



TOPSIDE



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The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

August 2002

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TRAINING SCHEDULE

The **September 2002 Working Diver** course is full and applications are no longer being accepted. Persons attending this training should turn in all applicable forms (equipment measurement form, training request, diving physical, and swim test) as soon as possible. There is still room for candidates in the **September 2002 Divemaster** course. Please contact Laurie Barber if you would like to enroll in this course or have any questions about diving class requirements or enrollment procedures.

Training requests are being accepted for the **January 2003 Working Diver and Divemaster** courses in Key West, Florida. Training slots cannot be guaranteed at this stage because of the popularity of this course. Please contact Laurie Barber if you would like to place a candidate's name on the enrollment list.

The following classes are scheduled for:

2002

Sep 09 - 27	Working Diver	Seattle, WA
Sep 23 - 27	Divemaster	Seattle, WA
Nov 06	EMT CBT	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.

EMT CBT

Competency based training (CBT) for Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) will be held at the NOAA Diving Center on November 06, 2003. This course meets the annual continuing education requirements for Washington State certified EMTs. Please contact Laurie Barber if you are interested in attending this course.

DRY SUIT TESTING

Buoyancy testing of flooded dry suits will be conducted at the NOAA Diving Center freshwater dive tank Thursday, August 22. This testing will evaluate the buoyancy characteristics, both below the surface and on the surface, of NOAA issued and perspective dry suits after they have been flooded. This testing was recommended at the last Safety Board meeting in response to the NOAA Diving Program's current policy on Buoyancy Compensator (BC) use with dry suits. The current policy is that BC use is left to the discretion of the diver as long as use of a BC does not cover dry suit inflator or exhaust valves, or weight belt buckles. This policy came about from results of similar dry suit testing back in the late 1970's.

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.

FY 2003 DIVE ORDERS

The NOAA Diving Center is responsible for issuing yearly Dive Orders for NOAA Corps officers assigned to Marine Operation Centers - Atlantic or Pacific (this includes all ships). Officers must have current dive orders to receive dive pay. **Commands are requested to provide a list of all officers needing dive orders for FY 2003 to NDC by September 13, 2002.** Requests should include the officer's rank, full name, and social security number. Requests may be faxed to 206-526-6506, or e-mailed to Laurie.Barber@noaa.gov. Renewal requests should be made as soon as possible to avoid dive pay interruption (always a bad thing). Copies of dive orders will be returned to Commands that request them.

NOAA Corps officers not assigned to a ship or Marine Center and needing dive orders should have their current Line Office prepare them. A copy should be kept by each officer, a copy should be submitted to NDC, and most importantly, a copy needs to be submitted to:

NOAA Corps Payroll Unit
P.O. Box 397
Topeka, KS 66601

Divers who are not Corps officers do not need to submit dive orders to NDC.

Contact Laurie Barber, or LT Bill Cobb with any questions regarding dive orders. ☐

SEP EQUIPMENT INVENTORY

Another reminder.....

All SEP equipment currently in the possession of NOAA divers must be verified by the diver and this inventory submitted to NDC. All SEP enrolled divers are requested to complete and submit this inventory as soon as possible.

Shipboard divers have all been mailed hard copies of this form to complete.

All other divers should complete their inventory online by logging into the on-line dive log database (linked from www.ndc.noaa.gov). A slick **serial number ID help guide** to help identify serial number locations on your dive equipment is also available at the on-line dive log web site. Thank you to all divers who have already completed and submitted this equipment inventory. ☐

DMT COURSE IN A. SAMOA

Dave Dinsmore, Bill Gordon, and Captain Michael Vitth (NOAA Diving Medical Review Board Chairman) recently conducted a Diver Medical Technician course in American Samoa at the request of the Fagatele Bay NMS. This one week course taught local EMS personnel, hyperbaric chamber operators, and a NOAA employee to recognize and treat diving related injuries. The course included classroom instruction as well as hands-on chamber operation. ☐

PICTURE DELETED FOR TRANSMISSION

American Samoa DMT Class