

# NAUI SOURCES

Dive Safety Through Education

November 25th, 2021 Edition

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Cover Photo By: Marty Snyderman

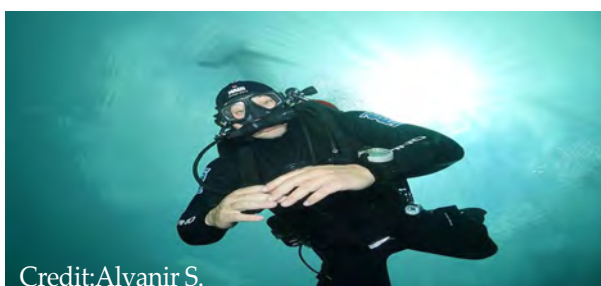
Please Note:

All Photos Used in this Newsletter are From NAUI Members!

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Credit:Alvanir S.

## Join the NAUI Video Contest!

Would you like to be part of our next marketing campaign?

Make a video that is approximately 3 minutes (under 5 minutes) in length to fit the title of: "Why Dive? Why NAUI?"

The winning video will be part of our 2022 recruitment campaign and will be part of our Members' Resource Folder. Please upload your video by December 15th. We will be selecting and announcing the winner in the December 23rd edition of NAUI Sources and featuring the video.

If you have a video to send, please We Transfer it to [marketing@nauui.org](mailto:marketing@nauui.org). Be sure to give us a brief description of the video, what is happening, and the names of those in the video. Thank you.

If you have any questions, please contact Bill Doran at [bdoran@nauui.org](mailto:bdoran@nauui.org).

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## Photo of the Month!



**Credit to: Marty Snyderman**

# The Adventure of the SY Blowing Bubbles : Encounters With Big Ocean Creatures

Captain log: October 29th, 2021

Location: Canary Islands, between Tenerife and La Gomera, Atlantic Ocean

As we are heading from Tenerife to the next island called “La Gomera”, we are crossing some serious deep waters, up to -3000mtr (or -9000ft) of depth. These depths are reached quite close to the shores of all the Canary Islands as all the islands have a volcanic background (see article SY Blowing Bubbles Goes Hotter Than Hot). The islands originated from volcanic disruptions on the seabed, the seabed opening up and blasting out lava which created the islands (and even now is still creating islands as the island of La Palma is 'growing' as we speak with about 1,5km<sup>2</sup> per day). On the island of Tenerife, the Vulcano El Teide has a height of 3.715mtr (12,188ft ) and is considered one of the highest peaks on the earth surface as it is settled on the seabed at -4000mtr (12,000ft) deep giving it a total height close to equal Mount Everest. All of this by blowing out lava from the center of the earth and so creating a giant pile that ended up in a complete island. Nature's way of creating things.

On our journey towards La Gomera, we pay special attention to our on board sonars and depth sounders as the steep deep sea walls attract some of the biggest ocean creatures that live on our planet. During the crossing of the deep sea ledge, we notice a lot of activity below the Blowing Bubbles and we can identify a serious amount of fish being present around us.

Lowering the sails and continuing slowly on the engine, gives us more time and possibilities to react towards the ongoing fish movement! Just barely ready to continue on the engine, Karen spots a V-shaped air blast with water bubbles on the horizon. Not really being sure what it is, she continues to focus on the site, and soon, she spots a second and third spout of air and water drops in the air. We have encountered a pod of...pilot whales.



# The Adventure of the SY Blowing Bubbles: Encounters With Big Ocean Creatures

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## Pilot whales

Pilot whales are cetaceans belonging to the genus *Globicephala* and from the family of the Delphinidae (and do not be mistaken, they are NOT dolphins!).

Pilot whales feed on squid and hunt in very deep waters, over 1000ft deep or even more!

They travel and hunt in groups of 25 to 50 animals.

The name 'Pilot' whales come from the fact that each group has a large male that pilots the group and so the other group members follow in its trail.

As we stopped the boat to observe better the large group in front of us, we can identify about 9 whales directly in front of us, and indeed, just a little further, we can see a large dorsal fin sticking out of the water, the piloting male is there!

