

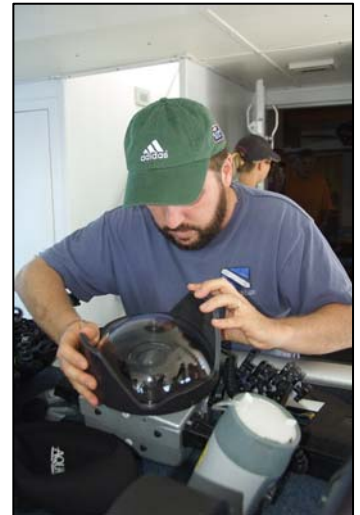


**Jim Church School on Utila Aggressor  
October 13 – 20, 2007**

Closing out our 2007 season, the Jim Church School of Digital UW Photography headed to the Bay Islands of Honduras for a week aboard the Utila Aggressor. This was our first trip to Utila, but it certainly will not be our last!



Right from the start, everyone was anxious to get to the picture taking. Most people had their cameras set up and ready to go on the camera table before dinner on Saturday night. Now that's dedication!



We started the class reviewing the basics of UW Photography – including buoyancy skills. It was evident after the first dive on Sunday that everyone in the class had excellent control in the water. That's critical to shooting as well as protecting what we shoot.



The reefs around Utila and Roatan were amazing. We found them healthy and full of great photo subjects. As a matter of fact, everyone was getting such great shots Monday at Blackish Point, a site off Utila, we opted to do a third dive there after lunch. This was a macro delight spot, with Red-Tipped Sea Goddesses, Tunicates, a Long Snout Sea Horse, Decorator Crabs and Juveniles of countless species all collected at one dive site.



On board, it was back to school as we covered topics daily like Ambient Metering, Composition, Lens Selection and Balancing Strobe with Sunlight. In the evenings we covered Digital Photo Workflow. Our Workflow presentations are usually done in the evenings, scheduled so as not to interfere with the night dive. We covered the four main elements of workflow; Transferring,

Organizing, Processing and Sharing images – TOPS as we call it. Everyone was really interested in this topic since it deals with a subject that most people have not yet mastered.



The best part of the class was reviewing everyone's images. That's when Mike & I get to see how well everyone did. It was while Maggie and I were going through her images from a dive when we spotted a quartet of Skeleton Shrimp perched on the sponge she was shooting. Maggie never noticed them when she was shooting. She just liked the composition of the frilly hydroids. It was a pleasant surprise to her and a great lesson for everyone to look closely at their images for any hidden gems.





Maggie's image was but one of hundreds of great photos everyone shot on the trip. At the Graduation Show on Friday night, each student was able to showcase ten of their favorite images from the week. There were lots of compliments circulating as the photos came up on the LCD TV in the salon. We'll keep the rest of the graduation proceedings a mystery to those of you who have not attended a Jim Church School course, but after the photo show came the festivities that left everyone laughing.

It was a great week in Utila. Thanks to Karl & Maggie, Paul, Adam and Will, Ron, Dick, Dave, John and Peggy who is staying for a second week. We couldn't have done it without the support of the Aggressor Fleet and the great crew of the Utila Aggressor; Captain Eddie, Nestor, Sasha, Megan, Marna and John.

Until March of 2008 when we are back on the boats for another season, Keep your fins wet and your pixels dry.

**Mike & Mike**

