

2023 Digital Shootout Review

by Under Exposures

This year's Digital Shootout marked the 20th anniversary of this renowned event. WOW! 20 years of dive, shoot, learn and repeat, the perfect recipe for a working vacation for the underwater image-maker looking to level up! And there was no better place to celebrate it than Little Cayman Beach Resort!

During this two week-long workshop, an international mix of 60 guests and 20 staff gathered for the sharing of photography and editing techniques, checking out the newest underwater imaging gear, exploring Little Cayman's Bloody Bay and Jackson Bight sections of the Bloody Bay Marine Park and capturing images of ocean inhabitants with like-minded dive buddies, old and new.

The two-week schedule – 3 boat dives daily, late afternoon seminars, evening image critiques or inspirational presentations by the pros – makes for a contagious learning environment for improved underwater imaging in a very short amount of time.

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 latest and greatest.

No other underwater imaging event in the world has the amount of demo gear that is showcased each year at the Digital Shootout. Dozens of camera systems on-offer from Nauticam, Isotta and Backscatter, as well as strobes, lights and accessories to give you the tools needed to produce quality underwater images. And Pegasus Thruster brought their very popular tank-mounted DPVs for participants to zip up and down the reef.

Not only is there demo gear to try, but the manufacturers' reps are also available to answer questions and share their expertise with attendees during meals, on the boats, in the Demo Gear room, before seminars, after seminars, over a beer at the bar. Talking tech and specs is what the manufacturers' reps love to do! Please visit our [GEAR TESTS](#) page for reviews by our on-location pros of the latest cameras, housings and accessories.

Even while learning, we like to have FUN! Check out the [SHOOTOUT LIFE](#) section to experience the diving, the learning and the camaraderie



WINNER John Obremski - WIDE ANGLE TRADITIONAL



The Jim Watt Award



Jim Watt was more than a friend to the Shootout. He was a living example of our mission statement. Jim was one of the first professional underwater photographers to adopt digital photography and was thrilled to share all his shooting secrets with first time shooters or fellow professional photographers. His passion and skill in creating new images was infectious and inspired hundreds of Digital Shootout guests over the years. Our Best of Show image is honored with the Jim Watt Award of excellence.

This year's winner was William Ewing.

WINNER Chris Nonell - POINT & SHOOT

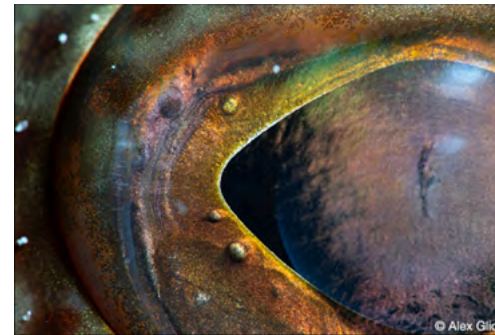


shared by this amazing group of passionate image-makers.

Scuba divers, certified and active, comprise about 1% of the world's population. Underwater photographers are an even rarer breed. We all have family and friends who are not scuba divers or even snorkelers; they have no idea what's in the ocean, what we see and experience and how cool it is. Sharing our underwater experiences with the other 99% can inspire action to protect our natural world for future generations.

So, how do you make the leap from scuba diver to underwater photographer? The Digital Shootout is the fast track to learning the fundamentals of underwater photography, underwater videography, post processing and much more. A fun-filled, learning-rich, two-week workshop can take anyone

WINNER Alex Glick - MACRO TRADITIONAL



from zero to hero.

A typical day at the Shootout starts with an early breakfast, boats departing at 7:30 for two tanks of diving either the Bloody Bay wall or Jackson Bight section of the marine park. Return for a semi-leisurely lunch then a one tank dive for more of Little Cayman's underwater awesomeness. Daily afternoon seminars covering photography topics or editing techniques run 5:00-6:30. A sumptuous buffet dinner provides a break from the learning, followed by either a participants' photos critique or inspirational presentation by one of the pros. Here lies the conundrum of a working vacation. Nothing is compulsory, everything is optional. Take the fast lane, the slow lane or the middle lane, your vacation, your choice. No judgement. The only requirement is to have fun!

While it's called the Digital Shootout, the focus of this event is learning. Our participants range from

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 burgeoning beginner has gained skill and confidence to enter into our friendly competition. Our Share the Wealth policy dictates no matter how many wins, places, or shows a participant receives, only the one favorite prize goes home with him/her. Year after year, many guests jest that they are just there for the raffle! You'll find beautiful imagery in photos and videos that depict the wonders of the ocean in the [CONTEST RESULTS](#) section.

[JOIN US](#) in 2024 for another fun-filled, two week workshop of dive, shoot, learn and repeat, again 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