

New wrecks

Augusto Salgado's excellent article on the new wreck off Porto Santo, the second biggest island off Madeira, is yet another reminder of how a €345,000 investment in cleaning and making a ship safe to dive will turn into a multi million Euro boost to an island's economy.

It's not rocket science, really. Everyone wins and there's now a mature science on how and where to sink these ships upright.

I fully accept that they don't have the history and none of the 'mystique' of a traditional wreck but they are a magnet to visiting divers. In addition we have to realise that the wreck diving world is past its prime.

In the UK, for example, the James Egan Layne in Whitsand Bay, Cornwall was once the UK equivalent of the SS Thielsgorm in the Red Sea. A World War 1 multi cargo vessel sunk in an easily accessible 25 metres of water with little or no tidal restrictions. The trouble is she went down just over 70 years ago and recent winter storms are reducing her to a pile of scrap. Even HMS Scylla which was sunk just over 10 years ago is starting to show signs of decay.

I haven't been to Scapa Flow diving for a long time but I suspect the German High Seas Fleet which was scuttled nearly 100 years ago

Editorial

must be collapsing too. If ever there was an argument for an investment in new wrecks, Scapa Flow and Orkney must be the leading example.

The UK's track record in this department is laughable and shows no sign of improving. It's quite frankly embarrassing and I apologise on our behalf, again.

Canon 1DX Mark II Review

I was very pleased to see Backscatter's detailed review of this groundbreaking camera featured not only on their website but also as a front page feature on the excellent DPreview website.

I am not privvy to how or why it was used there but it's always good when underwater photography is featured on mainstream sites. Part of me wonders whether sales of such high end cameras have slowed down as we all realise we have a great camera in our pockets all of the time - our mobile phone - and that sales to underwater photographers might have become a significant part of their sales figures overall.

I speculate without any real facts as usual :-)

Photokina and DEMA

Every two years the photographic world exhibits at Photokina in Cologne, Germany and being in September it is perfectly timed for the build up to Christmas sales. Sure, there are several large shows internationally throughout the year but Photokina still holds a special place in the calendar and I believe manufacturers schedule their releases around this show whenever possible.

This year promises to be more eventful than ever with several camera models in need of a revamp to take advantage of improved chip designs and, for video, 4k capability.

Then we have DEMA in the US in November. This is a diving, rather than photography, trade show but it has a significant underwater photography presence with its Imaging Center providing a focal (pun intended) point for exhibitors and visitors alike.

The only problem for underwater photo equipment manufacturers at DEMA is that they have to put up with endless enquiries about will they be making housings for the latest announcements from Photokina.

We are served by some really good manufacturers but I do feel for them at this time of the two year cycle.

Increasingly higher ISO capability

I'm sorry to disappoint the measurebators out there but I have to go on record and say that I believe, for underwater photography, increasingly higher ISO capability is a complete red herring.

True, on land, you can capture that campfire sunset in stunning detail but we can't have fires underwater. In addition as the light levels fade, so too do the colours and no amount of higher ISO will actually replace those lost colours. Or have I missed something really basic and obvious? Please tell me if I have.

I accept that if you reduce to black and white there will be some amazing images with this new capability at much greater depths and that is a real advantage but for ambient light colour photography I can't see any.

Also most of you (I personally don't) go down with at least one, and probably two, 'pocket sunlight' strobes which restore the colour and then you will probably have to turn down the strobe power or the ISO to prevent over exposure :-)

I just don't buy it..

Peter Rowlands
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www.uwpmag.com

News, Travel & Events

Sailfish and the Sardine Run Gulf of Mexico & Isla Mujeres, Mexico February 4 - 10 and Feb 10 - 16 2017

Photograph sailfish hunting sardines in the blue water off the tip of the Yucatan Peninsula. Photographer Gregory Sweeney is your escort on our private charter that leaves daily from the docks of Isla Mujeres.

We stay all day for the maximum time in the water photographing and enjoying this incredible encounter. Only snorkeling gear is required. We charter the most experienced sport fishing guides who know the water and patterns of the sardines and predators. Limited to 5 passengers on boat plus guide and crew. This is an excellent opportunity for photographers to capture dramatic images and video. Freediving and excellent swimming skills are recommended in order to enjoy this athletic experience.

