

Editorial

That first excitement

Mikayla Shuler's excellent article about her first time in the water with and photographing Manatees in Florida is a great reminder of our first times underwater - camera or not - and the life changing experience it can be.

Mine was in Lake Ullswater in the Lake District at Easter in my brother's two sizes too big wetsuit and his sole advice was 'Just keep breathing and don't hold your breath'. Wise words as it turned out and I returned to the shore 15 minutes later shivering but excited at having seen and experienced the underwater world first hand. True, there was not much to see in this cold freshwater lake but the seeds had been sown.

The lovely shot of Mikayla and her friend Livi warming up with a cup of hot chocolate on the boat made me wonder how the "What did you do on your holidays" question at school has changed from 'We went on a farm trip' to I swam with, and photographed, Manatees in Florida!

How positively times have changed.

Local competitions

My annual trip to judge the Torbay Splash In was another enjoyable experience and the images taken were testament to the abiding attraction of these events. There's something very exciting about seeing the results which were all taken 'on the day' within a local region providing a visual snapshot.

I think I'm right in thinking that one of the very first 'Splash In' competitions was organised by the British Society of Underwater Photographers in the late 1960's and it would be great to hear of any similar events which take place nowadays and I'd be happy to publish your account of the day and show some of the winning images.

As a comparatively solitary pastime Splash Ins provide an ideal opportunity to mingle with other like minded souls, see the results and have the chance to find out how the shots were taken. An invaluable learning experience and one which has so often lead to friendships and teaming up for future sorties underwater.

New product slowdown

It was inevitable that almost two years of stuttering activity has led to supply chain interruptions. Sony, for example, announced, back in November 2021, that it was suspending production of its a6100, a6400 and a7 II models and the underwater photography equipment world was no different.

This issue of UwP doesn't have the bumper hamper of new products that it usually has for obvious reasons but, as things start to ease and get back to normal, I'm sure that will be rectified.

The same is true for new product reviews which hopefully by the next issue will be in full flow, so to speak.

As a positive sign that things are getting back to normal Sony Japan's website says: "From May 27, 2022, we will resume accepting orders from Distributors to us and orders from customers at the Sony Store."

So hopefully it won't be long before new cameras start to fill the shelves again.

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