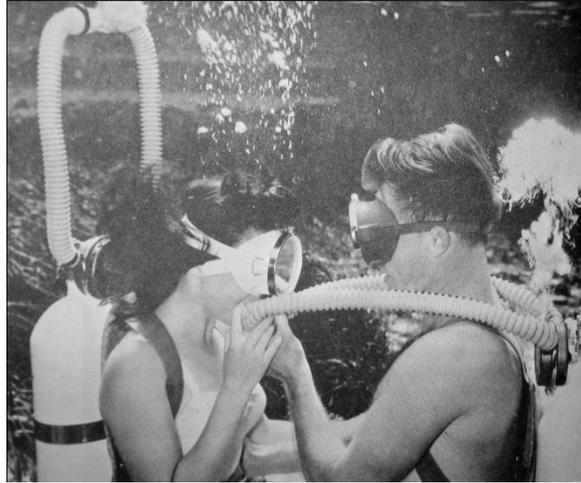
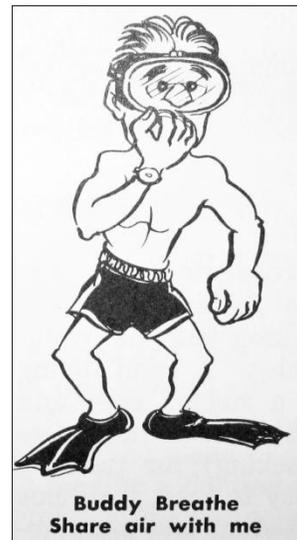


## BUDDY BREATHING

Double hose diving involves the development of skills that are exclusive to the regulator itself. These necessary skills are a result of simple physics inherent in the water environment and the mechanics of the double hose system. A competent diver must be able to perform these skills flawlessly to insure the safety of yourself and your dive buddy. Of paramount importance is the skill of Buddy Breathing.



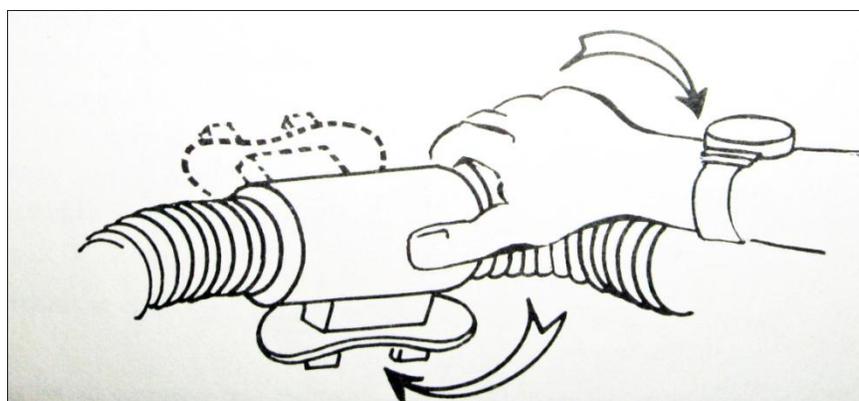
Depicted in almost all Sea Hunt episodes, along with hose cutting, was Mike Nelson buddy breathing. A close observation of this skill in the TV show illustrates the basic procedure very nicely. As with any diving emergency, the loss of breathing gas is critical. To share a dive buddy's supply may be a life saving endeavor. The first step is to make the donor of his air supply aware of an out-of-air situation. The basic hand signals have not changed throughout diving instruction evolution. The diver needing air ("needer") makes the two recognized gestures, 1st, *drawing a finger across the throat*, and 2nd, *putting a hand to your mouthpiece*.



The two divers face each other and should hold onto the other's tank harness. It is best that each diver uses his left hand to hold himself in position, thus leaving his right hand free to manipulate the "live" mouthpiece back and forth. The "donor" must keep control of the regulator mouthpiece at all times.



The "donor" diver takes a breath, removes his mouthpiece and with his right hand, and turns it down and around 180° to the "needer". This helps keep out water.

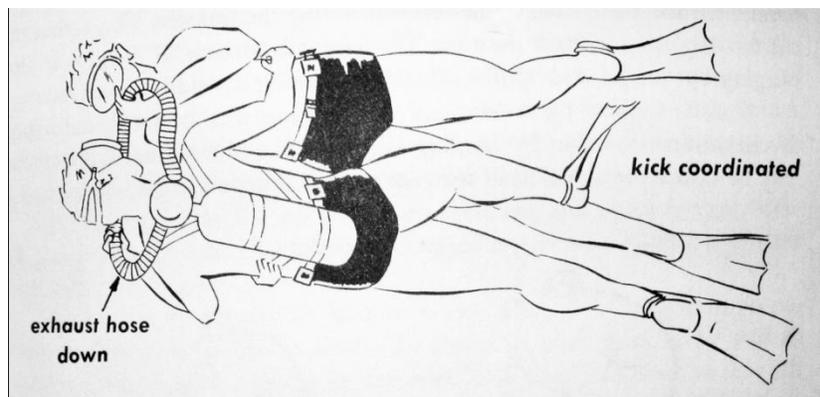


Upon receiving the mouthpiece, the "needer" must clear the mouthpiece of water. A sharp blow usually does the trick. Take a cautious first breath, another clearing exhale, and then another breath. Usually the buddy technique involves 3 breaths before passing the regulator back. The "donor" repeats the clearing, breath, clearing, breath, exhale, breath procedure before passing the regulator back to the "needer". Thus it goes until you accomplish one of these things: reach the surface, both run out of air, accuse each other of hogging, panic, or become bored.

Many of us have found that if the "needer" is slightly above the "donor", then as the mouthpiece is passed upward, a free flow begins and aids in clearing on the first breath.



The best way to buddy breathe when swimming sideways is shown below:



The "donor" swims with his left side down. This makes it easier to clear the regulator as it is passed back and forth, because the exhalation hose on the left is lower than the inhalation hose on the right. Physics again.

Buddy breathing in a pool or on a training dive is a complex skill that needs repeated practice and drill for it to work smoothly in an emergency. Don't forget to exhale continuously. When the mouthpiece is not in your mouth and you are ascending, make a point to blow a stream of bubbles out of your mouth at all times and be sure that your buddy does the same.

DIVE SAFELY, THE LIFE YOU SAVE *WILL* YOUR OWN!

Safety and survival underwater are achieved by careful planning and training. This must be based on good understanding of the environment, the equipment, and the limitations of the individual.

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