



The Octopus

The Newsletter of the Orange County Underwater Photographic Society December 2013

www.ocups.org

Wishing all a Happy Healthy Holiday Season!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO 2013 OCUPS
WINNERS!**

OPEN

Co-1st: Barbara Jones
Co-1st: Bonnie Pelnar
2nd: Roeland Papen
3rd: Fletcher Forbes

ADVANCED

1st: Michelle Hoalton
2nd: Patrick Smith
3rd: Linda Blanchard

AMATEUR

1st: Julianne E. Steers
2nd: Deanne Beck
3rd: Martha Edge

VIDEO

1st: Walter Marti
2nd: John Forbes
3rd: Michael Bonneau

No December Club Contest

The entry fee is \$2/per images up to two images, \$5
for three images.

Slides are still accepted for entries but the slide projector
is not brought to the meeting unless you contact Linda in
advance. Call 949-837-7734

Digital Submission Guidelines:

Please email your entries to ocups1@gmail.com, no later
than Sunday evening.

**FILE FORMAT: JPEG sized at 1024 x 768 (or 1024
on the longest side)**

Naming and Formatting your files:

Category Abbreviation Key: OPE=Open,
ADV=Advanced, AMA=Amateur as follows:

Naming File: Category Abbreviation, dash, First Name
Initial, Last Name, image number.

Example, if your name is Babe Nemo and you are submitting
3 photos, in the Amateur category, the file names should be:

AMA_BNemo1
AMA_BNemo2
AMA_BNemo3

Examples of Advanced and Open:

ADV_BNemo1
OPE_BNemo1

Club Officers 2013

President.....Linda Blanchard
Vice President.....Allan Jones
Treasurer and Membership.....Jane Huessener
Work shops..... Bonnie Pelnar/Allan Jones
Monthly Contest..... Michael Bonneau
Newsletter..... Johanna & Bruce Wight
Refreshments..... Anita Watrin
Web Master..... Bonnie Pelnar
Communications Director.....Kevin Lee
Speaker Chair.....Roeland Papen
Special Events.....Roeland Papen

Check out the OCUPS Web site at www.ocups.org

DIGITAL SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Digital photographers
that would like to participate in the monthly contest don't
forget to send your .jpg file to [ocups1@gmail](mailto:ocups1@gmail.com) no later than
the Sunday before the meeting

FILE FORMAT& SIZE: Please use JPEG sized at 1024 x 768 (or 1024 maximum, on the longest side).

See complete contest rules near end of Newsletter

For Prelude images:

P_WM01 ; P_WM02 ; P_WM03 ; etc.

"P" indicates "Prelude", and letters are your name initials, followed by a number sequence for your images. For number sequence use 01, 02 for the single digit number, so photos stay in the order you want.

Either email your prelude images, in advance, or bring them on a CD or jumpdrive.

Prelude limits to 10 to 15 slides, video 3 minutes or less.

Preludes will be shown dependent on time available.

OCUPS videographers:

Instead of bringing your entries on a thumb drive or DVD, please upload them to this website:

<https://www.wetransfer.com/>

Please try not to reenter previous OCUPS winning photos in future OCUPS contest.

Mentors Corner

The mentor program has been set up to answer your questions or critique your images before the meeting. If you would like help with an area of photography or videography send an email or call and I will set you up with a mentor. This way a member with the skills to help will be available to mentor you before the meeting. We hope this program will be of benefit to beginning as well as advanced photographers that are working on improving their skills. You can contact me at ljbdiver@sbcglobal.net or call 949-837-7734.

Mentors: set up mentor and time before the meeting.
Linda

OCUPS News Letter Submission Schedule deadlines:

February Newsletter	Received by January 21
March Newsletter	Received by February 21
April Newsletter	Received by March 25
May Newsletter	Received by April 21
June Newsletter	Received by May 21
July Newsletter	Received by June 27
August Newsletter	Received by July 25
September Newsletter	Received by August 20
October Newsletter	Received by September 22
November Newsletter	Received by October 21
December Newsletter	Received by November 20

Announcements

OCUPS Meeting Parking

We are able to have our meetings at the current location for no charge.

Park Plaza has asked us not to park in the front of the building, that is the side with the doors. We need to park in the back area or next door in the business complex.

OCUPS website: www.ocups.org.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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MERCHANDISE WITH OCUPS LOGO

Shirts, blouses, jackets, caps and other merchandise can be ordered with the embroidered club logo. See the complete catalog at CompanyCasuals.com/rjemb. If the item you order is over ten dollars there is no charge for the embroidered logo. If the ordered item is less than ten dollars, the price will remain at ten dollars. There is no minimum order for embroidered pieces. Silk screen items are available, however, there is a 15 minimum order required. The embroidered logo can also be placed on articles of clothing you already have at a price of \$6.00.

