

# IAHD News

2<sup>ND</sup> Quarter 2009



*Picture by David Pilosof*

Member: Renewal 2009  
DCT: Oman and Iceland  
Update: Seminar IAHD Netherlands  
IAHD Collaboration: Pegasus Thruster



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Klaas Brouwer  
President & CEO



The year 2009 started with a lot of new and exciting challenges for the IAHD Team. I realize that not all changes are as smooth as we would like, but please give us some time, also you could help us to improve.

Please, realise that IAHD is a volunteer-run organisation. None of us is working full time for the IAHD and we need to in the daytime to get our bills paid, especially as the many of us also spend private money.

The new website has created more challenges then we were looking for. Thanks to Sole Viktor (our voluntary IAHD IT specialist) most have been resolved, but we are aware of the fact that we have to do more work before this is finished.

At the German Boot show in January the financial crisis was very noticeable with a dramatic drop in visitors. Nevertheless we are happy with the support from the IAHD Germany team who made the nine day (!) show participation possible with success.

In March Daniel Zuidema and the team IAHD Germany went to Oman. Dirk Wondrak conducted a Pro Training and together they held two Dive Challenge Tours. We would like to express our gratefulness to Stefanie Trier and Tariq al-Khabori who made this all possible.

On the invitation of FEIDA Diving from Singapore, I went to Haikou in China to run the first ever IAHD Pro Training on the main land China. With nine participants the event was a great success. The next course is already being organized with government support and will be held in July 2009.

Over the past year Dirk Wondrak from IAHD Germany has been trying to come to an agreement with SSI Europe, in which he succeeded in January. SSI will promote our programme amongst their members. This will most certainly create new training opportunities and members. Thank you for this, Dirk!

To all, keep up the good work and remember why we all do this for... scuba diving for all!

Keep diving,  
Klaas Brouwer



Daniel Zuidema  
CEO



Hello all,

Time flies...summer is about to arrive on the Northern part of the world, whereas the Southern parts will be preparing for winter soon. Since I started my job at LeasePlan Corporation (the organisation that pays my salary and indirectly enables me to spend money on IAHD) at the end of last year, it has been very busy. Managing my agenda is sometime a real challenge, especially combining this with social activities too.

We are still looking for people that are willing to do some voluntary work for IAHD, like finance, marketing activities, helping to organise Dive Challenge Tours, and more... please let us know if you are interested. [daniel@iahd.org](mailto:daniel@iahd.org)

In March IAHD team Germany and I went to Oman. It has been a tremendous success. Our new contacts in Oman, Stefanie Trier and Tariq Al Khabori have been organising many things. We even had the honour to meet His Excellency Ali Masoud Ali Al-Sunaidy, the Minister of Sport. Throughout the days we have been meeting many people from dive centres, doctors, people from different Ministries and obviously, new divers! Thank you all for arranging this all! Soon we will be preparing a new Dive Challenge Tour there.

Over the last year, Miriam Prümer from IAHD team Germany has been working on a new training programme. Freedom Therapist is the name for this new programme and is targeted to physical therapist. Soon we will elaborate on this, but we already wanted to wet your appetite, as pilots have been very successful and promising. Miriam is a physical therapist herself during the daytime and used her practical experience to design this new training. Thank you Miriam!!

Soon IAHD will be present at the MIDE 2009 exhibition in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia). Sarah Kench and Catherine Ridley will represent IAHD on this show. Both ladies work for Scubacat in Phuket (Thailand). Sarah is IAHD Pro-Trainer and has been a member of IAHD for many years yet. MIDE 2009 is sponsoring our stand at this show, for which we are truly grateful. Especially in these times of recession, we really appreciate this.

To conclude I would like to thank LeasePlan Corporation for sponsoring a new laptop. My previous one gave up after four years and was also a sponsored laptop at the time. Although sponsoring could be challenging these days, it is always worth trying. Sponsoring does not always have to be financially. In many occasions it is more interesting for a company to sponsor by means of material. Just try it!

