



Flying Boat Pics Unveiled

SHOTLINES

FOLLOWING THE re-discovery of the *Catalina* and *Sunderland* (important WWII flying plane wrecks) due to surveys carried out by SAMS (Scottish Association of Marine Science), Shane Wasik, owner of Dive Oban and Argyll (along with the marine tourism business Basking Shark Scotland) set out to locate and photograph the sites.

The wrecks were re-discovered on the Oban coastline earlier in the year; Oban was a seaplane (flying boat) base during WWII with *Catalina* and *Sunderland* planes stationed at Ganavan.

Conditions near the wrecks can be challenging with depths over 30m and limited visibility but Wasik's team eventually found both

planes' remains, after diving a few fisherman's snag marks.

The wrecks have been colonised by colourful marine life such as plumose anemones and fish. Being seldom dived, the wreck sites have a lot of artefacts and features intact. It was understood that the wrecks (in particular the *Sunderland*) could be a war grave so divers on the team were careful to explore the site without disturbance.

On the *Sunderland* it was noted that anti-aircraft guns and ammunition were present, along with fuselage, wing tank and wing



are clearly visible and the propeller blades stick well out of the silt.

For wreck diving enthusiasts, to see these planes in such fantastic condition was exciting. The team have previously dived a *Catalina* wreck in the Clyde but there is very little left compared to these sites.

It is hoped that further dives will be made by the team so that the remains can be properly documented and joint studies of the sites can be continued with SAMS.

More info at: diveoban.com/flying-boats



structure. The *Catalina* is a far more intact wreck site with the cockpit sticking out of the sediment with cockpit glass, steering wheel, throttles, seats and gauges all there to see. The engines



Dry Dive With Dolphins

FANCY DIVING with dolphins, without getting wet? Under the historic stone arches of the Scottish Dolphin Centre's 'Ice House' you can enter into the extraordinary environment that is Spey Bay and do just that thanks to a unique audio-visual installation.

Shot in and around the bay, the film reveals the beautiful life that exists both

above and below the water, taking you from the sunlit world of the river, down into the sea's depths, to see the world from a dolphin's eye where jellyfish drift like ghosts and dolphins and porpoises dart about. Sounds like a perfect summer holiday day-trip to us!

More info can be found at: www.wdcs.org

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Maldives Home To Two More Mantas

TRAVEL SPECIALISTS blue o two has revealed that Nikki Weeden, host of their popular 'Project Shark: Maldives' itinerary, has identified not one but two previously unrecorded manta rays in the Maldives.

The Manta Trust confirmed that two out of the eight individuals successfully photographed and identified by Nikki on her latest trip in March this year were not on their records. Cross-referenced with over 3000 mantas on file, the unique markings between the gills (similar to that of a human fingerprint) of the mature and juvenile males did not match their current files.

Nikki was informed of this good news and had the honour of naming the rays. They are now known as 'Pergonia' and 'Monkey Face' and have been added to The Manta Trust's database, along with biological char-

acteristics, sighting dates, location of the sightings and an official manta ID number.

Nikki said: "This is really exciting – especially considering that Pergonia is a mature male. Since he hasn't yet been recorded in the Maldives, it does make you wonder where he's been until now! It's really great that we are able to help the Manta Trust expand their database, and also contribute photos that aid in monitoring the movement patterns of these beautiful animals."

The six other manta rays recorded also offered some exciting findings, from not having been sighted since 2010 to learning more about their migration patterns between Baa and Ari Atolls.

For more information about Project Shark and how you can get involved visit blueotwo.com.



Monkey Face - one of the Maldives two new resident Mantas. Image courtesy of Nikki Weeden.



Nominate to Celebrate

THIS YEAR marks 25 years in business for drysuit/wetsuit manufacturer O'Three, a huge milestone for any company and one that they are determined to celebrate. July 2014 will see the start of those celebrations as the Dorset-based company turns to their customers and asks for nominations - this should be a person within a diving organisation that inspires and encourages others.

