National Association of Underwater Instructors

JUNE 1970

NAUI NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF UNDERWATER INSTRUCTORS

L. A. COUNTY INSTRUCTORS GAIN NAUI CERTIFICATIONS

The first NAUI Special Certification Program ever held ended with an awards and graduation ceremony on Sunday night, May 24. 28 Los Angeles County scuba instructors attended a two-day orientation and testing program at Santa Ana College for the purpose of obtaining NAUI Instructor certification. 20 instructors were granted full certification and eight others are expected to join NAUI after completing the regular series of NAUI ICC examinations.

The high scoring graduate of the course was instructor Otto Gasser, who managed to take a first place in three catagories. High scores were as follows:

Oral Presentation: Carl Stahlacker
Written Exam: Bill Johansen
Waterwork: Otto Gasser/Joe Kieva/Mike Quinn/Bob Watts
Beach Oral: Otto Gasser/Mike Quinn
Ocean Teaching: Otto Gasser

A FINAL PANEL DISCUSSION WRAPS UP THE FORMAL PORTIONS OF THE FIRST NAUI/L.A. COUNTY SPECIAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM. PANEL MEMBERS WERE (L TO R) TOM EBRO, TOMMY THOMPSON, JIM STEWART, GLEN EGSTROM AND ART ULLRICH. THE SPECIAL PROGRAM WAS HELD AT SANTA ANA COLLEGE IN SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA. 28 LOS ANGELES COUNTY CERTIFIED SCUBA INSTRUCTORS ATTENDED THE NAUI COURSE.

TEAM LEADER DON FERRIN AND COURSE CO-DIRECTOR JOHN FREDERICK GRADE A BEACH TEACHING EXERCISE DURING THE OCEAN TESTING PART OF THE PROGRAM. OPEN-WATER TESTING WAS CONDUCTED AT NEWPORT BEACH, CALIFORNIA.

Dr. Glen Egstrom of UCLA and John Frederick of the Scuba Technology Institute co-directed the program. Team Leaders were Larry Cushman, Don Ferrin, John Reseck (Santa Ana College), and Tommy Thompson (U.S. Divers Corp.). Special advisors to the program were Tom Ebro (L.A. County) and Art Ullrich (NAUI General Manager). NAUI instructors Gary Coates, Mary Ellen Over and Nancy Thille served as staff aides. Jim Stewart, Chief Diving Officer at Scripps Institute of Oceanography attended the course as a staff advisor.

REGULATOR NECK STRAPS

By Spence Campbell

Some time ago Mr. Jim McMahan sent out a report to the Washington Council on the problems of the single-hose regulator "Neck Strap". He pointed out that these straps have caused near-fatal accidents in the Seattle area. There are at least two documented cases and reports of many more. As a result of this potential problem, some instructors have warned their students against the use of these straps.

In order to reinforce Mr. McMahan's original ideas and convictions about the neck strap, and to add some of my own, please consider the following points:

1. Steel snaps on neck straps tend to corrode after a few dives and are almost impossible to remove quickly. This is particularly true when the diver is wearing gloves and/or his hands are growing numb from the cold.

2. Plastic snaps have been offered as an answer to the corrosion problem, but the potential for not being able to locate the elusive strap during an emergency activity is present. Put on full gear (gloves, mask and all) and then try to locate and release the neck strap quickly ten times underwater after 30 minutes of exposure in the Puget Sound.

3. If faced with an emergency "Buddy Breathing" situation in relatively deep water where you must respond quickly, you may have difficulty removing the neck strap:

a. If your experienced buddy is caught on an exhalation by a failing regulator and must cover 20 or 30 feet to get to you, he might not be able to wait for you to fiddle with the neck strap. This could cause him to take the alternative of a 100-foot free ascent.

b. If you happen to be buddied with a novice on his second or third open water experience, and the same situation happens to him, his panic threshold will be extremely low and the delay caused by the neck strap might induce him to help you remove it. He will probably pull it out away from your mouth and up (since he is thinking of going in that direction). If the strap does not break away (and most of them won't) it will ride up. As the novice tries to remove your regulator, he will more than likely remove your mask as well.

4. If you are successful in removing the neck strap quickly enough to abort a potential panic situation, you may find that you have another problem with this device. Assume that the diver is in desperate need of air, and you offer him your regulator mouthpiece adorned with rubber straps and metal buckles. He promptly puts the mouthpiece and nine inches of rubber neck strap into his mouth. His first vital breath includes a cupful of brine. Results? You Guess!!

