



TOPSIDE



MARCH 2005

The NDP Newsletter for NOAA Diving Supervisors and Divers

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TRAINING SCHEDULE

Diver candidates must submit the following forms to Laurie Barber by April 4th, 2005 for the May Working Diver Class:

- 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 or mail completed forms to NDC.

Course schedules through January 2006:

Apr 5 - Apr 8	Refresher	Seattle
May 9 - May 27	Working Diver	Seattle
May 23 - May 27	Divemaster	Seattle
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.



SWIM TEST CHANGES

There has been a change to the swim test utilized for admission into the NDC's Working Diver classes and for clearance as a NOAA Scientific diver. A time limit has been added to the standard 550yd/500m swim.

The dive applicant must now complete the swim in **15 minutes or less**. All other aspects of the in-water testing will remain the same (25m underwater swim, 30 min. tread).

The NDSB feels that this will give a better indication of an individuals' level of fitness, and watermanship.



T.R.I. AIR TEST KITS

T.R.I. air testing kits have all been sent out and each unit/ship that has a compressor should have received theirs by now. If your unit hasn't received a kit, you need to contact Laurie Barber laurie.barber@noaa.gov at the NDC.

Upon receipt of these test kits, please gather the samples and send them back **ASAP**. The T.R.I. company is going to begin enforcing their policy of late fees for kits that aren't returned in a timely manner (60 days). That gives your unit plenty of time to process the samples and submit them. If you need an extension, please contact the T.R.I. company and inform them of the delay. Thank you!



DIVE COMPUTER CHANGES

During this year's annual NOAA Diving Safety Board the issue of dive computers was discussed. It was the opinion of the Board members that dive computer technology had progressed to the point where additional dive computers could now be authorized for use by NOAA personnel. Prior to this decision, only select models of dive computers were authorized.

Effective immediately, NOAA divers are authorized to purchase and use any commercial-off-the-shelf dive computer with the following caveats:

- 1) All divers are still required to wear a submersible pressure gauge.
- 2) The computers may be used for no-decompression diving profiles with air and/or Nitrox breathing mixtures.
- 3) All divers are required to complete a dive computer users agreement (available on the NDC web site) and submit it to the NDC prior to using the computer.

Please contact LTJG Eric Johnson with any questions or comments on this matter.



NOAA Divers Deborah Marx and Ben Haskell get a little help from a friendly Mola mola while investigating a wreck in the Stellwagen Bank NMS.



LCDR Joe Pica gets up close and personal with a Humpback whale at the end of a working dive off the coast of the Dominican Republic.

CCR MINIMUM STANDARDS

Effective on the 7th of March, 2005, the NOAA Dive Program has approved Minimum Manufacturing and Performance Requirements for Closed Circuit Mixed Gas Rebreathers.

This document can be found on the NDC website and details the procedures and criteria by which CCRs will be evaluated for potential use by NOAA, NOAA sponsored, or otherwise NOAA authorized personnel.

The standards establish the specifications for the acceptable design of units, testing procedures required to approve a unit, and background on the development of these standards.

Please feel free to view these finalized standards, and the other pending documents on the NDC website main page.

