

# The HangLine

Issue #02-04

Posted October 2002



## Knowledge is Power Part 4 in the TASK Model

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Scuba diving is a dynamic and ever evolving activity with many facets. A diver needs to continue to make himself aware of all that is involved, not just on an academic level but in a practical sense as well. Knowledge of the area, the site, the weather, his gear, techniques involved in the activity, these are all attributes associated with knowledge.

Information is fed to our brain through the various senses and processed accordingly.

*The information is raw material, the final product is knowledge and is manifested in forms we might describe as wisdom, intuition, sagacity, and experience (W.I.S.E.)*

**Wisdom** is the practical side of knowledge and although may rely heavily on experience, it can be independent of it as well. I have known many inexperienced divers who have a broad understanding of what might affect not only a dive but a diver as well. These individuals maintain an open mind and a willingness to consider all that is going on around them and that makes them wise

divers. It is like seeing the 'big picture'. No doubt you have heard the saying 'think outside of the box', the insinuation is that one needs to be prepared to accept that anything is possible: that is wisdom.

### KNOWLEDGE

**WISE** – Wisdom

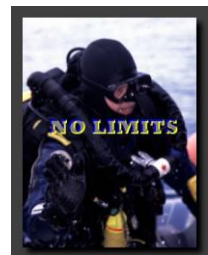
**WISE** – Intuition

**WISE** – Sagacity

**WISE** – Experience

**Intuition** takes knowledge and adds a little heart and soul. Many seasoned divers place a great value on intuition and even are prepared to follow it blindly. If the dive does not feel right there is likely some subconscious process computing a disastrous forecast that we on a more conscious level disregard. If you choose not to follow your intuition than at the very least consider it. More often than not it is telling us something we need to know.

**Sagacity** and specifically good judgment, is the reward for honest and





holistic thinking. This attribute is the amalgamation of patience, a keen ability to evaluate information and the openness to consider all point of views without prejudice. A diver who possesses sagacity is prudent and does not rush blindly into situations where he might be at risk. When stressful situations do occur, he reasons his way out of trouble using level-headed problem solving techniques instead of panicking.

the dive tables or the types of fish found in the ocean. It provides the logistical matrix for a sound decision making process that is a very necessary part of the on-going **Risk-Benefit Analysis**.

~Safe Diving

**Experience** is the sum of knowledge and involvement, where participation in various activities provides immeasurable physiological reactions unique to the individual. What one person might find incredibly moving, another may find trivial. Experience is a subjective concept and sometimes best qualified when presented in a comparison. For example, an Instructor with 200 logged dives may appear to be an experienced diver, but compare him to a diver with 2000 logged dives. And a diver with 2000 logged dives in the tropics will not have the same experience as a diver with same number of logged dives in cold and challenging environments. There is even a vast difference between sport divers and working divers.



In summary, experience can best be measured in a qualitative sense (the types of dives based on environment, equipment and activity) and quantitatively (number of dives). When it comes to experience, even then, the final tally is only relevant after you consider the unique make up of each person.

All of these attributes are important in fostering a diver's knowledge. There is more to 'knowledge' than knowing the math behind

