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**POINT & CLICK ON BOLD LINKS**



# Holiday Gifts

*Stuffers for Really Big Stockings...*



## Trinkets from the Sea

Does she love the sea? How about the loving seahorse? Be her valentine and let your love be known. Fine exquisite 14k gold pendants from Big Blue's Seaplicity collection here: [www.bigbluedive.com](http://www.bigbluedive.com)



## Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Fiipper?

Give her the gift of gold with this delicate pendant showing three dolphins leaping. Handcrafted in 14k gold by Lloyds. Find it at: [www.lloydslimited.com](http://www.lloydslimited.com)



## Gotta dive?

What to do when you get up and freeze in the breeze? How about a Ragz Pullover and hat? These wonderfully soft pullovers are designed from a lightweight cham-oi swim towel for people who love the water. They are comfortable, warm and cozy, block the wind instantly and get softer each time you wash them. Comes in Coconut, Mango and Ocean Blue. Priced: US\$69.00. Hats: \$24.00 [Ragzpullovers.com](http://Ragzpullovers.com)



## Immersion

### Ladies Storm Blue Watch

One of the best looking watches on the market in our opinion, made from marine grade stainless steel with a slightly transparent segmented polyurethane strap. Uni-directional bezel for dive timing. Water resistant to 200 meters. [shop.scuba.co.uk](http://shop.scuba.co.uk)

## Diversitea's

**Superfood Survival Kit** Coming up for air and starving? Avoid the temptation of unhealthy breakfast and snack choices while diving. Try this convenient care package designed for divers. Contains: one trial size bottle of Vitamineral Green, a great vitamin and nutrient rich meal replacement when mixed with fruit juice or added to a Smoothie (10 to 15 servings in per bottle); six Raw Crunch® bars—a delicious seed and nut-based nutrition boost bar (uncooked, unprocessed, free of artificial supplements, colors, flavorings and preservatives)—can stabilize your blood sugar and control your appetite naturally; one box Giant Quart Size Original Blend Diversitea (makes 6 Quarts); one 34 oz Diversitea Cold-Brew Sport Bottle; one box Sunset Blend Diversitea, containing 24 individual teabags

for brewing up to relax at the end of the day. Comes in a transparent full size Opti-Dry Drybag for carrying a towel and other items you want along on the trip. You just have to ADD WATER! [Diversitea.com](http://Diversitea.com)



CHRISTMAS ISLAND TOURISM ASSOCIATION

## Want a little Yuletide adventure?

Why not discover the Sea Caves of Christmas Island where the ocean waves have eroded the limestone cliffs and exposed numerous caves that provide exhilarating diving. Inside Thunder Cliff cave, divers can surface into a huge air-filled dome adorned with wonderous stalagmite and stalactite formations. See: [www.christmas.net.au](http://www.christmas.net.au) and [www.diveadventures.com.au](http://www.diveadventures.com.au)



# Holiday Gifts

## Give Back to the Sea

A percent of all sales goes to ocean conservation at The X-RAY MAG Store and Ocean Arts Gallery & Emporium. Are you a shop or resort who wants to give back too? Contact Percent for the Oceans at: [gsymes@xray-mag.com](mailto:gsymes@xray-mag.com)



## Laugh your head off all year round!

Give the gift that keeps giving chuckles month after month. These hilarious dive cartoons by Canadian syndicated cartoonist, Ralph Hagen, were created exclusively for X-RAY MAG by the talented diver with wacky humour. Worldwide delivery. Bulk discounts available on 15 or more. Calendars now on sale from US\$7.19 and up. Mousepad: US\$15.99. Tile coasters: US\$8.99 **The X-RAY MAG Store**



## Exquisite Aboriginal Art

Using the ancient dot on dot technique, Thai artist Kitti Narod has created some of the most beautiful and expressive underwater and nature scenes with oil and acrylic on wood. Enjoy his work all year with this 11 x17" calendar. Worldwide shipping. Now only US\$15.99 at **Ocean Arts Gallery & Emporium**



## Wetpixel / Divester T-Shirt

Pick up this new design on a cool black t-shirt for your dive buddy offered by our good friends at Wetpixel and Diverster. Learn more about their information and services for underwater photographers. [www.wetpixel.com](http://www.wetpixel.com) or [www.divester.com](http://www.divester.com)



## X-RAY MAG T's

Our cool black T now comes in new colors like Cardinal, Navy, Military Green crew necks and white golf shirts too. Buy the t-shirt that tells the world you support the oceans and cutting edge dive journalism in a wide screen magazine that's free and independent. Just \$23.99 at **The X-RAY MAG Store**



## Undersea Batik

Beautiful images of the underwater world created with the ancient technique of using die and wax on silk, Wisconsin artist, Sue Duda, a diver and ocean lover has tales to tell in her undersea batik images. Lovely decor for home or office. Designs come on framed and unframed prints, pillows, scarves, shower curtains, tablecloths, tiles, t-shirts and more. From US\$8.99 and up. **The X-RAY MAG Store** and **Ocean Arts Gallery & Emporium**

