent Gilliam, Billy Deans, and myself.
- 1975-present Helped to establish hyperbaric facilities in numerous countries and trained staff in the use of the chamber to treat diving and clinical patients. These countries include Grand Cayman, Costa Rica, Turks and Caicos, Bonaire, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Guadalupe, Bahamas, San Salvador, Saudi Arabia, Puerto Rico, Taiwan, Korea, Thailand, and Mexico. I have also helped to establish treatment centers in Hawaii, and onboard the Ocean Quest Cruise Ship.
- 1985-present Started the Booster Recovery diver training program at NASA Kennedy Space Center and diver treatment programs for medical staff aboard their ships Liberty, Freedom, and Independence which are Booster Diving Recovery Ships (each is equipped with a hyperbaric chamber). I also introduced them to, and trained them in the use of NITOX.
- 1985-present Hyperbarics International, Inc. has trained more than 7,600 persons in Diving and Hyperbaric Clinical Medicine. More than 4,000 have been certified in NITOX diving and other courses such as Trimix, MK5, and rebreathers at my facility. I have produced approximately 8 educational manuals on chamber operations, chamber life support systems, gases, treatment procedures, undersea life supports systems for open/closed saturation systems, and many papers on all of the previous subjects. In 1978 I co-authored the world's first Dive Accident Management Manual, which was first used by Diving Alert Network in 1982. In addition to Rutkowski Glacier, I have received many awards and accolades from around the world – including the first Diving Alert Network Lifetime Membership Award.
- 1995 Elected as Fellow in the Explorers Club.
- 2007 Hyperbarics International, Inc. donated a hyperbaric facility with science building to Costa Rica. The facility is called Rutkowski River House Hyperbaric Treatment Facility.
- 1975-present Wrote extensively and lectured on all forms of diving, diving life support systems, gases, undersea and hyperbaric medicine. I have authored or edited the following texts: *"Instructor/Student Guide for the Use of Nitrogen-Oxygen Mixtures as a Divers' Breathing Gas"* (the first training manual for recreational NITROX), *"The Complete Guide to Nitrox Diving,"* *"Introduction to Nitrox Diving,"* *"Instructor/Student Guide for Operational Use of Breathing Gases During Hyperbaric Exposures"* (a recompression chamber life support manual), *"Mixing/Blending for Nitrox and Trimix,"* the diving accident management manual mentioned above, plus *"Hyperbaric Clinical Use of Oxygen and Its Side Effects"*. In addition, I was a contributor and editor to the NOAA Diving Manual, and more than 60 other publications and training films.

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For the following facilities I have been involved in establishing safety boards, safety procedures, operation safety, procedures for the treatment of divers, and conducting safe dive operations training.

1. Working with B.K. Miller, Commander at the old NASA Johnson Neutral Buoyancy Lab in Webster, Texas. I have been there a number of times between the late 70s and early 80s conducting the above programs. Their physicians are still coming to Key Largo for ongoing training.
2. Working with Dr. Dave DuBeck, Panama Canal commission (zone), we have put together the same programs as mentioned above, safety board safety procedures curriculums, recompression chamber operations, diving safety, dive training, and the training of divers. This took place in the early 90s.
3. Working with Jim Patrick, diving safety officer for the Environmental Protection Agency, conducting all programs as listed above, starting with dive safety, board safety procedures, safety protocols, safety management, oxygen enriched air training (not only for EPA personnel, but for other government agencies who wish to attend these programs). A number of these programs were conducted yearly at the EPA lab in Gulf Breeze, Florida for over 19 years.
4. Working with Larry Collins, dive supervisor at NASA Kennedy Space Center, we have conducted the above listed programs for almost 20 years. Recompression chamber operations, complete with diver medic training each year. Larry Collins and his dive teams are the teams that recover the boosters dropped from each space ship after launch.
5. Working with Dr. Morgan Wells, director of the NOAA diving program, I was on the NOAA diving safety board, director of the NOAA Miami hyperbaric facility, and director of NOAA diver training. We had to implement all if the above information not only to NOAA, but to a lot of other university and government agencies. Other facilities I have worked with over the years are listed below.
6. Turks and Caicos Islands, Provo 1984. I built this facility to treat divers and conduct diving and clinical education programs when I retired from NOAA. This did not work out and I later sold the facility to Dr. Menzi in Provo.
7. Costa Rica, Ghajiniqul, Guanacosta, 2000. I built a combination hyperbaric facility/science clinic to treat and teach local people diving medicine and clinical hyperbaric medicine. Upon departing Costa Rica I donated the hyperbaric facility, clinic, and recompression chamber to the local community; including a number of medical seminars given free to the local doctors teaching them the benefits of the facility for diving/clinical and ocean science projects.

