

News, Travel & Events

Digital Jam Grand Cayman January 2005

Calling all digital underwater photographers. Fed up with winter? Would you rather be enjoying a week of photographic diving on Grand Cayman's reefs and wrecks? Do you want the chance to win over \$20000 in prizes? Then this is what you have been waiting for! And you only have to wait until the last week of January.

Three of Grand Cayman's top dive operators, have joined up with Dive Chronicles Magazine to offer an exclusive week of digital photography with over \$20,000 in prizes to be awarded! Plus we're talking world class diving here, with awesome photo opportunities and diving especially geared towards photography. Clinics for your images and talks on digital photographic techniques will be held at each of the participating properties during the week, with an Awards cocktail party on Friday Evening on January 28th, 2005.

UWP Contributor, Dr Alex Mustard will be hosting Digital Jam at Compass Point/Ocean Frontiers to offer interactive workshops. Alex said "This is going to be a great event! I am



so pleased that I am based at the East End, where the island's best diving is! Digital Jam is not a photo-class. I will not be telling people that they must use this lens, this aperture and only photograph this sponge. It is about organizing diving specifically to help photographers get the images they want. I will be giving three lectures during the week to fill photographers with both the ideas and theory that they need to experiment and create exciting images."

Alex is a prolific contributor to UWP Magazine, known for sharing

all the secrets behind his images. And don't forget that Alex is also a marine biologist, and his unique insight into Grand Cayman's marine life will be a great benefit to all the participants in the Digital Jam.

If you are interested in participating in Digital Jam please contact Ocean Frontiers as soon as possible, there are a few spaces left.

Contact the dive centre directly:

lesley@oceanfrontiers.com

www.oceanfrontiers.com

Oregon Coast Digital Center

The Oregon Coast Digital Center is an enhanced learning center featuring in-depth digital classes. Jack and Sue Drafafl have taken their 30 years of photographic experience and designed a work environment to help students better understand the digital realm. They provide personalized instruction on digital editing and specialized digital photography topics.

Through personalized attention during an intense three day workshop, the specific needs and goals of each student is addressed. At the Digital Center, their goal is to work directly with each student on their own images, instilling proper editing techniques so they will feel competent in their efforts when they return home.

The Oregon Coast Digital Center is located in the quiet community of Cape Meares, just outside Tillamook, Oregon and about 70 miles due west of Portland. The facility itself is within walking distance of the Pacific Ocean which makes it great for beachcombing.

www.oregoncoastdigitalcenter.com

Aquanauts Grenada



Aquanauts Grenada dive center is just steps from the rooms at True Blue Bay Resort and fully operational with two large dive boats, nitrox fill station, digital photo studio, plenty of room for guest equipment and a large amount of rental gear. Aquanauts also offers free shuttle services from hotels around the Grand Anse area.

Fortunately Grenada's dive sites were not effected by the storm and experienced divers might explore the wreck of the cruise liner "Bianca C" or of the mine sweeper "King Mitch", while beginners enjoy the beauty of such dive sites as "Veronica" or "Japanese Garden".

Grenada's Nature has also recovered thanks to some good rains in November, the hills are lush and green again, flowers are everywhere. Most of the tourist attractions are open and visitors may hike to a water fall, explore the old forts, rum factories or spice plantations. www.aquanautsrenada.com

Linda Pitkin exhibition at The Deep, Hull, UK Jan 10th - April 2005

The Deep, Hull's £45.5m Millennium Commission lottery project, is hosting an exhibition of underwater photography by Linda Pitkin. This exhibition will feature a selection of her stunning images of marine animals and scenes from tropical and temperate waters around the world.

Linda Pitkin is an internationally acclaimed underwater photographer and was included in the Women Divers Hall of Fame in 2003.

The exhibition is free of charge, open daily 10am - 6pm from January 10th to April 2005, and is located around the third floor café and Observatory Cafe of The Deep.

Linda's exhibition pictures are being made by the Giclée method, renowned for superior quality, intensity of colour, and longevity. Signed and numbered editions of these fine art prints will be available to order at The Deep or by contacting Linda Pitkin.

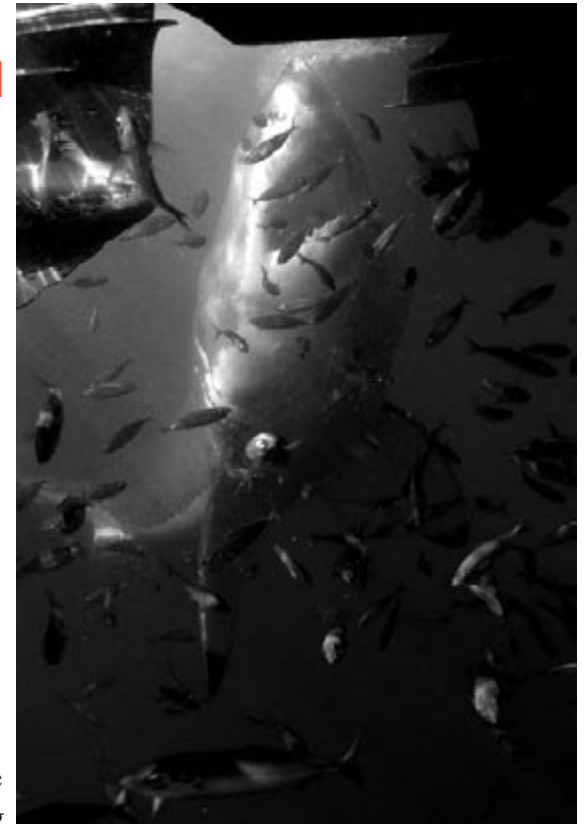
E mail L.Pitkin@nhm.ac.uk and website www.lindapitkin.net

