

You may (or probably may not) remember my Editorial piece in UwP90 about the Trident Open ROV Kickstarter project. Well I have an update for you.

I pledged my money in November 2015 and was well down the list of initial investors in the queue so the campaign had started a lot earlier in 2015. My credit card was duly charged with a promise of November 2016 delivery.

In October 2016 an e mail came through in couched words intimating that delivery would be delayed. I wasn't surprised.

Coincidentally when I attended the DEMA Show in Las Vegas in November 2016 Trident OpenROV had a stand there and I was able to speak to those involved in the project. We discussed the reasons for the delayed delivery and was given several reasons why. I responded that I understood the problems with getting a new product off the ground and I left reassured that I would get my ROV but not just yet.

And then I started to think about things overnight and went back the next day to talk about the product they had on display. "After 18 months development is this a working prototype?" I asked. "Yes" came the

reassuring reply. "Great" I said. "Let's see it in action". "Ah, well" came the reply. "It'll take us at least 30 minutes to get it up and running." 18 months in the development and they still need an extra 30 minutes to get one working!

That was it for me and when I got back to the UK I e mailed for a refund. To their credit, I got a reply the same day and a full refund was made to my credit card the next day.

I take no pleasure in reporting this because I still don't have an ROV that I would like to use but the only positive to come out of this, for me personally, is that because of the exchange rate fluctuations between when I pledged and when I was refunded, I'd made just over £100 profit!

But I'd much rather have a working ROV.

Jack Perks' book

Later in this issue you can read news of an excellent new book "Freshwater Fishes of Britain" by Jack Perks and an illustrated article by the man himself about how the images in the book were achieved.

I accept that we tend to be totally

Editorial

focused (pun intended) on saltwater marine life and could be accused of thinking that our freshwater counterpart is decidedly lacking in subject material but Jack's book is an excellent reminder of what great fishlife we have in our rivers and lakes.

The other thing that impressed me was that, when I contacted him for details of the equipment he used and in particular the lighting, he replied that almost all of the shots were taken by available light only.

Congratulations on an excellent book, Jack.

Envy

Writing this, as I am, on New Year's Eve in the middle of a damp but mild winter here in the UK, I can't help but feel envious of those who live near and dive The Poor Knights Islands in New Zealand not just because it's great diving but also because it summertime there! Alex Stammers' excellent article brought back fond memories for me as I visited and dived 'The Knights' 3 years running in the late 80's. New Zealand has a great range of diving from tropical north to glacial south.

Then there's Walt Stearn's comprehensive coverage of the diving to be had off Palm Beach, Florida. I sampled a short taste of it after DEMA 2015 with UwP's Seasoned Reviewer Phil Rudin and Nauticam UK's Alex Tattersall.

We were there at the wrong time of the year for the Goliath Grouper spawning but I did get a couple of special encounters with individual groupers which was impressive enough but Walt's powerful images of a spawning aggregation capture the majestic scale of the event and it is a credit to those involved who brought these amazing creatures back from the clutches of the fishing fraternity to such great effect.

As if this spectacle wasn't enough, there's wrecks, turtles, sharks and drifts as well as the 'awesome' Blue Heron Bridge.

DEMA is in Orlando once again this year and I think I might just extend my trip to have another sampling.

Finally, I'd like to wish you all best wishes for 2017 and may your visibility be good and your image taking enjoyable.

Peter Rowlands
peter@uwpmag.com

News, Travel & Events

American Crocodiles at Banco Chinchorro Mexico July 2017

Chinchorro Atoll (Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve) is the best place in the world to get close to American crocodiles. Located south of Cancun, Mexico and near the Belize border. The Banco Chinchorro Biosphere Reserve is the largest stand – alone reef in the Northern hemisphere and one of the healthiest. Fewer than one thousand divers get to see these remote and unspoiled dive sites per year. It is home to the largest population of American crocodiles found in the Americas.

This July, photographer host Gregory Sweeney and 6 guests will travel on a unique adventure to see American Crocodiles and dive these beautiful and remote reefs.

