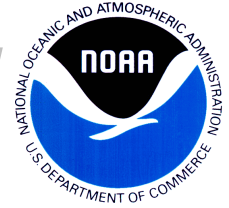




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The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

May 2002

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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 tentatively scheduled for August 2002. Training dates will be determined by the NDC schedule as well as prospective student's schedules. This class can also be used by current NOAA scientific divers to obtain their NOAA dry suit authorization. Please contact LT Bill Cobb for more information about this refresher course.

The following classes are scheduled for:

2002

Aug - TBD	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.

UPDATED DIVING REGS

An updated version of the NOAA Diving Program Diving Regulations (NAO 209-123) is making its way up the NOAA administrative ladder. This latest revision of the regulations will be distributed to ships/units and posted on the NDC web site once final approval is received.

MEDICAL PROBLEMS

A reminder that divers are responsible for immediately reporting information concerning changes to their medical qualifications for diving duty. Any new medical condition since the date of the diver's last history and/or physical that may affect their fitness to dive must be reported by rapid means to the UDS and then followed up in narrative form submitted to the NDC. Any evidence of either nondisclosure or falsification of medical information will result in suspension or termination of diving certification. Final medical approval for fitness to dive is given by the NOAA Diving Medical Review Board and not by the diver's examining physician.

ELDER VALVE TEST KITS

Test kits for SEP issued oxygen kits with Elder demand valves will be shipped to units starting May 22. This kit allows divers to test that issued elder valves are operating properly and reduces required periodic valve maintenance. Units should complete this testing as quickly as possible and forward the kit to the next unit as described in the instructions included with each kit.

ALT. AIR SOURCE UPDATE

A quick update on alternate air source distribution. Sherwood Shadows will be distributed to NOAA divers enrolled in the SEP program as their regulators become due for annual maintenance. A Shadow will be shipped along with a replacement regulator when a diver's current regulator set-up becomes due for annual service. The following year, the Shadow, along with the diver's primary regulator, etc., will be returned by the diver when due for annual maintenance (and having received a replacement regulator and Shadow from NDC). Anyone needing an alternate air source prior to being issued one as described above, should contact NDC. Barring budget constraints, Shadows should be issued to all NOAA divers in a year's time. At that time, an alternate air source will be mandatory equipment for all NOAA divers as required in the new diving regulations. [█](#)

DIVE COMPUTER UPDATE

Two diving computers, the **UWATEC Aladin Pro Ultra** and the **Oceanic Datamax Pro Plus**, have been selected for use by NOAA divers by the NDSB after several months of remote and diver testing. **Newer versions** of these computer model lines may also be used (Currently the UWATEC Smart Pro and the Oceanic Data Plus 2 or Versa Pro). **Older versions of the listed computers are not authorized for use by NOAA divers.** Dive computers generally allow for greater bottom time than the tables for multi-level diving but often provide less no-deco bottom time for square profile (constant depth) diving. **After completing a NDP certification process for one of the dive computers, divers may use that computer in lieu of the NOAA or Navy no-decompression tables.** Details of this certification process are being finalized by the Diving Center. As mentioned in previous newsletters, dive computers will not be issued as part of the SEP program and must be purchased by individual diving units. A purchase agreement with a supplier of each computer is currently being worked out. Please contact the Diving Center if you have any questions about the dive computer authorization or about the purchase agreement. [█](#)

TRI TEST KITS

TRI dive compressor test kits will be mailed out the week of **July 8 - 12**. **If this time frame does not work for your unit or ship, please contact Laurie Barber to schedule a different testing date.** Kits that are not promptly returned to TRI are assessed an additional charge. This charge is passed directly to the ship or unit that failed to promptly conduct the test and return the test kit. NOAA Diving Regulations require the testing of all dive air compressors every 6 months. Please contact the Diving Center if you have any questions about the mailing of the test kits or the testing procedure. [█](#)

OXYGEN KIT USE

Oxygen kits are required to be immediately available at the dive site during all official NOAA duty dives as described in the diving regulations excerpt below:

"An oxygen resuscitator that is capable of ventilating a non-breathing person shall be immediately available at the dive site during official duty dives...."

Divers conducting non-duty dives are strongly encouraged to also have an oxygen kit immediately available. The ship/unit determines whether SEP issued emergency oxygen kits may be used for non-duty diving.

"...Divers performing non-duty dives should ensure an oxygen resuscitator is available at the dive site..."

Any person potentially using this kit must be trained in its use prior to operations as outlined in the following:

"...Divers and diver support personnel shall be trained in the use of this equipment".

Failure to meet the above is a violation of the NOAA Diving Regulations and could result in the suspension or termination of diver(s) certification. If you have any questions about this regulation or about emergency oxygen kit issuance in general, please contact the NOAA Diving Center. [█](#)