Above are four points for doubting the value of this so-called safety device. Most instructors who have taught buddy breathing using regulators with neck straps have witnessed students shoving these straps into their mouths and sputtering to the surface.

It is time for the misinformed divers who continue to use neck straps to be made aware of the potential danger to themselves and their diving buddies. There are safer ways to accomplish the objective of keeping the regulator close to the diver's mouth.

Look for potential dangers in your diving practices and if you have an idea to help improve diving safety, let others know about it. Don't be reluctant to make a point for safety. It might save other diver's lives.

GRABBER OF THE MONTH

INSTRUCTOR JUNE DAVIS (#1062) DEMONSTRATES A METHOD OF DISPATCHING OUR "GRABBER OF THE MONTH" PRIOR TO DROPPING HIM IN THE CHOWDER POT. A GROUP OF ENCHANTED STUDENTS LOOK ON WITH DEEP INTEREST.

A profession is a self selected, self disciplined group of individuals who hold themselves out to the public as possessing a special skill derived from training and education, and who are prepared to exercise that skill primarily in the interest of others. -- Samuel C. Florman

THE DIVER WHO WEARS GLASSES

By A. S. Newton, O.D.

A scuba instructor will sometimes find a few students in each class who need glasses to see clearly. Apart from obtaining the fullest enjoyment of the sport, good vision is essential for underwater safety. Even with perfect sight, underwater vision is limited. Further lack of visibility caused by uncorrected subnormal vision can be a hazard.

How can the instructor tell whether or not his student needs a visual correction for diving? The obvious clue of course, is whether or not glasses or contact lenses are being worn.

In general, anyone wearing contact lenses will need some type of corrective help in diving. Some students will be able to wear contacts when diving, but many find that the lenses can slide out of position and possibly be lost when clearing the mask. Also, salt water can be irritating to the wearer.

Not all students who wear regular spectacle lenses require them for diving. Some have nearly normal vision with or without correction and wear them more for the correction of eye strain than for clear vision. The only way the instructor can be sure of the student's visual condition is to get a statement from the student's eye doctor.

A few remarks about the optics of underwater vision. As the professional instructor knows, vision in water is restricted by both rapid scattering and absorption of light, even in crystal spring water. In murky water visibility can be measured in inches. Colored lenses should not be worn. As a result of the refraction occurring from water to air, objects will appear to be about 1/4 closer and 1/3 larger than in air. Experienced divers adjust for the change without trouble. The effect on light passing from water-to-air does not significantly alter the power of the underwater lens as compared with the spectacle correction, except for divers past 45 years of age who have to view small details (i.e., camera settings) at close range. The only change in the spectacle correction for underwater use is a change in the "vertex" power due to the lens being farther from the eye than the usual spectacle position.

What can be done for the diver who cannot see clearly? Apart from contact lenses, there are four other methods available for correction of visual deficiency. The first consists of grinding the correction into the faceplate itself. These are "ready made" and available at most dive shops. They are useful for those who are near-sighted with the same power in each eye, with no astigmatism, and have an interpupillary distance (the measurement from the center of the pupil of one eye to the center of the pupil of the other eye) of close to 64 millimeters. Any substantial variation in the student's pupillary distance which differs from 64 millimeters can cause eye muscle strain, especially if the power of the lens is strong. Far sightedness or astigmatism cannot be corrected with this type of faceplate, nor can the faceplate be tempered.

FIGURE 1. DACOR "VEDO" MASK WITH INSERTS

Figure 1 shows the "Vedo" mask by Dacor Corporation. While corrective lenses can be substituted for the plain glass inserts which come with the mask, mechanical problems of securing a tight seal arise when the lenses are strong or significant astigmatism must be corrected. (This is a technical problem; the explanation would not be indicated here.)

FIGURE 2. PLASTIC LENS HOLDER INSERT

Figure 2 shows a plastic insert in which the diver's correction lenses are placed. In the writer's opinion this device is practically worthless. In addition to trying to keep it in proper position, the presence of three surfaces instead of one

make it difficult to keep clean and fog-free.

The third and most versatile method is that of bonding the lenses to the inside of the face plate, as shown in Figure 3.

