

News, Travel & Events

Wetpixel.com Photo Contest with Significant Prizes



Wetpixel.com, a website dedicated to the sharing of information about digital underwater photography, has announced a new bi-monthly underwater photography contest for both digital and scanned film images, which will compete on even footing for significant prizes donated by sponsors Aquatica, Pictopia, Ikelite, Gates Housings, Ultralight Control Systems, Marine Camera Distributors, and INON America. Contests will run every two months, and at the end of the calendar year, grand prize winners will be chosen and awarded prizes valued at more than \$5,000 USD!

Entering the contest is completely free. Winners will be chosen by a jury of acclaimed underwater photographers including Dr. Alex Mustard, Andy Sallmon, Chris Bangs, David Fleetham, Douglas David Seifert, James Watt, Stephen Frink, and members of Wetpixel staff.

The first photo contest ends on April 30th, and additional contests will run through the end of June, August, October, and December 2004.

Wetpixel.com also runs a "Photo of the Week" contest for amateur photographers just getting started in underwater photography. Winners are published on Wetpixel.com's home page and receive a \$30 credit at Pictopia.com for lightjet printing or other digital photographic services.

For more information about Wetpixel's Photo Contest, visit

<http://www.wetpixel.com/contest/>

Wetpixel.com provides news, features, reviews, and an active forum of over 2,000 digital underwater photographers. Visit Wetpixel at <http://www.wetpixel.com>

CELEBRATE THE SEA Marine Imagery Festival

29 July – 1 August 2004, National Science Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The prestigious Celebrate the Sea Marine Imagery Festival 2004 just got bigger. We thought competitions, seminars, photographic workshops, static exhibitions, non-stop marine feature documentaries, the latest dive equipment, digital innovations and some of the world's leading underwater image makers was just not enough. So now, the four-day festival will run alongside 'WETEXPO. 2004'

For the event we have perhaps assembled an

elite VIPS – Speakers and Jury team. Confirmed to attend are: Wyland, Emory Kristof, Dr Gerry Allen, Dr Walter Stark, Dr Mark Erhmann, Tony White, Michael AW, Kim Michelle Toft, Pierre Coton, Daniel Mercier, James Wiseman, Eric Cheng, Daniel Dorville, Mathieu Meur, Charles Hood, Phil Greco and John Bennett. For profile – check out www.celebratethesea.com

CELEBRATE THE SEA - International Underwater Imagery Competition

Underwater filmmakers, photographers, writers and web designers are invited to compete in the focus of the festival - the International Imagery Competition. Competing images can be shot anywhere in the world.

The competitions of the Kuala Lumpur festival are:

- Photography: Prints, slides and slide show competitions
- Best Underwater Film
- Children's Painting Competition (age group 7-15) and exhibition
- Image of the Sea Painting contest and exhibition
- "The Music of the Sea" Competition
- "The Book of the Sea" Competition
- Best Editorial Package Competition
- Best Marine Web Site
- Best Promotional Materials – Marine Tourism
- The State of Our Seas Competition – Environmental Awards

Check at www.celebratethesea.com for application form.

Exotic underwater photography made easy



Eco Divers has expanded its diving and is now offering two 3-day photography courses in different locations in North Sulawesi from 3 – 9 July, 2004.

Led by award-winning underwater photographer, Steve Smithson, the courses offer a variety of photography techniques in what is arguably one of the best destinations on the planet for combining wall diving and 'muck diving'.

Two seminars, each lasting three days, will take place at Eco Divers, Tasik Ria, Manado with the emphasis on wide-angle techniques and at the newly opened Eco Divers, Kungkungan Bay Resort in the Lembeh Strait, where skills in macro photography can be honed.

They can be taken as stand alone options or booked and completed over a six-day period.

Kungkungan Bay Resort seminars will cover techniques for macro, fish and night photography. The Lembeh Strait is home to some of the most fascinating creatures found anywhere in the world including the pygmy seahorse, mimic octopus and Ambon scorpionfish. Whatever the camera system, photo opportunities abound.

Tasik Ria Resort is perfect for developing photography skills in Bunaken Marine Park where the walls teem with life and are perfect for learning wide-angle techniques. The seminar will cover wide-angle balanced light, ambient light (perfect for wrecks, shallow waters and large creatures) and model photography.

