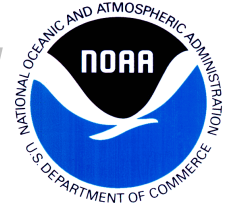




# TOPSIDE



Volume 3, Number 21

The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

July 2002

Director - Dave Dinsmore, (206) 526-6705, dave.dinsmore@noaa.gov

Operations Manager - Bill Cobb, (206) 526-6460, bill.cobb@noaa.gov

Equipment Coordinator - Steve Urick, (206) 526-6223, steve.urick@noaa.gov

SEP Technician - Bill Gordon, (206) 526-6450, bill.j.gordon@noaa.gov

SEP Technician - Lisa Glover, (206) 526-6446, lisa.glover@noaa.gov

Budget/Program Analyst - Laurie Barber, (206) 526-6695, laurie.barber@noaa.gov

Office Automation Secretary - Sondra Huber, (206) 526-6623, sondra.huber@noaa.gov

Fax - 206-526-6506

Web site address -

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

Mailing Address -

NOAA Diving Center

7600 Sand Point Way NE

Seattle, WA 98115-0070

## TRAINING SCHEDULE

Training requests are being accepted for the **September 2002 Working Diver** and **Divemaster** courses. Please contact Laurie Barber if you have any questions about diving class requirements or enrollment procedures.

**A Diver Refresher course for working divers and scientific diver candidates is scheduled for August 27 - 30, 2002.** This class can also be used by current NOAA scientific divers to obtain their NOAA dry suit authorization. Please contact LT Bill Cobb or Laurie Barber ASAP if you are interested in this refresher course.

The following classes are scheduled for:

### 2002


Aug 27 - 30	Diver Refresher	Seattle, WA
Sep 09 - 27	Working Diver	Seattle, WA
Sep 23 - 27	Divemaster	Seattle, WA

### 2003

Jan 13 - 31	Working Diver	Key West, FL
Jan 27 - 31	Divemaster	Key West, FL
Jun 02 - 20*	Working Diver	Seattle, WA
Jun 16 - 20*	Divemaster	Seattle, WA

\* Tentative dates, subject to possible change.

## TRI TEST KITS

TRI dive compressor test kits were mailed out the second week of July. **Please complete the required dive compressor testing and return the kits ASAP.** NOAA Diving Regulations require the testing of all dive air compressors every 6 months. 

## DIVE COMPUTER PURCHASE


NDC has established a purchase agreement with dive equipment company Oceanic for the purchase of the Oceanic Versa Pro dive computer. NOAA divers may purchase a dive computer at a reduced cost from Oceanic by doing the following:

- Contact the **Oceanic NOAA Account Manager** at (800) 435-3483.
- Provide your name, which will be verified from a list of active NOAA divers.
- Place your order using a government credit card.


The Uwatec Pro Ultra or Smart Pro dive computers must be purchased from a dive shop and cannot be ordered directly from the manufacturer. Quiescence, a dive retailer in Key Largo, FL has agreed to sell both models of Uwatec dive computers to NOAA divers at a reduced institutional rate. To place an order:

- Contact **Quiescence** at (305) 451-2440 and ask to speak with Mr. Paul Caputo (a long time NOAA diver).
- Identify yourself as a NOAA diver and provide your name, which will be verified from a list of active NOAA divers.
- Place your order using a government credit card.

**Two additional things to remember:**

1. These purchase arrangements are only for NOAA divers purchasing equipment for official use.
2. You must be authorized by NDC before diving with a dive computer. 

## INCIDENT REPORT FORM


Unfortunately, dive accidents ("incidents") happen. NOAA has an excellent dive safety record but still averages 1.6 reportable dive related injuries a year. Unit Diving Supervisors (UDSs) are required to investigate and report on diving incidents involving their unit divers to their Line Office Diving Officer (LODO) within 10 days of the incident occurring. LODOs must submit a report to NDC within 30 days of the incident. To aid in this process, a "Diving Incident Report Form" has been developed and is available on the NDC web site under the Administrative Forms section. This form will aid UDSs in identifying what information should be gathered and included in their report on a diving incident. 

## RINSING DIVE EQUIPMENT


The SEP Program provides NOAA divers with top-quality equipment in good repair. Unfortunately, some divers do not properly maintain their equipment by cleaning it thoroughly after each use. This leads to increased SEP assessments because damaged equipment must be prematurely replaced, and safety concerns, because poorly maintained equipment is more prone to failure. At a minimum, all diving equipment should be thoroughly rinsed, and preferably soaked, in clean freshwater after each use (regardless if used in salt-water, freshwater, or a pool).

**Regulators** - Thoroughly rinse or soak the first and second stage regulators and gauges in freshwater. First stage regulators must have their dust cap securely in place. Second stage regulators must be thoroughly rinsed inside and out. DO NOT depress the purge button at any time while rinsing/soaking.

**Buoyancy Compensators** - Thoroughly rinse or soak the outside of the BC in freshwater. The interior of the BC also needs to be thoroughly rinsed, drained, and dried. Partially flood the interior of the BC, inflate with air, and rotate in all directions. Drain all liquid out through the oral inflator or drain cap. Repeat at least once. After final draining, store the BC partially inflated.

**Other Equipment** - Thoroughly rinse or soak all other equipment in freshwater. Store out of direct sunlight to dry. 

## OBSERVER DIVERS

The Observer Diver certification is a temporary certification that can be used by recreationally certified VIP's, the media, etc., to observe NOAA underwater operations. Observer Diver standards have recently been clarified by the Safety Board and will be included in the new diving regulations. In the meantime, the new standards are outlined in **NOAA Form 56-62, "NOAA OBSERVER DIVER REPORT."** This form is available from the "forms" section of the NDC web site and provides a handy checklist and report form to assist in the Observer Diver process. It replaces the obsolete form 64-5, "Observer Diver Log." The required **NOAA form 56-61, "Observer Diver Medical History Report"** referenced in the report form is also available in the "forms" section. Contact NDC if you have any questions about the Observer Diver certification process. 

## SEP EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

I know this item is on your to do list, but please make it a priority....

All SEP equipment currently in the possession of NOAA divers must be verified by the diver and this inventory submitted to NDC. The two methods to do this are linked from the main menu of the on-line dive log. These methods are:

1. **(PREFERRED METHOD!)** From the main menu of the on-line dive log, click **"Equipment Inventory Form"** (NOT the "(pdf)" version.) Fill in all applicable sections of this electronic form and click "submit" at the bottom of the page. The database will automatically be populated with this data.
2. From the main menu, click "Equipment Inventory Form (pdf)." Fill in all applicable sections of this form on your computer and print the form, or print the form and then fill it out. Completed forms should be faxed or mailed to NDC.

A slick serial number ID help guide is also linked to the main menu to help identify serial number locations. Shipboard divers have all been mailed hard copies of this form to complete. **All SEP enrolled divers are requested to complete and submit this inventory method as soon as possible.** Thank you for your assistance. 