



TOPSIDE



Volume 4, Number 9

The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

Mar 2004

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

Operations Manager - ENS Eric Johnson, (206) 526-6460, eric.t.johnson@noaa.gov

Equipment Manager - 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

E-mail fax numbers: Lisa Glover (206)529-2757 Steve Urick (206)-529-2758, and Eric Johnson (206)529-2759.

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

Requests are being accepted for the Refresher course in August and the Working Diver course in September.

Diver candidates must submit the following forms to Laurie Barber by July 16, 2004 for the Refresher Class and August 8, 2004 for the September Working Diver Class:

- NOAA Diving Training Request & Authorization,
- **Completed** NOAA Diving Physical, and
- Standardized Equipment Measurement.

All of these forms are available at the following web address: www.ndc.noaa.gov/forms.html. Completed forms can be mailed or faxed to the Diving Center. Please contact Laurie with any questions about class enrollment requirements.

Course schedules through September 2004:

May 10 - 28	Working Diver	Seattle
May 24 - 28	Divemaster	Seattle
Aug 16 - 19	Diver Refresher	Seattle
Sep 13 - Oct 01	Working Diver	Seattle
Sep 27 - Oct 01	Divemaster	Seattle



T. R. I. TEST KITS

Dive compressor air test kits were mailed the week of January 21, 2004. Compressor testing should be completed ASAP and the kits returned to TRI. Contact Laurie Barber if you have any questions about the testing procedure.



REPORTING INJURIES

Please remember to notify NDC of any injuries or conditions, work or non-work related, requiring anything more than basic first aid. The NOAA Dive Regulations (NAO 209-123, Section-5.02), Reporting, Investigating, and Reviewing Diving Incidents and Accidents states that " ... All work-related injuries are to be promptly reported in compliance with Department of Commerce (DOC) and NOAA policies. Whether such injuries are the direct or indirect result of diving, they must be reported in accordance with procedures outlined below. Examples of reportable diving injuries include: (a) fatalities; (b) injuries requiring recompression therapy (e.g., decompression sickness and lung overexpansion injuries); and c) injuries, whether occupational or non-occupational, requiring hospitalization or that otherwise may affect an individual's fitness to dive (questions concerning the requirement for reporting of an injury should be referred to the NDC). " If you have any questions, please free to contact us at any time.



ANNUAL REFR TRNG

UDSs & ship Divemasters - A reminder that all "NOAA-certified divers shall undergo yearly refresher training in oxygen administration, recognition and treatment of diving accidents and injuries, dive rescue, decompression tables, and in-water diving emergency skills." Much of this training can be conducted by viewing the NOAA Diving Program Refresher CD. If you are no longer (or were never) in possession of this CD, please contact Laurie Barber at the Diving Center. A CD will be prepared for your ship/unit and mailed to you. You may, of course, also prepare your own refresher materials for your divers.



AAUS CONFERENCE

The Director, NOAA Diving Program, attended the American Academy of Underwater Sciences (AAUS) conference in Long Beach, CA, from March 11—15. The conference celebrated over twenty years of diving science, with symposiums on diving safety and underwater research methods. Dave Dinsmore gave a presentation on "NOAA's Diving Equipment R & D Program: Past, Present, and Future." More information on AAUS and the symposium can be found at <http://www.aaus.org/default.htm>



ANNUAL MEDICAL HISTORY

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 any health changes from their last medical history form submitted to NDC. These forms do not require the signature of a physician nor anyone else besides the diver.

Failure to submit this form by March 01 will result in the suspension of the diver's NOAA certification.



REBREATHER CLASS

The NOAA Diving Center sponsored a rebreather training course this week, taught by Mike Hooley, to introduce and test a semi-closed rebreather system for fish census surveys, and to evaluate the operational feasibility of the system for further applications. Graduates of the NDC's rebreather class: Bill Gordon, Eric Johnson, Steve Katz, Nick Tolimieri, and John Vavrinec. Congratulations !



UNIT DIVING INSPECTIONS

Annual dive locker inspections are required by NAO 209-123 (NOAA Dive Regs). Unit Diving Inspection Checklists, used to conduct these inspections, are important to better ensure that unit/ship dive lockers are evaluated with a critical eye with regard to equipment condition and maintenance, organization, resource availability, etc. Completed checklists were due from all units/ships to their LODO/FDO by January 15.

Units/ships failing to submit dive locker inspections to their LODO/FDO by March 31, 2004 will result in the suspension of diving certifications for all divers in that unit. Inspection checklists are also available online at the NDC web site. Those ships/units/sub-units who have already performed this inspection and submitted their checklists, THANK YOU.