This is a summation of some of the hyperbaric facilities that my staff and I have built for NOAA over the years, as well as my own personal facilities located in Turks and Caicos, Costa Rica, and Key Largo, Florida. The dates are as close as I can remember.

1. NOAA/Florida Underwater Council facility built on Virginia Key 1974-1975. This facility treated patients between 1975 and 1988. Approximately 800 divers and clinical patients were treated under the direction of myself and Dr. Morgan Wells, Director of the NOAA Diving Program. I was the Facility Director while primarily working with Dr. James Loewenherz, Medical Director; and Marc Kaiser, my right-hand man, throughout the years. Upon my retirement, Marc Kaiser became the Facility Director from 1985-1988, until the facility closed and moved to Seattle, Washington. All other staff member were volunteers of the Florida Underwater Council and Dade County Fire Rescue Dive Team with Ed Brown.
2. In 1978 I installed the NOAA hyperbaric facility to support the Hydrolab Saturation Program in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.
3. Installed a hyperbaric facility in Alpena Michigan General Hospital to support the NOAA programs in the Great Lakes area.
4. Installed a hyperbaric facility in Juneau, Alaska in the Juneau Memorial Hospital to support the NOAA programs in the Bering Sea.
5. Built a recompression chamber facility for the NOAA Aquarius Undersea Saturation Program located in St. Croix (now in Key Largo, Florida).
6. Built 5 recompression chambers for NOAA, to be used at different field programs.

NOTE: Complete dive medicine training was included for all of the above facilities.

**Other Facilities Worldwide
(Stateside facilities not included)**

1. Bonaire, Netherland Antilles – a number of times teaching and improving chamber facility equipment.
2. Costa Rica.
3. Aberdeen Proving Grounds, U.S. Army – many times.
4. Mosquito Islands, Honduras.
5. Federal Bureau of Investigations – a number of times, for dive teams and diving medical qualification.
6. Wenatchee, Washington – a number of trips training people at the three dams on the Columbia River recompression chamber operations and dive safety operations.
7. Divers Alert Network.
8. Millersville, Maryland – a number of times.
9. NASA – as mentioned above, many times to the three space centers.
10. U.S. Navy, Virginia Beach – three times.
11. Puerto Rico – hospital on the West Coast hyperbaric facility.
12. Environmental Protection Agency – as previously mentioned, many times over 20 years.
13. Seattle, Washington – co-director of the NOAA physicians course for 33 years.
14. U.S. Army Special Forces School, Key West, Florida.
15. Taiwan Pan-American hyperbaric facility – many times.
16. Groton, Connecticut submarine base – two times.
17. Grand Cayman – in the 1970s did programs and helped to establish facility.
18. Brunswick, Georgia – U.S. Navy.
19. South Korea – three times for diving gases and recompression chamber training.
20. Navy Diving Salvage Training Center, Panama City, Florida.
21. Belize and Honduras.
22. Cozumel, Mexico.
23. Guadalupe, southern Caribbean.
24. Curacao, Netherland Antilles
25. Saudi Arabia.
26. Discovery Bay, Jamaica.
27. NOAA Deep Star Project, Hawaii.
28. Bahamas.
29. Bermuda.
30. Provo, Turks and Caicos.

There are more facilities I have traveled to, to assist in setting up for diving and recompression chamber training, I don't remember them all.