

Editorial

Audun Rikardsen

Firstly I'd like to thank Audun Rikardsen from Norway for giving me permission to use his winning image from the WPY competition and secondly congratulate him on his success.

Two of his powerful images are reproduced in a spread of WPY underwater winners later in this issue and they are both, to my eye, world class and I thought worthy of higher placing but what do I know?

They are two great examples of how you don't need colourful coral reefs to produce arresting images. Sometimes a stark contrast and a sense of remoteness has a power of its own.

I am hoping he will have time to tell us the stories behind both shots for publication in the next issue of UWP.

Circular Fisheyes

Phil Rudin's review of Canon's 8-15mm lens made me think how far we've developed optically.

In the early days (yawn) the only really wide angle lenses we had

were circular fisheyes because either the knowledge or the manufacturing techniques hadn't been developed to make full frame wide angle lenses.

I think there's something rather special about the images which circular fisheyes produce. Rather like looking through a porthole into the underwater world they can create a tremendous feeling of space and I'm glad to see the capability back.

Self repairing camera

My back up Panasonic GX7 started playing up recently and would come up with the annoying message "Lens not recognised. Please refit".

Now on land that wouldn't be a problem but to get the message when you've kitted up and descended to 15 metres is a proverbial pain.

At first I thought it was the lens release button pushing onto the camera at depth but it wasn't. Then I thought there might be some corrosion on the little sprung loaded cameras between the body and the lens. I cleaned them and still the message came up intermittently and usually on a dive even though I'd checked it on the surface.

Convinced it was a camera problem I went to the Panasonic store with my 3 year extended warranty which was due to expire in a few days!

As expected they blamed everything except the camera and suggested that I do a factory reset and update the lens and body firmware.

Totally unconvinced, I went home and followed their suggestion and, blow me, the fault has gone!

Camera controls

I have been keeping an eye on the Italian housing manufacturer Easydive for several years after they produced an SLR housing which controlled the camera functions via the USB port. It struck me as a good idea because you could place the push buttons on handles left and right to make it more like the Amphibico video housings of the 80s and 90s which I used to use.

Now Easydive are producing housings which control the camera via WiFi and that seems to me a very significant development as most cameras now have built in WiFi.

I'll keep you updated.

UPY 2017

I am pleased to have been asked to be Chairman of this year's competition as our previous Chairman, Alex Mustard has new family commitments.

The truth is that nothing will change, Myself, Alex and Martin Edge will all meet in early January to take 2 days to view your amazing entries in detail and to take the time to give your work the attention it deserves. That is what sets UPY apart from other competitions.

When I bumped into Martin Edge at the Birmingham Dive Show I was amazed how excited he was and looking forward to our judging meet and to be honest, all three of us are.

It is difficult to describe the genuine joy that your entries give us. The extremely high overall standard sprinkled with images of world class quality never ceases to inspire us and while I'm sure it doesn't apply to Mr Mustard and Mr Edge but I'm so pleased to be a judge because it means I can't enter and struggle to compete with your amazing images!

Roll on next January.

Peter Rowlands

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www.uwpmag.com

News, Travel & Events

Snorkel with Humpback Whales Kingdom of Tonga Sept. 13-22, 2017

The Oceanic Society has engaged renowned marine wildlife photographer and biologist Doug Perrine to lead its 2017 expedition to swim with and photograph humpback whales in the Vava'u Islands of Tonga.

Guests will stay at a comfortable beachfront resort on a small private island, and enjoy 6 days of seeking out humpback whales on a small boat during the height of the reproductive season when courtship will be in full swing, and we can expect to see mothers with young playful calves.

An additional boat day will be spent exploring mangroves and other Tongan ecosystems and cultural settings, plus there will be a free day for snorkeling, paddling, or relaxing around the resort.