## Funny Dive T's

Get your hot new thigh slapping Ralph Hagen dive cartoons on t-shirts for men, women and kids. From US\$12.99 and up. Worldwide shipping. Bulk discounts for orders of 15 or more. **The X-RAY MAG Store**





# Holiday Gifts



*Queen of the Sea* by Sue Duda 12 x 14" print of original batik US\$50 is great on pillows too

*Maui Madness* by Jill Saur 32 x 40" print US\$370 also looks fabulous on a large tablecloth for your dining room

*Burundi Princess* by Jean Lamy, oil on board, 70 x 54 cm US\$1262

TOP: Detail from *Reef Fish 1* by Gary Jenkins 12 x 16" print US\$75  
BOTTOM: *Fire Water* by Cate Larkin 12 x 12" print US\$75



*Island* by Philip Sybal 15 x 22" print US\$350



*Swimmers in the Pond* by Susan Allen, original egg tempura painting, 25 x 23 cm US\$358

## Surround Them With the Sea...

Give the gift of Ocean Art and support ocean conservation at the same time! Divers who love the ocean also enjoy remembering their underwater journeys while topside with art inspired by the sea for their homes and offices. Here is a sampling of what you can find at Ocean Arts Gallery & Emporium where a percent of all sales goes to ocean conservation. Private collectors and designers of dive resorts, boutiques and shops will find wonderful originals and reproductions on canvas and archival watercolor paper by artists from around the world. Many are available in three sizes from 12 x 14" to 32 x 40". Prices from US\$43.00 and up. Soon to come: Many designs from our participating vendor, Gallery Street, can be ordered on home decor and gifts such as pillows, scarves, tablecloths, placemats and greeting cards. You can even dress up your bath with fine art printed on a shower curtain! [www.oceanartsgallery.com](http://www.oceanartsgallery.com)



*Anchors Away* by Gleb Nazarov, 12 x 15" print US\$155



*Boat on Ladder* by Vladimir Boderenko, 12 x 16" print US\$155



*Sailing Waves* by Tolick Yanev 12 x 16" print US\$155



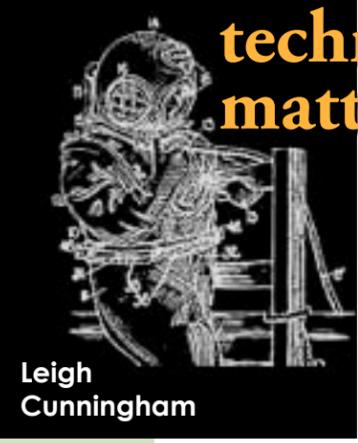
*I Ching* by Sydnie Irby 12 x 16.5" print US\$43



*Shark* by Barry Nehr 12 x 16" print US\$75



*Timothy of the Coral Sea* by Shawn Brasfield 12 x 16" print \$85



# technical matters

*The popular appeal and perceived machismo associated with deep dives tends to lure unsuspecting novice divers to depths beyond the capacity of their equipment, knowledge, skill, and physiology.*



*Depth has been an allurementsince humans first ventured into the underwater world.*

# Do it Right

*Something I find surprising in the 21st century is the amount of divers that have had no formal training below 40 meters, which chose to conduct dives regularly beyond this depth going to 50 or 60 meters on air and in some cases even deeper.*

**We can't help it.** Depth has been an allurementsince humans first ventured into the underwater world.

In 1943, soon after development of the first modern Aqua Lung, Frederic Dumas dived to 61.5 meters breathing compressed air. In 1947, Cousteau's team (formed in 1943) made experimental compressed air scuba dives to 90



meters. A decade on, Andrea Doria dives become popular for the few at the cutting edge, in July 1956, Peter Gimbel and Dumas made the first dive to the sunken luxury liner, off the coast of New York. Two weeks later, Ramsey Parks, Earl Murray, Bob Dill, and

In his day, Jacques-Yves Cousteau did not have many options but to learn about deep diving from his own experiments. You do...

Peter Gimbel filmed the sunken vessel for Life magazine. These pioneering scuba divers used compressed air scuba at a depth of around 75 meters for these dives.

In 1967, Hal Watts made a record compressed air scuba dive to 118 meters, and in 1968, Neal Watson and John Gruener reached 132 meters. More recently (1989), Bret Gilliam completed a series of air dives in excess of 90 meters with an unofficial record dive to 136 meters, later pushing his air record to 144 meters.

In more recent years (1999), Mark Andrews conducted a series of deep air scuba dives in the Philippines, breaking Bret's air record with a dive to 156 meters.

In years gone past to present time, the seductive appeal of being a pioneer or explorer has driven individuals to the edge of physiological boundaries. This decade, however, a growing controversy and probable consequences involved with

planning and attempting depth records, has deterred more record attempts using air as breathing medium.