The group of pilots whales seems very relaxed and it looks like they are just floating on the surface. With SY Blowing Bubbles also just floating around and having the wind favorable, we float closer and closer to the group of pilot whales until we are barely just one meter (three feet) away from them. Still, they just hang there and everybody on board SY Blowing Bubbles is now in a trance of silence and enjoyment. Nobody dares to speak, afraid to scare the pilot whales. Minutes pass by, just the breathing of the pilot whales is breaking the silence!

We prepared our journey quite well and these moments are the moments we were waiting for! Onboard SY Blowing Bubbles, we carry an ROV or Remote Operating Vehicle (underwater drone) and this seems the perfect moment, event to deploy our drone and get some nice underwater videos.

As we are not sure if the pilot whales will be disturbed or annoyed by the drone, we perform a small series of test runs before approaching them and...

Guess what...see the attached link and enjoy the video of a group of pilot whales. A unique encounter in the Atlantic Ocean.



## The Adventure of the SY Blowing Bubbles: Encounters With Big Ocean Creatures

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We mark the GPS location of this encounter in our ships logbook:  
27° 59,339N, 016° 44,481W

As we do not know yet if we might return to this route, it is always a smart idea to mark special events, moments, and encounters in the ship's journal.

Later, this has proven its value, as we passed these coordinates on to three other ships that were very interested in meeting up with the pilot whales and as it seems, the pilot whales hang around the same area for a long time because of three ships reported the same encounter as we had. And sharing is caring, so that made us very happy!

On our way to La Gomera, we encountered in total four pods of pilot whales and have spent hours and hours with them.



After arriving in La Gomera, we decided to return the next day (and the day after) to the same coordinates and spent some more time with these magnificent ocean creatures!

It never gets boring and believe me, floating side by side with the impressive deepsea squid hunters, just gives you all the chills you need to become very chillax and emotional as it is clearly up to the pilot whale to decide if you are worthy enough to let you approach him (and not the other way around).

Here, in the middle of the ocean, we, humans are the lesser ones in the equation.



**MOBILE TRAINING TEAM**

**YOUR PATHWAY TO KNOWLEDGE,  
SKILLS AND PERFORMANCE.**



**IMPROVE YOUR  
SKILLS AND BECOME  
MARKETABLE**



**FREEDIVING INSTRUCTOR | TECHNICAL INSTRUCTOR  
RECREATIONAL SPECIALTY INSTRUCTOR  
FIRST AID INSTRUCTOR & INSTRUCTOR TRAINER**



## **PUT YOUR MILITARY SERVICE TO SERVICE!**

Did you know that you can use your G.I. Bill® to pay for many of our scuba exams? There are a wide selection of programs. Start your mission today by **building skills, helping the environment, or becoming a dive professional!**

Please contact your local NAUI VA approved testing center or contact us to find the one closest to you.  
[armedforces@naui.org](mailto:armedforces@naui.org) or calling 1 (800) 553-6284.



# **SECOND EDITION ELEARNING**



## A Little Contrast Goes A Long Way

Eye-popping colors. Entertaining antics. Bizarre-looking creatures. Photogenic poses. Fascinating behaviors. Megafauna. Seascapes. No doubt about it, as underwater photographers we are blessed with an abundance of fantastic subject material and photographic opportunities.



*Yellow-lipped sea krait (aka banded sea krait) and anthias*

On the other hand, there are plenty of other instances where subjects can be made to stand out. As examples, if you (1) use a strobe light to bring out and draw attention to the colors in subjects that are in the foregrounds of photographs to help separate them from their backgrounds, and (2) compose your images in a manner that helps create significant contrast between subjects and backgrounds, your subjects have a good chance of commanding viewer attention.



*Paddle-flap scorpionfish*

Upon first consideration, creating compelling images might seem to require little more than acquiring sharp focus and properly exposing a subject. In fact, that is a trap many beginning underwater photographers fall into. A problem they experience is that, in many instances, the subject the shooters found to be so captivating underwater virtually disappears in their photograph. That's because the subject blended in with its surroundings instead of standing out to the viewer. When that happens, the result is all fizzle and no sizzle.