Best wishes,  
Daniel

**- meet us at -**

MIDE 2009, Kuala Lumpur (MY), 3-5 July 2009, Stand A58

DEMA 2009, Orlando FL (US), 4-7 November 2009, Stand (to be confirmed)

**PS: Please, do not forget to renew your membership through [www.iahd-reg.org](http://www.iahd-reg.org)**

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Flemming Thyge  
Director of Quality Control



Hi all,

I hope you all are doing well!

Last year at DEMA, PADI Nordic invited IAHD to participate in their Update in order to inform their members about IAHD and what we do.

On Sunday 15 March I went to Stockholm and held a short seminar for PADI members. I was received with great positivity and the members had lots of questions. One of which was how we do multilevel diving with our students.

I believe it is very important to emphasize that we, as an organisation, collaborate with all diving organisations, and was very happy to be able to tell participating PADI members about IAHD. In general they took a huge interest in our work. Thank you very much PADI Nordic!

As said collaboration is of key importance. We must not forget our mission, despite the challenges we come across. Together we do great things and give people with a physical and mental challenge the opportunity to experience the beauty of the underwater world.

In April I was invited to Iceland by Hedinn Olafsson (PADI Divecenter owner) to present our program, which has been fantastic! In collaboration with Dive Iceland, IAHD Scandinavia organised the first Dive Challenge Tour there. The entire event was a great success, with happy students and 15 disabled people who discovered their first time scuba diving.

The Dive Challenge Tour was also broadcasted by the Icelandic television. A video of the news can be seen on the following page.

<http://dagskra.ruv.is/sjonvarpid/4456574/2009/04/07/12/>

Stay good, stay healthy, keep diving!

Flemming Thyge



## New representative Able to Dive Spain

IAHD Foundation has asked Daniel Zuber to represent Able to Dive Spain and possibly IAHD Portugal in the near future. Currently, Daniel is also the regional manager for South Americas, where he originates from (Argentina), but nowadays he lives in Madrid.

Daniel has many contacts in the scuba diving industry and has been with the IAHD almost since the beginning.

Please let him know in case you have good ideas, questions or plan to organise an event. At the moment he is working on a fantastic trip to Puerto Madryn, where he was last year together with Antonio de Diego and made a huge impression in the South of Argentina, which was broadcasted on national television.

Daniel can be reached under: [daniel.zuber@iahd.org](mailto:daniel.zuber@iahd.org) or [spain@iahd.org](mailto:spain@iahd.org)

PS: Able to Dive Spain is the brand name for IAHD in Spain.



## Pegasus Thruster

IAHD has been collaborating with the team of Pegasus Thruster for many years. The Pegasus Thruster is a scuba diving propulsion vehicle, especially designed for people with a disability. It gives them the thrust to move through the water individually, which is perceived extremely positively.

There are many alternative DPV's on the market, however the weight, the thrust and the compact design of the Pegasus Thruster are highly recommended. Fraser has been testing this DPV many times. For this reason IAHD endorses this product and suggests you test it, when it comes available soon. Please, keep watching this space to learn more about this in the future.



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## Successful Dive Challenge Tour Oman

In the third week of March IAHD (International Association for Handicapped Divers) came to Muscat, The Sultanate of Oman, to introduce scuba diving for people with a physical and mental challenge.

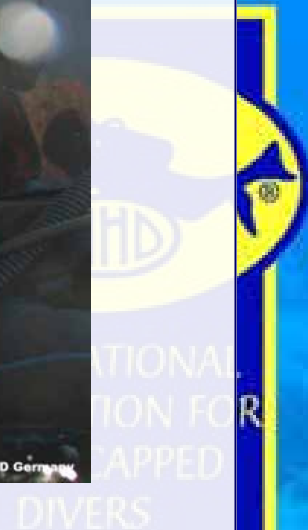
Some 30 Omani people with a disability discovered scuba diving on 19 and 20 March. During the Dive Challenge Tour Oman these people were introduced to scuba diving and went diving in the swimming pool of the Oman Dive Center in Qantab, Muscat.

The Sultanate of Oman is the first country in the Middle East where this project was being held. To ensure continuation part of this week's experience was the training of scuba diving instructors.

IAHD team Germany was taking care of the instructor training.