As an extra activity, we will do a Mako Shark cage dive and breaching excursion.

Limited to 5 and includes:
5 days on a private charter leaving



daily from Isla Mujeres for a full day looking for and freediving with sailfish and their baitball
6 nights in a beachside resort with swimming pool and shared room equipped with tv, free wifi, phone, AC (single available)
weight belts
A shared golf cart to help move equipment to/from the boat
Light breakfast (at hotel) and Lunch (on boat)

www.gregorysweeney.com

Brooks Institute to close

The well-known photo school Brooks Institute has announced that it will be closing, ending a 70-year run. Brooks Institute was one of the few places that offered higher education in the field of underwater photography.

The Ventura, California, school announced at a staff meeting yesterday that the doors will permanently close on October 31st, 2016, and that all classes in the fall semester have been cancelled.

Just a day earlier, the Ventura County Star reported that there was a significant shakeup in leadership: President Edward Clift was dismissed by the school's new owner since 2015, Green Planet, prompting the majority of the board of trustees (4 members) to resign.

Brooks Institute had been struggling with declining enrollment, falling from 2,563 in 2005 to 350 students in 2016, VC Star says. The school had been reportedly been working on a move to downtown Ventura to attract more students, but owner Christine Lin apparently decided that shuttering the business entirely was the best decision instead of waiting to see if a turnaround would take place.

www.brooks.edu

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Halmahera 2017

Lightroom Total Immersion Workshop: Little Cayman Oct 29-Nov 5, 2016 & Nov 5-12th, 2016 with Go Ask Erin



Lightroom Total Immersion Fall 2016 will take place at Little Cayman Beach Resort.

This 7-day total immersion workshop is the perfect combination of fantastic diving and expert Lightroom training. You'll learn how to apply Erin's simple step-by-step workflow and image editing techniques to photos you shoot during the week at beautiful Little Cayman Beach Resort. This workshop is hands-on, high-intensity, and FUN! Think Bootcamp in Paradise.

The Total Immersion class sessions introduce a new concept or skill daily. Each day, another technique is added, building on previous work. As the days go by, a

practical workflow emerges and is repeated, all while enjoying gorgeous diving in the renowned Bloody Bay Marine Park.

In order to get the most out of this workshop, you must have basic computer skills and understand how to navigate your computer's operating system.

Week 1: Oct 29-Nov 5, 2016 (BEGINNER). Week 2: Nov 5-12th, 2016 (ADVANCED)

Lightroom Total Immersion is limited to 12 participants, in order to ensure plenty of one-on-one time with Erin.

Sign up soon - these spots will go fast!

www.goaskerin.com

www.uwpmag.com

WWW.SEAHORSELIVEABOARD.COM
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GregorySweeney.com Photography Adventures

Scuba with Sea Lions

April 2017



Sailfish Hunting Sardines

February 2017

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4000+ photographs



CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

Wades Hughes' winner

This shot by Wade Hughes has just been announced as winner in Animal Portrait category of this year's Australian, New Zealand, and New Guinea Nature Photographer of the Year Awards.

Judge's comments:

The photographer turned a trumpet fish in whip coral into a study of linework and graphic colour. Well framed, with coral filaments flowing in from the opposing corners, and tightly cropped, drawing our focus to the beautiful central eye - stunning.



Red Whip Ambush, Painted Flutemouth *Aulostomus Chinensis*

Fish have few facial muscles to enliven their portraits but their behaviour opens up some opportunities. Here, a painted flutemouth hovers among the waving stems of red whipcoral. Patient and sharply watchful, it will be rewarded when a passing small fish or crustacean fails to notice its deadly presence.

South-east Sulawesi, Indonesia

Canon 5DSR, EF100 f2.8L macro IS USM plus Kenko 1.4x teleconverter, 1/250, f/16, ISO 100, 2 x Inon Z240

www.anzang.samuseum.sa.gov.au



"Shark in a Bus"



"Shark in a Bus" is our heritage marine museum housed in a 1957 Leyland bus, representing two lifetimes of collecting around Australia.