FIGURE 3. LENSES BONDED TO FACEPLATE

The principle advantage of this system is that the same vision is possible as the diver has with his regular glasses. No power is too complicated to be accomodated in this method and almost any mask may be used. The bonding material must be flexible, as the usual optical cement will soon separate due to the different rates of expansion between the plate and the lens. To the writer's knowledge there are only three laboratories in the United States who specialize in this type of work. The names and addresses are: Aqua Optics, 575 W. 6th Street, San Pedro, CA 90731; Leonard Maggiore, 1702 Gates Avenue, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11227; and Underwater Vision, Inc., Venice Medical Center-612, Venice, Fla. 33595. The cost is about $25.

Many divers are in doubt about the best type of mask for bonding lenses. Any flat glass mask can be used, but we do not recommend a laminated plate. Often they are fragile and not optically flat.

ANY QUESTIONS?

Richard Spencer suggests instructors consider picking up this book: "Questions About The Oceans", Publication G-13, by Harold W. Dubach and Robert W. Taber. Published by the U.S. Naval Oceanographer Office, Washington, D.C. 20390. For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Best deal in town at 55¢ (paper cover) pp.121.

EXPANDED PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR INSTRUCTORS

In an effort to provide the instructor members with an expanded and improved liability insurance package, we have investigated many possibilities. As most are aware, our present group professional liability policy provides a maximum of $100,000 per claim and an annual aggregate of $100,000. In simple terms, this means that a single claim for $100,000 could wipe out the entire coverage for all the other instructors who have paid premiums. Although no claims have been made against our policy, there are at least two cases involving instructors where suits have been filed for $650,000 and for $500,000. The marked increase in the claims attitude of the public as a whole and the number of our membership who are paying premiums warrants a full re-evaluation of our policy and the extent of the coverage.

Our first efforts to obtain a new policy were reflected last fall in the questionaire which asked the instructors preference. At that point we had a choice of many variations from $100,000 per claim with a $100,000 annual aggregate at a premium of $10-$12 as we now have; up to $500,000 per claim with a $1,000,000 annual aggregate at a premium of about $17.50 per year. We found that because of varying economic considerations, some NAUI instructors will prefer higher limits than others.

The approach that has been suggested is to provide the instructors with a basic policy of $100,000 each claim and an annual aggregate of $1,000,000 at an annual premium of $12.00. For those that feel they need higher limits, we have made arrangements for an Umbrella Policy that will provide an additional $1,000,000 in coverage. This Umbrella would apply to the individual instructor and also to every member of his household. It would cover not only his professional liability as a diving instructor, but would also apply to his automobiles, his watercraft, his personal liability, and in the case of an instructor that has another profession - such as a dentist, medical doctor, or attorney - it would provide higher limits over his professional liability policy covering his primary profession. The premium for this coverage is very nominal, but obviously each case would vary slightly depending on the number of automobiles or watercraft and the professional status of the individual. An individual kit on the Umbrella will be mailed to each instructor covered by the primary policy in the near future.

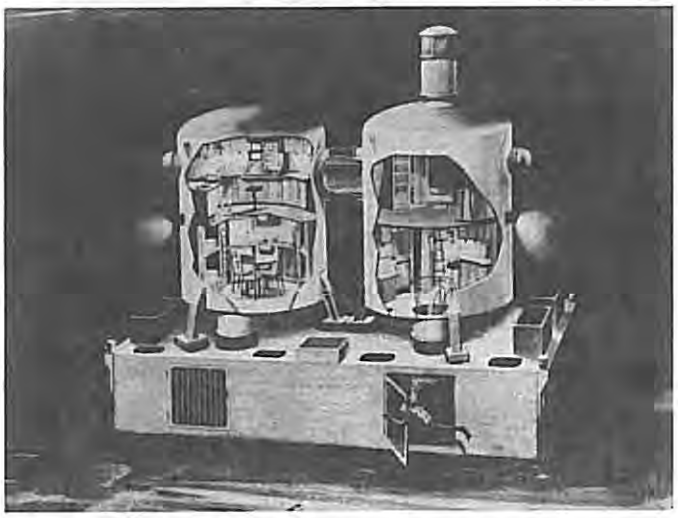
We have had several requests on our primary professional instructors liability

policy to add other persons or entities. This is not possible, because we would then be providing coverage for someone who is not a NAUI instructor.

