

Guidelines for contributors

The response to UwP has been nothing short of fantastic. We are looking for interesting, well illustrated articles about underwater photography. We are looking for work from existing names but would also like to discover some of the new talent out there and that could be you! UwP is the perfect publication for you to increase your profile in the underwater photography community.

The type of articles we're looking for fall into five main categories:

Uw photo techniques - Balanced light, composition, etc

Locations - Photo friendly dive sites, countries or liveaboards

Subjects - Anything from whale sharks to nudibranchs in full detail

Equipment reviews - Detailed appraisals of the latest equipment

Personalities - Interviews/features about leading underwater photographers

**If you have an idea for an article,
contact me first before putting pen to paper.**

E mail peter@uwpmag.com

How to submit articles

To keep UwP simple and financially viable, we can only accept submissions by e mail and they need to be done in the following way:

1. The text should be saved as a TEXT file and attached to the e mail

2. Images must be attached to the e mail and they need to be 144dpi

Size - Maximum length 15cm i.e. horizontal pictures would be 15 cm wide and verticals would be 15cm.

File type - Save your image as a JPG file and set the compression to "Medium" quality. This should result in images no larger than about 120k which can be transmitted quickly. If we want larger sizes we will contact you.

3. Captions - **Each and every image MUST have full photographic details** including camera, housing, lens, lighting, film, aperture, shutter speed and exposure mode. These must also be copied and pasted into the body of the e mail.

Parting Shots 1

Ever had a lazy dive buddy ? The sort who comes on the liveaboard with you, with full intentions to maximise his in-water time, and to be the first in and last out on every dive, but when it comes to the crunch can't get out of bed in the morning or snoozes just a bit too long in the sun after lunch and misses the afternoon dive.

One of my best friends, and the guy who got me into diving in the first place, is just that buddy. When he does get in the water, there is no-one I would rather dive with or trust more. However, on a liveaboard trip to the Southern Red Sea in July 2004, I found myself buddy-less on several mornings and had to trio-up with whoever was available. Several of these dives proved fairly memorable, such as the one with 8 or so hammerheads, or the one with the grey reef sharks. Each of these dives culminated in my ascent to the back of the dive boat and a bleary eyed "good morning" from my ex-buddy, asking what he missed, and then generally proclaiming that I was 'talking garbage'. I was fairly inexperienced in photography at the time, and most of my photos could never do justice to the tall tale of the missed dive, and so my buddy was always left doubting

the integrity of my story.

On one particular early morning dive at Daedalus Reef, as per usual my buddy stayed in bed, and I buddied up with another two English guys (can't remember your names, sorry guys!). The dive was not that eventful, the normal run of spectacularly beautiful reef fish and the odd turtle. However, we did manage to be the last in the water, even the dive guide ascended and left us to our safety stop. As we were drifting back towards the boat, away from the reef and into the blue, the manta ray in the photo came towards us, made several fly-bys, including one so close that I got to touch his wing tip, and then spread his wings and hung in the blue as if in morning prayers. Once I had pinched myself and managed to remember that I had a camera (a humble Sony P7 in a Sea & Sea Housing), I fired off a few shots, on complete auto-muppet mode, and for the first time in my life I took a couple of photos that did justice to the dive experience, finally silenced my buddy and went some way towards stopping him from skipping any more early morning dives.

I have since then invested heavily in underwater camera gear in an effort to take it more seriously, but I doubt I have taken a photo that matches up to this since !



Sony P7, Camera settings not really known (other than 'Auto').

Dave Bluck
Ex-UK, now Sydney Australia

Parting Shots 2

We were thirty-six hours out of Grand Bahama Island, over the Little Bahama Bank, on the Caribbean Explorer I looking for dolphins. Even though we'll be on the boat for a week, I'm skeptical about having close encounters with marine mammals. After all these are free wild animals who can come and go as they please over hundreds of square miles of ocean. They don't have to perform for food. Getting close and being able to spend the time with them for decent photography seemed like a long shot.

After lunch we began our search for Flipper and soon most eyes were surveying the horizon for movement. I had just started getting my camera ready when the proverbial "Thar-she-blows" rang out. Finishing up quickly, I grabbed my mask, fins, and sprinted off the aft deck. When the bubbles cleared I was face to face with wild Atlantic spotted dolphins. It was like the school recess bell had rung and it was time to play. Like us, some dolphins wanted to get in close while others were happy keeping a little distance. Mom dolphin delighted in showing her youngster how to play keep-away with a piece of seaweed as they twisted, looped, and barrel rolled right next to us. The frolicking was synergistic, the more energy we



Nikon D2x, Subal ND2 housing, Nikkor 10.5mm F.E. lens, 1/200sec @ f10, ISO 200, available afternoon light

showed in our actions the higher the energy of the dolphins.

One of the females became very friendly and wanted more than synchronized swimming. She picked out a couple of folks (who displayed the most energy) and began a dance that changed tempo from barely swimming to high speed passes within a couple feet of the human partners, finally adjusting her speed right next to them asking for direct contact. When the person held their hand out she arched slightly into the reach to make sure there was contact. Wow! Completely wild dolphins wanting

to make a connection to a species like us.