The question is "what can you do to make your subjects stand out in ways that command viewer attention, instead of having your subjects "get lost" in their surroundings?" In some instances, the answer is not much. For example, creatures that are masters of camouflage are likely to blend in with their surroundings. Recognizing those scenarios is a useful skill. It certainly is not wrong to capture images of these creatures, but no one wants every image in their library to be like this shot of a black and white crinoid squat lobster on a similarly patterned and colored crinoid.



*Black and white crinoid squat lobster*

In underwater photography, contrast is usually created by the difference in (1) color between a subject and its surrounding, (2) the difference in brightness between a subject and its surroundings, or (3) both. To take advantage of contrast, you want to pay close attention to the elements in your frame that are in front of, next to, and behind your subject. In other words, you want to consider how elements in your composed frame that are not the subject (whether close to the subject or in the distant background) will appear in your photograph, and what impact their appearance will have on the way your subject will look in a given photograph.

## A Little Contrast Goes A Long Way



*West Indian Manatee*

Or, you might want to try to frame the fish against a background of blue water, if shooting during the day, or black water, if shooting at night. As can be seen here, the contrast in colors between the subject and its surroundings can help make the subject stand out.



*Daytime shot of a creolefish with soldierfish isopod on both cheeks*

When photographing larger marine animals such as dolphins, turtles, and these whitetip reef sharks, it is often beneficial to compose your shots with the subject(s) surrounded by properly exposed blue or green water instead of against a background of the reef.



While it might sound obvious to suggest that you consider the background, many underwater shooters are so taken by their subjects that they fail to see, much less consider, the background. But camera owners that grow into photographers as their skills increase will look at and consider how the elements in the frame that are not the subject might appear almost as soon as they see a subject they want to photograph.

When photographing reef creatures, creating contrast between a subject and background often involves looking for contrasting colors that cause a subject to stand out against its background. As an example, you might try to compose a shot with a reddish or orangish squirrelfish, soldierfish, or creole fish contrasted against a yellow or green sponge instead of one that is a similar color to the fish as seen here.



It can be more than just a little disappointing to discover that reef, the sea floor, or some other element in a frame that was seemingly in the distant background caused your subject to lose impact.



In many instances getting below a subject and shooting at a slightly upward angle can help you create the desired contrast between a subject and its background of properly exposed water.



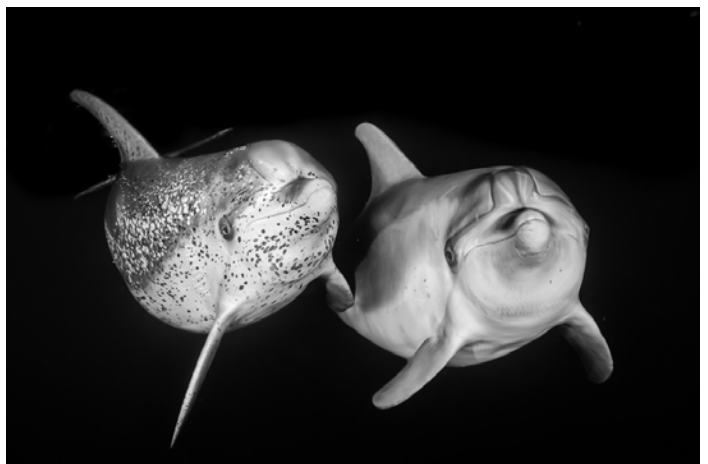
*Gray Reef Shark with Rainbow Runner*

Conversely, under-exposing the background, thus causing what could have appeared as bright, blue water in your photograph to be dark blue or even near black, made this manta ray difficult to see. In short, the poor exposure of the background can turn a wonderful opportunity into a disappointment.