Young Underwater Photographer Award

Ocean Optics is proud to announce that their very own Dan Beecham has won the Our World-Underwater Young Underwater Photographer Award at the prestigious Antibes International Underwater Film Festival. The monetary Award, sponsored by Rolex, has been awarded to Dan to gain experience and broaden his understanding of underwater image making.

Dan told UwP "I was cage diving in Gansbaai, South Africa with André Hartman when I took the picture. At this stage of my trip I had been in South Africa for three weeks. Previously I had been diving, or at least trying to dive, the Sardine Run.

When I arrived in Gansbaai, a few days after leaving the Run, the conditions around Dyer Island were ideal, with visibility over ten meters. This really made up for the bad luck on the Sardine Run. I took many pictures, both on film and digital, making the most of the short window of opportunity. This was the image I was most pleased with. I like the feeling of movement and how the shark looks like its just burst out of the gloom, jaws agape, with fish fleeing in



all directions.

The photograph was taken on a Fuji S2, with the Nikkor 10.5 mm lens, inside a Subal housing. Originally the image was colour and was framed in landscape, not portrait. I turned the image black and white as the colours were very muted, and cropped out a lot of the empty space surrounding the shark, a few alterations to contrast and brightness produced the final image."

E mail Dan scubabeecham@yahoo.co.uk

First ever 'Shoot-Out' competition with Eco Divers and Asian Diver!

In 2005, you are invited to rub shoulders with some of the world's top photographers by taking part in the first ever 'Shoot-Out' competition of its kind.

Eco Divers is the first company to host Asian Diver's 'Shoot-Out' competition, to be held at Tasik Ria Resort in Manado for diving Bunaken or Kungkungan Bay Resort, Lembbeh.

You don't have to dive both resorts to enter, just book in for a one (or two!)-week stay and use the stunning underwater vistas and marine life to shoot some of the best shots of your life!

Eco Divers' Rod Klein, resident digital photo professional and resident photo professionals, Cary Yanny and Steve Coverdale will be on-hand to offer advice and assistance. At the end of each week, your results are presented to a panel of judges to win a myriad of prizes - and critical acclaim.

Book now for the following Shoot-Out dates:

Macro Photography,
Kungkungan Bay Resort, 23 July to 30 July 2005

Wide-angle Photography, Tasik

Ria Resort,
30 July to 06
August 2005

As well as giving you the chance to make your mark in the world of underwater photography, this is also a great opportunity to dive one or both resorts and experience two very different worlds of diving in Bunaken and the Lembbeh Strait.

For booking information, email Eco Divers: www.eco-divers.com



Jim Watt Digital Shark Expedition 2005

February 3-11, 2005

Bahama Banks

Great Hammerheads and Tigers

On this trip, Jim will share his amazing imagery of sharks and dolphins and discuss his perfected technique of approaching animals and controlling background exposure, strobe lighting, as well as his preferred gear configuration. This expedition will be a great opportunity to learn, shoot, and dive with a master photographer.

Price: \$2800

For further details e mail
Jim@watt@ilhawaii.net

Underwater Images 2005

Call for Entries

The Underwater Images Photo and Video Competition is now accepting entries for the 2005 contest. The competition is open to amateur underwater photographers worldwide.

Entries can be submitted until February 1, 2005. Winners will be announced at Scubafest 2005 in Columbus, Ohio, USA on March 12, 2005. Entries from Ohio will also be entered in a separate local Ohio Category with separate prizes, in addition to the international competition entry.

Some of this year's prizes include dive travel on liveaboards in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Belize, and the Bahamas; Land based dive trips in the Honduras Bay Islands, Hawaii, Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac, Provo, PNG, and Sipadan. Equipment prizes includes photo and video equipment, Dive equipment, books, software, marine jewelry. Don't miss your chance to be a winner of these great prizes.

Underwater Images is non-profit with proceeds donated to Marine education and scholarship purposes. visit www.uwimages.org

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Blue sharks and kelp forests

10th-18th September 2005

Leader: Charles Hood. Group size limit: 12 divers plus leader



Charles Hood, the accomplished underwater photographer and journalist, will return to the Channel Islands to lead this tour, which is his choice for the most unusual photographic opportunities and exciting shark encounters. Charles will be on hand for informal photographic discussion and critique, but non-photographers are equally welcome. Not only is this unique trip almost impossible to arrange on an individual basis, but travelling with Charles means that the group is completely in control of its own diving management and will certainly benefit from

Charles's knowledge and experience. Everyone knows how frustrating it can be to leave a spectacular dive site without the possibility of returning not a problem you will encounter on this expedition.

