



www.scubaemporium.com

Scuba Emporium

16336 S 104th Avenue Orland Park, IL 60467
(708) 226-1614

2005, Digital Underwater Photography

As we all were putting away our film cameras and investing in new technology, the digital camera. We now have a new market opening for diving, sales and classes. SCUBA EMPORIUM was selling a lot of cameras and spending time in the pool teaching people how to use the cameras and accessories that went with them. It was one of those things I started to think about, we were not making much on cameras and yet spending all this time in the pool and class, we need a course; we were using a lot of new tools as well. So I wrote the Digital photo course. It took a while to write and design. We had four cameras we were selling and they operated differently. I am sure there were others teaching a digital course, but I had not seen any in the area.

I was able to get handouts and flyers from friends; this also meant I had to read them to come up with the course. People did not understand about pixels and SD cards. So the course had to cover the very basic of the development of these cameras and photo storage. I started talking about shooting in raw and got some odd looks. So I needed to explain the value of shooting in raw, and how it will be better for editing later. Then after dives, I needed to have the students meet at the store and load the photos in our computer to show them how to clean the photos up and make a story. Sometimes it is better to head out with a story board, but with us we made a show after. This took a lot of cut and paste after photo shop. The intent was to take a lot of photos and make a 6 to 8 minute show. WOW, was that tuff then we had to, cut, and edit paste and so on. Wait were not done, now we had to teach how to store the photos. You cannot just keep taking shots. And only use some now and hope to use others later. You will never find them if they are not filed away. So I would teach students ways to file shots, like fish, people, land or water even friends by name.

With the early cameras the white balance was a must today most work with auto white balance. So this makes today's cameras a lot easier to learn and work with. Also we had 5 or so Megapixels, today we have camera with over 20.

PADI a few years later came out with a Digital Underwater Photo program that was assume and so as will other courses I had written, I gave mine up to use the one PADI had. There are two very good reasons for me to do that. The first is when PADI adapts a course the card states on it the course name but if it is my distinctive it states distinctive and does not look as nice. The



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second reason the most important is that the dive one of a PADI core Specialty can also be the dive of the Adventure dive or the Adventure dive can be the first dive of any specialty.