The guide and naturalist for this trip, Doug Perrine, has a master's degree in marine biology and over 20 years experience as a volunteer data collector with the Hawaii Whale Research Foundation in addition to years of experience photographing many species of whales around the world. A winner of the grand prize in



the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition, with photos published in National Geographic, BBC Wildlife, and hundreds of other magazines, he will be available throughout the trip to offer personal advice on photography,

as well as to share his knowledge of whale behavior. Space is limited. Details of the expedition can be found on the Oceanic Society website at

www.oceanicsociety.org

www.uwpmag.com

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UPY 2017

The Underwater Photographer of the Year competition is now open for entries and the closing date is January 2nd 2017.

UPY has become a very prestigious competition and has attracted a world class standard of entries but there are categories for all levels to encourage all underwater photographers to enter and have the chance to be voted Underwater Photographer of the Year 2017.

Two new categories have been added; Portraits and (International) Compacts.

The judging team remains the same but this year Peter Rowlands is the Chairman as Alex now has increased family commitments. Peter, Alex and Martin Edge will spend two days together in mid January 2017 to give your entries the time and respect they deserve.

Last year Pier Mane from South Africa won the Up & Coming category and he reports:

“After the winners were publicly announced, my underwater photography world changed overnight. Suddenly the South African press wanted to know who I was and how I won.

The Cape Argus featured a page in their



British Waters Macro. Highly Commended
‘Slug’ by Alex Tattersall (UK)



Up & Coming. Highly commended
‘Bass’ by Oliver Anlauf (Germany)

Saturday newspaper, as well as some Italian and South African publications. SABC (South Africa National Television) interviewed me on their Expresso Morning Show.

Thereafter, I put out there more of my work and got contacted by a couple of press agencies (ShutterStock and Caters News) with whom I now



International Wide Angle. 3rd place
‘Lagoon’ by Greg Lecoeur (France)



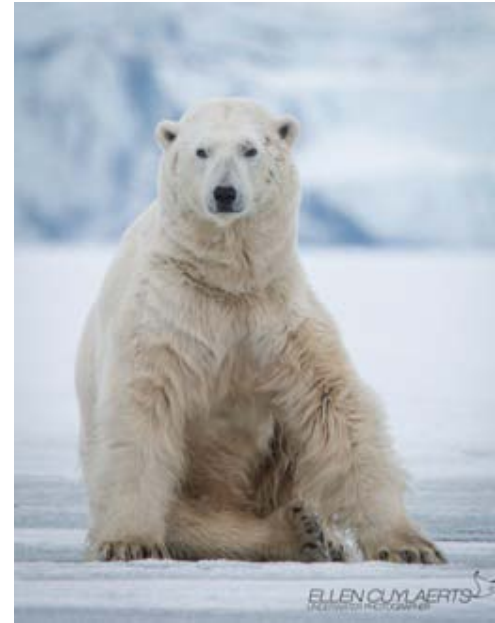
British Compact . Highly commended
‘Hello give us a kiss’ by Sara Bowring (UK)

have contracts.”

The results of UPY 2017 will be featured in most major newspapers, magazines and websites worldwide giving winners unprecedented coverage of their work and who knows what opportunities might occur as a result of such coverage!

www.underwaterphotographeroftheyear.com

Polar Bear Nursing & Predation April 23-30 & April 30-May 7, 2017



From the diary of Ellen Cuylaerts, BigAnimals Expedition Guest... Our encounters were like being in the middle of a BBC documentary. We connected with the animals we observed because being focussed on them for a long time, you start to read their character and yes, we were guilty of naming them. We'll never forget Junior, a young male, who did not get the concept of preserving energy yet and enjoyed digging holes in the ice

to go for a swim or to gallop away some distances and look like a horse. Scar, an older male made quite an impression too. Majestic but scarred for life by fights with other males, he showed us what a predator is all about: relaxed confidence because he knows he is at the top of the food chain.



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New 2017 Calendar - Jeremy & Amanda Cuff



Photographers and photojournalists Jeremy and Amanda Cuff have published a new 2017 Calendar titled "Diving Dreams".