In connection with expanding our insurance program, we are also going to be able to offer NAUI Instructors an Accidental Death Policy that covers world wide on a 24 hour per day basis. The only exclusions are military service, while piloting a plane, or suicide. For $25,000 the annual cost will be $35.00, or for $50,000 the annual cost will be $70.00. The details of this will also be in the individual kit. However, the Accidental Death Policy can be purchased separately from the Instructor's Professional Liability Insurance.

More Letters from Bill High . . .

EDITOR'S NOTE: NAUI Headquarters received the following two letters from TEKTITE II Aquanaut Bill High (#175). They were written while Bill was underwater in the TEKTITE habitat.



TEKTITE II HABITAT IN THE BAHAMAS

12 April 1970

My Fellow Instructors:

One gets a new perspective on the underwater world after living in it for a week. Much of our planned work is completed so less time is spent out in the water. Night diving is great fun because the habitat attracts so many fish. We swim with and touch a school of amberjack, some weighing 50 lbs. They arrive each evening at dusk. Last evening at dusk my partner startled a large turtle which raced right into me. Fortunately I saw and recognized what was coming. Obviously it was more frightened than I. We usually spend 3 to 5 hours a day in the water.

The habitat is functional and works well. Some of the scuba gear doesn't get the same rating. Some regulators leaked water and some tank valves stuck open. My partner and I almost drowned while trying to change tanks and switch regulators at a way station far from home. We couldn't shut off the valves to remove the regulators to switch to the new tanks. Great fun!

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17 April 1970

At the moment I am perched on some steel fittings breathing pure oxygen as part of our saturation cure. We have been in the chamber 11 hours and have nine more to go. Since there are only 4 bunks and 5 men, it is necessary to trade off. This way we are only very uncomforable for 2 hours and then get 8 hours in a bunk. Lying on the floor is not recommended because the steel grating tends to create a waffle pattern on ones back and the medical officer can't determine if the groans are from the grating or the bends.

Our departure from the habitat was delayed 2 hours while work was done on the chamber air conditioner. Without it the temperature would be at about 120°. Not ideal for 20 hours of isolation.

The habitat has many safety features and contaminated air from smoke, etc., is serious but probably not grave. We had been given the standby signal for our departure and swim to the personnel Transfer Chamber (PTC) so all hands were in the wet room. One fellow said he thought he smelled smoke. Then the Surface Watch Director who monitors T.V. cameras of all compartments announced a fire in the habitat. Actual flames are quite unlikely because of the 8 to 9% oxygen level. However it did not seem to slow up the smoke that came billowing from the engine room. With tanks and masks on, we were able to shut down most of the power and then abandon ship without waiting for the air conditioner to be fixed. Correct safety training made it routine everywhere except the pulse. Of course, this all took place after dark.

I'm sure each of the divers has enjoyed this adventure. Now we are anxious to get back to the surface and on our way home. I can imagine the NAUI business affairs that await this Branch Manager. I'll get to it almost first thing when I reach Seattle next week.

Regards to all my fellow instructors.

tektite 2

Bill High
NAUI #175
TEKTITE II
AQUANAUT

BRANCH NEWS

NAUI CANADA

Jack Leitch, Branch Manager

An Archaeological Seminar, sponsored by NAUI Canada, has been scheduled for the June 5-7 weekend. The 3-day program, which will be conducted on the wrecked schooner John Walters (built Portsmouth 1852, wrecked Russell Island ca. 1899) will be a controlled field project with emphasis on mapping, measuring and sketching. A site survey will be included. Lectures will include document research and history, preservation of artifacts, techniques and procedures of a 'dig'.

Guest lecturers at the seminar will be Patrick Folkes, Tom Gantert, Michael Lee and Stan McClellan. Gantert and McClellan will also serve as technical supervisors. The seminar director is Jack Leitch.

Instructors interested in attending the program should contact NAUI Canada, 81 Bloomington Crescent, Downsview, Onterio, Canada for information and applications. Cost of the seminar is $35.00.

NAUI MID-ATLANTIC

Lee Kvalnes, Branch Manager

The NAUI Instructor Certification Course June 14-20 at the University of Maryland will have over 20 candidates attending. Staff for this Course is:

Course Director - Joe Libbey #468
Director of Training - Ken Heist #1036
Team Leaders - Craig Etka #1537
Ron Johnson #1543
Al Pierce #1292
Evaluators - Tom Kenney #1038
Lee Kvalnes #628

Among many Guest Speakers are:

Jack Chappell #1800 - Voit Co., Eastern Sales Representative
Joe Dorsey #53 - Eastern School of Skin Diving
Mr. Hal Goodwin - Deputy Director, Sea Grants Programs, National Science Foundation
Dr. Maxwell Goodman - Westinghouse Underseas Div., Annapolis, Md.
Dr. Arthur Bachrach - Naval Medical Research Institute, Bethesda, Md.
Dr. Mendell Peterson - Smithsonian Institution

In addition, a field trip is planned to the Experimental Diving Unit at the Navy Base, Washington, D.C.

