

2022 Digital Shootout, Bonaire

by The Digital Shootout Educational & Production Staff

The worldwide community of underwater photographers is small in scale, but mighty with our shared love of the ocean. Being out of the water for 2+ years felt foreign to many of us. How glorious it was to not only spend precious moments underwater again, but also to reunite with our fellow image-makers at the 19th Digital Shootout in Bonaire at the Divi Flamingo Beach Resort!

During this year's two week-long workshop for underwater photographers, an international mix of 65 guests and 20 staff gathered for the sharing of photography and editing techniques, checking out the newest underwater imaging gear, exploring and relishing in the tranquil calm of Bonaire below the surface and capturing meaningful images of marine inhabitants with like-minded dive buddies old and new. While this year's Shootout offered a new two-week schedule – 3 boat dives daily, 24-7 shore diving available, late afternoon seminars, evening image critiques or inspirational presentations by the pros – the hit-the-ocean-finning energy makes for a contagious learning environment for improved underwater imaging.

Emerging from a 2+ year

pandemic, many folks were a bit rusty when it came to scuba diving, their camera and their image editing software. But once the fog cleared, guests participated in the very full daily schedule of 3 boat dives, 24/7 available shore diving, daily late afternoon seminars on photography, videography or editing, evening image critiques or inspirational presentations by the pros and checking out the awesome underwater camera gear in the Demo Gear room. Squeeze in breakfast, lunch and dinner and you've got a 27-hour schedule packed into one day! Then repeat every day for two weeks... you can autobahn your way to improving your underwater imaging skills in a very short time. It's also your vacation time, so if a seminar was skipped for the spa, or an image critique was passed on for a night dive, no judgement here, only thumbs up. Learning and fun go together like peanut butter and jelly or Champagne and caviar. Learning is FUN!

A common sentiment heard over the two-week event was one of gratitude. Appreciation for all things big and small was conveyed by many, who were overjoyed to get back into the ocean after a lengthy unplanned



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hiatus. Being surrounded by like-minded folks buoyed spirits and souls. We are among the lucky.

Whether it is immediately realized or not, once you become an underwater photographer, you

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automatically become an ambassador for the underwater realm. Many factors are causing the degradation of the Earth's oceans, lakes and waterways. By sharing your images and experiences, you too can be the impetus for change by increasing awareness and getting folks to care about the ocean. Love the ocean. Protect what you love. Manufacturers and their reps bring thousands of pounds of cameras, housings, strobes, lights and accessories to the Shootout each year for guests to try out the newest underwater imaging gear available. The Demo Gear program is second to none, as no other underwater photography event has as much gear to demo as the Shootout. Please visit our Gear Tests page for reviews by our on-location pros of the latest cameras, housings and accessories.

While it's called the Digital Shootout, the focus of this event is learning. Our participants range from budding beginner to veteran shutterbug, and regardless of skill level, everyone goes home having learned something new. Year after year, the organizers – Backscatter Underwater Video & Photo and Under Exposures – collect some amazing prizes to award at the event's end when even the budding beginner has gained skill and confidence to enter



2022 Digital Shootout Educational & Production Staff - Berkley White, Jim Decker, Todd Winner, James Emery, Jennifer Penner, Joel Penner, Dan Baldocchi, Erin Quigley, Cristian Dimitrius, Hergen Spalin



into our friendly competition. You'll find beautiful imagery in photos and videos that depict the wonders of the ocean in the Contest Results section.

Join us in 2023 for the 20th annual Digital Shootout, held in Little Cayman at the Little Cayman Beach Resort! Whether new to the Shootout or a long-time friend, the camaraderie amongst like-minded individuals is unmatched! See you in Little Cayman!

www.thedigitalshootout.com

Bonaire Coral Reef Restoration at the DIVI

Unfortunately, it's old news that coral reefs around the world are on the decline but for 10 years, a coral reef restoration program has been in place on Bonaire to help mitigate these losses and increase the health of the reefs.

In 2021, another coral nursery was added at the Divi Flamingo's house reef. Heading up this new nursery of staghorn and elkhorn corals is scuba instructor Dénise Glacer.

Currently, the nursery is 3 underwater "trees" that each holds 100 coral fragments – 70 staghorn, 30 elkhorn. Once the fragments are large enough, they are out-planted onto the Divi's house reef, Calabas Reef, where (hopefully) they will continue to grow and attract marine life. To learn more about the coral reef restoration being done on Bonaire, check out Reef Renewal Bonaire.



www.reefrenewalbonaire.org

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SET of Sea & Sea YS 250 PRO, incl.diffusers and TCL ball mounts, 2x batteries, 2x chargers (EU and UK). 5-pin Dual Sync cord-1pc, 5-pin Sync Cord N-2pc, 2sets - Double Ball Arm L and M, YS-TTL Converter, spare ... [More >](#)



FOR SALE – Sea Frogs Panasonic GH5 housing, flat and dome port

Brand new and never taken underwater, 40 metre Sea Frogs (formerly Meikon) housing for the Panasonic GH5. Flat port for macro lenses and dome port for wide angle. No zoom or manual focus controls. Prefer sale in the UK and ... [More >](#)



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Aquatica Macro Port (Manual & Autofocus) for any DSLR Aquatica housing with the 4 lugs bayonet fitting. £180. Sea & Sea YS -120 Duo Strobes with instructions & one Diffuser they are in good used condition and in full working ... [More >](#)



FOR SALE – Nauticam Na-d800 Housing for Nikon D800

Nauticam Na-d800 Housing for Nikon D800 Excellent condition. Full overall by Nauticam in December 2017, not in the water since. Vacuum check; electronic monitoring circuit installed, no vacuum system. 2000 euros + shipping ... [More >](#)



FOR SALE – Nauticam flat ports and lenses Sony 28mm and 90mm

Nauticam flat port for Sony 28mm + sony lens 28mm +Nauticam flat port for Sony 90mm + sony lens 90mm+Nauticam trigger flash for sony. SOLD Can be sold separately. Total price 1260€ (does not include insurance and shipping) ... [More >](#)



FOR SALE – SEA & SEA MM2 U/W CAMERA WITH ACCESSORIES

SEA & SEA MM2 U/W CAMERA WITH ACCESSORIES: - Yellow SUB 50 TTL strobe / arm extension - SEA & SEA 16mm Wide angle lens MM-2 - SEA & SEA Macro lens ML-2/3T plus attachments - Removable view finder - ... [More >](#)



FOR SALE – Nikon D500 + Hugaft D500 setup

This one year old set of equipment is in excellent working condition and will serve great to a new owner. The reason for sale is a switch to a new equipment. Nikon D500 (19k clicks). Sigma 10mm F2.8 Fish Eye. 128Gb XQD Lexar ... [More >](#)

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