



# Dry Suit Diver

**Course Instructor:** Al Schumer, Northwest Diving Institute ([www.nwscuba.org](http://www.nwscuba.org))

**Email:** [als@nwscuba.org](mailto:als@nwscuba.org)

**Course Type:** Dry Suit Diver

**Course Tuition:** \$125.00      **Required Text:** Dry Suit Specialty Manual

**Session One**

**Session Type:** Orientation      **Session Location:** UWS Seattle

**Session Date:** Friday, September 17, 2010      **Session Time:** 4:00 PM

**Specifics:** We'll meet at Underwater Sports to complete the necessary paperwork and go over the knowledge review which includes the following topics: the theory of diving dry, dry suit construction, and dry suit auxiliary equipment; the planning, organization, and procedures of dry suit diving; the problems, hazards, procedures, techniques, and safety considerations for proper buoyancy control and ascent and descent training; and the recommended way to clean and maintain a dry suit after diving.

We'll then head to the pool for some hands-on practice.

**Session Two**

**Session Type:** Confined Water Dive      **Session Location:** UWS Seattle

**Session Date:** Friday, September 17, 2010      **Session Time:** After Interval

**Specifics:** We'll brief, conduct and debrief our pool dive of the day emphasizing the following topics: put on and remove a dry suit with the aid of another diver if necessary for that model dry suit; demonstrate how to conduct a buoyancy check at the surface while wearing a dry suit with undergarments (when needed) and full scuba equipment; demonstrate neutral buoyancy by pivoting on the fin tips, or when appropriate, another point of contact for one minute; demonstrate neutral buoyancy by hovering (without kicking or sculling) near the bottom for one minute; disconnect and reconnect the low-pressure hose from the dry suit inflator valve while underwater; perform a neutrally buoyant ascent from the bottom, at a rate no faster than 60 feet per minute; demonstrate one technique for recovering from excess gas in the feet; and, remove and replace both the scuba unit and weight system while on the surface.

**Session Three**

**Session Type:** Open Water Dive      **Session Location:** Cove Two, Alki Beach

**Session Date:** Sunday, September 19, 2010      **Session Time:** 9:00 AM

**Specifics:** We'll meet at the beach to brief, conduct and debrief our first dive of the day emphasizing the following topics: put on and remove a dry suit with the aid of another diver; adjust the amount of weight needed to be neutrally buoyant (float at eye level) at the surface, while maintaining a normal breath and when both the dry suit and BCD are completely vented of air; perform a controlled descent, avoiding suit squeeze; demonstrate neutral buoyancy by pivoting on the fin tips, or when appropriate, another point of contact for one minute; maintain neutral

buoyancy near the bottom by hovering (without kicking or sculling) for one minute; maintain neutral buoyancy during the dive and avoid accidentally kicking up silt or touching the bottom; perform a neutrally buoyant ascent from the bottom, at a rate no faster than 60 feet per minute; perform a safety stop at 15 feet for at least three minutes; and, remove and replace, on the surface, both the scuba unit and weight system.

#### **Session Four**

**Session Type:** Open Water Dive      **Session Location:** Cove Two, Alki Beach

**Session Date:** Sunday, September 19, 2010      **Session Time:** After Interval

**Specifics:** We'll take a minimum surface interval during which we'll swap out tanks and enjoy a warm snack.

We'll then brief, conduct and debrief our second and last dive of the day emphasizing the following topics: put on and remove a dry suit, with the aid of another diver if appropriate for that model dry suit; perform a controlled descent, avoiding suit squeeze; disconnect and reconnect the low-pressure hose from the dry suit inflator valve while underwater wearing gloves; maintain neutral buoyancy during the dive and avoid accidentally kicking up bottom silt and/or touching the reef; perform a neutrally buoyant ascent from the bottom, at a rate no faster than 60 feet per minute; and perform a safety stop at 15 feet for three minutes.

#### **Final Session**

**Session Type:** Snack      **Session Location:** Alki Beach

**Session Date:** Sunday, September 19, 2010      **Session Time:** After Interval

**Specifics:** After everyone is packed up, we'll meet at the Alki Fish & Crab Company for a snack (optional) and to complete your certification paperwork.

Congratulations, you are now a certified Dry Suit Diver!

#### **Equipment Required for this Course**

**Item 1:** Dry Suit      **Item 2:** Snorkeling gear      **Item 3:** 2 Tanks

**Item 4:** Regulator      **Item 5:** BCD      **Item 6:** Weights

#### **Equipment Recommended for this Course**

**Item 1:** Dan Insurance

#### **NOTES:**



If you are going to dive in the Pacific Northwest or other cold climates, sooner or later you will want the comfort of diving with a dry suit. This is a fun course for learning how to safely dive with a dry suit and handle emergencies. This class will make you a more confident and competent dry suit diver and speed you along your way towards becoming a Master Scuba Diver, and beyond.

You may also wish to consider taking my Peak Buoyancy Class afterwards to fine tune your weighting - especially if new to dry suit diving. You may also want to consider my Equipment Specialist class which will help you maintain and protect your invest in your all dive equipment, including your dry suit.