

Talking 'bout my generation

By Alexander Mustard

YUP, or to give it its full title, the Young Underwater Photographers group does exactly what it says on the tin - a group for underwater photographers under the age of 30! You haven't heard of us before? Don't worry, this announcement is pretty much hot off the presses, the group was only started in 2002.

This group came about for one reason - as we all know, it can be pretty hard work for anyone to get into underwater photography. This is especially true for young people, as there are so few of us taking pictures. Making the right choices when starting out is essential, and mistakes are costly. YUP is here to help. The initial aims of YUP are to encourage more young people to get into UWP, to provide an information resource for UWP and to put young photographers in contact with each other.

At present, we are in the process of getting the group up and running and are trying to recruit members. Joining the group is FREE, but the entry requirements are pretty stiff: you must be 1) under 30 years old, and 2) interested in underwater photography! Because this group is based on the Internet, we really hope to attract photographers from



Hattie, waterbaby. Canon EOS 500N, 28-70mm. Photo by Kathryn Westaway (UK).



A raggedtooth shark in South Africa. Nikon F100, 24-70mm. Subtronic flash guns. Photo by Andrew Pugsley (UK).



Models. Nikon F801. Photo by Szymon Kobusinski (Poland).

Diver exploring a Scandinavian lake. Nikonos RS, 13mm FE. Photo by Jukka Nurminen (Finland).

all around the world to get involved. As you will see from the photo captions: we are quite an international bunch from the outset.

So whether you are “stuck” snapping away on a desert island in the middle of the ocean, or are shooting in a swimming pool thousands of miles from the coast, YUP is for you. If you are just starting out, please get in touch (and that goes for parents of potential YUP members too). If you can avoid some of the mistakes we have made, YUP will be worthwhile. If you are interested in joining please send me an email, at atmu@soc.soton.ac.uk.

The YUP website is the core of our activities, the URL is <http://www.yup.org.uk>.

It contains a comprehensive set of links to the Internet’s resources on underwater photography. There is information on equipment: with links to camera, housing and flash manufacturers, and links to shops. There are also links to resources on underwater photographic techniques and links to various underwater photography societies. Finally, there are links to the personal websites of YUP members, and to make us all green with envy, websites of some of the world’s top underwater photographers. The website also contains a diary of forthcoming