**Meanwhile,** a better understanding of helium and decompression and the physiological and psychological effects of gases under high pressure, led a new breed of deep diving pioneers—now using trimix—to once more push depth limits, to set cave penetration records and going to the edge of their physiological, skill and equipment capabilities—and some times beyond.

### Pioneering deep mix diving

In 1994, Jim Bowden dived to 287 meters breathing Trimix in a sink hole (cave) in Mexico, claiming the open circuit depth record. Unfortunately, his dive partner and renowned cave diving pioneer, Sheck Exley, did not return alive from this dive. Then, in 2000 the late John Bennett broke Jim's record with a dive in the Philippines to 308 meters. In

turn, in 2006m Nuno Gomes broke John's record with a dive in the Red Sea to 318 meters, a record set only too see Pascal Bernebe go to 330 meters off Corsica, France, only a few weeks later.

Spectacular as all these records might be, the popular appeal and perceived machismo associated with deep dives tends to lure unsuspecting novice divers to go to depths beyond the capacity of their equipment, knowledge, skill, and physiology.

### Training!

For four decades, training agencies have educated the general diving public in the art of non deco diving to a maximum depth of 40 meters. For the past two decades, technical training agencies have been set up specifically to educate and certify divers

Do you want to go below 40? Go back to school. There are plenty of training agencies offering technical diving courses





## technical matters

*For many divers, perhaps you included, the opportunity to make a deep dive (below 40 meters) is the highlight of a tropical holiday on a dive safari or cruise*

go beyond 100 meters. The technical diver aspiring to do so is left to gain experience and only gradually increase depth in order to retain as much as the safety that would have at less than 100 meter.

The recreational diver, on the other hand, can enroll in a variety of sanctioned courses to gain required knowledge and skills to safely plan and conduct dives down to 40 meters—and once they are ready and capable to go beyond that, there are several organizations offering technical training. So, why not go for the training options on offer, and encourage safer diving practices?

### Unsafe practices are way too widespread

For many divers, perhaps you included, the opportunity to make a deep dive (below 40 meters) is the highlight of a tropical holiday on a dive safari or cruise. Since there is no mandatory record keeping and reporting requirement for recreational divers, accurate documentation is hard to obtain. However, one recent study and analysis of 77,680 recreational dives made by clients on a diving cruise ship suggested that 25% of the documented dives conducted went beyond 30 meters. Forty percent of the divers using computers in this study (accounting for more than 44,000 dives) admitted to exceeding the 40-meter depth limit, and some dived in excess of 60 meters. During this same study, the professional

staff of the cruise ship made more than 600 air dives to depths up to 75 meters. However, none of the divers in this survey had any form of formal sanctioned training in diving below 40 meters. That's not a pretty picture of safe diving practices as they appear today.

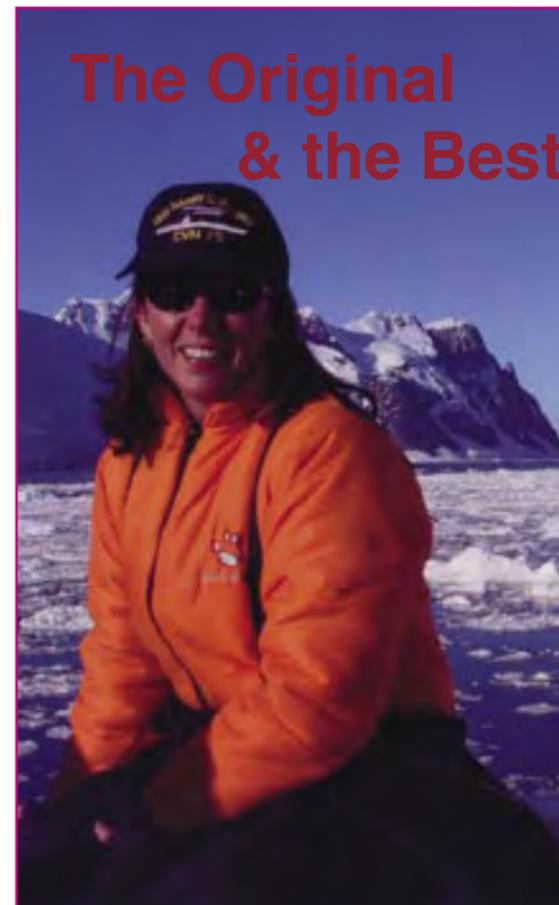
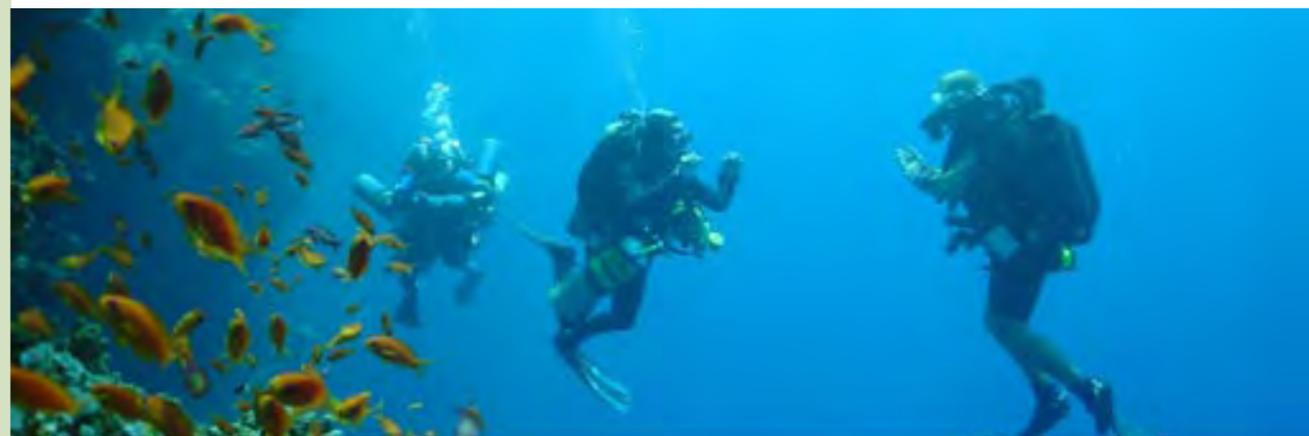
Why so many divers trained only to 30 or 40 meters would regularly plan to make 60 meter dives without proper training when it is so readily available, seems both illogical and is a cause for concern.

