

Parting Shot 1

Sometimes your most popular diving photo can come when you least expect it, and to your surprise may not even be taken underwater.

Back in July 2013, hundreds of divers descended on the southeast coast of Ireland to attend a dive rally where divers camped beside and visited some of the best underwater sites in Ireland. After the first day's dives were over, myself and my dive buddy Balazs Bauer were soaking up the sun's rays, when itchy feet brought an end to our laziness and we decided to take a walk along the coast.

We came to a shore dive site called Solomon's Hole, an area I hadn't dived in years, but which I had been anxious to get back to. The site is an archway over a gully leading out to the sea. On that day, the glorious weather, calm seas and emerald green water was a magnet to us and we were compelled to go back and get our gear, and return to try a photo shoot.

I entered the water on snorkel gear and had the camera handed to me. I watched Balazs shuffle towards the edge of the rock and fired a test shot. The second shot I took was the one showing Balazs frozen in mid air over the water. And before anyone says it, I know he should probably have been holding his mask as per training, but what can you do? It was a once only shot. We continued the shoot for the next hour and got some nice images.

The light was wonderful, bringing an emerald colour to the water. Reviewing the images after the weekend, this one jumped out at me as a possible cover shot. Coincidentally, the bumper 50th anniversary edition of the Irish dive magazine "Subsea" was about to be published and as luck

would have it, this photograph was picked by the Editor to be on the cover.

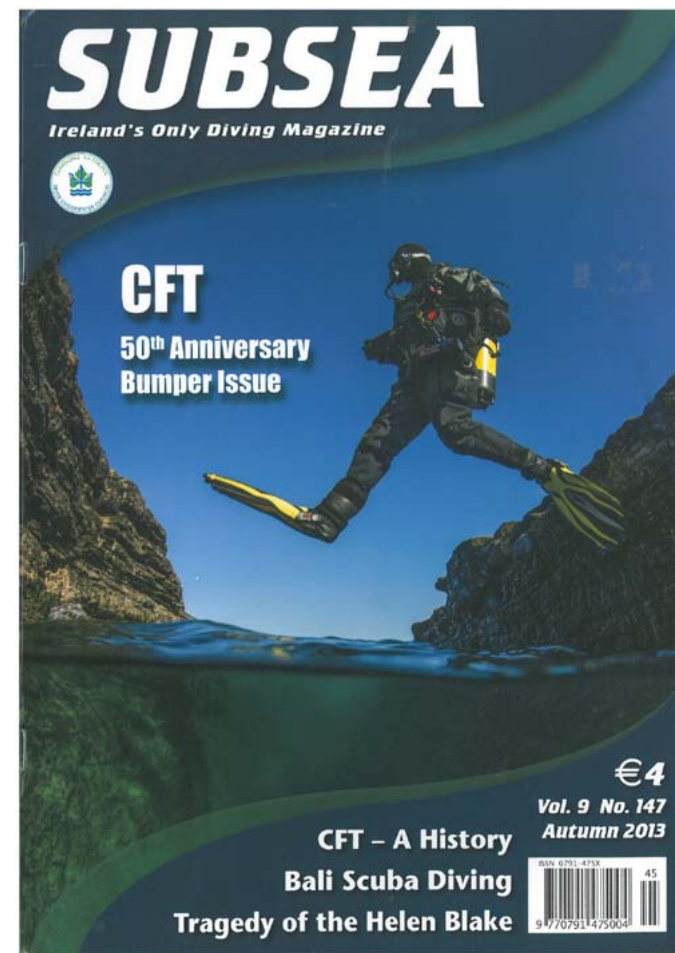
I suppose from their viewpoint, it represents the person breaking the boundary between land and sea. Subsea magazine can be viewed for free at <http://diving.ie/subsea/subsea-online/>

The thing to remember with any image you take is that if it contains a diver, particularly someone who poses for you, then you are not the only one who has a stake hold in the image. The diver in your image will likely have posed for you numerous times, waited patiently while you changed your settings, cursed silently behind their regulator while you indicated "just one more shot, one more.....".

So, while I take a lot of satisfaction from a picture that pleases me, I understand that more often that not I am only half of the package and I'm always grateful for their help. A willing dive buddy is more important than any piece of equipment, so treat them well.

Image taken using a Canon 550D with Aquatica T2i housing. Twin Inon z-240 strobes. Tokina 10-17 lens. 1/200 f8 ISO 100

Ivan Donoghue



Do you have an image which has a 'story within a story'? If so we'd love to hear from you. E mail us and yours could be the next "Parting shot". peter@uwpmag.com

Parting Shots 2

Of all the fish we see around our coast the Tompot Blennies are definitely our favourites; their cute dorky looking bug eyed and rubber lipped faces staring out at us never cease to be a highlight of the dive.

For some two years we have been visiting a dive site that is populated by a fair amount of Tompots, and as luck would have it one particularly photogenic guy is easy to observe and always in the same crevice so the decision to chose him as the focus (pun intended) of our attention was an easy one.

At first he was quite shy, then as the weeks went by the shyness dissipated and he began to gain confidence and after a while the gold veined orange smiling face now greeted us to pose on every dive.

This continued for some time then one day he made a brief foray out from his home, and a few weeks later he was getting braver still resting on an outstretch hand.

Many more visits later and to our amazement he started to settle on us, at first swimming along the arm before finding a safe place to hide amongst the regs or bcd.

The first time this happened we were so surprised we didn't take photos and thinking this would not

happen again thought we had missed the chance of getting pictures, then the next time the same thing occurred we were ready

Brilliant we got our pictures, this behaviour has continued with the Tompot sometimes resting on our 2nd stage with the bubbles flowing over him.

With many dives and a lot of patience it appears we have gained the trust of our friendly Tompot which has not only rewarded us with an unforgettable experience but left us wondering if he will be there to greet us when we return next year.

Gary Carpenter
www.fireflies.org

*Olympus OM-D E-M5, Nauticam
NA-EM5, Olympus 12-50 zoom lens,
Internal flash with DIY macro diffuser*

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