



The Octopus

The Newsletter of the Orange County Underwater Photographic Society July 2015

www.ocups.org

July 14, 2015

Mark Strickland The Coral Triangle

Encompassing a huge area stretching from Western Indonesia to the Philippines to Solomon Islands, the Coral Triangle is widely acknowledged as the world epicenter of marine biodiversity. Throughout the region, currents from the Pacific and Indian Oceans swirl among thousands of islands, delivering a wide spectrum of larval creatures that support an extremely diverse marine life community. There are also an exceptional variety of habitats that are home to more species of fish, corals, mollusks, and crustaceans than anywhere else in the world. Please join us as Mark shares images and commentary from many years of diving this exceptional region!

Mark Strickland's connection with the sea includes 10,000+ dives and careers as lifeguard, captain, dive instructor and cruise director. An accomplished underwater photographer and passionate conservationist, his editorial credits include several books, periodicals like *BBC Wildlife*, *Geo*, *National Geographic World*, *Nature's Best*, *Natural History*, *Outside* and most major dive magazines. His images have also been featured at the Smithsonian Institute, United Nations Visitor Center, and galleries including G2 in Venice, CA. Mark serves in various roles at Bluewater Photo, and leads international trips each year. For a sampling of Mark's work, visit www.markstrickland.com Recent projects include collaborations with photographer Chris Huss on several traveling photo exhibits including *Ocean Visions*, currently displayed in Encino, CA.

July Club Contest Underwater Photographer

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

Monthly Contest "How to Enter"

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

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

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,

Club Officers 2015

President.....Linda Blanchard
Vice President.....Allan Jones
Treasurer and Membership....Jane Huessener
Workshops..... Bonnie Pelnar/Allan Jones
Monthly Contest..... Michael Bonneau
Newsletter..... Johanna & Bruce Wight
Refreshments..... Marcia Holland
Web Master.....Bonnie Pelnar
Communications Director.....Kevin Lee
Speaker Chair.....Needed

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 deadlines:

Two weeks before the meeting date.

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

Placentia, CA 92870

Home phone: 714-223-9683

Cell: 714-396-7034 Fax: 714-223-7483

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Subjects of Interest

Dive Report: Shark Diving - Beqa Lagoon, Fiji

by Johanna Wight

Dive plan: make 2 dives to about 60 feet with a surface interval in between. No cages.

The boat started on its 30 minute journey to the dive site and my "eebee jeebees" as I call them, or butterflies in my stomach started when the boat took off. I was feeling reluctant to get in the water, I knew there would be bull sharks, they were here last time I made this dive a few years ago. Now that I think of it, I had the same feeling last time. This time, the dive masters were talking of the tiger sharks that had been frequenting the spot. Perhaps that was the source of my trepidations. I know myself, I knew once we got to the dive spot I would still have eebee jeebees but as soon as I took that stride off the boat into the water, I would be looking forward to the adventure.

I splashed in and made my way down to the reef following the lead of the dive master. I couldn't believe how many people were lined up already behind the small wall. The dive master found me a spot between some other divers and the show began. I was sitting in front of a live screen saver full of a myriad of all different size and color fish, striped ones, blue ones and more. Then the second act started, the dive masters brought out the treats and the bulls started to arrive. I hoped the taps I felt on my head were the dive master pushing the sharks away from me. I kept my attention on my camera at the same time continually looking around me to ensure I saw what was coming at me. The fish screen saver camouflaged the shark activity, bulls would appear right in front of me as if by magic. Then I spied it, the tiger shark, it swam diagonally down from the surface, looped around, and swam right at me. It filled my wide angle lens as its smiling mouth was inches from my head. I pushed my camera up and pulled my head down. Again, I felt that comforting touch from behind of the dive master pushing the tiger away. I don't know what takes over when I am underwater, but I didn't feel fear as you might expect, I felt elated and mesmerized by the magnificent creature that just cruised by inches from me. The shark treats were gone and I heard the tell tail clanging the dive master makes to get our attention, it was time to surface. I reluctantly pulled myself away from the wall and turned making my way to the safety stop line and then on to the boat looking forward with great anticipation to the second dive.

The following is an excerpt from an email written by Dr. Sam Miller, III on Saturday, June 27, 2015 8:13 AM,

SDM, III

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Red & white dive flag - a short history

Great meeting some of you but missing most of you at the SCUBA Show a little over two weeks ago in beautiful down town Long Beach.

One of my long term areas of expertise is the red and white dive flag. I made a seminar presentation on the little known and probably long forgotten history of the design development and subsequent acceptance of the dive flag at SCUBA Show.

I thought it appropriate to share with a few titbits of historical facts about the flag.