Jeremy said, "The Diving Dreams 2017 Calendar features a variety of images, mostly from our dive travels over recent times, and includes destinations such as Egypt, Hawaii, Guadalupe, Galapagos, the Maldives and the UK."

The 2017 Calendar can be obtained from Jeremy & Amanda at a cost of £9.00 including postage

(within the UK).

For further information, please visit Jeremy & Amanda's website.

The website features a wide selection of photography and articles with particular emphasis on scuba diving and travel, although other topics such as abstracts and black and white photography are also included.

www.ja-universe.com

www.uwpmag.com

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Devon Dolphins Campaign



© Martin Kitching

Devon Wildlife Trust is calling on the government to create a protected area in the south west of Lyme Bay for dolphins, whales and seabirds. This area is home to white beaked dolphins, but these dolphins have no legal protection against damaging human activities here.

After years of campaigning, fifty Marine Conservation Zones have now been designated to help our marine environment recover from decades of decline but there are many places and species that still need protection. Large marine animals, such as whales, dolphins and basking sharks are also at risk from damaging activities.

Although these species range across large areas, evidence from overseas shows that Marine Protected Areas - in places where animals gather to feed, breed and raise their young - can help to protect those at risk.

An area in the south-west of Lyme Bay is vital for a population of white beaked dolphins that spend much of their lives here, foraging for food and nursing their young.

This area is also important for bottlenose dolphins, minke whale, basking shark and thousands of seabirds.

Creation of a new Marine Conservation Zone here would protect marine animals against damaging human activities.

Please support our campaign to create a 'Devon Dolphins' MCZ in the south-west of Lyme Bay. Sign up for email updates and we'll keep you informed about how you can help these dolphins.

www.devonwildlifetrust.org

A composite image featuring a sailfish on the left, a sea lion on the right, and a small inset of a sea lion's head. The background is a deep blue underwater scene with many small sardines.

GregorySweeney.com Photography Adventures

Scuba with Sea Lions

April 2017

Sailfish Hunting Sardines

February 2017



A week in the life of Basking Shark Scotland!



Despite Autumn being in full swing, our dive team has still been kept very busy and has completed an interesting and very unique week! Basking Shark Scotland is an innovative company based in Oban with commercial qualified divers and marine biologist staff.

On Sunday (9th Oct) we completed our last day of basking shark research in the Clyde where we had spent 3 weeks monitoring the southerly migration of the sharks. Overall we catalogued 24 sharks and ended with a glorious day overlooking the Isle of Arran and spent an afternoon with a large 7m+ male basking shark. We were undertaking a picture survey of the dorsal fins to aid in studying site fidelity and for future identification of individual sharks. Along with studies of the food they were eating in the area, location, oceanic conditions and entering the water to sex the sharks

and monitor any interesting behaviour.

During the week the team were down on the east coast of the country to Edinburgh where they spent two days diving in the penguin enclosure at Edinburgh Zoo. They undertook a bi-annual clean of their pool cleaning the public viewing windows, scrubbing the walls and floor. It may sound like fun but it's hard work scrubbing and hoovering the tank, whilst the penguins swim round you and peck at the equipment and divers!

Then a further quick turn around straight back to Oban preparing for a tour out to the Hebridean Isle of Coll on Saturday where took visitors swimming with grey and harbour seals. We had some fantastic interactions with female grey seals who followed the swimmers and played with for many hours in the crystal clear Atlantic Ocean.

www.baskingsharkscotland.co.uk

www.uwpmag.com



Fiji - Underwater Photography in Paradise



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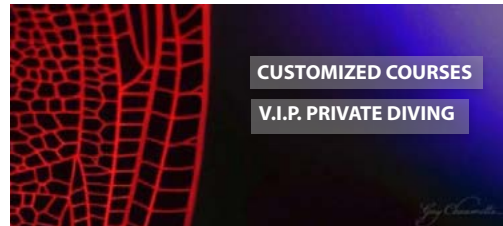
We tend to protect what we understand. For many, marine life is largely out of sight, out of mind. You can change all that. **You are a powerful tool** to protect the oceans.