That nominated person will then be added to a shortlist from which O'Three will choose one lucky winner each month, for 12 months. Those winners will all be given a brand new O'Three drysuit.

In return for making a nomination, you and a dive-buddy will then be in the running to win a once in a life time diving experience worth over £5000.

O'Three has teamed up with Great Lakes Expeditions based out of Chicago, Illinois to offer this fantastic diving adventure for two. With over 3000 documented shipwrecks and many more yet to be discovered, all

sitting beautifully preserved in fresh water, the Great Lake region is fast becoming a mecca for wreck divers from all over the world. With visibility ranging from 10 to 40 metres and depths from five to 100 metres you'll be able to tailor the diving to your exact needs.

To find out more or to make your nomination visit: www.othree25th.co.uk



Win A Trip To Orkney

IF LAWSON Wood's feature on Scapa Flow gets your juices flowing, then make sure you enter NorthLink Ferries' big competition (see advert with full details on page ???). By taking part, you will be in with a chance of winning a return ticket for four (including car) from Aberdeen or Scrabster to Orkney. www.northlinkferries.co.uk

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We are pleased to announce that Divelife has been voted WINNER of 'Best Retailer' and 'Best UK Dive Centre' in the SPORT DIVER magazine awards 2014.





New Boat For Scapa

Emily Turton talks to **SCOTTISH DIVER** about the joys of designing a purpose-built dive boat...

EMILY TURTON visited Orkney for a week in 2003 - she is still there now. She has spent the last 10 years (alongside partner Ben Wade) making a success of their charter/Divers Lodge business. Such a success in fact, that they have decided to 'retire' their pride and joy - *Radiant Queen*, and set about designing a brand new dive boat that further meets and exceeds divers' needs. Emily told **SCOTTISH DIVER**: "Divers want more every season; more space, better value for money, added kit and we want to give it to them."

Emily and Ben had always dreamed about designing a dive boat from scratch, but it was only in 2013 that they started looking into it seriously when they approached a Scottish-based naval architect to find out more about what would be involved and the ball started moving from there. Emily enjoyed the design process - and was excited to see her 'dream boat'

come to life on the CAD plans.

Purpose built to meet the needs of the most particular diver, the new boat will be called *Huskyan* - meaning 'strength' in Orcadian. Emily believes this is a particularly apt name as she describes her new boat as: "chunky, with two powerful engines to back her up."

The architect's clever design means that there is almost double the dive deck of *Radiant Queen*, without the boat needing to be double the size. Emily told us: "She has been specifically designed to be a comfortable and stable diving platform.

"The benefits of a new build mean that *Huskyan* is tailor made to suit the needs of the diver with no need to compromise because of existing layouts of second-hand vessels."

But what is Emily looking forward to most of all? "Everything being shiny, new and exactly where I want it to be, but more importantly where it needs to be."

Designed in Scotland and built on the south coast of England, *Huskyan* will arrive in Orkney some time in the winter of this year ready to take to the water for the 2015 dive season. And that's when the fun really starts says Emily: "I can't wait to get started on the soft furnishings - bring on all the 'bling!'"

What's Inside

- Twin 230hp engines
- 240 volt power throughout
- Central heating throughout
- 2 showers and 2 toilets
- Large dry changing room with individual lockers
- Cabins for overnight adventures or afternoon snoozes!
- Large fully equipped galley and dining area
- Separate lounge seating
- Wide screen TV & media facilities
- Wet changing room/kit store with individual drysuit hanging - at dive deck level - no more small hatches!
- Equipment prep work bench with camera dunk tank

And on the Deck

- 33m² (*Radiant Queen* deck 19m²)
- 4 x 2.5m long benches with bottle racks - designed to fit gear gulpers underneath
- 2 x booster pumps
- 2 x 18cfm Bauer compressors
- Load tested stainless steel diver lift - extra wide to accommodate tech divers with multiple stages.
- O2/He/NITROX/SOFNOLIME

All current 2015 bookings will be automatically upgraded to the new boat. For more information or to book your trip visit: www.divescapa.com



Dive the Tabarka from new boat Huskyan

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