The community of deep technical divers who have the highest level of technical training on offer is very small, but it is not meant for everyone to go there.

In 1943, when Cousteau formed his team of divers, they had no benchmarks as no training agencies existed and there were no NOAA or Navy studies to draw on. They had to do their own experiments and studies, they were forced to be pioneers with all the inherent risks.

That is not the case any more. Now other and better options are readily available. But as more divers conduct dives below 40 meters and or dives requiring decompression stops without appropriate formal training, they lead the way—setting an unfortunate trend for more divers to follow.

**Be a good role model... do the right thing and dive safe staying within your limits. ■**



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Only made for and by:



## We are pleased to announce the premier of Midwest Scuba Diving Magazine!

Midwest Scuba Diving Magazine was started so that divers in the Midwestern U.S.A. and divers all over the world could read and learn about their favorite activity... Scuba Diving! The magazine is available "FREE" at your local dive shop and other locations.

Some features to be included are recreational training and education, technical training and education, travel, resorts, liveboards, equipment and technology, diving medicine, photography, charter boats, and local dive sites.

To complement the magazine, our website, [www.midwestscubadiving.com](http://www.midwestscubadiving.com), will be the place to discuss everything scuba! Ask anything you want in the diver's chat forum, upload pictures and videos, browse the authorized MSD shops and classifieds, learn more about diving and travel, find a local dive site and much, much more! Be sure to register today.

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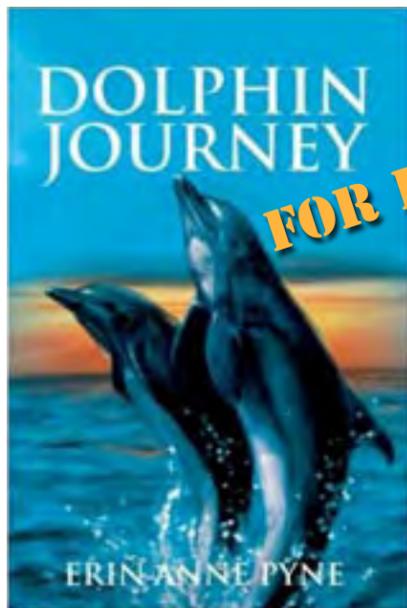
Do it right



## Books Film DVDs CDs

Edited by Peter Symes  
& Gunild Pak Symes

POINT & CLICK  
ON BOLD LINKS



**FOR KIDS!**

## Dolphin Journey

by Erin Anne Pyne  
AGES: 9-12  
PAPERBACK: 132 pages  
PUBLISHER: iUniverse, Inc.  
(March 16, 2004)  
ISBN: 0595314066

A tale for kids that let them dive beneath the waves on a Dolphin Journey to experience an adventure through the young dolphin Serena's eyes. Separated from her nursery by a storm, Serena embarks on an adventure of danger and wonder with her three young friends alone in the big blue sea without adults to help guide them back home. They fend off fishing nets called Tanglers and make up an Epic song so no other dolphins will get caught in them again. As they travel around Australia, Japan and east to Hawaii, the friends fight sharks and other dolphins and near starvation. They meet all kinds of humans good and bad along a journey which tests the friends' loyalty to each other. Just when Serena thinks all the dangers are behind her, there is the greatest peril yet to come!