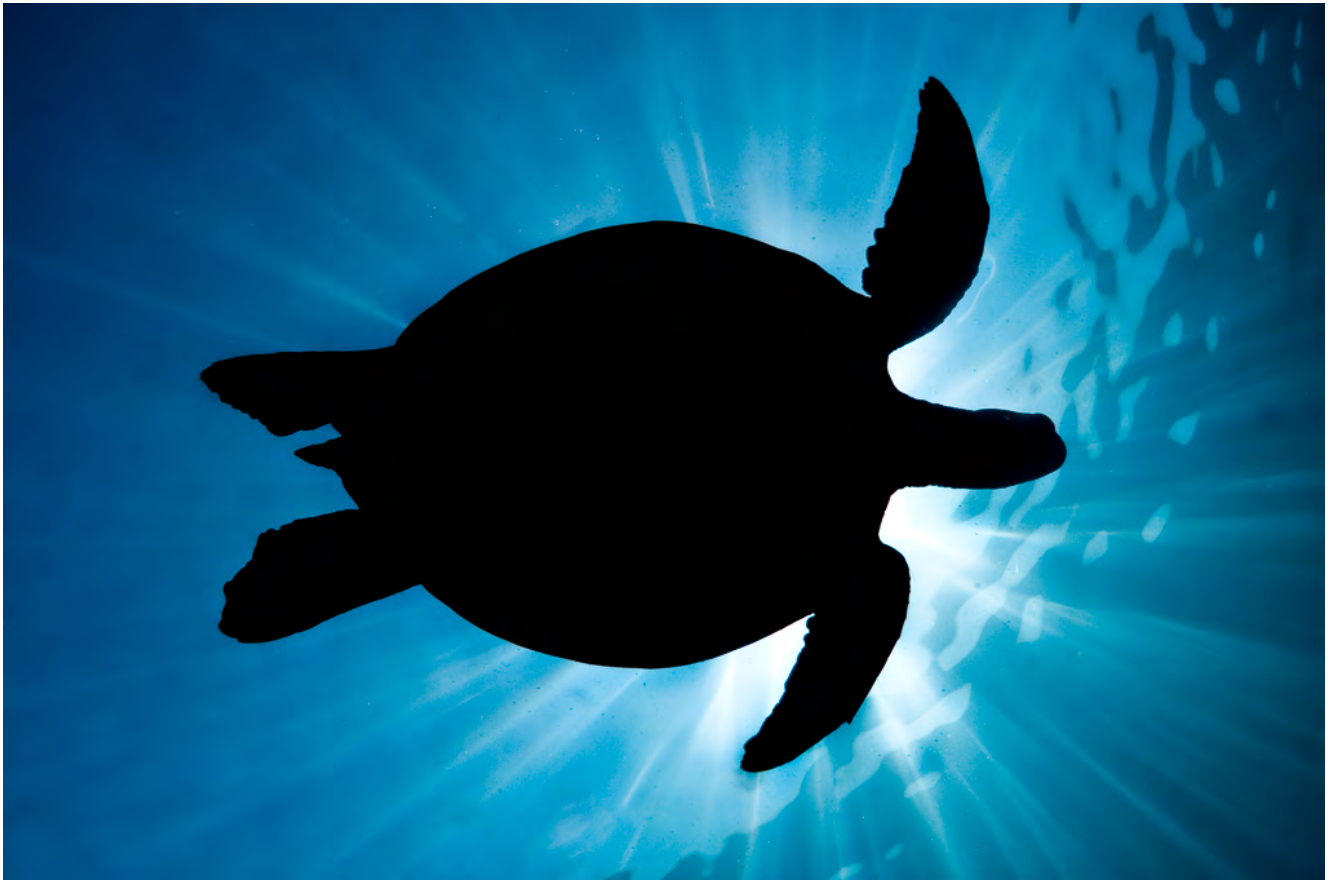


I want to be clear about the fact that I am not in any way suggesting that you avoid having a reef, even a distant reef, in your composed frame. A reef or other element can add context, allowing viewers to quickly realize that your subject was seen in a reef ecosystem or at a seamount, not in open water. But if you do include a section of reef, kelp, perhaps a part of a shipwreck, etc., you want to compose your frame to avoid having the subject blend into that element.

I do not want to imply that a dark, or even black, background or a light, or near bright white background will always be ruinous. The contrast in tone between a bright, whitish subject such as these Atlantic spotted dolphins and the black water as seen at night helps make this image compelling.