The trip consists of 6 days diving including both boat diving around Catalina itself and all day shark diving trips out into the Pacific Ocean. Night diving will be available (at extra cost). Nitrox, both 32% and 36%, is available for a supplementary charge, payable locally.

For full details visit

www.divequest.co.uk

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Celebrate the Sea 2005 / Asian Geographic Nature Imagery Competition Call for Entries

Now in its fourth year, the Celebrate the Sea Marine Imagery Festival has grown into the largest event of its kind in Asia – Pacific. From June 3-5 at the Suntec City Convention Centre in Singapore, the festival will get even bigger with the inaugural AG Eco Adventure and Travel Expo.

Until May 1st we invite you to take part in the prestigious event by entering our numerous international competitions.

Whether you are an amateur or professional, dedicated only to macro slides or digital wide angle, a writer of books, creator of DVDs or a landlubber with a camera instead of a hand – we have a competition for you.

Of all the competitions out there, why enter ours? Well here are a few great reasons;

Prizes – We know it is all about the prizes and the free stuff. With over USD 50 000 in prizes, Celebrate the Sea and Asian Geographic Nature Imagery Competition is the richest competition of its kind.

On top of this each entrant receives a free Masterpass for themselves and their companion. This is like a backstage pass, giving you



unlimited entry to the juicy material of the festival including the seminars, workshops, films and slideshows.

Learning Curve – Ask anyone who has excelled in their field and they will tell you that when it comes to improvement, criticism is your best friend.

With underwater image making luminaries such as light magician David Doubilet, Hassleblad Master Tay Kay Chin and trainer of digital shooters John Cosgrove judging your work, that learning curve is sure to take a steep incline!

Exposure – With the Singapore Tourism Board distributing information on the festival in 1000 points around Singapore and at each of its gateways around the world it will truly be an international affair.

Alongside the winners of Antibes, the Cannes of the underwater world, all finalists will be on display

for the duration of the show in our special gallery. The winners will also be published in both Scuba Diver Australasia and Asian Geographic magazines with a shot at the front cover.

Conservation – While this is a celebration, it is not without a cause. We hope through promoting the beauty of the sea to motivate people to take action and preserve what remains of this exquisite environment.

Of the 15 000 people expected through the show, many of them will be children. As they toddle around the gallery with mouths agape, it could be your image that inspires them to become the future guardians of our oceans.

If you have captured a piece of the ocean's splendor then don't let your image be like the tree that falls in the woods with no one to hear it – don't let your tree fall silently...or you shutter for that matter!

Check out more information
For underwater

imagery competition:
www.Celebratethesea.com

For terrestrial imagery
competition: www.asiangeographic.org

Cathy Church's Underwater Photo Centre & Gallery The World's Best ~ Cayman Islands



NEW!
Cathy's coffee table book
"My Underwater Photo Journey"
US\$39.95
plus s/h



■ Check web for summer 2005 week-long digital and film SuperCourse dates! Sign up now.

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■ Fabulous photo trips to Fiji and Komodo in 2005 - sign up now, spots go quickly!

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345-949-7415

at the Sunset House Hotel, Grand Cayman

Ocean Leisure Diving Centre Chiswick, London

Ocean Leisure has recently opened a brand new scuba diving centre right next to Stamford Brook Underground station, Chiswick, London W4.

The state of the art complex includes a spectacular stainless steel swimming pool, new training equipment, classrooms and a fully equipped dive shop. Unique in London, and having everything on site, courses can be arranged by Ocean Leisure more easily to suit the convenience of their customers.

Swimming in their pool is a warm and comfortable experience and is highly endorsed by current users including mother and baby swimming groups. The water is clean and is normally heated to a luxurious 33 degrees.

Thanks to a new electronic chlorination system their water feels softer and kinder to the skin and eyes compared to most heavily chlorinated public pools.

The pool is available year round



for private and corporate hire and is ideally suited to groups of 12 to 15 people.

For bookings and information call 44 (0)20 8741 4994.

www.oceanleisure.co.uk

S-TTL. THE END OF AN ERA.

Digital underwater cameras have been a real breakthrough for divers. Offering instant feedback to speed up your learning curve, user friendly features like auto exposure and autofocus, zoom lenses with macro built right in and negligible shooting costs, digital seems the perfect solution for underwater imaging.

Until you add a flashgun. Then the nightmares and confusion begin. Especially when it comes to getting the exposure right. With many guns you have to shoot manually. Often this means taking several test shots to get it right. Something you may not be able to do with a moving subject. Auto guns can help, but you need a camera with a fixable equivalent film speed and lockable aperture to use these properly.

Inon's D2000 puts those problems firmly in the past. It uses the best flash exposure system in the world to get your lighting exactly right. Your camera's own flash meter. Accurate, dependable and affordable, the Inon D2000 marks the end of an era. The end of poor flash photography.

Welcome to Inon. Simplicity through sophistication.



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