



Mark S. Kistner

16 August 1955 – 2 April 2009

It is with deep sadness that the PADI family announces the passing of PADI Master Instructor Mark S. Kistner, who passed away 2 April 2009 at the age of 53.

Kistner was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, USA, and attended both Northern Michigan University and Hamline Law School in Minnesota, after which he became a member of the State Bar of Michigan. Along with being a volunteer for the Metamora Fire Department, he also sat on the council of the Michigan Underwater Preserve, was a professional underwater recovery expert who assisted law enforcement, and was an avid skier and fisherman.

When it came to scuba diving, Kistner traveled the world looking for new and exciting adventures. More than anything, he was proud to be a PADI Master Scuba Instructor for Colombo SCUBA Adventures — a dive business in Troy, Michigan, USA. Kistner would never miss an opportunity to share the underwater world and thus certified hundreds of divers.

Giving his all to help others was a hallmark of Kistner's personality. One unforgettable incident occurred when Kistner dove to 18 metres/60 feet in cold water without thermal protection to assist the rescue of a diver in trouble. In fact, he was known as the "Polar Bear" for his ability to seemingly ignore the effects of cold water at depth.

Chris Colombo, owner of Colombo SCUBA, describes him best: "He was just a good guy."

Kistner is survived by his mother, Ann Kistner, and sister, Cindy Kistner-Troyanovich. He will be sorely missed by all.