

Ultralight's Pulse Load Multi Battery Tester

by Tony Matheis

When I saw the New Product Announcement for this battery tester in the Beta version of UWP19 I knew instantly that I had to have one. This device actually tests batteries under load.

We knew that our battery chargers occasionally lied about completely charging a particular cell, this of course becomes quite apparent when you are underwater and can't quickly remedy the situation.

I got in touch with Terry Schuller at ULCS who sent us one so that Deb Fugitt and I could test it on our impending June trip to Indonesia.

Most of us have come up early from a night dive due to a flashlight dying in the midst of the dive or when a strobe quits recycling early. I had just finished completely charging my "C" cells so my charger thought. I put them in a flashlight, turned it on and watched it die a quick 15-second death. Not exactly what I had in mind for flashlight battery life on a night dive. I pulled the cells out of the flashlight, and in 20 seconds tested them on the new battery tester, one of the cells had only 20% capacity



regardless of what my charger said. I opted to believe the tester since the batteries couldn't light my flashlight.

To test AA, AAA, C, and D batteries you push the 'on' button, put the + end of the battery on the + tester terminal and touch the tester's negative probe to the batteries negative end. In about 3 seconds you get a lit up bar indicating % of power capacity remaining. For other battery types there are + and - terminals on the charger, just match up the battery to them and you get the test result. Nice features on the tester are either Alkaline or NIMH batteries can be tested and the tester automatically switches off after 2 or 3 minutes of inactivity.

Seeing how quickly and

accurately this little device determined the remaining capacity of our batteries I quickly adopted the habit of checking all our batteries that were charged in the charger that had lied to me about the "C" cell. I found that one bay in the charger had a problem, on 3 other occasions it indicated a battery was fully charged when it only had 20% of a full charge. Nice to catch a problem before it hits you underwater.

We tested it on AA, AAA, C, NIMH and Alkaline batteries, and 9 volt alkaline batteries with good results on all but we didn't test it on D batteries, CR123, CR2 or CRV3 Lithium batteries since we don't carry these batteries.

I think in the world of fluctuating power in most of the remote places that have great diving this little gem is a necessity, a very inexpensive essential piece of our tool kit. We won't travel without one.

After returning home we contacted the dealer for the charger that failed and it was replaced with no questions asked.

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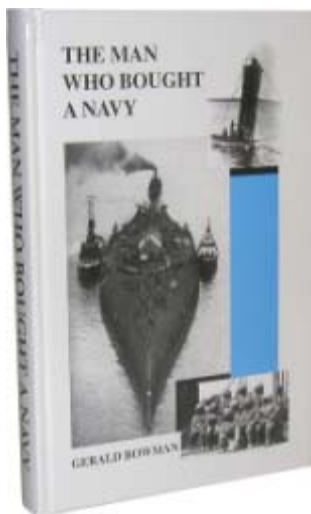
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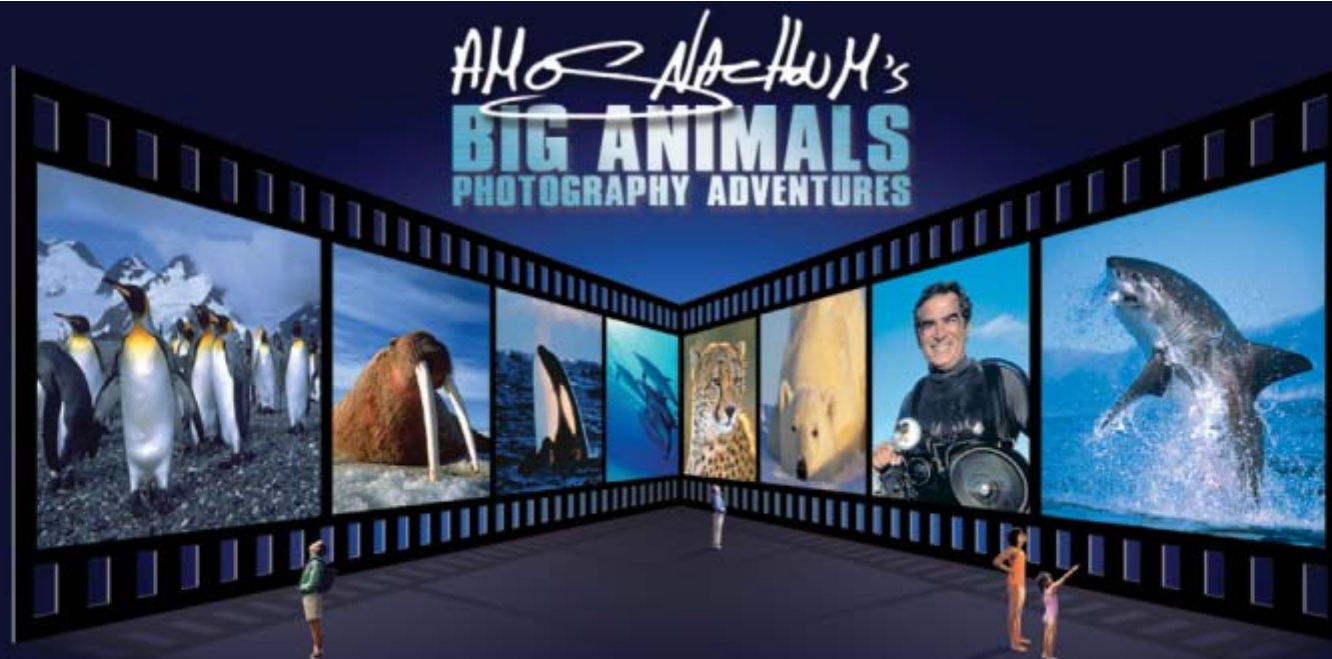
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