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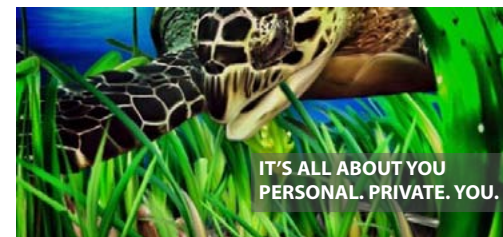
"My training here at the Academy gave me the courage to open my own underwater media business. Now I am living my dream"... (Beth Weinstein)

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"I chose Liquid Motion Academy over The L.A. Film School, because I wanted to learn the art - stories, creation with freedom, how to portray emotion, how to make a difference. It's incredible how much I learnt about filmmaking and photography in such a short time!" (Karin Saini)

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Fiji is an idyllic group of more than 300 islands, each one with its own personality and underwater treasures! Even though it is mostly known for its colourful soft corals, Fiji has much more to offer!

Everybody agrees with Cousteau, when he named Fiji as the "Soft Coral Capital of the World"! The colors are so incredibly vibrant that it is hard not to be hypnotized by all those pink, purple, orange, yellow and red lush soft corals! The best places for soft coral in Fiji are the Bligh Waters, Tavenui and the Namena Marine Reserve.

If the colourful coral does not bring you enough excitement, Fiji has a wide variety of marine life as colorful as its environment including

angelfish, anemone fish, anthias and even Blue Ribbon Eels which are fantastic subjects to photograph!

Wide Angle photography opportunities are everywhere in Fiji! Lush and stunning boomies full of life will make you feel like diving into an aquarium! Turtles, big schools of barracudas, banded sea snakes, sharks and mantas are also a great opportunity for wide angle underwater photography.

There is a wide variety of fantastic marine life to enjoy! So, if you are an underwater photographer and you are looking for inspiration for your next liveaboard dive trip, then Fiji is right for you!

www.wwdas.com

Komodo Island, Indonesia aboard the Damai I Liveaboard Jan 28th - Feb 8th, 2017

Komodo National Park, located in the center of the Indonesian archipelago, is located at the meeting of two continental plates, this national park constitutes the “shatter belt”, between the Australian and Sunda ecosystems. The park is identified as a global conservation priority area, comprising unparalleled terrestrial and marine ecosystems. The park is best known for the Komodo “dragon” monitor, the world’s largest living lizard, measuring up to 8’ long!

Upwelling of nutrient-rich water from deeper areas of the archipelago is responsible for the rich reef ecosystem. The variety of marine life that you can see in Komodo rivals any of the world’s best dive destinations. From sunfish, mantas, dolphins, sharks and eagle rays to pygmy seahorses, ornate ghost pipefish, clown frogfish, nudibranchs and blue-ringed octopus, all are at home among a spectacular range of colorful sponges, sea squirts, tunicates and corals; Komodo is an underwater photographer’s heaven!

In Jan/February, there are good conditions in the south. Horseshoe Bay, a favorite spot, is bluer, clearer, and warmer. This charter is



a repositioning cruise, as the boat leaves the Komodo area and goes to Flores Island. With luck, we’ll also be able to see the fantastic Komba volcano from the water. Although 11 days in length, we are only being charged for 10!

www.opticaloceansales.com

Ocean Art 2016 Deadline: November 22, 2016

Underwater Photography Guide’s 6th annual Ocean Art Underwater Photo Competition closes for entries on November 22nd 2016.

The contest features over 25 incredible liveaboard, resort and photo gear sponsors exceeding \$75,000 USD.