They were so close their likeness filled my fisheye lens and their energy was infectious. We danced together in the brilliant blue sea 'till sunset. It turned out that not getting close or having enough time wasn't the problem – concentrating on taking photos though, well.....



Joe Dovala
www.jcdovala.com

Do you have a nice shot with a short story behind it?
If so e mail me and yours could be the next "Parting shot".
peter@uwpmag.com

Parting Shot 3

Can you dive a site year in and year out and never get tired of it? I guess the answer lies in what it is you expect to see at the site! Julian Rocks is one of those sites that you never tire of. It is situated within the Cape Byron Marine Park in northern NSW, only 3 kms off the shore of Byron Bay on the east coast of Australia. Regarded as one of Australia's top ten dive sites, it is an aggregation site for the endangered Grey Nurse Sharks, *Carcharias Taurus*, who visit in winter when the water temperature drops below 22 deg.

Every year for the past 6 years, I have anxiously awaited the return of the Grey Nurse Shark into the wide, deep trenches on the north side of Julian Rocks. This year, these fabulous animals arrived early in the month of May but conditions kept visibility down to well under 10 mtrs for some weeks. In mid-July the water finally cleared up with reports that the viz was 20 mtrs or better - perfect conditions for a wide angle lens. It was time to shoot some sharks.

It was the first dive on Friday morning and at about 9.00am we backward rolled into reasonably clean, clear water. My buddy, Lynda, and I were no less than 5 minutes into the dive when we spotted the first Grey Nurse Shark of the dive. Much to our surprise, this was not the normal vision of a GNS. Initially I thought the shark was eating something, which seemed such an unusual sighting for us, but as we proceeded closer it became obvious that this shark actually had a foreign object embedded in its gullet. I was able to position myself within 2 – 3 feet of the shark to get some close up shots of the shark's ailment. We continued on with the rest of the dive and at one stage had as many as 25 Grey Nurses surrounding us – an awesome experience.

Back at the dive shop, we immediately contacted the Marine Parks Authority of NSW to advise them of our sighting. By the end of the day I had sent off an email to relevant authorities to alert them of the sharks problem - one that would



certainly lead to the early death of this beautiful 3.7 mtr female GNS.

Authorities agreed to mount a rescue attempt of the female shark and 5 days later a rescue team from Seaworld, of the Gold Coast, arrived by boat at Julian Rocks. In no time the shark was spotted, with a team of divers slipping a noose around the shark's body. It was then placed into a cradle and winched onto the boat where a Seaworld veterinarian removed a 4 ft long 'fishing gaffe' from inside the shark's gullet. The shark was then tagged and successfully returned into the ocean.

This generated one of the most positive media reports on sharks that we have seen for some time, assisting in the awareness of marine conservation and the plight of the endangered Grey Nurse Shark.

John Natoli
www.natoliunderwater.com

Parting Shot 4

It was some stormy days and the diving was not so much fun, at least on the boat being exposed to the chilly wind. The storm that moved across Utila also washed with him a lot of debris into our bay at Laguna Beach Resort including several tons of Sargassum seaweed.

We had it all up on our main beach and covering parts of the bay and the workers started to remove it. Just coincidentally I was passing the guys and saw that they collected something inside a bucket with water. As I was looking curiously too see what was inside, I realized that it was a selection of different fish that they had caught accidentally while piling up the seaweed. There was a tiny puffer fish, small groupers and an interesting fish I'd never seen before with a lot of hairs and a kind of legs. I examined it more and finally found that he had a rod on his forehead! A frogfish! It was a very exciting discovery for me as frogfish were always something very rare and special to me. But how did he come here, frogfish were in my understanding sessile bottom dwellers. With these question marks in mind I went to consult the Humann, *the* book when it comes to

identify Caribbean reef fish. Frogfish, frogfish.. There he was, I was pretty sure: Sargassum Frogfish, *Histrio histrio*, the only non sessile frogfish living inside Sargassum seaweed, occasionally washed up to the shore. Sargassum. I remember reading Columbus' logbook, describing his time in the Sargasso sea and his exciting observation of diverse life that was existing inside this floating seaweed cover on the surface.

Then it came to my mind: I need to shoot this frogfish in his habitat. I wasn't sure if I would find him easily inside the seaweed so I just went without camera first with snorkel and mask to dig in this dense layer of seaweed, branches and plastic bottles.

It took a while, but digging carefully with a stick being submerged waist deep I found some interesting pipefish and finally the frogfish himself. Okay, he is there, now I just need to get my camera and then find him again.

So I ran back to my place preparing my housing and camera with dangerously wet hands, the strobe I could forget, the batteries were not charged. My girlfriend Christine was curiously asking me what was going on, I explained it to her and asked her to join me snorkelling, I visualized already my shot with the frogfish and her in the background.



Canon EOS 350d, 18-55mm, Sea & Sea housing, natural light, ISO 100, 1/160, f7.1

So we went in again and it took an agonizingly long time until I found him. Christine posed behind him and I shot from different angles and distances. It was also easier than normal because we could talk on the surface and really find the optimum constellation. I think the workers on the shore were really wondering

what these strange guys were doing all the time in the seaweed that was for them basically just garbage.

Tobias Reitmayr

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