[www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)



## Dive Zero DVD

ISSUE #1: US\$15.95. NTSC format. FREE shipping worldwide.  
ISSUE #2: MySpace members can now receive \$2.00 off the purchase of a Dive Zero Issue #2 DVD, valid from now until Dec 25. Just email your MySpace account and join the Dive Zero MySpace group before you purchase the DVD.

Dive Zero DVD Issue #1 is the premiere DVD filmed in High Definition. Includes eight sections: 1) A Day In The Life: Justin Bongers, Underwater Videographer, Grand Cayman; 2) Spot Check:

Pavilion Lake, BC—one out of only three freshwater coral lakes in the world; 3) Tricks and Tips from the pros: Setting up gear, mask recover and replacement, mask flood, how to blow those awesome bubble rings and do the frog kick; 4) Hot Spot: Diving the Kettle River rapids in BC—lots of fish, cliff jumping and drift diving; 5) Mixed Tape: The Wreck Specialty—diving the *Doc Polson* in Grand Cayman with Ryan Lohr. Facts on how, why and where the wreck diving specialty is a must; 6) Danger Zone: Wakefest 2006, Wakeboarding and Freestyle Motocross montage; 7) Tune Up: Gear review by the pros—bcd's, regulators, dive watches and the recently popular shoes with holes enough to shame Swiss cheese; 8) Paradise: Two weeks in Grand Cayman—best activities, night life, sports and best dive spots—includes extra footage from a year filming in Grand Cayman. Funny bonus section ends it all. Also available, One Year American Subscription, Issues #1-4, PRICE: US\$49.00; Candadian PRICE: US\$39.00; International PRICE: US\$59.00.

www.divezero.com

[www.divezero.com](http://www.divezero.com)

## USS Oriskany DVD

PRODUCER: ClearVis Productions  
DISTRIBUTOR: International Training, Inc.  
RELEASE DATE: end of 2006

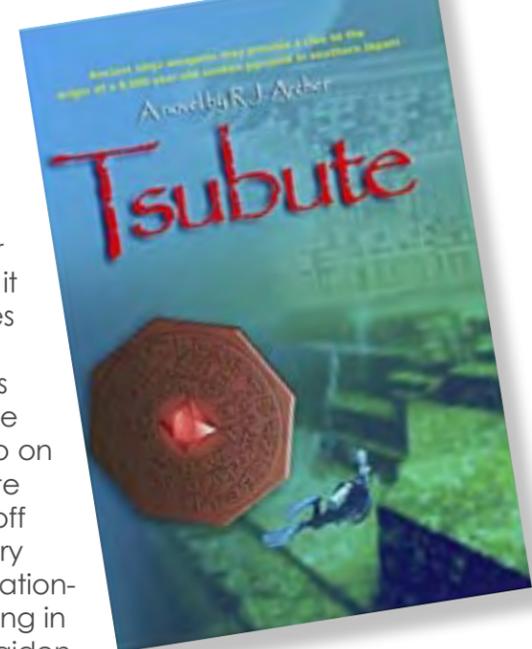
USS Oriskany CVA34 – Status Report 06.19.06... With a title like this, it's gotta be good! This new DVD released by ClearVis Productions features the biggest vessel ever to be intentionally sunk to create an artificial reef. At 910 feet or 277 meters, the ship rests at a depth of 67m making it one of the best advanced and technical dives in the world. The high resolution video offers 75 minutes of footage including the actual sinking of the craft, dive footage in the nager space at a depth of 52m and the U.S. Navy's animations of the sink plan. There is no narration, but a sound score accompanies text-based information stills covering important details. Also available are selected video clips and out-takes, preparation and archival photos. Free DVD available for dive shops. To order, contact: [Bill@SoutheasternTechnicalDivers.com](mailto:Bill@SoutheasternTechnicalDivers.com)



## Tsubute

by R.J. Archer  
PAPERBACK: 248 pages  
PUBLISHER: NWIDI Press (2006)  
ISBN: 0977910911

Seeds of Civilization presents another adventure novel with a Sci-Fi twist to it by R.J. Archer. Each book in this series explores a different ancient mystery in a search to find the lost civilizations of old—and perhaps the origins of the human race. This time, four friends go on a trip to southern Japan to investigate the mysterious underwater pyramid off the coast of Yonaguni Island. The story involves a case of murder and international kidnapping. With a dramatic landing in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska, the maiden voyage of the team's newly acquired and, after a run-in with Japanese agents from the Department of Justice in Tokyo, the team starts to think they should never have left home. But a Japanese-American exchange student befriends them when they reach Yonaguni, and helps familiarize them with the small island of 1,200 people—as well as the dark secret hidden there. An ancient Ninja throwing object called a tsubute discovered outside the NWIDI headquarters in Seattle reappears on Yonaguni. This leads the team to a shocking discovery about the true nature of Yonaguni island and its indigenous people. [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)