Currently, IAHD is investigating to establish IAHD Gulf to further expand towards this region and is working on this in close collaboration with local people and the Ministries of Social Development & Sports.

This event was approved by the Ministry for Sport and Ministry for Social Development and sponsored by Renaissance Services, ONEIC, Nawras, Qalhat LNG, Oman Orix Leasing, Oman Pumps & Engineering, Mustafa Sultan Enterprises, OOISS, Ajmal Intl. Est. and Arabian Signs. These organisations made it possible to organise this week and gave the disabled people of Oman the opportunity to experience something fantastic, something most of them never dreamt of...scuba diving for all!



## Nieuwe IAHD Nederland vertegenwoordigers

New IAHD Netherlands representatives

Eind 2008 heb ik Klaas Brouwer van de IAHD benaderd met de vraag of het mogelijk is om de samenwerking, we kennen elkaar ongeveer 10 jaar, verder uit te breiden en hiermee IAHD Nederland meer gestalte te geven. Daarnaast hebben we de afgelopen jaren op diverse punten samengewerkt om het duiken voor mensen met een handicap verder mogelijk te maken.



Naast het werk voor de IAHD, houd ik mijn ook bezig met activiteiten voor de Stichting Red Lobster. De doelstelling van beide stichtingen kan je bijna naadloos over elkaar heen leggen. Het grote verschil is dat de IAHD een organisatie is die wereldwijd werkt en de Red Lobster een lokaal karakter heeft, daarnaast ontwikkelt de IAHD trainingen en gebruikt Red Lobster deze trainingsprogramma's.

Mijn doel is om actief bezig te zijn met de deelnemers in het water. Duiken met mensen met een beperking gaat niet vanzelf, maar inmiddels heb ik hier een behoorlijke ervaring en netwerk opgebouwd. Jaren geleden ben ik instructeur bij de IAHD geworden om gebruik te kunnen maken van de mogelijkheden binnen hun filosofie en om het duiken voor mensen met een handicap mogelijk te maken. Nog altijd een goede keuze geweest!

Mijn doel voor IAHD Nederland is om actief bezig te zijn met de doelgroep en tevens vraag (deelnemers) en aanbod (duikers en instructeurs) bij elkaar te brengen.

Wellicht gaan we elkaar in de toekomst eens spreken, tot dan!

Frans Lobbe



Toen we einde 2008 in gesprek kwamen over het 'runnen' van IAHD Nederland, leek mijn dat een goed idee. Sinds vele jaren ben ik reeds betrokken bij IAHD en vertegenwoordig ik hen samen met Frans Lobbe in de commissie Duiken met Mindervaliden (DMM) van de NOB.

Ik ben getrouwd en heb een dochter van zeven. Op mijn 16e jaar kwam ik tijdens de zwemlessen op school in aanraking met duiken en ben nooit meer opgehouden. Inmiddels ben ik opgeklommen tot Instr. Trainer en Pro Trainer bij IAHD.

Naast deze activiteiten ben ik mede-eigenaar en instructeur bij Stichting Scuba4All, een Stichting voor het stimuleren van (lichamelijk) gehandicapten duikers in Nederland. Hier geven we geregeld opleidingen (IAHD, PADI, NOB, NAUI, etc) en IAHD Pro Trainingen. Vanuit deze ervaring ben ik gevraagd om IAHD Nederland verder van de grond te krijgen en meer handen en voeten te geven. Iets wat ik met veel plezier en passie heb aanvaard.

Vriendelijke groet,  
Erik van der Veen

**Nota bene: IAHD Nederland is te bereiken via [netherlands@iahd.org](mailto:netherlands@iahd.org)**

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## Update Seminar IAHD Nederland

### *Update Seminar IAHD Netherlands*

Op zaterdag 6 juni wordt er een update seminar georganiseerd voor alle IAHD leden in zwembad de Tongelreep in Eindhoven. Ondanks dat dit niet de meest centrale locatie hebben we hier wel toegang tot een zwembad en er komt een groep duikers met beperking, zodat een ieder die dat wil het water in kan om wat ervaring op te doen. Tevens zal er een demonstratie zijn van wat nieuwe ideeën over tillen.