This is a safe encounter with guides who have done years of experimentation and careful planning to make this safe. Our outfitter and guide in Xcalak was the first operator to organize croc encounters in Chinchorro and they remain the only dive operator with an official concession. They are committed to sustainable tourism and conservation.

On the Chinchorro Banks, we stay in utilitarian fishing shacks on



stilts over the shallow waters: 36 nautical miles off shore and across from Xcalak, Mexico.

Each morning we dive to take in the pristine reefs and marine life while also hunting lionfish. There is a duo purpose in this; to help eliminate the invasive lionfish population and to get food to attract the crocs. In the afternoons we photograph the crocs in the 1.2m deep water around our huts. We are able to maintain a level of safety even when we are getting up close due a safety diver nearby with a pole to ward off any advances from

excited crocodiles.

When in Xcalak we have a chance to enjoy some diving on excellent reefs in the shallows and some deep walls covered in healthy sponges and stands of black coral.

Sometimes manatees are spotted on these reefs and there are several wrecks and plenty of large and small fish species. If ancient reptiles and remote adventure is calling to you, get more information on price and availability from Gregory Sweeney.

www.GregorySweeney.com

Siren Fleet

Dive in Fiji & Immerse yourself amidst a kaleidoscope of colourful soft corals & schooling pelagics

Specialists in Underwater Photography

Contact us for further information
info@sirenfleet.com
www.sirenfleet.com

Digital Shootout in Bonaire

WARM UP WEEK: June 10-17, 2017
EVENT WEEK: June 17-24, 2017

DIVE INTO THE BEST DEMO GEAR STAFF IN THE INDUSTRY



Take it seriously or take it slow, the Digital Shootout is an underwater photography/videography vacation designed to take the shooter in the group to the next level. If you're a new or an intermediate shooter, the Digital Shootout is our fast-track to better underwater imaging. In six days of seminars and diving, the Digital Shootout team will help dial in your underwater system and shooting techniques. Enter your best images in the final contest to win trips, gear, and

more from our great sponsors.

The Divi Flamingo Beach Resort & Casino is ideally located along the west coast of Bonaire just steps from the capital city of Kralendijk. Guests may enjoy an easy 10 minute walk to the restaurants, bars, and shops of Bonaire's charming capital.

The Divi Flamingo is beachfront, and approximately 20 yards from the Calabas Reef, making shore diving easy and convenient.

www.backscatter.com/learn/trips-and-classes/trips.php?ID=278

Manta Fest 2017

Aug 26th-Sept 10th, 2017

Come learn from the top underwater shooters in the world, experience great diving and have lots of fun! Ambassadors Steve Miller and David Fleetham will be there along with experienced Ikelite pros Ray Bullion, Tim Rock, and Brad Holland, plus Frank Scheider of Tauchen magazine and Andy Schumacher of Schumacher Films.

Manta Ray Bay Resort & Yap Divers are one of our favorite operations in the world- not just for the wake-up, to-your-room coffee service, but for the fantastic diving



too! If you haven't been, this is a **MUST GO...** if you've already gone you know you need to go back!

www.ikelite.com

Join us for your 2017 adventure
400+ sharks in 2016 our season
Peak tour season July-August
Our brand new website is now live
www.baskingsharkscotland.co.uk

Halmahera 2017



WWW.SEAHORSELIVEABOARD.COM
INFO@SEAHORSELIVEABOARD.COM



Great Hammerheads, Tiger Sharks & Dolphins Bahamas

April 17 - April 25,
2017

Join us for one of the best shark experiences any where in the world. We will be diving with and photographing tiger sharks, reef sharks, lemon sharks, great hammerhead sharks, and atlantic spotted dolphins trekking from Grand Bahamas to Bimini.

We will be diving with Blue Iguana Charters and will be accompanied by shark wranglers Jamin Martinelli and Mike Black—the best shark people I've ever worked with. You are GUARANTEED great shark encounters and photos on this trip.