The collection represents all of Australia and was put together primarily in the 1960's and 70's. It features a giant Great White Shark (White Pointer) as well as whaling artifacts, fossils, sharks jaws and hundreds of other amazing exhibits. There's even a sea dragon and pieces of the US space station Skylab!

We love our sharks and our curator Paul is keen to share a lifetime of sharky stories and experiences, as well as answer your questions about these incredible creatures.

Follow us on Facebook and check out our gift shop for fossil shark teeth and other cool shark stuff!

www.sharkinabus.com

Martyn Guess u/w photo courses



Learn how to take superb underwater images from someone whom knows how with a proven track record of award winning photographs.

If you are looking for one to one or group photographic courses please contact me. Maybe you want to brush up before a dive trip on key underwater photography skills or to understand how your new camera functions. Courses are structured for 1 day or weekends in the UK (Surrey) or overseas trips can be arranged.

Beginner to experienced photographers catered for from either the basics of underwater photography or perhaps you want to learn about super macro or snoot lighting or remote lighting for example!

Please contact me to discuss your requirements and availability.

www.martynguessphotography.com

www.uwpmag.com

Scubacraft SC3



Scubacraft is operated by a single person both above and below the water surface. On the surface, the combustion engine is used for power and directional control through a steering wheel and throttle arrangement. In order to submerge, the main engine shuts down and seals airtight. Occupants then fit scuba equipment before the craft sinks down into the water where electric thrusters provide the power and hydrofins control the direction.

In normal operation Scubacraft is designed to have slight positive buoyancy at all times, submerging under power using the thrusters. If at any time the craft loses power it will slowly float back to the surface in a controlled manner. If so required, Scubacraft will be able to lose its positive buoyancy in a special 'park' mode, thus allowing occupants to depart from the craft and perhaps swim off to explore inside a shipwreck before returning to Scubacraft.

Scubacraft features a system

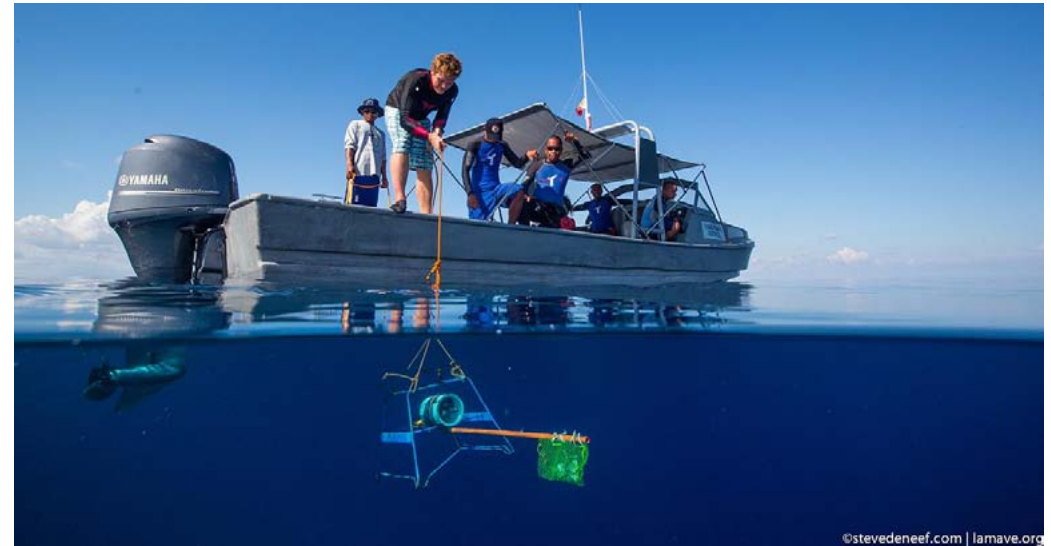
of limiting the maximum dive depth to suit specific market demands. Scubacraft has emergency backup systems that ensure any system issues will result in the craft rising safely back to the surface. Even with total failure of the main buoyancy system, Scubacraft can snorkel its main engine at the surface and rise up onto the plane under power.

