

I'm sure most of you already know but it's worth pointing out again.

Unlike conventional printed magazines, UwP contains 'hyperlinks' which, as their name suggests, when clicked will take you to the website or set up an e mail message. Obviously this will only happen if you are online but with 'always on' broadband connections becoming more affordable you can quickly and conveniently visit the website to get more information.

The hyperlinks are built into every UwP advert and in the editorial they are in blue underlined type. This facility is a very useful way for us and advertisers to gauge the amount of response each issue generates as well as providing you with a quick way to communicate.

Hyperlinks are offered only to our display advertisers so some editorial text will give a website address but no hyperlink. That's because we have given them publicity without them buying a display advert.

UwP can only remain free thanks to the support of our advertisers so it is important that you use the hyperlinks whenever you want.

Planning UwP

UwP is a remarkable publication in that it is almost unplanned. In the 24 issues since August 2001 I have asked for perhaps 3 or 4 articles to be specially written and the rest have just arrived!

The usual scenario is that a reader e mails me with an idea and if I like the sound of it I ask to see a few low res images and then, if they are suitable, I welcome the submission of an article. 9 times out of ten the ideas and the images are accepted.

One exception was when Tony Wu's fantastic article about the sperm whale together with his superb images (UwP9) simply arrived unannounced in my morning e mail. I think there are still some cornflake remains on the wall, I was so blown away!

I like to keep UwP unplanned because it wouldn't be much fun working on issues months in advance. I like a feeling of spontaneity and most contributors articles are published in the very next issue rather than months down the line.

This particular issue has got more than one article from me because I have been up to quite a bit recently and, to be quite honest, I haven't had many contributions

recently!

The other nice thing about UwP is that I get contacted by many excellent underwater photographers offering quality contributions - not with money in mind - just because they want to see their work in UwP. That is most gratifying to receive the support of so many people at the top of their field and long may it continue.

Diving for photography

Alex Mustard and I went on a last minute trip to the Red Sea recently. He wanted to try out his new Nikon D2x and Subal housing and I wanted to see if panoramas would work underwater.

We joined Snapdragon (an excellent boat, by the way) out of Sharm el Sheik on a normal liveaboard week. By normal I mean a divers rather than underwater photographers trip. We clarified with the boat that we would not have to go on the dive guided tours as we could buddy up and stay shallow but otherwise we stuck to the boat's dive rules - namely maximum dive one

hour etc etc.

Because we both had specific things to do this was not a limitation and we were able to achieve everything we set out to do.

Our underwater photographic needs were not that demanding. Alex wanted to get some practice in with his new rig and shooting panoramas is not that time consuming.

On more dedicated underwater photography trips we usually have a number of ideas we want to try out which would involve multiple dives on the same location. A typical divers trip usually means diving no site more than once (with the possible exception of the Thistlegorm) and this isn't ideal for concentrated underwater photography.

Back in the UK Alex rang me a few days later. He had been checking his log book from a previous underwater photographers trip and noted that he was in the water for almost double the time because dive times weren't limited and mooring up at the same site for at least a day meant multiple dives off the back of the boat rather than timed RIB dives.

So if you really want to concentrate on your underwater photography it pays to hook up with like minded souls so you can take control of your time underwater.

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