



# TOPSIDE



**FEBRUARY 2005**

**The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers**

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<http://www.ndc.noaa.gov>

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NOAA Diving Center

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## TRAINING SCHEDULE

Diver candidates must submit the following forms to Laurie Barber by March 5th for the April Refresher Class, and April 4th, 2005 for the May 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)

These 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 forms to NDC.

Course schedules through January 2006:

Apr 5 - Apr 8	Refresher (tentative)	Seattle
May 9 - May 27	Working Diver	Seattle
May 23 - May 27	Divemaster	Seattle
Sept 12 - Sept 30	Working Diver	Seattle
Sept 26 - Sept 30	Divemaster	Seattle
Jan 9 - Jan 27	Working Diver	Key West
Jan 23 - Jan 27	Divemaster	Key West

The refresher course can be used to re-certify NOAA Working Divers whose proficiency has lapsed for a year or more. We will need 6 students to hold the class and have only 3 at this time. Please contact Laurie Barber at 206-526-6695 or via e-mail at [laurie.barber@noaa.gov](mailto:laurie.barber@noaa.gov) with any questions.



## MEDICAL HISTORY FORMS

Annual Medical History Report forms (NOAA Form 56-59) are due from all NOAA divers age 59 and younger by March 01 of each new calendar year. Forms may be faxed or mailed directly to the NOAA Diving Center, and are available online from the NDC web site or by request from NDC. Divers should note only any **changes** from their last medical history form submitted to NDC. These forms only require the signature of the diver. Make sure your UDS has been made aware of any changes that have happened in your status during the year. They should be notified at the time of any incident or change.



## T.R.I. AIR TEST KITS

T.R.I. air testing kits have all been sent out and each unit/ship that has a compressor should have received theirs by now. If your unit hasn't received a kit, you need to contact Laurie Barber [laurie.barber@noaa.gov](mailto:laurie.barber@noaa.gov) at the NDC.

Upon receipt of these test kits, please gather the samples and send them back **ASAP**. The T.R.I. company is going to begin enforcing their policy of late fees for kits that aren't returned in a timely manner (60 days). That gives your unit plenty of time to process the samples and submit them. If you need an extension, please contact the company and inform them of that fact. Thank you!



## FY '05 NDSB ACTION ITEMS

Over a 3 day period, from the 30th of Jan. through the 2nd of February the NOAA Diving Safety Board (LODO's, FDO, DNNDP are the members of the board) met for their annual meeting. Many topics were discussed and the results will be forthcoming in later issues of TOPSIDE. Here are a few of the issues discussed;

- Approval to use any dive computer (some restrictions on utilizing air-integrated systems)
- Development of minimum standards for Decompression diving
- New containerized chamber system being built and deployed for dive support
- Creation of a new "Limited" dive certification for volunteers, short-term divers, etc...
- New standards for closed circuit rebreathers being developed
- Testing and verification of mixed-gas decompression computers will be ongoing
- And More!

Stay tuned for more details on these topics later this year!



## TRAINING UPDATES

All NOAA divers are required to maintain current levels of certification in several areas. These certifications are the responsibility of each diver to keep updated and current.

Your online profile shows the current dates that we have on file here at the NDC for all training certifications. It's a good idea to check these periodically and update them as necessary.

Here are the certifications that need periodic renewal;

- CPR
- First Aid
- DAN O2 administration (Oxygen administration)
- EMT (varies by state)
- DMT (lasts for 2 years)

Copies of new certification cards or training classes must be mailed or faxed to the NDC so that profiles and files can be updated. If you have any questions about these, please feel free to contact Sondra Huber at the NDC.



## NEW WORKING DIVERS

On the 28th of January, the NDP graduated 17 new working divers in Key West, FL. They all completed the 3 week class with flying colors. Congratulations to our new divers!



## NEW DIVEMASTERS

On the 28th of January, the NDP graduated 10 new NOAA Divemasters. Among the class were students from many NOAA organizations, and from outside agencies. Congratulations to our new Divemasters.



## NEW NDC STAFF MEMBER

The NDC welcomes LCDR Will Foust PHS, who will be the Medical Officer here at the NDC. He will be reviewing physicals and helping to streamline the medical system here at the NDC. Welcome aboard Will!