More advanced safety features include an automatic depth control (ADC) system that assists the operator in maintaining depth, controlling ascent and descent. VHF radio, underwater communications, lights and GPS are accessories that enhance safety and performance in operation.

Scubacraft also features an integrated SMB (Surface Marker Buoy) system that indicates its presence underwater to all surface craft and incorporates an EPIRB (Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon) transmitter.

www.scubacraft.com

Shark/Ray behaviour Lamave joins Philippine Siren in Tubbataha



While the Tubbataha 2016 season is barely over, we look forward to coming season, which is already filling up swiftly. Check out this exciting event in spring 2017: hop on board the Philippine Siren on our 29 March- 4 April 2017 – 6 nights cruise and get even more out of your Tubbataha liveaboard dive trip!

- Assist the LAMAVE team in monitoring tiger shark and gray reef shark behaviour.
- Join in for exploratory dives to deploy new acoustic receivers to track individual (whale) sharks, manta rays and analyse the gathered data from existing receivers.
- Help with identifying individual tagged species of (whale) sharks,

manta rays and turtles to be able to count their numbers.

LAMAVE - Large Marine Vertebrates Research Institute Philippines - is the largest independent non-profit non-governmental organisation dedicated to the conservation of marine megafauna and the protection of their habitats in the Philippines. They have been working with the Tubbataha Management Office and it's rangers since 2015 to assess the biodiversity, shark/ray behaviour and study the whereabouts of shark/ray species in the Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park.

www.lamave.org
www.wwdas.com

www.uwpmag.com

Bluewater Photo's SoCal Shootout

September 9-11th, 2016

The 2016 SoCal Shootout is coming!! Bluewater Photo is excited to run this competition again, and registration is now open. This weekend long competition brings together underwater photographers of all levels throughout Southern California.

Starting Friday morning and spanning through Sunday night, participants have the opportunity to

shoot photos in the Pacific Ocean anywhere south of Pt. Conception to north of the Mexican border to be eligible. Continuing into its 6th year, entry for the competition is still only \$40. Those interested in participating can sign up online.

Entrants can enter up to 8 photos or three video entries, or a mix of the two. Please see the website for complete information and rules.

www.bluewaterphotostore.com/socal-shootout

Martyn Guess Scuba Travel workshops

Dumaguete & Bali

For over 20 years Martyn Guess has been found on the back of a dive boat, camera in hand. In those years he's travelled the globe and photographed the marvels underwater extensively. Many UK photographers will have seen him at events up and down the country, as well as seen his work picking up prizes at UK and International competitions.

Now, he's sharing all that experience. In 2017 Martyn will run photography workshops with the UK's leading dive tour operator Scuba Travel. Very special destinations have been chosen for these inaugural trips, Dumaguete (Philippines) in April 2017 and Bali (Indonesia) in August 2017.

The workshops are aimed at intermediate shooters, looking to master more advanced techniques. Most days there will either be presentations on a specific topic or group image reviews. Group post processing sessions will be encouraged.

Both trips have been carefully



timed for the marine life. Dumaguete promises to be a macro fest whilst The Best of Bali trip is a more varied workshop, with both superb macro but also great wide angle opportunities.

Scuba Travel's complete workshop packages are fully ATOL bonded and include Cathay Pacific flights (40kgs hold), airport transfers, all your accommodation, dives and the photo workshop. The dive centres have been chosen for their outstanding photographic support.

Join Martyn in Dumaguete for £3150 per person or in Bali for £2545 per person.

www.scubatravel.com

How would you like to own the land by Hairball in Lembeh?

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Enquiries welcome.



Contact Colin Marshall at
COLINTRMARSHALL@yahoo.com



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- Optional TTL hotshoe and Nikon TTL Converter provide true strobe communication between the camera and Ikelite DS strobes
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- 200' (60m) back provides access to almost every function and withstands daily use up to recreational dive depths
- Enjoy the best of both worlds; backs are available for purchase separately to mix and match

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- Vacuum valve standard on DL models; optional on FL model
- Supremely functional control layout with access to all important camera features
- ABC-PC and Lexan construction is strong and fundamentally corrosion resistant
- Balanced aluminum base with left-hand quick release handle
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