

# *Poseidon Handicap Scuba Adventures*

## *Disabled Diver Training - OCONUS*



“We teach the healing powers of the sea.”

# *What we do..*

- *Mark Rausch, Founder of Poseidon Handicap Scuba Adventures (PHSA)*
- *Teaches the recreational sport of scuba diving for disabled individuals world wide; and teaches able-bodied divers how to instruct and dive safely with disabled individuals.*



# *Mark Rausch, Founder of PHSA*

- *501 © 3 non-profit educational charitable organization*
- *Founded 1994, 24 years in existence, board of directors*
- *Led by Mark Rausch, P.E., M.H.A., P/PM*
  - *HSA, SSI, SDI and PADI IDC Staff*
  - *Masters in Healthcare Administration*
  - *Senior level Project/Program Manager*
  - *Course Director, Handicap Scuba Association*
  - *Professional Engineer, Civil Engineering (3) states*
  - *30 year Healthcare Engineer, handicap accessibility*
  - *Air Force Veteran, Civil and Bioenvironmental Engineering*

# *What we offer...*

- *I would like to travel to your location/resort and offer courses in welcoming disabled scuba divers*
- *Our organization's funding allows me to travel to your location/resort, and instruct the course at **NO** cost to the operator/resort*
- *In return we kindly ask that lodging/accommodations may be provided for myself and possibility my assistant*
- *There is a 110 US dollar cost per student, for the Handicap Scuba Association certification fee, which can be waived to prevent financial burden.*

# *Handicap Scuba Association Programs*

## *Handicap Scuba Association*

- *We share ideas on how to attract business from the disabled community*
- *As an HSA Course Director, I can offer you (2) Handicap Scuba Association (HSA) courses:*
- *The HSA's Open Water Dive Buddy (OWDB) course teaches any certified diver how to become an effective partner to a disabled diver*

‘Our logo’



# *Handicap Scuba Association Programs*

- *The HSA's OWDB course be an effective complement to your scuba diving courses*
- *For Instructors/DM's, we have the HSA's Instructor/Dive Master course, allows any Instructor/DM to become an HSA Instructor/DM, whereby they can teach/certify/dive with a disabled diver (all courses taught together - 4/5 days).*
- *Check out below link to our most recent class!*
- <https://www.facebook.com/OrcaNationOfficial/videos/587692405044259/?t=1>



# Public Recognition

## HSA at DEMA Show: Instructor Training You Can Trust

By Handicapped Scuba Association 🕒 November 14, 2017

HSA Course Director Mark Rausch and HSA Diver Chuck Kays staffed the HSA Booth at DEMA 2017. They spent 4 days explaining how to become an HSA Instructor, Dive Buddy or Supporting Member. This year alone Mark has trained and certified HSA Scuba Instructors in Jamaica, Palau and Greece! Chuck, a veteran with disabilities, started and operates Veterans Adaptive Sports in Juniper Florida, as well as volunteering for Veterans Ocean Adventures and Aquanauts Adaptive Aquatics.

“ **Created by Instructors & Divers with Disabilities**  
**Over 4,000 Instructors & Over 3,000 Dive Buddies Trained & Certified**

## Adaptive Diving: Training Agencies Come Together to Discuss Growing Community of Adaptive Divers

By Dive Pirates 🕒 December 10, 2018

Dive centers, operators, resorts, really the whole dive industry is now challenged to meet the needs and desires of a growing adaptive diving community, welcoming them to a very adaptable sport while also addressing standards and safety. In a ground-breaking seminar sponsored by the Diving Equipment and Manufacturing Association (DEMA), representatives Mark Slingo, Disabled Divers International (DDI), Mark Rausch, Handicapped Scuba Association (HSA), Barbara Thompson, Rebreather Association of International Divers (RAID), Thomas Powell, Scuba Diving International (SDI), Charley Oxley, Scuba Schools International (SSI) and Jim Gunderson, National Association of Underwater Instructors (NAUI) sat down to discuss the similarities and differences in approach moderated by the Dive Pirates Foundation.



“We organized this panel and we can't thank DEMA enough for accepting this as one of their sponsored seminars during this conference as we as a foundation are working with all of these agencies to provide quality training for adaptive divers and we rely on all of them for guidance and leadership in this niche of the diving community,” explained Sophie Wimberley, Dive Pirates President and co-moderator of the panel discussion. “Networking with dive centers across the US we are looking for adaptive diving instructors who will

also accept what we have developed as safe diving procedures for our recipients and we welcome their feedback and involvement as there are many unknowns, such as depth, long term effects verses short term benefits, networking

## Scuba instructors certified to engage divers with disabilities

Monday, June 19, 2017

Twitter



## Handicapped Scuba Association Announces HSA CHINA

By Handicapped Scuba Association 🕒 October 8, 2018

September 2018 — HSA CHINA is born. [HSA](#) Course Director Mark Rausch traveled to Shenzhen City, China to train and certify 16 new Handicapped Scuba Association (HSA) Instructors.

MINGXUN ZHANG, nick name Panda, is the business manager for ZL Dive, a dive training & travel company based in Shenzhen City, with locations in Malaysia and the Philippines. For several months Mark communicated with Panda and answered her many questions about training and diving for people with disabilities. It took months to decide, but once the Chinese dive instructors got behind the HSA Instructor Training Course (ITC) there was no holding back!



The lectures were conducted at the ZL Dive store, and the confined water sessions were conducted at a pool located in Luohu Commercial City, a famous large multi-story shopping mall. So, the scuba equipment was carried from ZL Dive, down the street, through the mall and up to the pool in elevators. After which 5 hours of confined water training exercises took place, with their legs tied simulating paraplegic & quadriplegic students, and blacked out masks to simulate blind students. Then of course there was the trek back to ZL Dive, that's dedication!

The open water training was equally daunting. The ITC candidates suited up all gear at the ZL Dive store and walked down the street, with ITC candidates taking turns carrying each other, out onto the pier, where they boarded small boats! After completing the open water training in the bay, they disembarked and walked with all their gear back to the dive shop.

# *What makes us different?*

*Traditional disabled diving organization grant certifications – but is stops there.*

*We go beyond just granting certifications*

- *We teach handicap accessibility for dive operators world wide.*
- *We advocate for Traditional and Adaptive scuba diving training.*
- *We challenge the dive industry – to pave the way so that a disabled individual may assume leadership roles in diving.*





# Contact Information

*Teach ... Advocate ... Challenge*

*Contact Information*



- *Poseidon Handicap Scuba Adventures*
- [phsaceo@att.net](mailto:phsaceo@att.net)
- Text to 734-358-8728
- <http://www.phsa.us>
- Twitter @phsaceo
- <https://www.linkedin.com/in/mark-rausch-293a908b>
- <https://www.facebook.com/mark.r.rausch?fref=ts>

“We teach the healing powers of the sea.”