



# The Octopus

The Newsletter of the Orange County Underwater Photographic Society August 2013

[www.ocups.org](http://www.ocups.org)

August 13, 2013

## Michael Zeigler

**Presentation will be on artistic technique employed to created his favorite photos**

Originally from Detroit, Michigan, Michael Zeigler has lived in southern California since 1996, and has been scuba diving since 2004. Although he has been diving in many places around the world, he prefers capturing the beauty of the diverse marine life that inhabits the rich kelp forests of southern California.

He is a contributor for [Sport Diver magazine](#) and the [Underwater Photography Guide](#), instructor & trip leader for Bluewater Photo, and is an AAUS Scientific Diver.

Michael is also a proud member of the [Ocean Artists Society](#), which uses ocean art to inspire people around the world to a greater awareness of our need to protect and preserve our natural world.

Michael's award-winning photos have been featured in magazines, websites, juried art displays, private collections, and by non-profit organizations including [The Fin Foundation](#), [Reef Check](#), [Kelpfest](#), and the [Aquarium of the Pacific](#). "Seeing the undersea world through a camera lens has enhanced my diving experiences and my appreciation for the beauty of the sea forever. I enjoy sharing the ocean's beauty in an effort to raise awareness."

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## August Club Contest Eating/Feeding

**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

Check out the OCUPS Web site at [www.ocups.org](http://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) no later than the Sunday before the meeting

advance. Call 949-837-7734

### Digital Submission Guidelines:

Please email your entries to [ocups1@gmail.com](mailto:ocups1@gmail.com), no later than Sunday evening.

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

### Naming and Formating 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

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

## 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..... Kevin Lee  
Speaker Chair..... Roeland Papen  
Special Events.....Roeland Papen

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.**

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## **Mentors Corner**

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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](mailto:ljbdiver@sbcglobal.net) or call 949-837-7734.

Mentors: set up mentor and time before the meeting.

Linda

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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

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## **Announcements**

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### **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.

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**Check out our new website at**  
[www.ocups.org](http://www.ocups.org).

**Many Thanks to Bonnie!**

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### **MERCHANDISE WITH OCUPS LOGO**

Shirts, blouses, jackets, caps and other merchandise can

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## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

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be ordered with the embroidered club logo. See the complete catalog at [CompanyCasuals.com/rjemb](http://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

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## **Subjects of Interest**

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### **Pacific Grove Hyperbaric Chamber**

Monterey Bay has become a premier diving destination, offering some of the most beautiful and pristine diving areas in the country. The City of Pacific Grove, on the Monterey Peninsula, has provided medical treatment to injured divers with its hyperbaric chamber since 1963. While the City of Pacific Grove provides for many of the chamber's operation needs, the facility needs additional fiscal support to reopen and continue to offer these important medical treatments.

Please consider a donation to help this much needed, important resource for the local dive community.

[Donate to the Pacific Grove Hyperbaric Chamber Fund](#)



[Donate Now!](#)

Donations to this exciting project can be made online using a credit card or a PayPal account. The credit card transaction will be securely handled by PayPal and you do not need a PayPal account to make a credit card donation. At the end of the credit card transaction you will be presented with an option to print out a receipt for your donation.

Your tax-deductible donation to the Pacific Grove Hyperbaric Chamber Fund will go directly towards the reopening of the facility and its operations.

Payment can also be made by check mailed to:

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation  
99 Pacific Street, Suite 455 E  
Monterey, CA 93940

If you have any questions, please email  
[info@mbnmsf.org](mailto:info@mbnmsf.org)



With Shark Week fast approaching and the constant stream of beautiful ocean images filling our online experience now, you may wonder how such incredible ocean moments are captured on film.

But you don't have to be an expert to ensure you leave the beach with frame-worthy photos. [Photographers Joshua Cripps and Lauren Malkani](#) offer some quick tips to help you capture just the right moment.

1. **Focus on composition.** Utilize the Rule of Thirds: Imagine a grid of two equally spaced vertical lines and two equally spaced horizontal lines. Photos are more balanced and pleasing to the eye when the subject falls along one of the four intersections.
2. **Think about light.** Shooting photos outside is best during sunset and sunrise because the light is softer and more dynamic. You'll also have more opportunity to experiment with exposure and shutter speed.
3. **Take a lot of photos.** Shoot until you can't shoot anymore, and then shoot more. Shoot anything and

everything that catches your fancy, but always ask yourself why you are taking that photo.

4. **Find photos you love.** What are the technical, compositional and processing techniques the photographer used to get you to feel the way you do? Break them down piece-by-piece and figure out why they work.
5. **Take as many workshops as you can afford.** There is no single better or faster way to become a better photographer than by learning from photographers who are more experienced and can help steer you in the right direction for your art.

Ready to grab a camera and hit the beach? Share your photos with Ocean Conservancy on [Facebook](#) or [tweet them](#) using the hashtag #oceanphotos.

Sincerely,



Sara Thomas,

Senior Manager, Digital Engagement  
Ocean Conservancy

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### Save the Date for Coastal Cleanup Day [Orange County Coastkeeper](#)

**September 21** is [Coastal Cleanup Day!](#) Join us at Huntington State Beach, lifeguard tower #11 from 9:00 am to noon for a beach cleanup and [Japan Tsunami Debris Monitoring](#) survey for the California Coastal Commission.

Every year, on the third Saturday in September, people join together at sites all over California to take part in the State's largest volunteer event, Coastal Cleanup Day. In 2012, over 65,000 volunteers removed almost 770,000 pounds of trash and recyclables from California's beaches, lakes, and waterways. Families, friends, co-workers, scout troops, school groups, service clubs, and individuals come together to celebrate and share their appreciation of California's fabulous coast and waterways. The event is part of the International Coastal Cleanup, which is the largest volunteer event on the planet! We hope that you, your company, club or group of friends will join us.

For more info, and to RSVP,  
email [pamela@coastkeeper.org](mailto:pamela@coastkeeper.org).

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## **DEPP: Guilty of Insurance Fraud**

Criminal charges were filed against DEPP and the owners, Dixie and Deane Lehrmitt by the state of Kentucky where the company is based.

The owners pled guilty and were ordered to pay restitution on all outstanding claims through a third-party administrator.

For more details see:

<http://www.divebuddy.com/forum/29413/depp-gone-guilty-insurance-fraud/>

# MONTHLY PHOTO COMPETITION

## July 2013 Contest Winners

### VIDEO

1st: John Forbes  
2nd: Walter Marti  
3rd: Johanna Wight

### OPEN

Co-1<sup>st</sup>: Bonnie Pelnar  
Co-1<sup>st</sup>: Barbara Jones  
2<sup>nd</sup>: Bruce Wight  
Co-3<sup>rd</sup>: Mike Bartick  
Co-3<sup>rd</sup>: Roeland Papen  
Co-3<sup>rd</sup>: Ronda Allen

### ADVANCED

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

### AMATEUR

1st = Julianne Steers  
2nd = Julianne Steers  
3rd = Tim Williams

## 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

## Monthly Contest Winners

If you want your winning photo posted on the OCUPS Web site, email a .jpeg file of your winning photo to the Kevin Lee at [diverkevin@gmail.com](mailto:diverkevin@gmail.com)  
Allan Jones can scan slides if needed  
[divers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:divers@sbcglobal.net)

# 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!

## Videographers

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



**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](mailto: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.

