



# SST-NEWS

Official newsletter by **SharkSchool® Teaching**



*Photo Erich Ritter*

## **A word from the president**

We all hoped that we would be able to function “normally” again in the new year. Hope that all or almost all restrictions will be removed and that we will have the pandemic under control. Unfortunately, that wasn't the case. The requirements in some countries have even been tightened. Entry into the USA, for example, is still prohibited. Members of the committee currently only communicate via electronic media and can therefore not exchange ideas as well as if we met in person.

Despite all these challenges, especially due to the death of Dr. Erich Ritter and the restrictions imposed by Covid, we did not fall into lethargy.

On the contrary! We conducted webinars and were able to offer two **SharkSchool®** interaction courses in Egypt.

We also continue to carry out “How much do you know about sharks?” For all followers of **SharkSchool®** and **SharkSchool® teaching** nearly every week. With this in mind, we long for the days when we can all meet again in person and interact with our beloved sharks in the water.

Stay healthy.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andy Dellios', written in a cursive style.

*Andy Dellios*

## World Clean Up Day

September 17/18 2021

Our association is committed to the preservation of our flora and fauna. The focus is obviously on the sharks and the marine ecosystem.

Since we cannot be everywhere, the board suggests that we put together regional teams to collect waste in several places.

This way we can also support our idea of doing good for our planet.

"Let's do it!".

Places we could clean up:

- Lakeshores
- River banks
- Forests
- vantage points
- any other place you can think of!

If you want to help with putting together a team, please contact us:

[info@sharkschool-teaching.org](mailto:info@sharkschool-teaching.org)

Thank you for joining!

*SST committee*

### Let's talk about us

Dear Members!

The corona virus has had us firmly in its grip for more than a year and there is still no end in sight. All plans for the past and this year are on hold. No lecture trips, no on-site school seminars (occasionally video conferences at schools), no or only very few **SharkSchool®** trips, no SST training events, no fairs or exhibitions ... The list could go on and on. In addition, we on the Executive Board are still busy working through the legacy of our mentor and dear friend Erich Ritter, who passed away in August 2020. Unfortunately, the conditions that the corona virus dictates to us does not make it any easier to make significant progress here. During our board meeting in April 2021, we discussed how we could get together with our members despite the current situation and how we can let you participate in our work. Because there is a lot we are working on, even if it is for is not always visible to you.

Personal meetings are unfortunately not possible, so the only thing left is the connection online ... And so **SST4u –TALK** was born. The idea is to offer you the possibility of being able to contact the board directly and without frills in a kind of "digital consultation hour". We invite you to set dates to get in touch with us casually via video conference. Be it to ask questions to the board of directors, be it to talk shop, to report on the last diving adventures, to exchange shark photos, or just to see us again, to get to know us better or to chat! Everything without predetermined topics - just very informal. We will provide a link to a video conference via email and on the website. There will always be at least 2 members of the board present in the digital SST-Talk-Café and talk to you about any topic you would like to touch on. Every member can participate at any time. We plan to organize SST4u –TALK once a month. We will announce the dates both by email and via the event calendar on our homepage, so that everyone can prepare for them in the medium to long term. The first scheduled date is June 26 2021, with Heike and Vicky, and the second is scheduled for August 21 2021, with Andy and Robert from 10 a.m. to approx. 12 pm. We look forward to your feedback and to meeting you in the SST-Talk-Café. See you! See you soon and stay healthy!

SST Committee



### We'd like to introduce Robert Heitkamp

**Robert** is vice president of SST, head of the department concerned with teaching materials and methodology and responsible for our website.



22 years ago, **Robert** discovered his passion for diving and underwater photography. Over time, both the equipment and the fish he photographed increased in size. He works at the publishing house for "Märkische Oderzeitung" in Frankfurt (Oder) as Head of Controlling.



Robert's photos have already attracted attention in the diving magazine "unterwasser" and one of his shark photos got selected for the accompanying calendar. Robert's first close encounter with sharks happened in the Maldives where he dived with blacktip reef sharks. He saw cat sharks in the Mediterranean Sea and later made the acquaintance of oceanic white tip sharks in the Red Sea. Fascinated by the sharks and the personal interactions, he decided to go on a tour to Guadalupe to dive with White Sharks

in 2012, where he also met **Erich** and **Andy Dellios** for the first time.

**Erich** and **Robert** got along right from the start, as they shared love and respect for sharks. In addition, their pragmatism, and the passion to stand up for one's convictions united them. Over time, fueled by many conversations, a friendship developed.



But it was not until "boot 2018" that Robert and Erich met again in person. At boot 2018, Erich entrusted Robert with the revision of the presentation "Sharks, Humans, Demise", which has been sold in the updated version since 2018 via the **SharkSchool® shop**. That's how Robert joined **SharkSchool®**. Convinced by the mission of **SharkSchool®**, Robert offered to organize dates for Erich's lecture tour in 2019 and 2020 in Frankfurt (O.) and Cottbus. Both lectures in 2019 were a complete success and were supposed to take place in 2020 as well. During these meetings, Erich approached Robert and asked not only for his support during the establishment of SST, but also encouraged him to take over responsibilities right from the start.

At SST, he has been a member from the very beginning and puts his heart and soul into fulfilling both his role on the board and has been a great support at fairs and exhibitions.

Dear Robert, thank you for your commitment!

*The SST committee*

### Summer at the beach – and maybe sharks???

#### How to behave correctly when encountering a shark?

SharkSchool® and SharkSchool® Teaching provide information:

Like every year, millions of people will travel to the sea this summer. What they all share is their love of swimming in the sea, but often also a vague fear of sharks and thus the question that has been asked over and over: How should a swimmer or snorkeler behave when a shark appears?



Always remain in a vertical position!



The number one rule is that you should stop any active movement, assume a vertical position, and keep your legs as immobilized as possible. In case you can still stand on the ground, do so quietly and not move any further, except for slowly pivoting and to keep eye contact with the shark. Always focus on the shark until you lose sight of it. If the shark seems to have disappeared, remain in the same spot for 1 minute (as a swimmer, keep moving your arms) and keep pivoting. Help spread the word. Because every negative headline in the media about a shark accident is one too many. Again, briefly summarized: Assume a vertical position, keep your legs still, turn with the shark and keep an eye on it. If necessary, push it away or push water towards the gills. Also known as: **Face-Guide-Push-Move.** SharkSchool® and SharkSchool® Teaching

### Shark Awareness Day on July 14, 2021

We want to organize something exciting for Shark Day this year as well.

**Drawing, painting, crafting** – everything is allowed!

There are great prizes to win!

Please send us your contribution until

**July 10, 2021:**

[info@sharkschool-teaching.org](mailto:info@sharkschool-teaching.org)

*The SST committee*



### What do we have to offer to our members?

It is important to us to thank you for your membership by providing small benefits.

- SST Shirts at net price
- At least 3 newsletters/year
- Information about **SharkSchool®** courses in advance to allow for early booking
- In case of several applications, SST members are priority
- Reduced fees for lecture dates
- **SharKnights-Shirts** to include our youngest members. They shall become Shark Knights!

