

I have always been a fan of the smartphone for underwater photography and, in particular the iPhone, so I was intrigued to be contacted by a UWP reader who sent me a link regarding a patent which Apple had filed in 2019.

The application was granted recently for “Submersible electronic devices with imaging capabilities”. You can find out more by following the link below but what they plan is: After automatically detecting if a photograph is being taken underwater, the proposed device can make a number of changes to improve the chances the image will be a good one.

This in itself would not be very groundbreaking as there are already apps out there which do a great job at improving existing underwater images. What intrigued me was in the last paragraph of the article which stated that “Apple is also working to improve the water resistance of its devices, which it has explored in other patents by replacing the Lightning port with contacts and magnetically-attached and aligned cables.”

With Apple’s track record of entering an existing market and dominating it, it is both exciting and worrying at the same time.

[Link](#)

What do I know?

This September I was once again asked to judge the Torbay Splash In here in the southwest of the UK. It had been postponed from July for “C” reasons but was able to go ahead after the lockdown eased and I was able to view the images remotely and e mail the results to the organisers within an hour. Like a lot of things this year we have learned that there’s a great deal we can still do without ‘being there’.

My point is, however, that the organisers had clearance from the health authorities to hold a presentation gathering the same evening where all of the images from the day which I had judged were projected for those attending to vote for their favourite - The People’s Vote - so to speak.

Surprise, surprise. Either I was wrong, or they were, because they voted for an image which wasn’t even in my top three!

It just goes to show that underwater photography competitions, and in fact imaging competitions of any kind, can distort reality because one man’s meat is another man’s etc etc

Cline’s State of The Dive Industry Sentiment Study

Cline, the Diving Industry Advertising, Marketing & Research Company conducted a recent survey of the diving industry in view of recent developments and it doesn’t make comfortable reading.

There was, however, some wise words which gave a positive take on the situation and the following feedback from one industry insider struck a chord with me:

“We need a strong local diving presence - something that we can focus on even with current pandemic challenges. It’s easy to highlight the exotic, warm and colorful destinations in marketing materials, but as an industry, we seem to have shifted the majority of our focus away from local dive centers and onto destination dive operators.

With that focus, divers have the experience once or twice a year and it becomes easy for them to drift away. It isn’t front of mind for them, they are “rusty” and uncomfortable for their first few dives on each trip, and they are more likely to simply rent equipment from the resort than have

their own gear.

A focus on local dive opportunities could help to change this. Reenergize local dive clubs. Increase stories in dive publications that feature excellent local diving rather than the “cold, dark quarry” descriptions that we typically see.”

And before you think that it was I who penned it, it wasn’t; but I couldn’t agree more.

Lockdown 2

Just when we thought it might get back to some sense of normality, here in the UK, and in many other countries, we are going into a second lockdown for at least another month.

That’s back to square one with most activities off limits including watersports. A ban on all but essential travel will put the dive industry back to almost minus one with trips cancelled and, more importantly, future trip planning almost certainly put on hold.

One thing is certain though; there’s nothing worse than uncertainty.

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