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edition, it has sold more than two million copies, influencing a generation of divers. While the problem of panic behavior is recognized in this book, its treatment is vague and superficial, and, as with PADI's encyclopedia, associated terms are not cited in the index.

Dennis Graver, in his introductory book *Scuba Diving*, states that panic is the diver's worst enemy, and has a section to sensitize the reader to the overall problem. Graver reports that divers breathe faster and shallower when they experience stress, and he recommends that the diver stop all activities and breathe deeply when this occurs.

While this might seem to be an effective strategy, there is no research to support the technique. In fact, some research suggests that respiration rate is not correlated with anxiety in scuba divers, and neither respiration nor anxiety is influenced by relaxation procedures. An exception is John Lippman's book for advanced divers, *The Essentials of Deeper Sport Diving*. He not only indexes anxiety, panic, and stress, but identifies potential preventive measures. He discusses Blue Orb Syndrome, in which experienced divers may panic in clear, deep water if they lose sight of familiar objects and experience sensory deprivation or a fear of isolation.

Lippman says it can be overcome by focusing on familiar objects or people.

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**Next issue: *Unconsciousness***

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# Hoseless and Hopeless

## *Computers that don't compute*

**Dear Delmar:** I am interested in an air-integrated, hoseless dive computer. I have seen a number of postings on the Internet concerning hoseless computers temporarily losing the signal between the wrist and tank units while underwater strobes are recycling. This problem has been mainly discussed with the Uwatec Air-X computer.

Bob Stinson

**Dear Bob:** I test-dived the USD-branded equivalent to the Air-X while on a trip to New Guinea early in 1995. It failed to initialize, despite dozens of tries, and was thus worthless on the entire trip. I also test-dived the Cochran Nemesis (reviewed in *In Depth*, January 1994). Both test units malfunctioned; one flooded, and

the other cleared its residual nitrogen completely between dives.

Two weeks ago, I took yet another of the Uwatec hoseless clones (a Monitor 3) and one of the brand-new Pelagic hoseless units (Oceanic plans to sell them as the DataTrans, whereas USD's nearly identical version is called the Scan 5) on a one-week dive trip. Both were unsatisfactory. I dived each for several days, all the time resisting the temptation to take them off and drive back and forth over them with a van. When worn on a retractable reel clipped to my chest, the receivers continually disconnected themselves (lost signal) from their first-stage transmitters. About half the times I looked, I had deco information

only, no air data. Both of them gave off infuriating audible and visual displays, either threatening me that they were either about to disconnect or telling me no information was available about air supply.

At present, when using air-integrated systems, I'm diving hose-type units (Suunto Eon or one of the three Pelagic clones made for USD, Dacor, and Oceanic). None of them has ever failed to work perfectly for me. Furthermore, I waited for years to get gauges off my wrist. Why would I want to put one back on? The hoseless wrist readout units I've tried were bulky and uncomfortable.

This technology doesn't look mature to me, but maybe I've got a bad attitude due to 100 percent failure rate of the five units I've lugged halfway around the world. I haven't yet tested a hoseless unit that I would buy — or even take for free.

Delmar Mesa