In Philadelphia, in March, NAUI prominently participated in the Middle Atlantic Sport Diving Symposium sponsored by the Diver Safety Group of the Middle Atlantic Underwater Council. It is believed that this Symposium is the first ever to be held solely devoted to diving safety. NAUI Instructors who were members of panels and discussion groups included Jim Gabel (879), George Hoffman (388), Bill Maley (1291), Jeep Snyder (898), Jack Sofield (149), Joe Dorsey (53), Fred Neumann (373), Jack Chappell (1800), Tom Kenney (1038), Ken Heist (1036), Joe Libbey (468), with Lee Kvalnes (628) as speaker and panel moderator. Among faces in the audience were: Craig Etka (1537), John Englander (TA1148), Phil Fisher (1538) and John Galt (1783). Representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, Marine Patrol, Pennsylvania Fish Commission, Pennsylvania Water Patrol, and the American Red Cross also participated in panel discussions. The Symposium covered the topics of Safety Instruction, Boating Safety, Special Diving Situations (Caves, Decompression Diving, Etc.), Physiological Aspects of Diving Safety, Emergency Action, Scuba Industry and Diving Safety, Government and Diving Safety.

The Symposium began with a tour through the newly installed hyperbaric chamber complex at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. The Institute for Environmental Medicine headed by Dr. C.J. Lambertson will use the chambers for continued research in various areas of hyperbaric medicine, including decompression tables for the sport diver.

NAUI NORTH PACIFIC

Bill High, Branch Manager

Some mystic stimulous has reached many of our provisional instructors and now some are sporting new numbers. We are pleased to welcome aboard Skip Lindsey, Dick Shabro, Alfred Beck, and Sharon Dodge.

Your Branch Manager has been working with NAUI people for the past two months, but mostly far from the cool green Pacific Northwest. While at Tektite II, I met both NAUI instructors and a lot of other instructor's students. It is good to know NAUI men are where the action is, and there was plenty of action in the Virgin Islands. My thirteen days on the bottom was one of those once in a lifetime experiences. I made over fifty dives out into the water for nearly sixty hours of swimming. Certainly the most electrifying moment was the fire that occured just as we were about to leave for the decompression chamber. Without a doubt the most unpleasant time was the twenty hours of decompression.

The Northwest Annual Diver Symposium has been set for November 7-8, 1970. A number of NAUI men and women will coordinate portions of the program. We are sure that no diver program in the world has a more appropriate or pleasant setting than have we at the Pacific Science Center in Seattle. The whole purpose of this

former World's Fair complex is to bring science to the public.

NAUI men Spence Campbell and Skip Lindsey are on their way to Cobb Sea Mount, the Underwater mountain 270 miles off the Washington State Coast which rises to within 120 feet of the surface. Their preliminary surveys are part of a long range study supported by Federal and State oceanographic agencies and private companies, including the Virginia Mason Research Center and Honeywell Corp.

Instructors are reminded that the only Northwest area certification course will be held at Simon Frazer University in Vancouver, B.C., Canada on August 22 to 29th.

Last month Ian Ellis (NAUI #972), while on a fisheries research program dive, saved the life of his diving partner who stopped breathing after running low on air. Ellis turned to find his partner missing. He surfaced and found the victim floating with his weightbelt on and vest uninflated. Ellis administered mouth-to-mouth resusitation for fifteen minutes before signs of life were observed. The victim recovered, apparently without damage.

NAUI PACIFIC/HEADQUARTERS

Art Ullrich, General Manager

Since NAUI announced that old NAUI C-Cards could be exchanged for the new embossed plastic cards, some interesting requests for exchanges have come in to Headquarters. Here are some examples:

1. PADI for NAUI.
2. NASDS for NAUI.
3. A homemade "pool card" for NAUI.
4. Old U.S. Divers Certification for NAUI.
5. British Navy Diver Training Log for NAUI.
6. Four Canadian Club/Council cards for one NAUI.