Eco Divers will process slides or download to disc the same day, allowing photographers to improve techniques on a day-to-day basis and learn how to shoot technically-correct photos whether they shoot in film or digital format.

"Anyone can learn how to improve their underwater photography," explains Steve Smithson, "whether a complete beginner or experienced photographer, these seminars will teach you all you need to know to achieve excellent results."

For more information and prices, email Eco Divers: info@tasikria.com or go to www.eco-divers.com

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Subios 2004

14th - 17th October 2004

SUBIOS 2004 will take place from the 14th until the 17th of October. SUBIOS is Seychelles' annual underwater festival celebrating the underwater world, through a range of diving and snorkeling activities, and creating awareness with evening programs of film, video and slide presentations by acclaimed local and international guest speakers.

As part of the festival there are also underwater film and photography contests. the Photography and Videography contests run year round, and are open to entries from around the world.

Three special designed trophies will be awarded for the top 3 videos. The first prize winner of the Video Contest will also win a vacation to the Seychelles to participate in SUBIOS 2005. And there will be a special prize awarded for the Best Video filmed in Seychelles.

Three special designed trophies will be awarded for the top 3 photos. The First Prize winner of the Photo contest will also win a vacation to Seychelles to participate in SUBIOS 2005. There will also be a special prize awarded for the Best Photo or Image shot in Seychelles.

There will also be a Shoot-Out

contest during the SUBIOS 2004 Festival, which is open to any photographers who attend the festival. The photographer of the best picture will win a free return ticket to SUBIOS 2005. Contestants may enroll at any of the participating Dive Centres.

www.subios.sc

Bob Johnson's Red Sea video workshops

Bob enjoys a busy career as a cameraman on natural history documentaries, as a trainer of actors for films and commercials and has worked on the underwater film units for Tomb Raider 2, James Bond and the acclaimed Cheltenham and Gloucester commercial, amongst many others.

Bob's video workshops are designed to be fun, informal and non-academic - to help aspiring videographers to develop an 'eye' and to give a basic understanding of composition, the capturing of behavioral sequences of the fish life and to document the day to day magic of the reefs and open water. This is a non-technical course as regards equipment but we will cover basic camera technique, the use of

natural light and general composition.

Video players are on board the boat but please bring your playback cable. Footage will be viewed each evening and there are plenty of opportunities through the day to ask questions.

Film formats will be Mini DV or DV Cam. Please bring sufficient tape but there will be stock for sale on board if you need extra.

8 day tour includes direct flights to Sharm, transfers, 7 nights full board including soft drinks, 6 days diving and the workshop: £915

Whilst every care has been taken to choose these particular dates by Bob, there is a possibility that he may not be able to lead the workshop if he is called to a shoot at late notice. In this event, the workshop will be led by Paul Duxfield and Michelle Hibberd, known to many of you as Duxy and Shelly.

Possible departures: 6 – 13 June, 13 – 20 June and 27 June – 4 July 2004. [Dates and price to be confirmed]

If you have any queries regarding photography workshops or to reserve your places, please do not hesitate to contact (01323) 648924, E-mail: info@oonasdivers.com



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INON. IT'S TIME TO GET SERIOUS



Inon are one of the most innovative designers of high end underwater camera equipment in the world. It's won them an elite following. Now Inon have applied their design skills to helping underwater digital enthusiasts get great pictures easily and inexpensively.

Inon make two strobes that are ideal for users of popular digital cameras like Olympus, Canon and Sony. Both the 180s and the 180 offer high power combined with up to 110 degrees coverage for wide angle lenses. Both offer automatic exposure and are fired by a reliable fibre optic cable.

The 180 offers sophisticated exposure overrides for creative lighting and a convenient built in modelling light. It's the perfect strobe for the serious shooter.

The 180s is ideal for fuss free photography. It features simpler exposure compensation for tricky conditions and a convenient LED modelling light.

These are just two items from Inon's extensive range. A range that includes a choice of macro lenses and wide angles.

To learn more about how Inon can help you get better pictures contact Ocean Optics. The underwater photography specialists.



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