The concept of a flag to identify diving activities was first introduced in 1957 via a single paragraph in Skin Diver Magazine (SDM). During the following years divers and dive clubs made recommendations via SDM until early 1960s when it's design, color, size and display procedures was "officially" adapted by the diving public in 1960.

In 1962 the flag was only a few years old when first accident involving a boat and a diver displaying the dive flag occurred at Long Point at Catalina Island.

Until that time the flag had been publicized by SDM and was familiar with diving public and only slightly familiar to the boaters via posters placed in marinas and in launch areas but had never been tested in a court of law. During the geneses of the sport I was very active and considerably more visible in the diving community than I am today, therefore I was called as the only expert witness to defend the validity and proper use of the flag during diving activities. It was an awesome responsibility but we, the prosecution prevailed'

The red and white flag was saved! It was recognized as the flag of recreational diving!

This litigation which occurred over 50 years ago established the rights and privilege's of a diver displaying the flag and verified and established it as a "recognized flag" of diving activity. Displaying a red and white flag while diving is good assurance that in the event that you are in an accident involving a motor craft you have legal recourse in a California court of law. Immediately after the trial I authored a 2 part 6 page article on the flag and the litigation which appeared in the now defunct LA County Underwater News, which I suspect a copy will be extremely difficult to locate.

A short time later I was also honored as the first Guest Editor of Skin Diver magazine - "Signpost to Safety" about the history of the flag and urging all divers to publicize and display the flag. (I also authored articles for SDM and appeared on the cover of the magazine- the only person to have all three honors) This lead into writing the description of the flag for Chapman's Small Boat Handling and the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. My original submissions described the flag and cautioned boaters to give a boat displaying the flag courtesy of reduced speed and extra clearance. But any resemblance to what I submitted and what was published is purely coincidental.

Since that first defense I have been involved in numerous consultations and litigations of the flag. One particular critical trial involved a east coast corporation who via legal maneuvering considered themselves as the sole proprietor of the flag and who's intent was to establish a license fee for the manufacture and use of the flag. After 18 long months of research and lengthy deliberation it was determined the flag was in the public domain.

Once again the red and white dive flag was saved.

All can use it- in advertising, on wearing apparel, on automobile windows and as jewelry.

The June 2015 SCUBA SHOW OCUPS Booth looked fantastic as usual! Thanks to all that participated.



Photo by Michael Bonneau

The TV Screen addition for video was a great idea and added to the professionalism of the OCUPS display.



Photo by Michael Bonneau

MONTHLY PHOTO COMPETITION

Congratulations to OCUPS June Photo Contest Winners!

VIDEO

1st: Michael Bonneau
Co-2nd: John Forbes
Co-2nd: Michael Bonneau
3rd: John Forbes

OPEN

1st: Cindy Shaw
Co-2nd: Barbara Jones
Co-2nd: Cindy Shaw
3rd: Fletcher Forbes

ADVANCED

1st: Bob Pasqua
2nd: Bob Pasqua
3rd: Julianne Steers

AMATEUR

1st: Ron Springer
Co-2nd x2: Roger Gomez
Co-2nd: Ron Springer
3rd: Roger Gomez

Congratulations and thanks to all participants.

Contest Categories 2015

January: Nudibranchs
February: Pink
March: Critter on critter
April: Scorpionfish
May: Head dress
June: Bubbles
July: Underwater photographer
August: Yawning fish
September: Dangerous to touch
October: Diagonal composition
November: Reflections
December: Awards Banquet

The above list is available on our website at this link:

<http://ocups.org/index.php/photo-contest/2015-categories>

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:

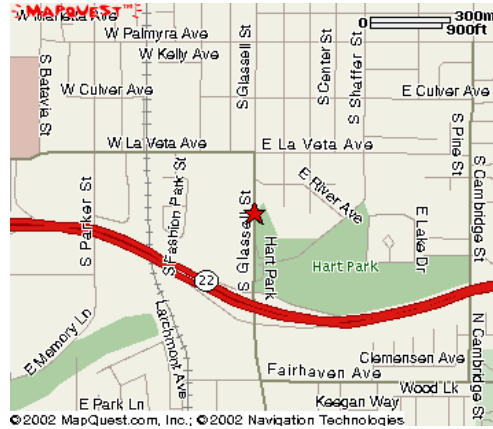
- 7:00 Set up: contest and prelude submissions**
- 7:15 Welcome**
Introduce guests
Announcements/ Congratulations
Business
- 7:30 Workshop - maximum of 10 - 15 minutes**
- 7:45 Prelude - 10 – 15 minutes: limit: 15 Slides, 3 minute Video**
- 8:00 contest**
- 8:15 Break; count ballots**
- 8:30 Speaker:**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