To top everything off, there has been a number of phone calls requesting NAUI cards in exchange for verbal descriptions of experience.

John Reseck, Course Director for Anaheim '70 (November 7-12, 1970) is requesting staff volunteers. Contact John at Santa Ana College (714) 547-9561, X-266.

Dr. Glen Egstrom, Program Chairman of ICUE '70 has issued a "Call for Papers" for the conference. Instructors interested in making presentations should contact Glen through NAUI Headquarters.

MISCELLANEA

NAUI News Articles

No material was received from the Branches not listed in this issue of the NAUI NEWS. If you want your Branch activities in the NEWS, bug your Branch Manager or submit your own articles. Look at past issues for length and format.

Walt Hendrick, Chairman of the International Resort Division, submitted a very comprehensive report on the resort diving situation. We will run this excellent article in the July issue. Watch for it... it's a real eye-opener.

ADP Committee

Instructors interested in working on a committee to finalize the National Advanced Recreation Diver Program (NAUI ADP) proposal are requested to contact Headquarters.

Underwater Photographic Competition

The "Man's-Extension-into-the-Sea" Symposium, a NAUI Diver Education Series Program, has announced the dates of their 1970 photo competition. Entries will be accepted from September 1 to October 30, 1970. Competition and public display will take place at the Pacific Science Center, Seattle, Washington on November 7-8, 1970.

Numerous photo categories allow every underwater photographer; novice and expert alike, an opportunity to win cash prizes or ribbons. Here is the chance you and your pet picture have been waiting for. Competition is open to all divers regardless of country or affiliation.

For rules and entry form contact: NAUI Underwater Symposium, William L. High, Chairman, 6531 N.E. 198th Street, Seattle, Washington 98155, U.S.A.

Another Grabber of the Month

Occasionally manufacturers of underwater products send advertising material to NAUI NEWS. One item, from a manufacturer of underwater loudspeakers, deserves mention -- and I quote: "Scuba instructors, forget those tedious classroom sessions! Tell your students about compression and decompression while they are underwater trying out their aqualungs."

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CALENDAR

Special Events

June 4-7 - Conference on Ocean Recreation and Conservation. Pacific Terrace Center, Long Beach, California. Sponsor: American Society for Oceanography.

June 5-7 - NAUI Canada Archaeology Seminar (see page 6). Contact NAUI Canada, 81 Bloomington Crescent, Downsview, Ontario, Canada.

June 15-19 - NAUI Instructor Seminar, Biomarine Exploration. Underwater Explorer's Club, Freeport, Grand Bahama. Contact NAUI Central/South Atlantic Branch, 7122 Montague Drive, Dayton, Ohio 45424.

August - Industrial Orientation Course, Scripps Institute of Oceanography (NAUI Instructors only). Contact NAUI Headquarters.

Sept. 19-20 - NAUI Instructors Mexico Weekend. Contact Headquarters for information.

Sept. 27 - Underwater Film Festival. Sponsor: NUFRB - John Hancock Hall, Boston, Mass. Contact Underwater, P.O. Box 291, Back Bay Annex, Boston, Mass. 02117.

Oct. 23-25 - International Conference on Underwater Education (ICUE) - Santa Ana, California. Contact Headquarters for information.

Nov. 7-8 - Man's-Extension-into-the-Sea Symposium. Pacific Science Center, Seattle, Washington. For information contact: NAUI Underwater Symposium, 6531 N.E. 198th Street, Seattle, Washington 98155.

Instructor Certification Courses

June 14-20 - College Park, Maryland
June 20-27 - Freeport, Grand Bahama
June 20-27 - Santa Barbara, California*
June 20-27 - Phoenix, Arizona
July 18-25 - Santa Clara, California
July 18-25 - Honolulu, Hawaii
August 8-15 - San Diego, California
August 15-22 - Toronto (Ont.), Canada
August 22-29 - Wilmington, North Carolina
August 22-29 - Vancouver (B.C.), Canada
August 23-30 - Omaha, Nebraska
Sept. 5-12 - Pensacola, Florida
Sept. 12-19 - Boston, Massachusetts
Sept. 19-26 - Miami, Florida
October 3-10 - Okinawa
November 7-12 - Anaheim, California

For Information Write: NAUI Headquarters, 22809 Barton Road, Grand Terrace (Colton), California 92324. Phone (714) 783-1862.

*Special course for professional coaches and teachers only.

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