

Nikonos RS, and a quick-disconnect, along with many other accessories, such as adapters to fit most strobes, cameras, housings, and video systems.

Tip: Ultra Light's "camera pivot" designed for the Nikonos is basically a tray that you can swivel 90 degrees to easily change strobe orientation from horizontal to vertical. It's a nice feature, but useful only in special situations. It lists for \$200.

Ultra Light: 800-635-6611 at 3304 Keith Ave., Oxnard, California 93035. Dealers include Helix (800-33-HELIX)

and AB Sea Photo (310-645-8992).

P.S.: Ikelite has announced a similar set of arms it calls Quick Grip. These have a larger ball diameter (1.25 inches), so they may be less prone to slipping with a heavy load, especially on the surface. However, they are not compatible with Ultra Light or TLC systems. I have not tested these, but owing to Ikelite's reputation in the underwater photo community, I expect them to be well designed and backed by Ikelite's highly regarded service.

W. D.

## Random Scatterings

### *News from on line and on letters*

A British woman was attacked by a shark while swimming off **Australia's Heron Island Resort**. She managed to tear herself free of the shark and wade ashore to seek help. She was flown by helicopter from the island — 14 miles off the Queensland coast — to a hospital on the mainland, where she was reported to be in a stable condition. A great white? A tiger? No, she was attacked by a small whale shark in five feet of water, said a spokesperson for the resort. If true, it's the first time I've ever heard of the plankton eater attacking a person.

A tourist in the **Florida Keys** tried to reverse the role. Standing in shallow water, he spotted a 3-foot nurse shark, grabbed it by its tail, and hung on. The shark responded by turning around and biting the tourist's leg. Leg wrapped in a towel, the shark attacker retreated to a hospital in Marathon.

Shark experts and diving daredevils Ron and Valerie Taylor say they have tested an electronic device that repels sharks, and it actually works. The **Shark-Off device**, due on the commer-

cial market by May, comes in two parts. One is strapped to the tank and the other to a fin. An electric field is generated between them, providing a safe zone of up to 22 feet in testing by the Taylors.

I enjoy the pleasures of both land-based and live-aboard diving. Each has its pluses and minuses. Jeff Brundrett, Shawnee Mission, Kansas, pointed out one of the negatives of close-quarter living on a boat. During his March trip aboard the ***Nekton Pilot in the Bahamas***, a virus swept through the ship, affecting 60 percent of the crew and passengers. . . . Christopher James, Dublin, New Hampshire, also made a March trip on the ***Nekton Pilot***. "Definitely not a luxury craft, the ***Nekton*** is comfortable and stable and ideal for those who want to dive, talk about it, and go to sleep — for advanced divers who wish for unrestricted and unsupervised diving, it's terrific. Five dives a day are possible [one of the live-aboard pluses], always a 3,200-psi fill, good storage, hot showers, good food, great crew, and a relaxed atmosphere."

***In Depth*** is the consumer newsletter for sport divers that reviews scuba destinations and equipment. We accept no advertising. Subscriptions are \$60 a year (addresses in Canada, Mexico, and the Caribbean, add \$15; other foreign addresses, add \$30).

***In Depth*** (ISSN 1087-4771, USPS 001-198) is published monthly by Ben Davison's Elephant Socks Publishing, Inc., 125 East Sir Francis Drake Blvd., Larkspur, CA 94939, with the December issue being the book-sized annual ***Travelin' Diver's Chapbook***. Second-class postage paid at Larkspur, CA and additional mailing office. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ***In Depth***, P.O. Box 1658, Sausalito, CA 94966. Copyright ©1996 Elephant Socks Publishing, Inc.

Editor



John Q. Trigger

Letters to the Editor/  
Submissions

To contact our editorial office, write ***In Depth***, P.O. Box 90215, Austin, TX 78709. Call 512-891-9812. Fax 512-891-9813. Internet address: IDeditor@aol.com

Subscriptions/  
Address Changes

To subscribe, renew, change address, or order books or back issues, call 800-326-1896, Monday–Friday, 9–5 Pacific time, or write ***In Depth***, P.O. Box 1658, Sausalito, CA 94966.

Printed on recycled paper

In  
Depth

May 1996

Vol 11, No. 5