

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 women 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."

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