Learjet begins

**BOOK PLUS DVD!**



## Beneath North Sulawesi Sea

Book and DVD by Michael Aw  
HARDCOVER: 138 pages  
PUBLISHER/PRODUCER:  
OceanNEnvironment Ltd Australia  
Limited Edition DVD/book set priced:  
US\$68.00 / AU\$90.00

Journey with award-winning underwater photographer, Michael Aw, to underwater volcanoes, gently brushing past giant sea fans and diving into the middle of giant schools of barracuda and trevally. This is underwater Sulawesi as only Michael Aw can capture it. The region is the most diverse marine ecosystem on Earth. No less than 698 still images and video scenes artistically woven into an unique presentation makes up the moving pictures DVD edition, all accompanied by an original sound score created by award-winning composer Eric Bettens. Part of the proceeds from this production goes to OceanNEnvironment's SOS funds to support research and conservation projects in the Indo-Pacific. The imagery from this production is photographed entirely from the North Sulawesi peninsula including Bunaken Marine Park, Banka, Sangie, Ruang, Siau and the Lembeh Strait. [www.michaelaw.com](http://www.michaelaw.com)

# shark tales

Edited by  
Edwin Marcow

EDWIN MARCOW

## Medical Check Up for Ralph the Whale Shark

Ralph, one of two male whale sharks housed at Georgia's Aquarium had a medical check up! With 600 gallons of anaesthetic, 50 staff, and a team of 20 divers used nets to guide the 22-foot shark into a giant stretcher, which hung from a gantry. Ralph was subjected to two hours of medical examinations including blood and DNA tests.

Hormone levels were checked, too, to ensure Ralph was growing into a healthy adult. Ralph and his buddy first came to the aquarium in 2005 from Taiwan and were soon joined by a pair of female whale sharks, Trixie and Alice, in June of this year 2006.

Could love be blossoming beneath the waves between the boys and girls? ■

## Sharks Make a Meal of It!

The recent death of a young humpback whale in the waters of Holualoa Bay on the Kona coast Hawaii and subsequent feeding by sharks, has prompted local officials at the Department of Land and Natural Resources to use caution in these waters. The whale's carcass and the sharks had drifted within 125 yards of the shoreline before being towed out to sea. This type of incident has also been documented in South Africa a number of times most famously, or infamously, when Chris Fallows jumped onto the body of a large whale carcass, and with camera in hand, took images of Great White sharks tearing off large pieces of whale meat and blubber before getting back into his boat. ■



NOAA

## Super Size Me!

San Diego - The *MV Islander* has reported back from a recent trip to Isla Guadalupe that they have entered into the time of 'The of Titans'. Luke Tipple, Dive Operations Manager, reported two 17-foot female Great White sharks most likely weighing in at a staggering 2,500 pounds per shark. Of course, all the crew at Shark Diver were thrilled with these new arrivals. CEO Patric Douglas stated, "We've been documenting the arrival of much larger sharks in late October and early November each season, just around Halloween each year."

This begs a question from the other side of the world. In Australia, Michael Brown has a theory: As sea temperatures rise globally, will the number of shark scares rise exponentially? There has been a rise in shark alarms in Australia from 124 in 2004 to 171 in 2005 for the last financial year. It has been documented that baitfish are swimming even closer to Sydney beaches, closely followed by the sharks. If this is linked to rising sea temperatures, one day could we have gigantic Great White sharks visiting the shore of Mexico and California? ■

*As sea temperatures rise globally will the number of shark scares rise exponentially?*

## Kissing Sharks



Dave Marcel, a dive instructor who works at Capt Slate's Atlantis Dive Centre in Key Largo Florida, went in for a kiss and got more than he bargained for. The dive centre was in the middle of their weekly Creature Feature were you get to see Dave feed and play with Goliath grouper, Moray eels, and Nurse sharks. Picking up a juvenile Nurse shark, Dave turned it up side down and gave it a kiss. A decision that left him requiring hours of reconstructive surgery as the small shark sank it's hundreds of minute teeth into his top lip lacerating the soft flesh!

"You kind of pick them up, rub their belly, scratch them and hug them during the Creature Feature," said Marcel. "You might as well give them a smooch while you're out there."

Though Marcel has done this hundreds of times before, he picked the wrong girl to kiss this time. When I was about 13, I had a prized sticker that read, "Be kind to animals kiss a shark!" Maybe Marcel kissed one too many. ■



UNDERSEA EXPLORER

## Fished Out For Fin Soup

It has been reported to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization that between 26 and 73 million sharks, weighing up to 2.29 million tonnes, are killed for their fins each year. These fins are then made into shark fin soup that costs up to \$100 per bowl in Chinese restaurants.



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This is up to four times more than were the accepted numbers stated—no doubt on the rise due to the demand for shark fin soup!

Dr Shelley Clarke of Imperial College stated, "Our findings confirm that a far larger number of sharks are being caught every year than current databases indicate. The fin trade is continuing to expand and thus the pressure on shark populations is constantly increasing." In this barbaric finning, live sharks are hauled

aboard, their fins are removed and the shark is then tossed back into the ocean to die a slow and painful death from either suffocation or they become prey for other sharks. Species most at risk are the blue shark, hammerheads and silky sharks.