R J Embroidery
Rhonda Mertins
331 Lassen Circle
Placentia, CA 92870
Home phone: 714-223-9683
Cell: 714-396-7034
Fax: 714-223-7483

2014 Contest Themes

January - Texture
February - Mug shot
March - Green
April - Rays
May - Manmade structures
Jun - Eggs
July - Parasites
August - Two of a kind
September - Divers on an anchor line
October - Framing (use nature to create the frame i.e. photo through an arch)
November - Tunicates

Subjects of Interest

“Garbage” in the Composition

A photograph can be technically correct, meaning the exposure is correct and it is absolutely in focus, however, it is not an exciting photo. Why? “Garbage” captured in the composition. Once the technical aspects are achieved the composition is what dictates whether a photo is really great or average. Shapes, texture and lighting are essential to an excellent photo. I am not going to talk about all those rules (rule of thirds, diagonals etc.). I am going to talk about a simple thing to look for, “garbage”. “Garbage” can be anything from actual trash to something that takes away from the subject of interest being photographed.

All so easy to say, when I am diving and find a subject of interest, I get so intent on the subject, (thinking “wow! I found a great subject, hurry before it gets away, hurry, don’t stir up the bottom, I can’t believe I found this, what a find!), that I get tunnel vision and see ONLY the subject and don’t pay attention to what is going on in behind or directly in front of it. So that great shot I thought I got, many times on review has the tip of a divers fins, or bubbles from a diver caught in background, or some piece of algae swaying in and out of frame or worse swaying past my Strobes/lights so the subject is not lit correctly.

The absolute worst is a light colored object positioned somewhere in front of the subject that on review of my work has absorbed all the light and is now the subject of interest instead of the subject I was so excited to find.

So as you look through the view finder, look at more than just the subject, check all corners, and scan the entire area the viewfinder is covering. Be sure to look behind, in front and on the sides of the subject of interest to prevent background and foreground “garbage”. And most of all, continue to have fun with your camera!

MONTHLY PHOTO COMPETITION

November 2013 Contest Winners

VIDEO

1st: John Forbes
2nd x2: Walter Marti
3rd: John Forbes

OPEN

1st: Roeland Papen
2nd: Kelly Bracken
Co-3rd: Barbara Jones
Co-3rd: Fletcher Forbes

ADVANCED

1st: Michelle Hoalton
2nd: Patrick Smith
3rd: Patrick Smith

AMATEUR

1st: Julianne Steers
2nd: Julianne Steers
3rd: Martha Edge

Contest Categories 2013

January – Patterns

February - Eye Contact (animal appears to be looking at you)

March – White

April –Diagonal

May - Kelp/Seaweed

June - Black & White Photo

July - Benthic Fish

August - Eating/Feeding

September- Sunlight Rays

October- Compositions using Bokeh (Bokeh is a technique used by photographer's skillfully to melt the edges and blur the background into itself with a focal point.)

November –Urchins

December - No Contest –Holiday Party

Videographers

Prelude Video short clips are welcome. They can be on a CD, jump drive or bring your camera to connect.

CONTEST LEVELS

Contestant Levels and Advancement

1. AMATEUR

Only global changes* are allowed. This category includes members shooting an SLR camera system, with one year or less of underwater photography experience, or shooting with a point and shoot (PAS) camera. At the end of the year the first place winner/s or any member attaining 18 points shall advance to Amateur. PAS camera users who have advanced to the Amateur category and have entered images for at least 6 months, but have not accrued more than 6 points, may choose to return to the Amateur category the following year.

2. ADVANCED

Only global changes* are allowed. This category includes members having at least one year experience in underwater photography or who no longer qualify for the Amateur category. PAS camera shooters may choose, or be required, to be in this category. At the end of the first year, the first place winner/s or any member attaining at least 18 points (board confirmed) shall advance to the Open category. Members who have advanced to the Open category and have entered images for at least 6 months but have not accrued more than 6 points, may choose to return to the Advanced category the following year.

3. OPEN

Digital manipulation is allowed except for composite imaging (adding to an image). This category includes members who are considered professional or advanced underwater photographers by the OCUPS board or any member wishing to manipulate their images beyond basic global changes*. Open category members who have entered images for at least 6 months but have not accrued more than 6 points may choose to return to the Advanced category the following year.

*Definition of Global Modification: Changes that affect the entire images, such as cropping, saturation, white balance, levels, sharpening, and contrast. Prohibited modifications would include the use of layers or other tools that are applied to a specific area i.e. brushes, healing, cloning, etc. Contestants may enter images for only one still category in a given year. However, the video category is separate and may be entered independent of the still category. Member eligibility for a category will be determined at the first of the year or when joining the club. Members may choose to move up a category, but not down, during the year, forfeiting all previous points accumulated.

Photographers taking photos with both PAS and SLR cameras will be classified as an SLR photographer. PAS photographers are not restricted to the Amateur category. The OCUPS board may review eligibility qualifications and request a member to change their category.

Fee: Please contribute \$2 per slide up to 2 slides and \$5 for 3 slides entered.... this money goes to help pay for the awesome trophies and plaques at the end of the year. We, however, do not need any money to improve the Perpetual Trophy for Flooding, it is a gem just the way it is!

