

100 and 20 and counting

I couldn't let this issue go by without highlighting the fact that within these pages we have the 100th equipment review by our Senior Reviewer Phil Rudin.

Phil started with us in UwP56 (Sept/Oct 2010) and with very few exceptions has had content in each and every issue. His consistency of detailed output has built him a loyal and trusted following both with readers and manufacturers alike.

Equipment reviews are a minefield and diving publications over the decades have seen their share of ego driven BS merchants come and go to evaporate in their own air after controversial comments have divided opinions and caused even more hot air on forums.

The thing I like about Phil's reviews is firstly that he gets them in on time (mostly!) but secondly, and much more importantly, he simply reports the facts and treats you as an intelligent reader capable of making up your own mind. A rare thing, these days.

And what's the 20? Well UwP is 20 years old this issue :-)

Cakes all round please.

Editorial

Deep Dive Dubai

The news that Deep Dive Dubai (DDD) is open is a welcome story and, even if we never get the chance to dive it, we can all imagine the large range of uses that such an impressive facility can provide.

Pools still exist which were built with feature film work in mind but they have tended to be industrialised swimming pools and definitely not open to the general public and that's why DDD is so welcome.

It is not, however, the first such facility. Deepspot in Poland opened last year and is 45 metres (actually 45m and 47cm!) and is the deepest facility in Europe. Now DDD, at 60 metres, is the deepest in the world and, no doubt, like skyscrapers, the next will have to deeper than 60 metres.

Whatever the incentive there should be more of these facilities in every country and we currently, in the south west of the UK, have a proposal to build 'Blue Abyss' - a facility within the Aerohub Enterprise Zone at Cornwall Airport Newquay.

It remains to be seen how the fund raising goes but these fingers are crossed.

iPhone panos

I have always enjoyed shooting panoramas and my first article was back in UwP24 (May/June 2005).

Their attraction is that they create an extra dimension, can be achieved with inexpensive equipment and there is a shed of free software that does an excellent job in stitching the frames together.

True, as with most images, clear water helps and my first attempts in limited UK visibility weren't encouraging. Then Apple introduced iOS 6 in 2012 with their Pano capability but it wasn't until the iPhone X that the photo sensor was good enough in low light.

Unfortunately Apple have chosen not to divulge a way of controlling the Pano mode via Bluetooth in housings but just recently some housings have surfaced which can control all of the iPhone camera functions with physical push buttons.

My initial attempts in limited UK visibility have been very encouraging and they are certainly exciting to shoot as I can see them 'developing' in the small window bottom left as I pan.

It's a work in progress and I hope to show more in UwP123.

Unique times

You don't need me to tell you so I won't but the effects of the last 18 months have been far reaching and include the publishing world.

In the diving world, long established titles have disappeared, others have ceased printing and gone digital as revenue and content has dried up.

UwP is no exception and this is the thinnest issue we've had in a long time and for the same obvious reasons. Very few are travelling and writing about holiday destinations and manufacturers are tightening their financial belts in these unique times.

Global news on the economic future front depends on who you ask but they are all looking at crystal balls with no guarantees so making plans it very difficult.

UwP has the last three issues of 'UP' which we would like to finish for neatness sake and for the historical record and then we'll have to wait and see how things are panning out when that finishes in six months, or three issues, time.

Hey, ho.

Peter Rowlands
peter@uwpmag.com