



THE DIVE SLATE

Atomic Aquatics Cobalt Computer

Atomic Aquatics has done it again. A company founded on making the very best has just introduced their first dive computer... Cobalt. This will compliment their line of masks, fins, snorkels and regulators which have compiled an impressive list of awards over the past several years. Masks with lifetime guarantees and regulators with a suggested two year service interval and limited lifetime warranty *not* contingent on annual service are proof they have confidence in their products. We first got some hands on experience with the prototype about a year ago at DEMA and realized the new Cobalt was destined to redefine the future of dive computers much the same way the iPhone has impacted cell phones.



“We’ve never used a system so straightforward and intuitive” is a quote from Scuba Diving Magazine’s recent review of the Cobalt in which it garnered a Testers’ Choice for a console-style dive computer and was one of their two favorite computers for 2010.

Some of the features of the Cobalt are:

- Full color OLED screen
- Adjustable illumination
- Rechargeable lithium-ion battery
- RGBM* algorithm offering three user levels (standard, recreational and conservative)

The MSRP is \$1,200.00 and we should be receiving our initial stock by the end of the month.

**Reduced Gradient Bubble Model*

DEEP STOPS

do they have a place in recreational diving?

In recent years the question of deep stops in recreational diving has spilled over from the technical diving community. First off what is a deep stop you ask? In the most simple terms that we are discussing it would be making a stop on your ascent at half your maximum depth before continuing on to your shallow water safety stop. (e.g. maximum depth of 80’ would require a stop at 40’) The benefits of incorporating deep stops in technical diving has been proven to reduce the risks of decompression sickness but less is known about any benefits to the recreational diver. Last year at DEMA one of DAN’s seminars was dedicated to their studies on deep stops. The DAN presenter’s opinion was, at least for recreational divers, no benefits

could be discerned. The depth and bottom time of the recreational diver was just too insufficient to see any measurable benefit. Shortly after this presentation the Winter 2010 edition of Alert Diver had an article discussing deep stops. A panel of experts debated the issue and even they could not develop a consensus. What everyone could agree on is slowing your rate of ascent and pulling a shallow safety stop will reduce your risks of DCS. One of the experts in the article was David Doolette, Ph.D. with the U.S. Navy Experimental Diving Unit who summed it up, “Recreational diving within no-decompression

limits conducted with a shallow safety stop has a good safety record. There is insufficient evidence to suggest a deep stop offers any advantage.” With this being said it does not mean one should disregard deep stops all together. A compromise could be that on deeper recreational dives, 80’ - 130’, one could pull a deep stop for two to three minutes before continuing a slow ascent to a shallow water safety stop. This is, of course, if you have sufficient air supply. More research is forthcoming on this subject but it may not be long before all agencies adopt deep stop(s) into their training.

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We recently added BigBlue to our product line. This was one of the vendors we met at DEMA last year. Come by the shop and check out their impressive line of lights and uw photography accessories and we think you'll agree



we made a great choice. Look for an upcoming review of some of their products we tested in Bonaire in September. We will be heading to Las Vegas in November for the DEMA show to find more quality vendors like BigBlue to partner with.



UPCOMING CLASSES

- **Open Water Class starts.....Wed. Oct. 27th 6:30 pm**
- **NitroxThu. Oct. 28th 7:00 pm**
- **Equipment SpecialistSat. Oct. 30th 10:00 am**
- **Rescue Diver starts..... Sat. Nov. 4th 6:30 pm**

TRI-CITY DIVERS

Just a reminder that Tri-City Divers usually meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Beef "O" Brady's, 2913 Boones Creek Rd, Johnson City, TN.

Dinner at 6:00 pm

Program at 7:00 pm

For more information or to be added to their mailing list send an email to

pbbond@comcast.net

International Scuba Center
1308 W. Market Street, Suite 2
Johnson City, TN 37604

423-929-DIVE