The World Conservation Union has stated that 65 out of the 373 known shark species are currently threatened largely due to the trade in shark fins, and with fish populations in decline coupled

with tighter regulation, some fishing industries are turning to sharks as an alternative catch. Depressingly, some think this number could be higher. This is because many fish are caught by unregulated fisheries that do not report their catches. ■

## Bits & Bites



Edited by  
Daniel Beecham  
& Jason Heller

## Photo & Videography

S.Enderby filming a Californian sea lion during Monty Hall's Great Ocean Adventure II, La Paz, Mexico.

JASON ISLEY/SCUBAZOO.COM

# ScubaZoo

## — making a living out of a dream

By Daniel Beecham

Many people dream of one day making a living out of underwater photography or videography, few people

ever make this dream a reality. There have been only a handful of underwater cameramen or film crews who have

made a name for themselves through underwater imaging. One group that has, goes by the name: Scubazoo...

SIMON ENDERBY/SCUBAZOO.COM



MATTHEW OLDFIELD/SCUBAZOO.COM

◀ The full Scubazoo team, September 2006

For years now the Scubazoo team have dedicated their lives to documenting the underwater world through moving and still images. In a relatively short time, they've amassed an extensive library of underwater footage and still images. Because their main base is located in South East Asia, one of the planet's most biologically diverse area's, their cameramen can be in the water 365

Matthew Oldfield in the cage during Killer Shark Live/CH5, Guadalupe, Mexico

days a year, allowing them to see creatures and behaviour that has rarely, and in some cases, never been filmed before. This has made their library an invaluable resource to supply producers, publishers, and researchers with underwater material that makes potential productions a reality.

Scubazoo is also heavily involved in work with various production companies including National Geographic, Discovery, Animal Planet, BBC, IMAX and ITV, contributing to various projects ranging from television commercials to conservation projects, promotional productions and exploratory research assignments. Few film crews have filmed such numerous subjects in such a wide variety of locations. From Saltwater Crocodiles in Malaysia, to Giant

Octopus in Canada, Great White Sharks in Guadeloupe and the great Sardine Run in South Africa, the Scubazoo crew have been there, done that and made the T-Shirt!

### Saving the Seas

What make's the Scubazoo team so special is that much of their work rotates around a strong conservation message; they strive to create a higher level of awareness of the earth's marine environment, and the importance and need for its conservation and preservation for the future. This only comes through each individual team member's love and appreciation for the marine world.

Scubazoo are currently producing their own unique genre of underwater documentaries. With their stunning images, they hope to be able to tell 'The Whole Story' of the underwater world.



S.Enderby  
filming a  
mola mola  
during Monty  
Hall's Great  
Ocean  
Adventure  
II - Bali,  
Indonesia

Jason Isley & Simon Enderby filming salt-water crocodile for Jeff Corwin series, Animal Planet. Sabah, Malaysia



MATTHEW OLDFIELD/SCUBAZOO.COM



ROGER MUNNS/SCUBAZOO.COM



fascinating and complex web of life, Scubazoo's stories will always aim to have a strong conservation message. Continuing the conservation theme, Scubazoo recently released their coffee table book, *Sipadan, Mabul, Kapalai – Sabah's Underwater Treasure*, a publication detailing the rich marine environments found in and around these islands, and the threats they now face.

With such a wide variety of

work under their weight belts, its more than likely you've seen Scubazoo's footage at one time or another. Some of their recent credits include 'Smart Sharks – Roboshark', 'The Really Wild Show', 'Killer Shark - Live', and 'Great Ocean Adventures' with Monty Halls.

The continued success of the Scubazoo team should act as inspiration to budding 'would-be' cameramen. Many individu-



S.Enderby filming green turtle, Sipadan, Malaysia

R.Munns, S.Enderby and J.Isley having a quick briefing with the director in between dives. Killer Shark Live/CH5, Guadalupe, Mexico

als strive to achieve the status of professional underwater image maker, but become disillusioned by the industry and the challenges it faces. Let Scubazoo set an example, that there still exists opportunities in the industry, whilst also being able to make a positive difference to the oceans that we all love so much. ■





# Photo & Videography



## Sea & Sea DX-D80 Underwater Housing for the Nikon D80

Sea&Sea of Japan unveiled their new DX-D80 housing for the Nikon D80 digital SLR camera. It sports some mighty bells and whistles. The compact housing of this new model, which has an underwater shutter lever that features a leak sensor, makes it easy for divers to hold the camera while submerged. The front case, which is made of aluminum alloy, is corrosion-resistant. The rear case is made of polycarbonate and the grip is aluminum die-cast. The housing weighs 2.7 kilograms. Price: JPY 220,000 or approximately US \$1,850



