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Scuba Emporium

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1983 - Multi-Level Diver?

This was an interesting time. Divers were just starting to really learn about computers and looking for other options. Since the middle of the 70's, new way tables and different DIVE charts from the NAVY table were out. There were a few attempts at computers, some really cool, but most not to safe. One would turn off when you changed batteries, not very safe on a dive trip! But the basic DIVE table being used was really the Navy tables with roots back to 1905, odd considering SCUBA came around in 1943. You see with conventional tables, a diver is penalized for the deepest point reached on a dive. So a bounce to 110 feet was recorded as a DIVE to 110, this on most dives was a huge penalty. We all understood that as we go up were off-gassing so why must we be penalized for the bounce to 110? Computers were promoting this but some worked off the NAVY table so we did not accomplish much. My first watch computer was a SEIKO and as soon as I went deep I was not only penalized but in deco. I was always interested in what was happening as we came up from a depth and from that I developed a course for multi-level diving. You see, when we started this course, we would use standard DIVE tables and pick the maximum depth we were at, then we would step up to the next level and continue the dive on that line with the table. So for example if I did a dive and was underwater for 10 minutes and became an Q diver, I would stay on table one and just plan the next level as a Q diver. It worked and we made it but not safe at all. We would go up another level and again continue the dive on that line. It was not the best procedure but it worked and we were doing Multi Level Dives. By 1985 DSAT developed the RDP Wheel and that took care of all the planning for us and with the DSAT wheel being distributed by PADI it made sense to use it as our way to conduct multi-level dives. We were able to get an hour out of most dives and that was great, getting credit for off-gassing made sense and increased our bottom time. This program really allows a diver to increase safe bottom time. But for me, it was a program to keep others from doing dangerous dives to doing dives with proven safety protocol. Later I saw a way to stay down longer and came up with a program for diving with computers.

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