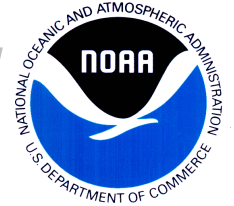




TOPSIDE



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The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

June 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 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 for more information about 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 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.** NOAA Diving Regulations require the testing of all dive air compressors every 6 months. 

CHEST X-RAYS

A chest x-ray is required for all initial diving medical exams and is NOT typically required for periodic re-examinations. **A Radiologist must review, interpret, and report on all chest x-rays. A copy of the Radiologist's report MUST be included with the diving physical.** Contact the Diving Center if you have any questions about diving physical exams. 


ELDER VALVE TEST KITS

Test kits for SEP issued oxygen kits with Elder demand valves were shipped to diving 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. 



Refurbished Portable Dräger Duocom Chamber

DRAGER CHAMBER

A Drager Duocom transportable 2-person (1 tender + 1 diver) recompression chamber was recently refurbished to support NOAA Diving Program operations. This chamber can be deployed in support of remote ship and land based diving operations that may require emergency recompression treatment. The chamber is self-contained, comes with its own air and oxygen supply, and is shipped with a portable Rix (oil-less) air compressor. It can be used to conduct recompression treatments to 165 feet and has a pure oxygen breathing loop for the tender and diver. The chamber will soon be deployed in support of a Hawaiian Monk Seal study involving decompression diving. 

DIVE COMPUTER UPDATE

As reported last month, the NOAA Diving Program has authorized the use of the following diving computers by NOAA divers:


Oceanic

Datamax Pro Plus, Data Plus 2, and Versa Pro


ScubaPro/Uwatec

Aladin Ultra Pro and Smart Pro

Newer versions of these computer model lines may also be used as they are developed. **Older** model versions may **NOT** be used. Computers must be purchased by the individual or dive unit and will not be SEP issued. A buying program is currently being finalized by NDC that will allow NOAA divers to get these computers directly from the manufacturer for a reduced price.

Divers must be certified by NDC in order to use one of the above dive computers. This certification process involves completing a "**Dive Computer User Agreement Form**" consisting of 16 terms and conditions. This form is **available on the NDP web site**, in the "forms" section under equipment. The completed form is to be sent to Ms. Sondra Huber at NDC by mail or fax. NDC will then notify the diver that they are cleared to dive with a dive computer. Dive computers must be purchased prior to completing the user agreement since several of the terms and conditions refer to the manufacturer's operations manual. 

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 mean time, 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

The one time only "Great NOAA SEP Equipment Inventory Verification" is underway. No need to sign up as all divers with SEP equipment are already entered to win. **All SEP equipment currently possessed by 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.** 