## NEW Nexus: Fiber Optic Sync Ports and 45° Viewfinder

What's next at Nexus? Fiber Optic Sync with TTL to the Nikon D80, D200 and Canon 5D. A Pop-up flash on top of the camera is used to trigger the external strobe via a fiber optic cable. Sea & Sea and Inon strobes will have this option. Dual fiber optic ports are now available as well as the Inon 45-degree viewfinder by special order. Benefits of this finder includes an increase in the image coverage and enlargement enough to see fine focus as well as all the internal data display of camera information in the camera's finder. When in a vertical framing position, the Inon finder can also rotate to enhance viewing. Regulator exhaust bubbles in front of your mask are no longer a bother with the 45-degree angle of the finder and low-angle photography of critters on the sea bed or under low ledges becomes a breeze. Can be custom-fitted to the Nexus Nikon D200, D2x ,D80, Canon 5D and 1Ds Mark2 housings.



## Fantasea Line FS-5 Underwater Housing for Nikon Coolpix S-5 & S-8 Digital Cameras

Designed for the ultra-slim Nikon Coolpix S-5 and S-8 digital cameras, the FS-5 housing is included in Fantasea's new generation of fully functional Coolpix housings. Access all essential control functions with this housing, which is ideal for outdoor and underwater photographers who want automatic exposure features for getting fast action shots easily and creatively. Compact design allows for easy handling and accurate access to camera functions via critical placement of push-button controls. Protects Coolpix cameras from dust, water, sand and other damaging elements. Built in Flash Diffuser and an anti-glare hood over the LCD screen. Additional features include: Zoom, Macro, Flash, White Balance, Exposure, Mode, Menu, Review, Delete, Video/Still Image Control switch. Maximum work depth: 130 feet/40 meters. Complementary Accessory Systems allow users the possibility to further enhance their imaging capability. Price: \$200.00. Flood Insurance available through Fantasea gives underwater photographers peace of mind.

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And the award goes to... *The Great Mimic* by Michael Aw

2006 has been a good year for Michael Aw named the Shell Wildlife Photographer of the Year in underwater photography and capturing the Best Picture Award at the BBC Natural History Museum.

Aw's remarkable image of the mimic octopus, famous for being a brilliant master of disguise, has won the Sydney-based photographer the underwater category in the prestigious Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2006 competition. Michael's stunning image was featured with 91 other amazing images in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2006 exhibition at the Australian Museum from 9 December to 18 March

2007. The exhibition is now in its 42nd year and showcases the commended and winning images from the largest wildlife photography competition in the world, attracting over 18,000 photographs from 55 countries in 2006.

The image of the octopus was taken while Aw was diving off Banka Island, Indonesia. He saw what he thought was a strange-looking eel moving along the sea bed. He followed it as it hunted for prey in the sand and watched the animal shift in shape mimicing various sea creatures such as sole, ray and even sea snake. What he was actually following was the Indo-Malayan mimic octopus seen in the shot wearing



*Beast of the Sediment* by Göran Ehlme of Sweden took this winning shot of a walrus feeding on clams taken off northeast Greenland. The image of the magnificent animal captured the Shell Wildlife Photographer of the Year Overall Winner award for Ehlme in 2006 whose picture was voted as being the most memorable and striking of all the competition's entries. NOTES: Nikon D2x with 12-24mm lens; 1/50 sec at f4; 400 ISO; Seacam housing with wide-angle port

## X-Ray Mag Contributors Making Waves

its usual brown and white stripes. It is a very intelligent animal and can figure out which dangerous marine animal to imitate to ward off any predator. Recently discovered in 1998, the octopus has a repertoire of hunting and hiding disguises including hermit crab, sand anemone, jellyfish, sea cucumbers, ctenoids, blennies, lionfish and jawfish.

Aw is a big fan of octopus and says he has given up eating them a long time ago.

**PHOTOGRAPH NOTES:** Nikon D2X with 12-24mm lens; 1/100 sec at f14; 160 ISO; Seacam housing, single S200 Ikelite strobe. For more information, please visit: [www.michaelaw.com](http://www.michaelaw.com) ■



### Photojournalism

by Andy Steel  
HARDBACK: 176 Pages  
PUBLISHER: Rotovision  
DATE: October 2006  
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PRICE: GB£25.00 / US\$34.95

X-RAY MAG's own Shark and Adventure editor, Edwin Marcow, has been published in a new book, *Photojournalism: The World's Top Photographers and the Stories Behind the Greatest Images* by Andy Steel and published by Rotovision. This awe-inspiring book showcases the very best photographs of images that define our era from around the world. It is thought provoking and offers a compelling record of some of the critical moments in recent world history. While the images speak for themselves, the photojournalists who work so hard to capture these images often go unnoticed. This book honors the portfolios of the world's leading photojournalists, celebrating their work which ranges from gritty to beautiful and provocative to shocking. Includes insightful interviews with the photographers, unmasking the stories behind each photo and the human tales behind them. [www.rotovision.com](http://www.rotovision.com)



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