

News, Travel & Events



**Deadline for
submissions
Jan 15, 2010**

One of the largest and most prestigious international underwater photography and video competition series celebrates its five year anniversary this year. Underwater photographers of all levels, from novice to professionals, will compete in what has become the “Superbowl” of international underwater imagery events, with over \$80,000 of world-class prizes, major industry involvement, and the opportunity to have their images showcased to the world as some of the best.

Winners for each respective competition will be announced live on stage at either the Our World Underwater film festival in Chicago (February 19 - 21, 2010), or at DEEP Indonesia in Jakarta (March 27 – 29,



2010), and will be published by supporting media partners worldwide. Winning videos will be broadcast via The Underwater Channel, and podcast as episodes of the iTunes-featured DiveFilm Podcast Video and DiveFilm High Definition Podcast Video.

www.underwatercompetition.com

Epson Red Sea 2009
November 9-14th in Eilat, Israel

Prizes Valued At \$80,000!



It's not that we think less of glory, recognition and reputation. On the contrary, we believe that talented underwater photographers deserve it all, but at last, we wish to grant you with the opportunity to finally go home with some REAL cash prizes as well.

The Epson Red Sea 2009 event will take place on November 9-14th in Eilat, Israel. This will be the 5th year in a row in which the Red Sea World of Underwater Images event is being held in Eilat, while prizes are rapidly increasing from one year to another.

The competition is open for all underwater photographers, including amateurs, professionals, videographers and more, and consists of two main categories. The first is called Images of the World, in which

participants are invited to submit images that were shot anytime and anywhere around the world, without even attending the competition. The second category is called Eilat Shoot-Out in which participants submit only images that are taken during the three days of this competition in Eilat.

Prizes this year are valued at more than \$80,000 and include luxurious diving trips in exotic destinations, expensive diving gear, professional underwater photography equipment and of course- cash prizes. The first prize this year, one of many others, is a \$10,000 check plus a trip for two to Papua New Guinea for 3 weeks including airfare.

www.eilatredsea.com

New danger for the turtles on Bali

Sea turtles on Bali are once more in danger of being butchered. You can help prevent it. Once again we ask for your support. We have managed to put a stop to this slaughter before. But now the 'turtle mafia' on Bali is at it again. The governor of Bali is being pressured to permit slaughtering thousands of sea turtles for 'religious purposes'.

The gory reality of how the sea turtles are being slaughtered on Bali -

About a year ago we proudly announced that the campaign to stop the slaughter of sea turtles on Bali had been a success. The cages and slaughterhouses in Tanjung Benoa are now all empty and no more turtles are being traded in public places. While it is still possible to find some animals on the black market but they are now hard to find. The number of killed and traded animals have dropped around 90 percent since the onset of the campaign!

There were reasons to be proud. After an eight year battle against the Turtle mafia we seem to have won the war. Yet the issue is now rising its ugly head again. Thanks to an intensive lobby by various interest groups, the Balinese Government are



now considering permitting the killing and trading of a thousand sea turtles per year ...for Balinese rituals.

Obviously such a decision will open the floodgates to uncontrolled killing once again and it will be impossible to control the number of animals slaughtered!

We need to react now!

It is not too late to act. The opposition and the Pro Fauna organisation is engaged in ongoing discussions on various political levels. But they need our immediate support.

SOS-Seaturtles is already financially supporting the entire administration as well as initiating a petition during which thousands of letters of protest will be sent to the authorities.

www.sos-seaturtles.ch

2010 Caribbean Workshop with Mauricio Handler

Cooper Island, BVI
May 8-14, 2010

Now in its tenth year, The Underwater Photography Workshop is back to where it all began. The British Virgin Islands.

Dives include Wreck Alley, The RMS Rhone, The Chikuzen and The Baths, just to name a few. There will be seminars on - Natural light and multiple strobe techniques for macro and wide as well as maintenance and digital work flow.



©Julia Handler

www.handlerphoto.com





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info@indocruises.com

Raja Ampat Triton Bay Banda Sea Komodo



Goliath groupers, which were listed until 2006 as a critically endangered species by the World Conservation Union (IUCN), may soon lose their protection from fishing due to recovering population levels and pressure from fisherman. Divers have long enjoyed the company of these, huge, friendly fish, and if taking goliath groupers becomes legal once again, population levels may fall quickly.

Please help us to keep goliath groupers in the list of protected species by signing our petition

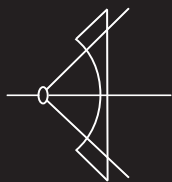


<http://wetpixel.com/links/goliath>

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Eco Divers and Kima Bajo Resort rates for 2010 the same as for 2009!

For 2010
Eco Divers has
extended the
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rates in the Promo
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What's more, in 2010 these amazing
packages start at just 3 nights, not 6
eg 3-night All Inclusive Dive Package
with accommodation, meals & 2
dives/day start at just US\$475! (2009
price US\$535)



More exciting developments are
soon to be announced – watch this
space, as they say.

www.eco-divers.com

They come in **breath-catching** colours; in **shifting** shapes; in **astounding** disguises;
tinchy tiny or really **rather grand**... and always there is more to **dive** and to **enchant**



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Kima Bajo Resort & Spa, Manado
www.kimabajo.com
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www.ECO-DIVERS.com



www.uwpmag.com

Girls Together
Grand Cayman
1st -8th May 2010

Want some seriously good diving in clear, warm waters? Want to be part of a group and meet like-minded friends? Sun, fun, great diving and relaxing, very comfortable top-side time? Pay no single supplement (if you are prepared to share a room)! Evening meals in local restaurants without the embarrassment of sitting alone ...