We still embark and disembark out of Freeport International Airport on Grand Bahama Island. Boarding will begin on the 17th at around 4PM, and will finish the trip on the 25th sometime mid-day.

Trip open to photographers and non-photographers alike



www.bradleyphotographic.com

www.uwpmag.com

WETPIXEL



THE SOURCE
www.wetpixel.com

Jason deCaires Taylor's Underwater Sculptures



Jason deCaires Taylor is an internationally acclaimed sculptor who creates underwater living installations, offering viewers mysterious, ephemeral encounters and fleeting glimmers of another world where art develops from the effects of nature on the efforts of man. His site-specific, permanent works are designed to act as artificial reefs, attracting corals, increasing marine biomass and aggregating fish species, while crucially diverting tourists away from fragile natural reefs and thus providing space for natural rejuvenation. Subject to the abstract

metamorphosis of the underwater environment, his works symbolize a striking symbiosis between man and nature, balancing messages of hope and loss.

Taylor's sculptures change over time with the effects of their environment. These factors create a living aspect to the works, which would be impossible to reproduce artificially. As time passes and the works develop biological growth, they redefine the underwater landscape, evolving within the narrative of nature.

www.underwatersculpture.com

www.uwpmag.com

scubadiveasia

The Best Dive Resorts Worldwide

scubadiveasia.com

Moorea Ocean Adventures



From \$610 USD for Up to 6 guests

Whale and
Dolphin Swim



From \$610 USD for Up to 6 guests

Shark and Ray
Swim



From \$610 USD for Up to 6 guests

Big Blue
Discovery



From \$610 USD for Up to 6 guests

Reef Snorkeling



From \$610 USD for Up to 6 guests

Underwater
Flying



Please contact us for a quote

Charter
Expeditions

GregorySweeney.com Photography Adventures

Scuba with Sea Lions April 2017

Crocodiles in Mexico July 2017

British Columbia

After being involved in marine conservation and ecotourism in French Polynesia for years, Matthieu Petit and Trevor Orth are glad to present you the 1st company of private boat tours entirely dedicated to the observation and the encounters with the marine wildlife of Moorea : Moorea Ocean Adventures.

We specialize in offering adventure tours and experiences beyond the ordinary to swim with the amazing variety of whales, dolphins, sharks, rays, turtles,... that inhabit the reefs and seas around the tropical paradise island of Moorea in French Polynesia.

We are a small company dedicated to fun, personal and informative adventure tours . Our customizable private tours are led by our staff marine biologist, Matthieu Petit, and cameraman, Trevor Orth. We propose unique experience escaping the crowded commercial tours to join private activities suitable for up to 8 guests. The best way to encounter wild marine animals in their environment with maximum safety and comfort but also a minimum impact on animals' behaviour.

www.moorea-ocean-adventures.com





THE SARDINE RUN
Shark & Shoal Diving Adventures

*2017 bookings
now open*

*Poseidon Rebreathers &
courses available*
www.thesardinerun.co.za

Scuba Videos



We love diving and we love underwater videos. Good underwater videos. Too much of what is published on the Internet is simply too shaky or too blurry.

There are, however, many fantastic videos that don't get the attention they deserve. So we realized that there was a need for a filter. Something that gives you a chance to find all the hidden gems out there.

Most of the videos that we link to are made by amateurs and some by professionals but they will all give you a moment of underwater magic.

Please let us know of any video that you think qualifies to be on Scubavideos.

Enjoy the site!

www.scubavideos.org

Solitary Islands, NSW March 2017



Well, downunderpix is going again to the beautiful Solitary Islands on the 26th March to the 2nd April 2017. The cost of \$990 per person includes 7 nights at Mullaway, 12 dives with Dive Quest, tanks/weights/airfills, return airport transfers (if required).