Het programma begint om 13:00u met een presentatie omtrent de veranderingen in de standards en programma's van de IAHD en een informatie uitwisseling over subsidie mogelijkheden voor individuele duikers en duikscholen/verenigingen. Daarna is er van 15:00u tot 17:00u gelegenheid om in het zwembad actief bezig te zijn.

Er zijn geen kosten verbonden aan de deelname. Wel dien je je lidmaatschap voor 2009 te hebben voldaan.

Aanmelden kan via de member database of via een email naar: [netherlands@iahd.org](mailto:netherlands@iahd.org)

Op 10 november zal er op een nader te bepalen locatie eveneens een IAHD seminar zijn. Deze is echter bedoeld voor alle NOB instructeurs, deze worden dus niet op 6 juni verwacht.

Mocht je ideeën hebben of ervaring willen uitwisselen laat dan van je horen. Graag alle informatie naar: [netherlands@iahd.org](mailto:netherlands@iahd.org)

Vriendelijke groet,  
IAHD team Nederland

## Nieuwe IAHD Duikschool in Almere

### *New IAHD diveschool in Almere*

Afgelopen april is er in Almere een nieuwe duikschool geopend die ook IAHD opleidingen in haar opleidingsprogramma heeft. Een duikschool waar iedereen welkom is.

De staf is getraind via het IAHD systeem zodat ook mensen met bijvoorbeeld een dwarslaesie een duik kunnen wagen. Eerder heeft SeaSigns Divers al bij de Trappenberg te Huizen een introductie gedaan met diverse mensen van de dwarslaesie organisatie. Uiteraard kan iedereen bij SeaSigns Divers terecht voor een gedegen opleiding waarbij veel aandacht besteed wordt aan "aandacht en onthaasten"! tegenwoordig heeft iedereen het erg druk en is duiken een tak van sport waarbij je ook heerlijk kunt ontspannen. Naast IAHD opleidingen biedt SeaSigns Divers ook PADI en DAN opleidingen aan.

Adres: SeaSigns Divers, de Binderij 47 in Almere.



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## News from IAHD Americas

### **Exhibition: Our World Underwater**

At the end of February IAHD Americas took the "Able to Dive" message to Chicago for the annual Our World Underwater dive show. Hundreds of interested people came to learn about the opportunities IAHD Americas has to offer divers, instructors, dive centers, resorts, and operators. As a result, we are thrilled to announce a new sponsor, Deep Blue Adventures, this Ohio-based travel agency is totally devoted to divers and making "every dive the trip of a lifetime." For information, visit <http://www.bestdivetravel.com>

### **Exhibition: Beneath the Sea**

In the first quarter of 2009 IAHD Americas has been exhibiting at the largest consumer dive show in the USA. Attendees at booth 129 discovered how people with physical, mental, and emotional challenges (and their companions) can safely become certified divers, and how dive professionals acquire the skills, experience & credentials needed to do such amazing work. One highlight of the show was that IAHD-Americas will be raffling off more than \$6000 worth of prizes to benefit IAHD. The Grand Prize is a FREE 10 day all-inclusive trip for two to Egypt.

Every ticket purchased contributed to ensuring that that IAHD will be able to continue offering programs that give disabled individuals the chance of lifetime. Raffle tickets are \$10 each, 6 for \$50, a total of 750 chances will be sold. The drawing also included a 2nd prize- a Scubapro Aladin Prime Wrist Computer, and third prize- a pair of Atomic Smoke on the Water fins. These incredible offers would not be possible without the generosity of IAHD-Americas' Supporting Partners Learning Through Travel and the industry's Premier online equipment retailer Scuba Gear Plus

### **Sponsors & Sponsorship Benefits**

Speaking of sponsors, we are pleased to report that with every event, we are adding new partners as participating dive centers, resorts, operators and suppliers. One of the main attractions for these businesses is IAHD Americas' aggressive promotion campaign. This month, we have redesigned our IAHD Americas web site; which will offer supporting businesses display advertising space, as well as referencing their organization within a searchable database of operators, resorts, training facilities, etc.



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