

Editorial

Sony developments

It's fascinating to watch camera sensor developments from APS-C to FX and from 4/3rds to the deceptively named 1". Then there's the mirror/mirrorless designs which combine to give us a much wider and therefore possibly more confusing choice of cameras. The other thing that fascinates me is the timescale.

Take the mirrorless full frame Sony A7 for example; this has been developing for at least 3 years and Sony are only just delivering the range of lenses which will make them attractive as a system. That seems a long time to me but what do I know!

Sony have been quite open in trying to topple the DSLR market and depending on who you believe, they are making a good job of it, certainly underwater.

Sticking with Sony a while more, their other development has been the RX100 line which has also been 3 years in the making. This large compact uses a 1" sensor which puzzles me. It's actually 13.2mm x 8.8mm so where do they get 1" from? Regardless of that chicanery each new model has produced better and better specs until they now offer 4K video with stunning 20mp stills from

a diminutive package.

And yet all of their developments have been achieved without having any regard to Menu ergonomics and, most importantly to underwater photographers, White Balance capability. I put up with the lack of both with my NEX5 and from what I can gather their performance or lack of it has been proudly undeveloped by Sony ever since.

It defies belief that two such basic requirements should have remained lamentably poor when Canon and now Panasonic have stunning capability in both departments. It's almost as if Sony never actually gave cameras to a wide range of testers for feedback but just went ahead with what they thought was acceptable.

And the final puzzle is that, I think I'm right in saying, these two capabilities can easily be brought up to scratch with a software rather than hardware development.

Equipment reviews

Despite their shortcomings, the above Sony cameras are becoming increasingly popular with underwater photographers and I think they deserve more than just one review so

over the next few issues you will be seeing more of them because it helps to get the opinions of several people before deciding what's best for you.

New talent

Way back at the start of UwP my stated intention was to create a platform to nurture new and exciting talent and I'd like to put my modesty to one side and claim that over the years we have done just that and quite consistently.

In addition, each issue of UwP has a stand out article which I have discussed before in this column but in this issue I think we have one which is both stand out and from an exciting new talent - Tom Burd. His beautifully illustrated and well written article about Sharks and Rays in the Azores is a textbook example of what UwP aims to generate for you.

I hope you will enjoy this issue and, as I always say, your feedback, good or bad, is always welcome.

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UPY 2016 dates

Plans are already well underway for Underwater Photographer of the Year 2016 including a major new international award and an increasing collection of attractive prizes.

To help you prepare for this prestigious competition, here are some important dates for your diaries:

November 1st 2015 -

Website open for entries to be submitted online.

January 4th 2016 -

Closing date for all entries.

January 6/7th 2016 -

Images judged by Alex Mustard (Chair), Martin Edge and Peter Rowlands (in reverse order of importance).

February 13th 2016 -

Winners presentation, London.

www.upylondon.com