

there were 11 applicants. One could not be considered because the sponsoring company was in a lapsed status. However, all 11 applicants were, indeed, worthy of consideration.

With the rising cost of education, the ADCI Scholarship program provides a way for us, as an organization, to give back to our communities in a way that is not only appreciated, but so very necessary. For 2007 the Scholarship Committee asked that the awards be increased from two awards of \$2,500 each to two awards of \$4,000 each. Our request was unanimously granted by the ADCI Board of Directors, and in January two very deserving applicants were each awarded a \$4000 ADCI Scholarship to their institution of choice.

The ADCI Scholarship Recipients for 2007 were Ericka Fryberg, sponsored by Coastal Diving Services (General Member); and Christine Auder, sponsored by Divers Supply (Associate Member).

Following the ceremony at UI 2007 in New Orleans, we received this email from Ericka:

*"Dear Mr. William Crowley, Ms. Dori Ritter, Mr. Phil Newsum, ADCI and honored guests:*

*I accept this scholarship with immense gratitude and humility. It is a great honor to receive such an award. I am sorry that I could not be with you to accept it myself. I will have to delay the honor of meeting all of you until a later date. However, if you know my father, Richard Fryberg, you know a great deal about me already because we are very much alike.*

*I am sure you understand that my academics take precedence at this time and this scholarship will give me the privilege of many incredible educational experiences. For the next 14 weeks I will be in the classroom for 23 hours a week. Four of these weeks are made possible because of your generous gift. During the first four weeks of the semester alone I will take seven quizzes that are difficult enough to be considered exams, two lab practicals, and one exam.*

*I will spend innumerable hours at Yale Medical School performing a dissection project and compiling my findings into a clinical correlation research paper, and have the use of a state of the art motion analysis lab. Thank you for these opportunities.*

*Because of your generous support I am able to focus solely on academics during this time. Therefore, I would again like to thank the scholarship committee and all the ADCI members that made this generous gift possible."*

*Sincerely, Ericka Fryberg"*

We also received this heartwarming message from Christine Ouder:

*"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Association of Diving Contractors International for presenting me with a \$4,000 scholarship for the year 2007. I would also like to thank Mr. Robbie and Mrs. Ruth Mistretta from Divers Supply, Inc. for sponsoring me. It goes without saying that I am extremely grateful that ADCI chose me for this scholarship. This money will be a significant help in financing my college education. It will allow me to spend less time worrying about paying back student loans and more time concentrating on my classes. This, in turn, will better prepare me for my career after college.*

*Thank you again, Christine Ouder"*

Congratulations to them both! The ADCI Scholarship Committee has even loftier goals in mind for the future, namely to increase the number of scholarships so other deserving applicants will be able to continue their education. Whether the awards are used for continuing education, returning students, or career changes, we can, and should, make it possible to give back to our communities in the form of dollars for education.

—Dori Ritter, Scholarship Committee Chair

### Hall of Fame Committee Report

The ADCI Commercial Diving Hall of Fame was established in 2004, with the first inductees being those who had previously been presented with either the John B. Galletti or Tom Devine Memorial Awards, plus Navy legend Bob Barth.

The Hall of Fame was founded to recognize and honor individuals whose dedication and accomplishments have significantly contributed to commercial diving. No restrictions are placed on whether the individual was an actual diver, or even directly engaged in the commercial diving industry – only that they made what are judged to be significant contributions to our industry.

It is time to nominate next year's inductees, and we need your help. Please contact the ADCI office (281-893-8388 or [pnewsum@adc-int.org](mailto:pnewsum@adc-int.org)) with your nominees no later than May 1, 2007. Remember, this is the highest honor an individual can receive in our industry, so please honor your candidate with the most complete and thorough nomination as possible, with any accompanying documentation welcomed.

Let's make it another great year for the ADCI Hall of Fame.

—Jim Caldwell, HOF Committee Chair

# Maintaining Your Gorski Hat

Ocean Eye, Inc.'s Chris Gabel takes a look at one of the popular new helmets on the market, the Gorski Hat, and what it takes to maintain it. Its creator, Les Gorski, focuses on simplicity, and has designed a rugged, stainless steel commercial diving helmet that is all about function and ease of use.

First, let's discuss the hat itself. Here is an overview or quick tour of the Gorski, a stainless steel helmet with a weight of 29 pounds on the surface. It utilizes a tried and true Poseidon Cyklon 5000 balanced second stage regulator as it's main breathing component. That means there is no need for a diver adjustment knob for the second stage on the helmet.

The only knob visible is for the steady flow. There is also no side block as seen on other helmets. Instead, it uses a manifold found in the rear of the helmet that counterbalances the front components. This creates a balanced helmet that actually feels lighter than it is.

There are two NRV (non-return valves) located off of the manifold (See Figure 1). One is drilled out for a scuba fitting while the other is a standard male O2 fitting. They are interchangeable and made up of off the shelf parts.