Underwater photographers Paul Macdonald and Elizabeth Solich will lead the trip and all divers are welcome to attend, whether or not they are photographers. If taking pictures underwater is your thing, it will be an ideal opportunity to continue to develop your underwater photography skills and Paul and Elizabeth will be on hand for help and advice if required. Use your frequent flyers, arrange your own flights or take your car.

www.downunderpix.com

www.uwpmag.com

BEHIND EVERY MARINE SHOW
DRAMA UNFOLDS.

NANUQ WAS RIPPED FROM HIS FAMILY
MEMBERS AND FORCED TO LIVE IN
A TANK WITH TWO CAPTIVE-BORN BELUGAS
WHOM HE DID NOT KNOW.
IN FEBRUARY 2015, NANUQ WAS ATTACKED
BY THESE TWO BELUGAS.
TRAPPED AND UNABLE TO ESCAPE,
NANUQ DIED A SLOW DEATH
FROM HIS INJURIES.

www.seashepherdglobal.org



CAPTIVITY KILLS. STOP SUPPORTING MARINE PARKS.

Gerald Rambert
workshop in Raja Ampat
Indo Siren: 26th April - 6th
May 2017

The Siren Fleet is a keen supporter of underwater photography and each of our yachts is designed to accommodate the underwater photographer's needs. Throughout the whole year they have a wide selection of escorted underwater photography workshops, hosted by well-known underwater photographers and videographers who provide our guests with the opportunity to develop and improve their photography skills in a variety of destinations.

Gerald will accompany guests on board to be on hand to give advice on macro, wide angle, compact and SLR photography. Recognising that each person's camera is a different make and model the first two days of the trip are spent assisting each guest with camera set up, fine tuning the settings and finding the best compromise for achieving optimum results. In between dives Gerald sits with guests to review photos and discuss techniques for improvements on an individual or group basis depending on the group and camera types involved.

Gerald will accompany each individual underwater to develop



technique and also show how they approach a subject and would set the camera. This allows for development at an individual pace and for him to tailor learning to individual needs. He learned by doing and watching others and feels this is the best approach to running the workshop.

During the afternoon, typically after the third day dive, a presentation will be given on the following subjects: Terms and photo language, the light, the use of flashes, framing and composition, wide angle photography, macro photography and Photoshop.

Limited spaces!

www.sirenfleet.com

www.uwpmag.com

BOSTON SEA ROVERS

EDUCATION, EXPLORATION & CONSERVATION

- FREE EXHIBIT HALL WITH SCUBA EQUIPMENT,
DIVE TRAVEL & MORE
 - FREE PARKING
 - FREE DISCOVER SCUBA DIVING
 - UNDERWATER FILM FESTIVAL
- PRESENTATIONS • KIDS ACTIVITIES
 - WORKSHOPS
 - ARTIFACT EXHIBIT
- MARINE SCIENCE & CONSERVATION
PUBLIC FORUM

2-DAY EVENT

MARCH
11 & 12, 2017

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
Boston North Shore
50 Ferncroft Road
Danvers, Massachusetts

For more information on Tickets, Speakers,
Workshops, Exhibitors, Location and more:

BostonSeaRovers.com



photo: © Becky Kagan Schott



Find an Authorized Ikelite Dealer at Ikelite.com.

The Revolution is Now

And it starts with the **Nikon D500**

Choice of Port System:

- New Dry Lock (DL) port system for maximum flexibility, improved security, and expanded support of popular larger diameter lenses
- Four Lock (FL) port system model for legacy users who want to use their older Ikelite lens ports

Choice of Flash Options:

- Pre-installed manual electrical flash bulkhead and hotshoe for the fastest and most reliable triggering with most popular underwater strobes
- Optional TTL hotshoe and Nikon TTL Converter provide true strobe communication between the camera and Ikelite DS strobes
- Optional remote strobe triggering via extension cord or optical slave sensor; third party accessory support for triggering via Pocket Wizard transceivers

Choice of Depth Rating:

- 50' (15m) back for shallow water, pool and surf use makes the system lighter and easier to handle at the surface of the water
- 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

Standard Features:

- 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
- Made in the USA