

Top heavy and needs to change

Welcome to another bumper issue of UwP but I'm acutely aware that it is "top heavy" and by that I mean that most of the reviews are of top end equipment both in terms of specification and price.

As a result I am reaching out to those readers who use less expensive systems and they don't even have to be current, to do reviews, or even mini reviews for UwP readers. My suspicion is that the a big majority of UwP readers are not full frame users and probably not even 4/3rds so that leaves an awful lot not being catered for.

The moulded polycarbonate housings for Sony, Canon and Olympus, as an example, are still available, are excellent value and the cameras they house are more than capable of excellent results so please get in touch with your suggestions and we can take it from there.

My first digital camera was an Olympus 40z in their plastic housing which together with the Inon WL165 wide angle lens produced images, admittedly taken in the clear Red Sea, which were quite ground breaking at the time and it was as easy as point and shoot.

I look forward to working with you.



Editorial

Close encounters

Mark Harris' excellent mini article about his encounter with a wild dolphin is an interesting read and could be the start of a new section in future issues of UwP.

Just as the Parting Shot page is aimed at a single image with a story so too could be 'Close encounters' but with a few more images to make a mini article but not enough and enough variety to justify a full blown article.

It could be the wrasse that followed you for the whole dive, the seal that took a shine to your fins or, if you had the cool headedness to take images of the titan triggerfish that was making a torpedo like beeline for your wedding tackle to defend its nest. You get the drift by now, I'm sure.

It only needs two or three images and a few hundred words but it would make for great reading and visual encouragement.

I'm pretty sure we've all had those special moments and taken a few snaps so it would be great to feature them here and, once again, I look forward to working with you.

YouTube

You don't need me to tell you what a phenomenon YouTube is. It's the go-to site for anything from entertainment to instructions to reviews and recommendations. It's also the perfect platform for you to display your talents be it a simple underwater video from a trip or an edited production with soundtrack and effects.

What may not be immediately obvious is that, just with terrestrial TV, full HD is often the highest quality and that means you don't need to have expensive equipment to produce videos. In fact full HD cameras nowadays, even comparatively inexpensive ones, can shoot at higher frame rates which produce gorgeously smooth, professional looking footage.

If you're a good story teller you could build up a following of subscribers which could well attract sponsors and thus become a life changing possibility and all of this without needing to 'invest' in the latest 4k monster.

Mobile phones

We all carry a camera with us in our mobile phones and as the manufacturers unveil their latest top of the line models it is often the photographic performance which is the must have feature.

The latest such feature is Night Mode which could obviously be very useful underwater in low light conditions with available light.

On the iPhone 11 for example when Night mode is engaged, the camera analyzes the available amount of light and then it chooses the number of frames needed to create a suitable image. The camera then takes a series of images for a set amount of time depending on the amount of available light.

The images are taken at different exposures, some with longer exposures and some with shorter exposures and this lets the iPhone pull out the best parts of the scene, highlighting what's important.

I look forward to seeing the images that this feature produces, especially in UK and temperate waters where light levels can be challenging.

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