'Girls Together' is a new dimension in travel for 'girls' of any age. Diving ladies are invited to join our dedicated trips and travel with other mermaids, enjoying the underwater world, good company and the freedom to avoid paying the dreaded single supplement if you don't want to. For too long the latter has been an issue for single ladies who want to travel and dive. It can also be uncomfortable to arrive at the dive centre without a buddy, or to face a restaurant full of people, all of whom seem to know each other. So forget the hassles of traveling alone, sign up and join the mermaids who are 'Girls Together'!

The dedicated diving package includes 2 dives per day (with the option of adding in some snorkeling

www.uwpmag.com



Photo by Alex Mustard

with stingrays and a three dive safari), or if you are not yet a qualified diver, take the opportunity to learn to dive with experienced and dedicated diving instructors. If you have a traveling companion who would just like to take advantage of a relaxing week with lovely, modern beach-side accommodation with a pool why not bring them along too? All this and guaranteed no single supplement, if you are willing to share spacious accommodation.

www.divequest.co.uk

DiveQuest

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Martin Edge: Borneo, Sulawesi and Mexican Cenotes

Alex Mustard: Papua New Guinea, Florida Manatees and Sea of Cortez

Charles Hood: Great White Sharks of Guadalupe

Shannon Conway and Graham Abbott: Art of Underwater in Bali



Photo: Shannon Conway

www.divequest.co.uk

01254 826322



Underwater Photography Stage Opens At Underwater Movie Studio

Underwater photography equipment specialists Ocean Optics and The Underwater Studio have opened what is believed to be the world's first purpose designed set for teaching and practicing underwater photography. The set was developed in consultation with leading underwater photography educator Martin Edge and London Aquarium marine biologist and underwater photographer Jamie Oliver. Ocean Optic's Mark Koekemoer created the final design. It was opened underwater by Colin Doeg, eighty two, co-founder of the British Society of Underwater Photographers and one of the UK's great underwater imaging pioneers.

The set revolves around workstations, which help underwater photographers learn and hone specific techniques. An artificial Caribbean coral reef was commissioned from a props company. It includes table corals, staghorns and tube sponges. The stage is heavily populated with fish and invertebrates and lets divers experiment with close up, macro and super macro photography. Even at very high magnification, the reefs realism is exceptional. For wide-angle photography, a cruiser has been sunk. Combined with subjects placed in

mid water, including a hammerhead shark, and a boat on the surface, and the six-metre depth of the tank itself, it is even possible to shoot close focus wide-angle images. A 4K cinema lamp replicates daylight, essential for mastering skills like freezing sunbeams or shooting silhouettes. The water is a balmy 30 degrees.

The Ocean Optics Underwater Photography Stage will be the base for Ocean Optics underwater digital compact photography courses. There will also be regular sessions for individual divers to use the set for personal practice.

Among the first to try the Ocean Optics Underwater Photography Stage was legendary "Planet Earth" and "Blue Planet" underwater cameraman, Peter Scoones. He comments "An excellent facility. In a few moments I checked out a new system more thoroughly than I could achieve in a swimming pool. The simulated reef provides subjects that give a better check on results than the test targets one would otherwise need to use. I shall certainly use the facility for equipment checking before overseas trips in the future".

For bookings please contact Mark or Steve.

www.oceanoptics.co.uk



The set was opened by Colin Doeg. Photo by Steve Warren

Photo by Mark Koekemoer



Open Water, Gt White Shark

October 10-17 2010



After a week of diving with Great White sharks, contrary to public opinion fuelled by programmes on the TV and in the movies, these sharks were accepting of our presence in their own domain and only curious about us swimming with them in open water. Every breath we took our bubbles made the sharks turn away.

We have achieved that level of extraordinary success because we have used our intelligence rather than following common practices. We applied limited amount of chum in the water to raise the shark curiosity and bring them close to the cage, as the sharks are already in Guadalupe during this time of the year feeding on Tuna and later on the Elephant seals.

I introduced five guests to

this amazing, second of this kind experience in the world - "the Everest of diving" and they were all elated as they got to experience their life's dream more than once. My guests gained respect and admiration for the animal rather than. They also have first hand experience rather than the dramatic, false portrait and sensational reportage on Discovery, other TV documentaries.

The wilderness deserves positive and supportive news in order to increase awareness and protection for what ever left on our planet. What we have left is still fantastic and worthwhile saving.

www.biganimals.com

www.uwpmag.com

DIGIDEEP.com

the online directory for digital underwater-imaging equipment



Your online resource to more than

2.700 underwater imaging products - photo & video

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600 news, articles, reviews and travel reports

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and win
a funky
t-shirt!!!**

<http://www.digideep.com>

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