Conversely, this dark silhouette of a green sea turtle contrasted against bright blue water helps make this shot a winner.



Creating contrast is not a case of one method that works in all scenarios. But contrast, however it is achieved, can go a long way towards helping you create compelling photographs. I hope you will take this message to heart.

And, whatever you do, always remember to enjoy the process, not just your processed images.

# NAUI France is Growing!

France is a big country and part of Europe. Does your knowledge of France go any further than Paris, the croissant or French fries?

Well, probably the same for many among us, but this story is not about the lifestyle in France but about the special scuba history that France has to offer! Where does it all start, scuba diving?

A famous sailor and explorer, Jacques Cousteau, a guy with a red bonnet, is where it all starts! Commander Cousteau, working for the French Navy, invented the regulator and disconnects divers from the umbilical hose that connected a diver to the air pump before.

Now, the diver is set free and the word S.C.U.B.A. is created:

Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus! And all this happened during the second world war (1942) in France! Just imagine!

A big leap forward brings us to 2021 and let's forget for a minute that COVID is a part of the world.

During the last 80 years of development of SCUBA in France, starting from the military origin towards recreational diving, diving, and learning how to scuba dive, remained always a little different in France compared to most other countries in the world. A little explaining is needed here:

Scuba diving in France has always been considered a special sport and teaching it to other people is, well, the least to say, problematic! The law in France states that a scuba teacher needs to obtain first the 'Brevet d'Etat' in sports (let me translate: the state license in teaching sports, so obtaining a university degree in sports). Next, he can specialize in watersports and so become a scuba teacher!

Time invested in getting the state license: a few years in school!

Becoming a scuba teacher: just another few years to add to the training



So what did/does that mean for scuba diving courses in France?

It means that people engaging in the scuba industry are really committed to the profession.

It also means that access to the industry is really difficult and takes a lot of time!

Naui has had a presence in France and the diving industry for many years but was never really able to set a strong footprint on French soil until 2021.

During the last many years, NAUI invested a lot of time and energy through the regional Representatives (among which are Richard Plumes and at present Jean-marc Claes) to grow NAUI and to be present at dive shows, events, and more.

Due to the work of 2 NAUI Course Directors and 1 NAUI Instructor, 2021 has brought big changes:

Hervé Chezaud (#51304), Patrick Dalsasso (#56293) et Mohamed Trabelsi (#60560) have made a large footprint in the French diving industry.

They managed to explain and show the NAUI method of training scuba divers to Frank Motair, owner of the dive center H<sub>2</sub>O in Sainte-Maxime, located on the shores of the Mediterranean Sea.

He was quickly convinced that the NAUI quality of teaching would be a better approach to learn people to scuba dive compared to the current system he was using and so he decided to make the crossover to NAUI, including all the staff, being 10 instructors!

A new NAUI affiliate is born on the shores of the French Med, filled with 10 NAUI instructors supported by 2 NAUI Course Directors and NAUI Instructor Trainers and backed by the NAUI France Representative Jean-Marc Claes.

We wish all people involved a lot of success and want to point out that NAUI is growing and even in difficult times and/or difficult area's: NEVER GIVE UP, spread the word and stay positive!

If you want to know more on how to grow NAUI in your area, contact us and we will help you!



# Join Us for the Next NAUI Talk

## Join us for the next NAUI Talk:

Join our next NAUI Talk on Tuesday, December 14th at 2 pm Eastern time, where we will have a presentation and discussion on Outside The Box.

NAUI Talk sessions are run by our host Bill Doran, NAUI Worldwide Marketing Director, and guest speakers. These are thirty minutes to one-hour fact-filled themes that assist, support and build our NAUI members and the businesses. So, invest a few minutes and gain valuable information.

During this session, you will gain from topics such as:

- How to think outside the box to create unique ideas.
  - See some real-life ideas that you can use or adapt to use.
  - Make your plan to think outside the box.
- Also, the time is in the Eastern time zone; don't forget to click and change the time zone (in blue) to match your local time zone when registering.

We can't wait to have you join this event!

