

This time of year is punctuated with retrospectives and why should underwater photography be any different?!

From an equipment point of view there can be no doubt about two things; firstly Nikon and Canon's entry into the full frame mirrorless market and secondly Nauticam's expanding range of dedicated underwater lenses.

The former provides a fascinating insight into the workings of the photographic industry and the latter confirms to me how lucky we are to have such a comparatively small company (compared to the likes of Nikon and Canon) who have dedicated their output to optimise the images from our world. Their range of dedicated underwater lenses has way surpassed the achievements of Nikon in the Nikonos and Nikonos RS eras so their vision, endeavours and achievements deserve highlighting.

Parting Shot

For the first time in a while no Parting Shots have been sent in so.....

Do you have a shot which has a story within a story?
If so e mail it with up to 500 words of text and yours could be the next Parting Shot.
peter@uwpmag.com
 and yours could be in UwP107

Plastic response

Dear Peter

I read your words in your recent issue of the UwP magazine about plastic pollution, and it is a subject close to my heart, in that on all my recent (over last three or four years) dive trips to Asia, including Tanzania, Philippines, Indonesia (Bali) I have witnessed the most dreadful pollution of the once beautiful and pristine seas by plastic of all kinds, both floating on the surface and on the sea bed. Likewise the use of dynamite for fishing along all the coasts where there are human populations is more and more evident with a dearth of fish life where once the reefs were teeming with life.

What the solution is or can be is difficult to say, as there are no waste collection procedures in the small towns along Asia's coasts, and the growing population has to feed itself, with no work available in so many places.

Having dived in Asia since the mid 1960's and being involved in UW photography for most of my diving life, I find this really dreadful and a problem that the world needs to address, not just export its waste (like the UK does!!!) to other countries who pick out the usable products and dump the rest into rivers and this eventually ends up in the sea.

Best regards

Leo Collier

I was very saddened to hear of the passing of Bob Halstead just before Christmas.

For a while the lights in our world will burn a little dimmer without his presence but he transformed our world in so many ways. He has been quite rightly described as all of these: an innovator, a pioneer, an educator, an explorer; but I think above all he was a true luminary and his many achievements leave our world in a much better and therefore brighter place.

I had the great pleasure of diving with Bob on MV Golden Dawn in Papua New Guinea. He was relief skipper on back to back charters filming with Peter Scoones for the original Blue Planet series. His reputation (he invented Muck Diving, for heaven's sake) preceded him but I found him to be so level in his dealings and I rejoiced in his oh so logical free thinking; especially when it came to things like solo diving and I always warm to a person who doesn't log their dives. In his own inimitable words "If I do not log my sex life, why should I log my dive life?"

Which leads me to what I think is his most succinct summation of our world and it works on so many levels: "If you can't take a joke, don't take up underwater photography".

Goodbye, Bob. Thanks for the ride and I just wish I could have had the opportunity to thank you and say "Cheerio".

Peter Rowlands
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