

Biosketch:

Wayne R. Hasson

Wayne Hasson began his diving career in 1967 and was certified as a dive instructor in 1971. He spent over 8 years in the United States Marine Corp and spent much of his free time teaching diving to Marines, their family members and students of East Carolina and Duke Universities.

As the cofounder of Aggressor Fleet in 1984 he designed, built and worked as Captain for several years on the first M/V Cayman Aggressor. He went on to further develop the luxury live aboard concept building an entire fleet of 12 franchise vessel operations worldwide. Today, as the Managing Director of Aggressor Fleet Operations, he travels frequently meeting other dive industry partners, business associates and interacting with government officials of all levels.

Wayne created a huge following of dedicated dive enthusiasts throughout his career and received nationally acclaimed fame through the invention of the “SASY” Supplied Air Snorkeling for Youth. He has been featured as a photographer and inventor in many worldwide publications such as: Wildlife, Newsweek, New York Times, Skin Diver, Rodales Scuba Diving, Sport Diving, Diver England and Canada, Marine Photo Japan, and many others. He has worked with Hollywood producers in feature films such as; James Bonds “Never Say Never”, “The Abyss”, David Hasselhoff’s “Baywatch” and “National Geographic Explorer”, working directly with hosts Robert Urich and Leslie Nielsen.

As the Mooring Committee Chairman of the Cayman Islands Watersports Association he organized, implemented, funded and installed the first permanent moorings in the Cayman Islands, going on to do the same for Belize, Turks & Caicos, Bay Islands, Kona, Hawaii; Palau, and Chuuk. He received the Beneath the Sea “Diver of the Year” award for these environmental efforts and continues today to be involved. As the Vice President of “SITA” Sister Island Tourism Association he headed up the Russian Destroyer project overseeing the purchasing and sinking of the first Russian war ship sunk as an artificial reef in Cayman Brac.

Wayne has been honored with many prestigious positions over the years such as; President of the Cayman Islands Watersports Operators Association, President of Oceans for Youth Foundation, Member PADI/PIRA Advisory Board, Member NAUI BOD, and Vice President of DEMA. He is a current Dive Instructor Trainer for several certification agencies, a recipient of the Platinum Pro Award with over 10,000 dives and he still spends several hundred hours underwater every year. He’s a Commercial Pilot and stays active by being involved with the Young Eagle Program, which involves taking youth from ages 8-18 to flight.

Wayne has a passion for creating more awareness around the ocean environment and teaching children. He continues to make presentations to schools, service clubs, dive clubs, dive shops and other venues keeping them interested with his many choices of educational materials in DVD, video, slide and electronic formats. He was recently appointed to the Board of Advisors of the Everglades National Parks Committee of Southwest Florida.

Position Statement:

I would like to begin by expressing my gratitude to the current Board of Directors, the Nomination Committee and to the members that have supported my nomination. As a dedicated member of the DEMA Board of Directors, I would be proud and pleased to serve another term on the board.

We are all aware, the dive industry is always looking for new and innovative ways to promote training and dive travel, which results in equipment sales. As a member of the Board of Directors, it has been my ambition and goal to attract a new generation of divers.

As we have discussed in past board meetings and with many of our industry partners, a good marketing plan will elevate enthusiasm and increase awareness for the sport of diving. We have all been working hard to overcome the challenges that face all leisure activities but I feel strongly that we need to work even harder to find solutions that will attract the next generation of baby boomers.

The diving community and industry needs to encourage families to become diving buddies. Families will benefit from participating in our sport together, equipment sales will increase and families will travel more. We are about to embark on a long-range plan to reach the non-diving world using a professional PR firm that will be paid for using your money. This is desperately needed and over due. I strongly feel we need to reach all children and teens, including those with disabilities. More importantly, we will be reaching families that will take up diving and become a favorite pastime, moving the dive industry forward. There is also a need to start promoting more advance diving, technology and technical diving beyond recreation limits.

As a contributor in the A5 category, I seek your support to help energize the diving industry! We need more networking together in our industry if we want to make a difference and I need your input if you decide to elect me for another term now that we have the financial ability to move forward with this project. Even though our industry may seem a bit fragmented today, I believe we will all come together again at the next DEMA SHOW in Las Vegas and be more of a cohesive team that will work together for common goals and achievements.

As a Board Member I will follow our mission and goals to promote the advancement of the diving industry, continuing business education programs, promote and encourage the growth of diving activities, exchange information among industry members, support the diving industry with communication services, media relations and resources, monitor legislation that impacts diving, support the diving industry in the monitoring and protection of the environment through education and activities.

Many thank to all that have sent kind words of encouragement these past two years.

Always Safe Diving,

Wayne R. Hasson