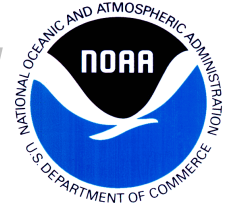




TOPSIDE



Volume 3, Number 23

The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

September 2002

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NOAA Diving Center

7600 Sand Point Way NE

Seattle, WA 98115-0070

TRAINING SCHEDULE

The September Working Diver dive class is underway with 18 trainees attending.

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. 

ANNUAL REPORT

Enclosed for all ships and UDSs, is a NOAA Diving Program Annual Report Information form. This form should be used to document ship/unit diving activities during FY2002. It is also available as a fillable PDF form on the NDP web site (www.ndc.noaa.gov/forms.html). The electronic version can be completed and printed from your computer for submission to your unit LODO/FDO. **Completed reports are due to your unit's LODO/OMAO FDO by October 15, 2002.**

NMFS LODO—Ian Workman, Pascagoula, MS
 NOS LODO—Bill Valley, Key Largo, FL
 OAR LODO—Jules Craynock, Miami, FL
 OMAO FDO—LT Bill Cobb, Seattle, WA

LODOs should submit their own summary report along with the individual unit reports by November 01, 2002. These reports are very important for documenting NOAA Diving Program activities and are used to create the NDP Annual Report. The more details that are included in each report, the more likely your unit and divers will be included in the NDP Annual Report. It is an excellent opportunity to gain widespread exposure for your unit and their diving activities (especially if accompanied by a few photos!).

UDSs with off-site sub-units should include diving activities of their sub-units in their own report, or designate a diver in each sub-unit to complete and submit a copy of this report. 

FY 2003 DIVE ORDERS

A final reminder for ship Commands....

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 were 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 mailed to NDC. Renewal requests should be made as soon as possible to avoid dive pay interruption (always a bad thing). Copies of dive orders will be sent to Commands that request them.

NOAA Corps officers not assigned to a ship or Marine Center and in need of 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. ☐

CALL FOR DIVING PHOTOS

NDC needs your help..... The Center is in constant need of diving photographs that depict NOAA diving operations both above and below the surface. These photos are used on the NDP web site, in NDC publications, and in training lectures. It is a great opportunity to get free publicity for your divers, diving unit, and program. Please submit any photos you would like used to LT Bill Cobb at the NDC mailing address, or e-mail bill.cobb@noaa.gov. E-mailed digital photographs are preferred, but regular photographs, digital photograph files on disk, slides, or negatives are acceptable formats. Please include a note if you need the submitted items returned.

Thanks! ☐

DRY SUIT TESTING II

Buoyancy testing of flooded dry suits was conducted at the NOAA Diving Center freshwater dive tank Thursday, August 22. This testing examined a "worst case" flooded dry suit scenario in which the suit was completely flooded and no air could be trapped for additional buoyancy. Five different dry suits (Viking, Abyss 4mm, Abyss 2mm, Unisuit, and Gates trilaminate) were tested using NOAA divers of varying experience levels and statures. Divers were instructed to flood their suits in 30' of water and attempt a controlled ascent; first with weights and then after dropping their weights. Divers then remained on the surface for 30 minutes to gauge the difficulty in staying afloat with a fully flooded suit.

Some highlights of these tests were as follows:

- All divers were able to ascend to the surface with a flooded dry suit before and/or after ditching their weight belt.
- All divers were able to remain on the surface for 30 minutes without additional floatation or assistance.
- The vulcanized rubber suit and trilaminate suit required the weight belt be ditched in order to ascend.
- The neoprene suits could ascend to the surface with or without weights.
- Ascent rate in the neoprene suits could be controlled by "flaring" (body horizontal) and sculling with the diver's hands.
- Neoprene suits were easily buoyant at the surface without weights.
- The vulcanized rubber and trilaminate suits required moderate swimming by the diver to stay afloat.

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. Full results of this testing will be presented to the Safety Board for policy review and will be published in a NOAA Safety Bulletin. **Special thanks to** the "experimental" divers: Mike Lemon, Jerry Adams, Alexandra Von Saunder, Gerry Hoff, Andy Hall, and Eric Iwamoto. ☐

NOAA DIVING PROGRAM ANNUAL REPORT INFORMATION

This form was developed to provide a standardized format for ship's Divemasters, Unit Diving Supervisors (UDS) and Line Office Dive Officers (LODO) annual report. Annual report information is compiled from operations conducted during the fiscal year (Oct 1 through September 30). The UDS is required to complete and submit this form to their respective LODO **within two weeks** of the end of the fiscal year. The LODO is required to submit this form to the NOAA Diving Center **within four weeks** of the end of the fiscal year.

LINE OFFICE AND UNIT: _____

**SUPERVISOR'S NAME
AND ADDRESS:** _____

1. UNIT OR LINE OFFICE PRIMARY DIVING MISSION/TASK:

2. SPECIFIC PROJECTS OR OPERATIONS COMPLETED DURING THE FISCAL YEAR:

3. SPECIFIC DIVING CONDUCTED AT THE UNIT/LINE OFFICE TO COMPLETE MISSION:

List the type of diving accomplished, i.e. fish surveys
ship inspection, equipment removal/installation, etc.

4. SIGNIFICANCE OF DIVING OPERATIONS

List the direct benefits of your diving operation such as scientific reports or publications, completion of national mandated programs, significant cost savings, etc.

5. DIVING PROJECTS/OPERATIONS COMPLETED OUTSIDE OF NOAA

List projects completed by your unit in support of community programs/assistance, cooperative projects with other Gov't and private agencies, special educational, or public relations, etc.

6. OTHER REMARKS OR COMMENTS

7. CERTIFICATION

SIGNATURE _____

DATE SUBMITTED _____

TITLE _____