

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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OPAF hosts Two First Dive Clinics across the Country

October 19, 2009 – OPAF and The First Clinics, along with local scuba shops, hosted two First Dive Intro to Scuba Clinics in Seattle, Washington and Lincoln, Nebraska in one week. On Sunday, September 20, OPAF along with Underwater Sports of Federal Way, Washington, hosted a First Dive Clinic for amputees in the northwest at Mt. Rainier Pool in Federal Way. Clinic was led by Walt Amidon of Underwater Sports and assisted by Randy Wright of The Dive Shop in Memphis, Tennessee and OPAF First Dive Director and board member, Stacey Minton. We were also most fortunate to have representatives from the AOPA National Assembly attendees join us for the afternoon, including Brad Rosenberger, CPO of Nebraska O & P Services and OPGA Director of Communications, Cassie Ubben as well as clinic participant and prosthetic resident, Chris Casteel of Michigan. A total of six amputees spent the afternoon in the pool facilities at Mt. Rainier and received one on one instruction from some of the top adaptive scuba instructors in the country. Walt Amidon of Underwater Sports hopes to repeat the First Dive Clinic again in the near future and attract even more attendees.

The following Sunday, September 27, OPAF, along with Husker Divers of Lincoln, Nebraska hosted a First Dive Intro to Scuba clinic at the Cooper Branch YMCA pool. This was the second year in a row that Joe Tyler, owner of Husker Divers has hosted a First Dive Clinic. This year they had five clinic attendees, all of whom wheelchair participants and were either paraplegics or quadriplegics. Brad Rosenberger, CPO of Nebraska O & P Services attended this clinic as well and has promised Joe and staff that future clinics will have five amputee attendees from Lincoln, Nebraska and five from Omaha. That's a promise!

For more information on hosting a First Dive Intro to Scuba Clinic for your practice, your patients and your community, contact the OPAF office at 215-752-5756 or rlb@opfund.org.

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