

Editorial

Pool envy

At this time of the year, here in the south west of the UK, the sea state, vizibility and water temperature are usually not the most conducive for a two tank dive day intersperced with lunch afloat and a general catch up.

The reality is often quick trips out for a short dive from frosty gangways, with padded windproofs, caps with earflaps and snotty noses.

And then I saw Pete Atkinson's excellent front cover image and realised that I suffer from 'PE' at this time of year. It's a syndrome where I fantasise about a crystal clear, warm, freshwater swimming pool and preferably with a usefully deep, deep end.

Local authority cutbacks have seen an increasing number of leisure centres at risk and indoor pools are not ideal in terms of available light so I envy Pete and his pools in Phuket where he can start with a visually blank canvas with time to create in shorts, T shirt and a light weightbelt.

Roll on summer.

UwP Annual Survey

Many thanks to all those of you who completed our annual survey; the feedback you have provided both about equipment purchases and views on UwP content have been most helpful.

In terms of equipment purchases/movements, not much has changed really; about 10% looking to downsize from full frame/SLR and the same looking to move up from compact/4/3rds to a larger format. That's pretty much the same as in previous surveys.

The big difference is in readers' plans to purchase a major piece of equipment such as a lens/strobe etc and the even bigger difference is readers plans to travel. Both were up by around 20% to over 55% and 65% respectively so it looks like equipment manufacturers and dive resorts are in for a bumper time.

It also confirms my belief that no one wants to be the first to give up their underwater cameras and dive travel so let's hope that technology will come up with a solution to let us keep doing it.

iPhone Panos?

Patient readers can skip this if they're not into using smartphones underwater but, for those who are, I might, just might, have some exciting news for you about a housing and App combo which is promising to provide the ability to switch to 'Pano' underwater.

As patient readers still here will know, I have been a fan of the capability of the Pano function on smartphones for underwater imaging. It gives the ability to create space even in poor vizibility without the need for additional wide angle lenses.

In the past I have reviewed several housings and Apps - none of which (apart from the mechanically buttoned SeaFrogs housing) were able to provide the Pano ability.

I always assumed that Apple would not release 'the code' to allow App developers to open the Pano function but while messaging a new smartphone housing distributor they checked with the manufacturer and App developer and the reply came that they can and the next version of their App will have this facility.

More in UwP132...

Go to YouTube

In our fast advancing world, communication is now available in many forms; the most recent being YouTube aided by the availability of smartphones to self film presenters.

The quality standard and information imparted varies significantly but the beauty is that only the fittest survive. By that I mean that poor quality and information is not 'liked' or 'subscribed' and therefore dwindles. This leaves the well produced and presented Channels to survive and thrive. They are free, one to one tutorials and there is no better way of learning the in's and out's of underwater photography.

You can pause and rewind to go over something that didn't quite 'go in' or even pause and come back when it suits to continue the learning process.

Having listened to the theory, there are then plenty of workshops to go on to put your new found knowledge into practice.

The result must be better images all round.

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