

Jim Church School Aboard The Turks & Caicos Aggressor

Last week, May 16-22, found the Jim Church School of UW Photography conducting classes aboard the newly re-fitted Turks & Caicos Aggressor. One of the more noticeable additions was the 52" flat screen monitor located in the salon. Photos and videos really pop out in all their glory when displayed on that screen. Bravo Aggressor for that marvelous upgrade!

But it is not about the equipment, it's about the diving and the dive sites the Aggressor visits are some of the best the Caribbean can offer. We had 13 students aboard, all eager to learn, shoot and review. That's in addition to the Aggressor required Eat, Sleep and Dive so there was a full week ahead.

Diving started off at Northwest Point. Black Forrest and Eel Garden gave us opportunities for some great subjects like yellow headed jawfish with eggs, busy cleaning stations, turtles and the lionfish that have found their way to this side of the world. With such a variety of subjects to photograph on just the first day, the week was shaping up to be a special one.



Between dives every day, Mike and I held class in the salon where we presented topics on strobes, metering, composition workflow and more, all on that marvelous 52" monitor. Have I mentioned that monitor before?

We spent a day at Northwest Point before heading out to West Caicos. More great subjects and more great diving there, but now, we had opportunities to shoot the sharks that populate the area. After two dives on Rock Garden Interlude, we were all in shark shooting mode and everyone was turning out fantastic shark images.



The shark shooting continued on to French Key where we had more opportunities at G-Spot and Gullies, two of our favorite dive sites. Now that they had some great shark full-body shots safely stored in our hard drives, Mike and I tossed some challenges out to the students to be more creative and shoot sharks with less of a wide angle lens and more of a medium angle lens like a 35mm, 60mm or, as a few did, with a 105mm. The students rose to the challenge and found it was well worth it. They started producing unbelievable face shots of the sharks. In the evenings, when Mike & I would review their images, we kept seeing better and better photos.



But it wasn't only about the sharks. No one neglected the other great photo subjects that West Caicos and French Key have to offer. Throughout the week, everyone managed to find some beautiful subjects to capture in pixel form. There is no reason to try to describe them in words. We've included a small sample from each student here, but there are many more images that came out of this week that we simply don't have space for.



If you want to experience a fun-filled photo week for yourself, please join us for a Jim Church School course aboard the Aggressor Fleet. We will be heading to Belize, Cayman, Galapagos and Utila this year. Next year's schedule is on both the Aggressor Web site and at www.jimchurchphoto.com. Hope to see you aboard!

Mike & Mike