The invitations will go out, but why wait? Use the link and sign up now! Feel free to pass this link to your fellow divers!

Please Click Here to Sign Up:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_xfJnOT11Q7ev54cdoXsZXA](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_xfJnOT11Q7ev54cdoXsZXA)



## Upcoming NAUI Talks:

Websites, how can you do this better!

Product Placement in your business!

Check out Previous sessions of NAUI Talk by going to NAUI TV :

<https://www.youtube.com/c/NAUITV/videos>



# Annual General Meeting & Membership Renewal

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## Annual General Meeting 2021 Date Set

We are pleased to announce that we will again be offering members the Annual General Meeting and Awards Ceremony on-line this year.

This format gives members worldwide the opportunity to join one of the different sessions and stay tuned with the great work of NAUI Worldwide.

Be sure to join us in December at one of the presentations held on the second week of December.

### December 7th at 6 pm Eastern Time

This is for our Brazil members and it will be translated.

*Register Here*

### December 11th at 8 am Eastern Time:

*Register Here*

### December 11th at 8 pm Eastern Time:

*Register Here*

Be sure to RSVP your spot when the invites go out!

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## 2022 Membership Renewal Time!

This past year worldwide, we have seen some great works in providing new and improved services to our members and their students, and there is so much more to come in the next year.

If you have not already done so, please take the time to renew your membership for the coming year and continue enjoying the benefits of your NAUI membership today!

The process is simple. One method is to log into the NAUI website at [nau.org](http://nau.org). After you log in, you will see the renew button near the top right of the screen.

For other options or assistance, please contact your service center or member services.

## Announcements / News

Check out what NAUI Members are doing and let us list your events on the NAUI Sources Site. These can be courses, Environmental Clean Ups, or more. Simply email your event information to [marketing@naui.org](mailto:marketing@naui.org) and help us keep NAUI divers informed.

<https://sources.naui.org/category/news/>



## Promote your events!

Take a look at upcoming courses, environmental cleanups, special events and more.

Don't forget to tell us about your events so that we can list them too. Simply email your event information to [marketing@naui.org](mailto:marketing@naui.org) and help us keep NAUI divers informed.

<https://www.naui.org/events/>

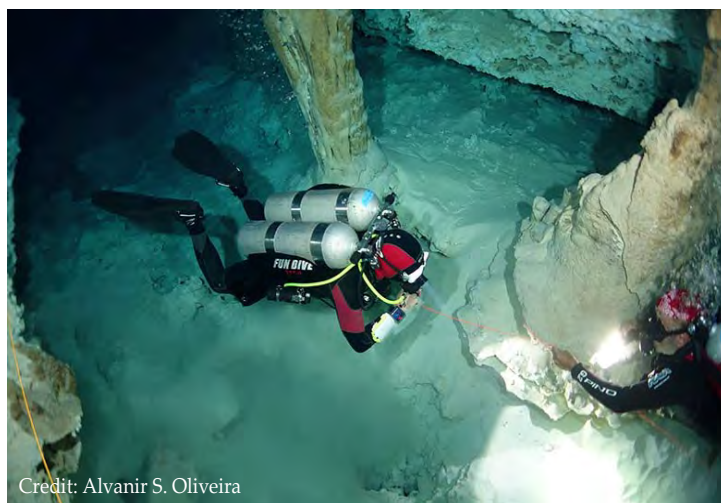


## SCUBA Industry Careers – Check the NAUI jobs!

Looking for a career change? Are you looking for a NAUI Dive Professional? This is the place to go.

Posting career opportunities is simple. All you need to do is to email the job title, description, location and who interested members should contact to [marketing@naui.org](mailto:marketing@naui.org) and we will get the message out to NAUI members.

<https://www.naui.org/careers/>





That's All for this  
Week, But... For NAUI Sources to  
Continue to Provide an Amazing  
Newsletter, We Need Help from You!

Send in your Articles, Photos, Events, and  
Anything Else that you want to share with the  
rest of the NAUI Community, we look forward to  
receiving your content, which you can send to  
[marketing@nau.org](mailto:marketing@nau.org).