

Questionnaire

When you've got a spare minute could you do me a favour and complete the very short questionnaire by following this link:

www.pr-productions.co.uk/questionnaire

It's intention is to find out what you think about UwP and the articles you would like to see in the future.

It shouldn't take much more than a minute to complete and there's even a chance for you to "have your say"!

I will now put my tin helmet on and, hopefully, await your responses...



A Big Issue

Whenever I've banded on about how UwP is unplanned and how each issue uses up virtually all of the submissions I was really trying to prepare you for the time when submissions were scarce and resulted in a much smaller issue than normal.

I'm delighted to say that this issue has gone the other way and is bursting at the seams with content and I hope you enjoy it.

For me one particularly nice aspect about UwP is dealing with

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contributors for whom English is not their first language. The purist snobs would say "Only use what is grammatically correct" but I think UwP is richer for its diversity of prose and captures the wide ranging spirit of its contributors.

Contributions thank you

For most of last year I encouraged you to make donations to UwPs contributors who provide their time, knowledge and talent without charge. Without them UwP would have to charge you to read it or, worse still, would have to shut down.

I am delighted to report that £642 was donated by 59 UwP readers during 2007 and this was distributed in January on a pro rata basis. What was also most gratifying was the reaction from all of the contributors who expressed genuine surprise and deep gratitude that their contributions had been appreciated so much. They would like to thank all the contributors in return.

The campaign to raise donations for contributors will continue because, as I always say when I e mail them to

thank them after each Issue of UwP is completed, without UwP contributors, there would be no UwP.

Thanks again and please consider your support during 2008.

www.uwpmag.com/donate.html

Sharks bite back

Sometimes it takes two events to polarise yet focus a situation.

On almost the same day in the UK recently, the cinema release of 'Sharkwater' coincided with the tragic death of a diver during a shark feeding trip in the Bahamas.

'Sharkwater' is a personal crusade of a film to highlight the needless slaughter of millions of sharks each year yet its message has been nullified so negatively by the loss of one human's life in what many people have referred to as a 'tragic accident'. Tragic, most certainly, accident, most certainly not.

The dictionary definition of an accident is 'an event without apparent cause'. The tragic irony in this case is that the cause was baited water used to attract sharks for thrill. Used to enable us to get close enough to them to take their photograph and return home like a digital trophy hunter. Not for research or to observe them performing naturally in their habitat but to perform for our shallow

gratification. And when they behave 'accidentally' it becomes 'tragic'. Tragic, most certainly, and especially for this particular family, but a million times more so for the sharks. The media will spit the hard fought message of 'Sharkwater' in our faces and perpetuate the myth because we, the diving and underwater photography community, have provided them with the perfect fodder. Proof that they are mindless killers and as such they only deserve to be killed.

I have been on a trip with the operator involved and can wholly endorse his knowledge, preparation and safety procedures. Nothing more could have been done to ensure our safety underwater. The problem is that we were dealing with an unnatural situation in which wild animals were being encouraged to act both naturally and unnaturally and as such we have to accept the consequences. Those consequences rarely ever happen but when they do, we have to accept that by being there and doing what we did we are responsible for affecting the way the general public perceive sharks.

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