



TOPSIDE



APRIL 2006

The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

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 Web Site Address - <http://www.ndc.noaa.gov>


Mailing Address -
 NOAA Diving Center
 7600 Sand Point Way NE
 Seattle, WA 98115-0070

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, swim test, dive resume, Standardized Equipment Measurement form, and current First-aid/CPR certificates. All of these forms are available here: www.ndc.noaa.gov/forms.html. Completed forms can be mailed or faxed to the Diving Center.

Events scheduled through Jan. 2007:

May 8 - 26	Working Diver	Seattle
May 22 - 26	Divemaster	Seattle
July 10 - 21	Physicians Course	Seattle
Sept.11 - 29	Working Diver	Seattle
Sept.25 - 29	Divemaster	Seattle
Nov. 27 - Dec. 2	DMT	Seattle
Jan. 8 - 26	Working Diver	Key West
Jan. 22 - 26	Divemaster	Key West

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

REFLECTIONS

Diving is inherently a dangerous undertaking in the many hazards that constantly surround you in the aquatic environment. Proper safety precautions, pre-dive safety checks, buddy checks, gear checks, and keeping an eye on the “big picture” can prevent most accidents. With that in mind after taking proper precautions and training, diving can be extremely rewarding with the animals and scenery you can encounter above and under the surface!

Just remember the fun and wonder that diving brings, it can be lost sometime in the everyday goings-on of work.



1 COBB Divers relaxing on the scenery!

COLLABORATION WITH NPS

From February 19 - March 5, 2006, NDC participated in a collaborative dive project with the National Park Service's Submerged Resources Center, Thunder Bay NMS, and the NMS Maritime Heritage Program to investigate and document two sites in Lake Mead, Nevada. The second of the two sites was a B-29 bomber from a crash in 1948 in 170 ffw. Here's a link to more information and photos!

[Http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/maritime/expeditions/b29.html](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/maritime/expeditions/b29.html)



Dive team members NDC's Bill Gordon, NMS MHP's Tane Casserly, and TBNMS's Russ Green. Lower photo of B-29's well preserved prop in 170ffw.

Photo by Brett Seymour, NPS/SRC

PROPER DIVE LOGGING

All NOAA divers are required to dive within the NOAA no-decompression diving tables unless prior approval from the Director NDP is received. This shouldn't be a real shocker for any NOAA divers. This requirement does not change if dives are performed using a dive computer. Don't quit reading yet... Bottom time is defined as the time you leave the surface beginning your descent until the time you leave the bottom to begin a direct ascent to the surface. Safety stops at 15' and your ascent time from the bottom do not count against your bottom time unless you would like an added safety margin. Occasional problems arise because the UWATEC bottom timer/depth gauge records bottom time from the time you leave the surface and descend until you again reach the surface. This added measure of safety for repetitive diving is fine unless the total time surface to surface exceeds the NOAA no-deco tables..... (for example a diver leaves bottom from a 60' dive for 58 minutes and arrives at the surface at 63 mins after a normal ascent and safety stop) **If this is the case, please report bottom time as the time at which you left the bottom (58 minutes not 63).** This will help clear up misunderstandings about dive logs that contain dives that appear to have exceeded the tables but in reality have not. It will save on the nasty grams until they are really necessary!