Orange County Underwater Photographic Society
OCUPS
Monthly Photo Contest Rules

General

1. This competition is open to OCUPS members only.
2. The entry fee is \$2 per submission or \$5 for three submissions maximum.
3. Captured frames from streaming video are not allowed as single image contest entries. Digital images should be emailed, not later than Sunday evening preceding the meeting, to: ocups1@gmail.com
4. Digital Submission Guidelines:
Please name your files in the following format:
Category Abbreviation, a dash, First Name Initial, Last Name, image number.

For example, if your name is Babe Nemo and you are submitting 3 photos, in the Amateur category, the file names should be: AMA-BNemo1, AMA-BNemo2, and AMA-BNemo3

Category Abbreviation Key:
OPE=Open, ADV=Advanced, AMA= Amateur

FILE FORMAT& SIZE:: Please use JPEG sized at 1024 x 768 (or 1024 maximum, on the longest side).

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Photos should be submitted by Sunday evening, prior to the club meeting. The Club is not responsible if the digital images will not project.

5. Only global (full-frame) modification of images is allowed for Amateur and Advanced categories. Global modifications are those that affect the entire image, such as cropping, saturation, white balance, levels, sharpening, and contrast. Prohibited modifications would include the use of layers or other tools that are applied to specific areas i.e. brushes, healing, cloning, and so on.
6. In the event of a challenge, the original image file or slide must be made available to the Club officers at the next meeting.
7. The entrant must have exposed all images underwater unless specified as a topside contest. Aquarium, pool and tank shots are not permitted.
8. No entry or copy of image that has previously won in an OCUPS competition may be re-entered in a subsequent contest.
9. The contest theme or subject must be the focal area of the image.
10. The Contest Director may disqualify any entry for rule stretching, marine conservation issues, out of theme or level entries.

11. VIDEO CONTEST RULES

- a. Videos can be up to 30 seconds, unedited, continuous clip. As in stills, global changes are allowed.
- b. Themes will be the same as for the still contest for the month but only one level, everyone in one category
- c. Videos may be taken on a video camera or the video function of a digital still camera. A series of still shots is not permitted.
- d. Up to two entries per month per person.
- e. Members may enter in both the video and the still competition each month.
- f. Do NOT include your name in the video file name; rather, choose a neutral name so that the owner cannot be identified, when video clips are shown for judging.
- g. Do not email video files, as they are too large. Instead, video should be brought as an AVI file (or Mac equivalent) on a jump drive (preferred method), CD, DVD, or on a tape with your camera and cables for connection to the projector.

12. Permission to reproduce any entry, only for purposes of OCUPS publicity, is assumed unless otherwise specified. All ownership and rights remain with the photographer.

13. ATTENDANCE REQUIRED TO PLACE: Entrants must be present at the meeting to place in the photo contest. However, if you leave prior to the contest conclusion, you still qualify to place, as long as you were present sometime during the meeting. If you do not plan on attending the meeting, please do not enter photos.

Contest Points (updated 2012)

1. First, second, and third place entries are all considered winning entries.
2. Points are awarded as follows: First = 3 points; Second = 2 points; Third = 1 point.
3. All winning places shall receive corresponding points, irrespective of ties.
4. Two entrants, minimum, are required to hold a contest in a particular category (Open, Advanced & Amateur) and award points.
5. For monthly photo contests where there is only one entrant in Amateur or Advanced categories, the entrant is allowed to compete in the next higher category, only for that month. And, if the entrant places in the higher category, points for the placement will be awarded but be applied to their original category e.g. if a sole Amateur entrant participates in the Advanced contest and wins 2nd place, the entrant would receive 2 points in their original Amateur category.

OCUPS Meeting Location
Always 2nd Tuesday of the Month
Park Plaza at Orange
620 South Glassell St., Orange
It's off the 22 Fwy north on Glassell

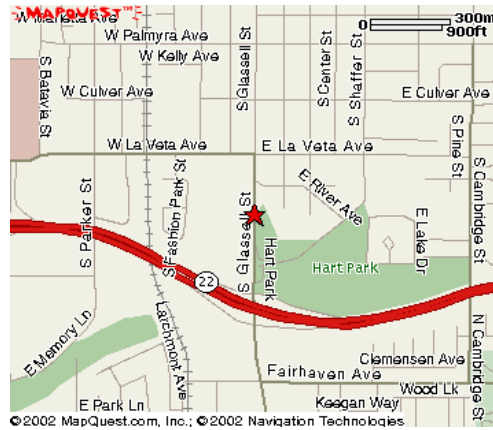
Schedule:

- 7:00 Set up: contest and prelude submissions**
- 7:15 Welcome**
Introduce guests
Announcements/ Congratulations
Business
- 7:30 Workshop - maximum of 10 - 15 minutes**
- 7:45 Prelude - 10 – 15 minutes: limit: 15 Slides, 3 minute Video**
- 8:00 contest**
- 8:15 Break; count ballots**
- 8:30 Speaker:**
- 9:15 Contest winners**
ends at 9:30

We invite all those interested in Underwater Photography, the curious, novice, advanced, and professional. Bring slides for the Prelude! OCUPS members remember to bring your slides and a guest.

Feedback and Submissions for the newsletter should be directed to the Editors
Johanna and Bruce Wight
Bwproductions@earthlink.net

Park Plaza at Orange



Orange County Freeways