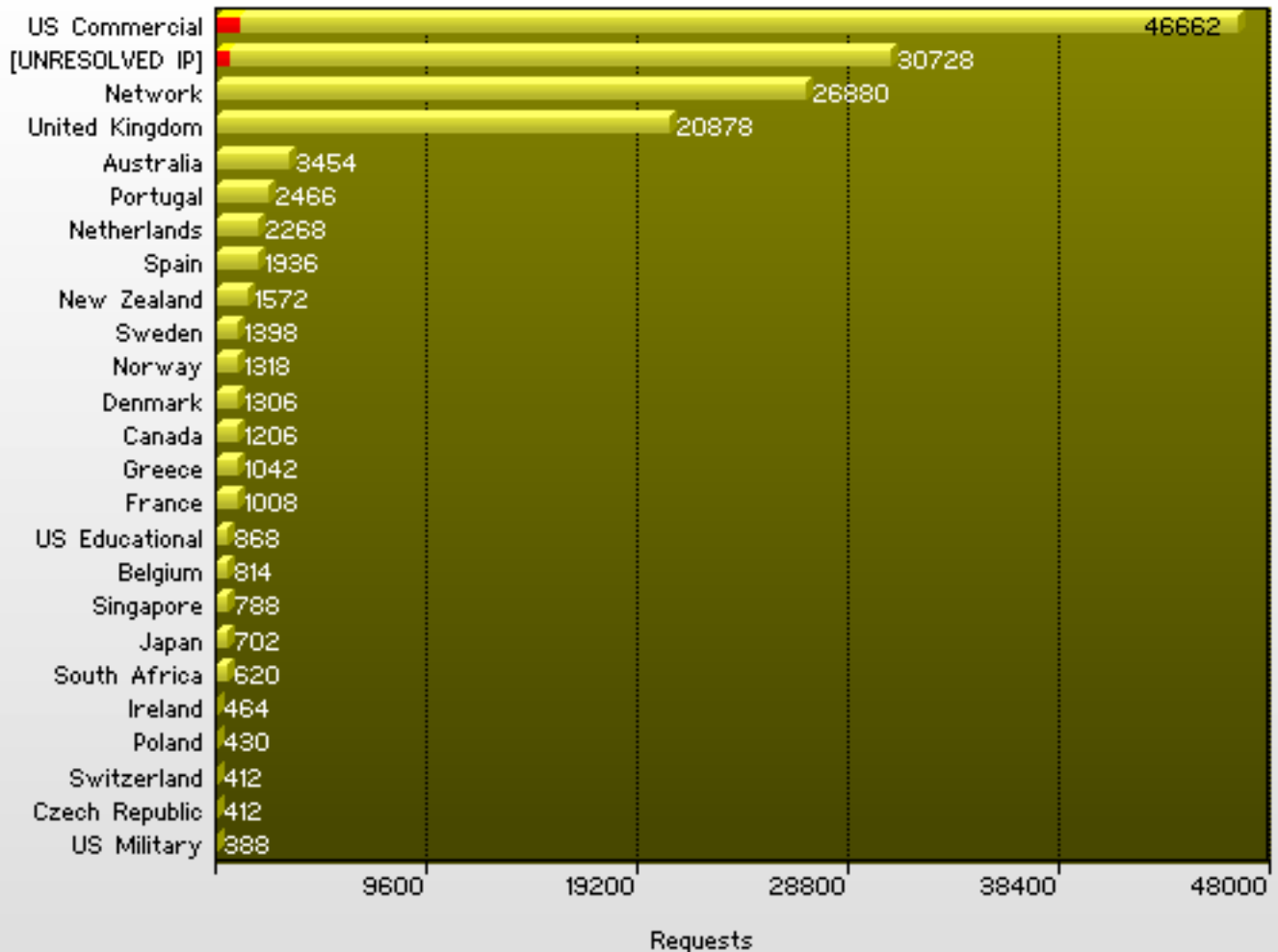
events in the world of underwater photography, such as competition deadlines, talks, conferences and festivals.

The website, of course, contains some of our photos, with a small gallery for each photographer, a photo of the month and there is even an “oldies” gallery for pictures taken by photographers when they were less than 30, even if they no longer are!! The site also has short biography files of each member, with topics including photographic style, kit, ambitions, favourite locations and favourite photographers, as well as our silly mistakes! The biography pages contain each member’s email address so that you can get in contact with members with similar

interests. Email is also used for discussion within the group and to encourage each other in both taking pictures and using them (for articles, competitions etc).

On a personal note, one thing has stood out in the photos I have been sent for the website, that is that Young Underwater Photographers love to break from photographic convention. The galleries are full of techniques that are uncommon in underwater photography. So next time you are surfing the net, check out www.yup.org.uk. Not only are there some inspirational images, but the website is a great source of information for young photographers of all ages!

Alexander Mustard



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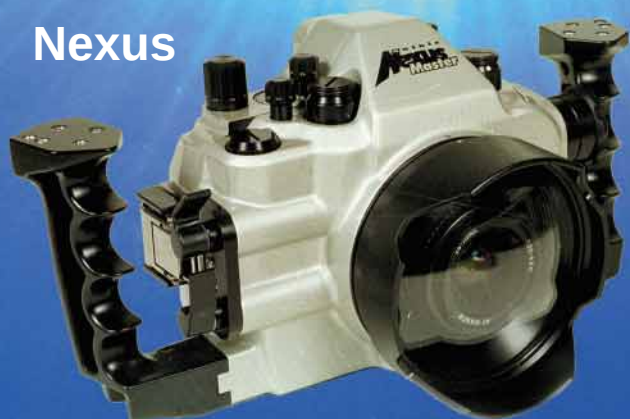


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