



The Octopus

The Newsletter of the Orange County Underwater Photographic Society April 2014

www.ocups.org

April 8, 2014

Do it Yourself Tips & Tricks for UW Photographers

Dr. Elias Amador

Dr. Elias Amador is an inveterate DIY enthusiast. A retired medical doctor, Eli has been diving around the world since 1946, when he first tried out the Navy Mark 2 helmet and liked it so much, he made his own.

In recent years, Eli has taken up underwater photography and, true to his DIY nature, he has customized his equipment with the goals of saving time & money, enhancing ergonomics and having fun taking great photos.

Housing maintenance, trays, o-rings, rig buoyancy, wet diopter mounts, zoom lens tooth gears, disposable snoots, DIY tools, and suppliers are just some of the many topics Eli will cover.

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APRIL Club Contest Skates and Rays

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 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 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.

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

Club Officers 2014

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

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.

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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Placentia, CA 92870
Home phone: 714-223-9683
Cell: 714-396-7034
Fax: 714-223-7483

SCUBA Show 2014
Long Beach Convention Center
June 7,8 2014

Greg Jensen's

Crabs and Shrimps of the Pacific Coast

After waiting for months, the anticipation is over and you can get your grubby dive gloves on a copy of Greg's new and amazing book: Crabs and Shrimps of the Pacific Coast.

240 full color pages packed with info and interesting sidebar tidbits - and my favorite - lots of humor throughout! What's good about the book is it's geared for both the scientific-y types, as well as the budding naturalist.

But wait, before you answer - you also get a handy dandy CD containing the e-version of the book (so you can take it with you on your mobile device) along with video clips of various crabby-shrimpy behaviors.

You can learn more about it from Greg's website: <http://www.molamarine.com/>

Enjoy and spread the word!

- Janna Nichols

Subjects of Interest

Next Month's Contest Theme Manmade Structures

Since many underwater manmade structures are large, wide angle photography techniques can be employed. Strobe light will not be able to light up the entire structure, but can be used to light up the foreground leaving ambient light for the background. If done well the ambient light will create a colorful background. The goal is to have both background and foreground properly exposed so there is a distinction between the two.

One way to do this is to first meter and set the aperture and shutter speed to get the background exposure you want. With this accomplished it is time to select strobe power and strobe position to achieve the foreground exposure you want. The lighting of the foreground will impact the success of the photograph.

Take some time and practice moving the strobes. Starting point for wide angle strobe position is back behind the plane of the camera and out to the sides. Experiment with strobe angles and strobe power to accomplish the effect you want.

Most of all have fun!

MONTHLY PHOTO COMPETITION

OCUPS February 2014 Congratulations to Photo Contest Winners!

VIDEO

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

OPEN

1st: Kelly Bracken
2nd: Michelle Hoalton
3rd: Fletcher Forbes

ADVANCED

1st: Linda Blanchard
Co-2nd: Patrick Smith
Co-2nd: Patrick Smith
3rd: Cindy Shaw

AMATEUR

1st: Lee Huessener
2nd: Ron Springer
3rd: Ron Springer

Congratulations and thanks to all participants.

Contest Categories 2014

January - Texture
February - Mug shot
March - Green
April – Skates and 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
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.

