

Editorial

Canon UwDSLR?

As a long time advocate of online publishing I don't buy that many printed magazines but whilst away for a weekend at a location without an internet connection I drifted down to the local book shop and bought a copy of Digital SLR Photography magazine to help soothe my twitching mouse finger.

It was the August issue and it contained a double page spread celebrating Canon's 50 years of producing SLR cameras. Now I'm not a Canon user but for some reason I carried on reading about their history of producing ground breaking products culminating in an interview with Lee Bonniface, Canon's top man in the UK. When asked "What's next for DSLRs in general?" I have précis'd his reply which was as follows:

"This is a difficult question to answer; I'd like to think we will see even more intuitive interfaces, bla bla bla, GPS, bla bla bla, WiFi etc etc and then (WAIT FOR IT) , what the hell, even an underwater DSLR that doesn't need a housing - with interchangeable lenses. Then there was more bla bla bla etc etc etc but by

this time my mind was racing ahead. An underwater DSLR eh? Hadn't I heard that somewhere before in the old film days? That's right. Nikon produced the Nikonos RS to a great fanfare and, in doing so, created what for a long time had been the desired myth - an SLR camera that didn't need a housing. The problem was that in producing the myth they made most people realise that, in fact and all along, it wasn't really the perfect product we thought it would be.

I jested at the time that RS stood for 'Rich Sods' - a camera, lens and strobe were the price of a small car; build in a back up camera body, extra lens and a spare strobe and it was soon the deposit on a small house.

The problem also was that a land camera in a housing was still much more versatile in terms of lens choice, more up to date in terms of technology and, should a flood occur, much less (comparatively!) expensive and simpler to repair/replace.

History has shown that, far from being the death knell of the housed land camera, the Nikonos RS pointed out all the advantages of the combination and resulted in a significant lurch towards housed land cameras.

I suspect that if the accountants at Nikon could have a quiet word with their counterparts at Canon they could save them an awful lot of money.

Happy 50th birthday UwP

Time, as they say, flies and the older you get the faster it flies and this is certainly true for UwP.

The past 8 years seem to have flown by, punctuated every 2 months with a new issue of the magazine. Each one virtually unplanned - relying totally on voluntary contributors to support the cause - the consistency of quality never ceases to amaze me for, as I always say, after each new issue is made available, the contributions cupboard is bare and awaits arrivals to fill the next issue.

All of UwP's contributors have been a pleasure to deal with and I hope that their output has been, for you the reader, a pleasure to see and read. It would be a wasted opportunity for me if I did not encourage to make a donation to them at

www.uwpmag.com/donate.html

As I always say in my e mail to thank contributors after each issue becomes available "UwP is nothing without its contributors".

My thanks go to them all, for their generous gesture of time, talent and knowledge helps to keep UwP free for all you readers.

That donation link again is www.uwpmag.com/donate.html

Steve Jobs and Apple

I have been an Apple Mac user since 1897, sorry, 1987, and have stuck with them through thick and thin.

I used the desktop publishing capability of the 1987 Macintosh (400k disk drive!) to produce the first printed magazine 'Underwater Photography' which went for 12 bi-monthly issues before being expanded into SportDiver magazine in the UK.

Today's UwP is still produced on a Mac but using InDesign software to layout the pages and it's a breeze to work with to produce downloadable pdf files but I feel that we are on the edge of another revolution which started with desktop publishing followed by the iPod, iPod Touch and the iPhone.

Rumours abound that Apple is about to announce an iPad (it has the ring of Moses about it to me) which could well sort out the 'e-publishing' world. Sony have tried electronic book readers and so too have Amazon but I suspect it will take the genius of Steve Jobs and Apple to produce what is really needed/desired.

I, for one, am watching this space.

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