We have many categories designed to ensure that photographers find the right category for each of their images. Categories are further divided into Compact, Mirrorless and



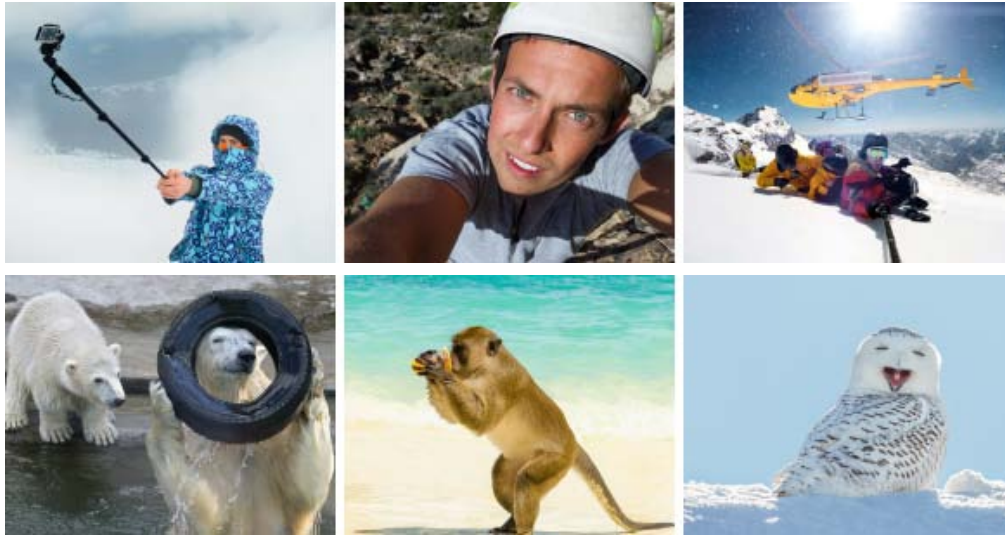
Open (all cameras). Ocean Art uses 15 categories total!

This is a virtual contest - simply upload underwater photos taken anywhere, anytime. Winners will be announced the week of Jan 9, 2017.

www.uwphotographyguide.com/ocean-art



Strange World Photography Competition



After a successful first year the Strange World Photography Competition returns to the Adventure Travel Show and entry is now open. Strange World celebrates all that is weird and wonderful in the world of adventure travel - and this is no ordinary photography competition...

Created and organised by the Adventure Travel Show, this exciting photography competition asks you to forget about technique, what camera aperture you have used or your lighting, instead it's your subject matter that counts. All the normal rules are out - they want to see images that'll make them laugh, gasp and look twice!

Winning images and further selected images will feature in the

Strange World Exhibition at the Adventure Travel Show, Olympia London on 21-22 January 2017.

We have 4 categories for you to choose from, and there is no limit as to how many photos you can submit. Images must be no larger than 5MB. Use the upload tool below to send us your photos and please do tell us where the photo was taken.

So what are you waiting for?! Starting sending us your images now...

Categories: Extreme Selfie

Where have you taken the best selfie? And don't deny that you do them! We want to see your best one, pushing the boundaries and capturing something truly awesome.

Signs

Misinterpretations, spelling hilarities and strange meanings... we've all discovered them on our travels, so send us your best finds!

Animal Antics

Our travels are never quite complete within encounters with wildlife - and their antics can prove rather entertaining too. We want to see your best and funniest critters captured on camera.

Best Of The Rest

From cultural oddities and intriguing traditions to landscape phenomena and 'right place-right time' classics - this is the category for everything else. Discovered an extreme automated toilet in Japan or quite the opposite on the remote wilds of Africa? Or maybe you've encountered an interesting grooming habit or a perplexing food option - send them all in!

www.adventureshow.com/strange-world-competition/

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



Lembeh in North Sulawesi in Indonesia is generally viewed as the world's top muck diving destination. And in Lembeh, Hairball is probably the most famous dive site.

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Contact Colin Marshall at
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