



TOPSIDE



MARCH 2006

The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

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 NOAA Diving Center
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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.

The deadline for the May WD Class forms is April 21st! The sooner we get the physicals the better.

Events scheduled through Sept. 2006:
 March 28 - 31 WD Refresher Seattle
 May 8 - 26 Working Diver Seattle
 May 22 - 26 Divemaster Seattle
 July 10 - 21 Physicians Course Seattle
 Sept.11 - 29 Working Diver Seattle

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



DIVER PROFILE UPDATES

All NOAA divers are responsible for notifying the NDC when they leave a ship, move from one lab to another, get a promotion, change their name, update certifications, join or leave the SEP, and last but not least if they stop diving!

Our staff is very good at keeping things current, and we try to keep up with all the individual changes we know of, but we're not mind-readers and so need your help to keep profiles accurate and up-to-date.

Please take a moment to look at your online profile and check that all information there is current. When you receive updated CPR, First Aid, or O2 administration certifications fax your copies to Sharon Choy at the NDC and your profile will be updated.

Your support staff at the NDC thanks you!



ANNUAL TRAINING IN MIAMI

On February 23rd, the NOAA S.E. Fisheries Science Center conducted annual Diver Emergency and Rescue Training.

The session was led by Unit Dive Supervisor Dave McClellan and DMT's LTjg Natasha Davis and LTjg Leah Harman. Divers braved the harsh Miami conditions to practice buddy-breathing, rescue swimming methods, in-water backboarding, and water extraction. Said Dave McClellan, "It's good that we practice these skills frequently because when diving in such frigid waters, it's hard to remember what to do in an emergency." Yes, life is tough for scientific and working divers here in Florida but we persevere and continue to focus on safety.'



Miami divers braving the harsh conditions to practice their rescue skills with backboards and injured divers.

UDS CONFERENCE

The NDC held its first UDS conference in five years from the 7th-9th of March. Many topics were discussed and clarified for all who attended.

The meetings were a great success and the feedback has been extremely positive. The NDC will be working on several issues raised so look to the future for more information!



NEW WORKING DIVERS AND DIVEMASTERS



The NDC would like to welcome the 18 new Working Divers from our January training class in Key West, FL. Join us in welcoming them to NOAA's WD ranks!



The NDC would also like to congratulate the class of new Divemasters who completed training on the 27th of Jan. 2006 on a job well done!