Figure 1

I mentioned the Poseidon second stage. The only real difference between a standard Cyklon 5000 and the one installed in the helmet is the addition of a groove machined on the outer assembly to accommodate an o-ring to seal the regulator to the helmet body. You can see this in Figure 2. All of the plumbing is located inside the helmet. That means that there is no need for any special care for the piping while diving in colder water.



Figure 2

### Overview of Basic Maintenance Steps

Now that we've covered the basic components, let's explore maintaining this hat. The daily, monthly, post dive, in-water, and annual checks can be downloaded from the G2000SS, Inc. site located at [www.GorskiHat.com](http://www.GorskiHat.com). This article is not to provide the reader with every granular detail of the hat's assembly, but to give you, the reader, an overview of basic maintenance procedures.

Let's start with the daily checklist. This is a basic functional check of the helmet and related components for the hats operation. These checks include checking the neck retainer and neck dam assembly for wear and damage.

The ring assembly is a two-part machined stainless

steel compilation. The only real worry would be any stripped screws. If it's been bent, you dropped something really heavy on it or ran it over with a dump truck. Other than that, it should remain in great shape for the life of the hat. The neoprene neck dam is the more delicate item here. It needs to be inspected for any rips or excessive wear.

Next check is the oral-nasal and cleanliness of the helmet. One of the truly great things about this hat is the ease of removing the oral-nasal for cleaning or replacement. It simply slides off of the mouthpiece of the second stage after unscrewing the inner nose block and popping out the mic. It can be removed and replaced in seconds. The only real note here is to make sure that the one way valve is positioned correctly. Make sure that the seal is in the inside of the mask. This ensures that CO2 doesn't leak in to the helmet while allowing air from the steady flow to enter the oral nasal for additional air.

Next task is checking the EGS. This check is pretty much all about common sense. We've all done it with every hat we've ever dove that allows for EGS (I needed to add that comment for those of you that are reading this and going to remark about a MK V). Check the tank for VIP and hydro date and check the hoses and rubber/viton bits for wear. Nothing special here. Make sure you have checked and logged the pressure on your EGS.

After that, it's off to check the two NRV fittings. This would be the suck and blow procedure. Blow in, air flows. Try and suck air out and nothing should happen with the possible exception that your face turns red after an extended period of time performing this task. Connect the EGS cylinder to the hat and momentarily open the free flow valve to make sure that adequate air flow is coming in the helmet.

Next, we go to the purge button. This is just checking for excessive travel (no more than a sixteenth of an inch) and confirming a strong flow of gas.

Basically, from there it's attaching the umbilical, testing communications, then doing a surface leak test. The whole daily check should only take about 15 minutes.

### Fixing Problems

That's great, you say, but what if I have a problem? How easy is it to work on?

Let me tell you, for the most part, it's extremely easy. The second stage can be ejected from the helmet by simply removing five screws (as seen in Figure 2). The same goes for the steady flow valve assembly (as seen in Figure 3).

To make sure that you didn't have any nasty particles coming down your umbilical, the screen filter can be removed with on single bolt (Figure 4). So field-stripping the main components takes a Phillips head screwdriver and an adjustable wrench. That's it,



Figure 3

nothing magical or overly difficult to do some basic troubleshooting.

That's not to say that a Gorski shouldn't be serviced by a trained technician. You should have your helmet thoroughly checked and cleaned at least once a year.

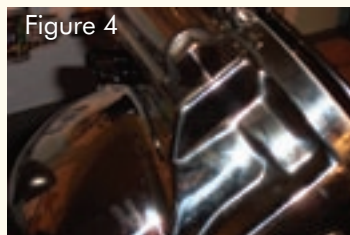


Figure 4

The most complicated aspect of this hat is the Poseidon Cyklon balanced second stage regulator. That will take special tools and care to maintain. That said, you can buy a spare Cyklon regulator from any Poseidon dealer and have the ring machined to have a field spare.

Should you have a problem with the second stage for any reason, you could then remove it, send it to an authorized service center, replace it with your spare, and be back in the water within a matter of less than five minutes.

One question that I often get is about the polished shell. This is all about function and not about form. The polishing is to allow for ease of cleaning. Nasty bits in the water have a very hard time clinging to the smooth surface. Keeping that in mind, the polishing on this hat is not performed to make it pretty and therefore, surfaces are going to differ from hat to hat. According to Les Gorski, all of the helmets are hand-polished for smoothness and not to be perfectly shiny. So don't be alarmed should you find some tool marks or polishing wheel marks. Those are totally natural.

So that's it, simple and reliable. Daily maintenance that should take no more than 15-20 minutes, coupled with an annual inspection, should keep this hat in service for years to come. **UW**

Email questions for Chris Gabel to [cgabel@ocean-eye.net](mailto:cgabel@ocean-eye.net).

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