



TOPSIDE



JUNE 2005

The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

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<http://www.ndc.noaa.gov>

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NOAA Diving Center

7600 Sand Point Way NE

Seattle, WA 98115-0070

TRAINING SCHEDULE

Dive Supervisors, take a look at your current roster and see if you need to get people into the September Working Diver or Divemaster classes! They're already filling up. We still have available slots for an upcoming refresher training sometime in August. All paperwork must be submitted at least 2 weeks prior to the start of training to avoid last minute complications.

The following are the forms required for an applicant to the Working diver classes.

- NDP Training and Authorization Request form
- NOAA NDC Standardized Equipment Measurement form
- **Completed** NOAA Diving Physical package, (there are new forms for NOAA Corps officers and Wage Marine employees DD-2808, 2807-1)

These forms are available at the following web address: www.ndc.noaa.gov/forms.html. Fax (206-526-6506) or mail completed forms to NDC.

Course schedules through April 2006:

Sept 12 - Sept 30	Working Diver	Seattle
Sept 26 - Sept 30	Divemaster	Seattle
Jan 9 - Jan 27	Working Diver	Key West
Jan 23 - Jan 27	Divemaster	Key West

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



LETTERS OF RECIPROCITY

Letters of Reciprocity for diving with other organizations are processed through the NOAA Diving Center. These letters must be requested at least a week prior to the date they are needed. Individuals requesting reciprocity letters must have all their training certificates up to date. This means that all CPR, First Aid, and DAN Oxygen Administration are current. Divers must also be in authorized status before the NDC will process letters for them. So if you are planning an operation with an outside organization, please be proactive and make sure that you, and anyone else that may be participating in the operations are all eligible for Reciprocity. If you have any questions, feel free to contact LTJG Eric Johnson at eric.t.johnson@noaa.gov, or by phone, 206-526-6460



PHOTO CONTEST

Do you have any great photos of your last diving mission? Is there a story to go with the photos? The NDC is holding a contest with the following prizes: a DAN membership with a dry bag for 1st place and another DAN membership for the runner-up! What we're looking for are any good photos you've taken and the story behind them! They can be funny, sad, or the perfect dive! So dig through your files, or keep your eyes open on the next dive for something good to snap a shot of. The contest will run through July 31st so send your picture and narrative (the photos must have a narrative) to LTJG Eric Johnson at, eric.t.johnson@noaa.gov. Get those cameras out!



UDS CONFERENCE

To all NOAA UDS' & LODOS,

NDC is in the very early stages of planning its 2nd UDS Conference. For those of you that attended the first one back in February 2001 it was decided that we would hold conferences every 5 years and as hard as it is to believe, it's that time again!

Now we can't promise the excitement of another "6.9 Seattle earthquake," but the consensus of everyone who attended was that the last conference was time well spent. It presented the opportunity to meet and greet other UDS' in person, and gave all a chance to talk about diving related issues and the different types of dive operations being done for NOAA.

The tentative plan is to have the Conference begin Tuesday, March 7, 2006 through Thursday, March 9, 2006. Monday and Friday would be travel days. Our thinking was to hold this conference immediately following the "AAUS Diving for Science Symposium", scheduled to be held February 28-March 4, 2006 in Friday Harbor, Washington. At this point we would like to find out from all UDS' if this time-frame will work and who'll be able to attend.

The NDC, as it did last time, hopes to be able to cover lodging, M&IE, and provide shuttle service to and from the airport. Your unit would be responsible for airfare and all other miscellaneous expenses. We would again set aside blocks of rooms at a local hotel and look into getting some sort of transportation between the Dive Center and the hotel during the Conference.

We would like each of you to inform the NDC as to whether or not you would be able to attend the Conference during the above dates and whether your unit would be able to cover your part of the expenses as outlined above. Again this is in the very early planning stages and our purpose is to get the word out to each of you for scheduling and budget planning purposes at this time. More information will follow in the coming months as we start firming up our plans.

We hope each of you will be able to attend and contribute to this meeting.

Please start working on items for discussion, questions to answer, and anything else you may want us to cover during this time.

If you have any questions you can email Laurie Barber at Laurie.barber@noaa.gov or call at (206) 526-6695.



NEW WORKING DIVERS



On the 27th of May, the NDC graduated 15 new Working Divers. The class was comprised of a mix of NOAA and NON-NOAA individuals and included Seattle EPA, King County Sheriff's Marine unit, Seattle Fire Dept. and the Seattle Harbor Patrol. Join us in congratulating everyone who completed this course.



NEW DIVEMASTERS



Join us in congratulating the NDC's latest group of successful Divemasters who also completed their training on the 27th of May. This class was comprised of NOAA employees from all over the country and a representative from the Seattle Fire Dept. search and rescue dive team. Well done!

