

Our community

Without wishing to make it sound like an alternative cult, I have always tended to refer to us as a community. A like minded bunch of mild eccentrics with a common interest in underwater imaging.

Our community consists of all sorts, from all corners and with all levels of expertise and, in the main, we are happy to pass on whatever capabilities we may have for the benefit of newcomers.

Socially we have two main online sites in which to impart this help and knowledge as well as hear about what's new, what's up and coming and what's the best places to go.

Unfortunately, recently, a situation has come to light which has tainted our community; this is extremely sad for everyone and especially so for those affected financially by the alleged activities of Adam Hanlon, the owner of Wetpixel.

There has been a great deal of coverage online so, if this is news to you, there is plenty of information out there but I don't intend to add to it. Suffice it to say it is time for the legal process to be hired to hopefully restore finances or achieve restitution but it has left an embarrassing stain on our community which I think, will take a long time to get over.

Editorial

OM TG7 & OM RC

Apologies for the rather odd title but the OM refers to the renaming of the Olympus brand from Olympus to OM Digital Solutions (shortened to OM) to convey that they are not just about cameras anymore.

I'm sure they had their reasons and I'm also sure the focus groups gave them reasoned and reassuring feedback but it doesn't work for me. It's why all other major camera brands have names - Nikon, Canon, Sony to name the big three - that works for me.

But regardless of what name they want to use we should be very grateful to OM for continuing to cater for us underwater photographers from beginner to advanced. The TG7 tough camera is an amazingly well specified 'underwater' camera capable of operating solo down to 15 metres and then up to 45 metres in a very good value for money and performance polycarbonate housing.

In addition most OM cameras benefit from the RC system of flash exposure control and this has been taken up by Sea & Sea in their latest YS-D3 DUO strobe to provide this precision underwater.

IMHO, OM is great. LOL.

Homage

As a young underwater photographer of the 70's I have lived through what I believe were very evolving and therefore very exciting times in underwater photography but times change and things move on, you say, and you'd be quite right.

But it heartens me to see examples of today's manufacturers tipping their caps to the camera designs of that era - Nikon's gorgeous Z fc and OM's homage to the Olympus OM1 - the..... OM1. The Nikon Z fc was inspired by the celebrated Nikon FM2 SLR film camera from the early '80s, the Z fc mirrorless camera boasts authentic design details that have been meticulously re-created: from the control dials to the round viewfinder and the classic Nikon logo engraved on the pentaprism.

Only those who handled and produced images with these cameras will understand what on earth I am going on about but we had perfect ergonomics at our fingertips and it's reassuring to see that 'what goes round, comes round'.

To combine the best traditional design with the capability of modern digital is, to my mind, a marriage made in heaven.

Quick Takes

Avid readers will no doubt have spotted a new section in this issue of UwP called 'Quick Takes' and, for those that haven't, it's on page 57.

The idea behind it came when regular and much appreciated contributor David Fleetham sent me an idea and images that didn't quite fit either the 'Parting Shot' or 'My Shot' Sections. More than one image was needed firstly to establish the scene and then two images were needed for the 'before and after' shots. The result is a kind of short story on a single page.

The thinking behind all of these Sections is to encourage readers to submit a short piece of text together with a relevant image or images. It's not War & Peace, not too serious and not judgemental image quality wise. Just short slices from every day dives that deserve highlighting rather than stored on a hard drive and in the mind for no one else to see or appreciate.

That seems like a good idea to me.

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