



# The Octopus

The Newsletter of the Orange County Underwater Photographic Society December 2015

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

## Wishing all a Happy Healthy Holiday Season!

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS 2015**

**OCUPS ANNUAL AWARDS  
BANQUET, Tuesday, December 8th**

Join OCUPS celebrate the Holiday Season at our annual Dinner Banquet and Awards Ceremony, a great occasion to meet members in a relaxed social setting. Invite friends and family to congratulate this year's contest winners, maybe you!

**When:** Tuesday, December 8 (regular meeting night)  
**Time:** 6:00PM-9:00 PM: 6:00 PM social hour and 7:00 PM dinner

**Where:** Newport Beach Tennis Club, 2601 Eastbluff, Newport Beach, CA 92660 (same as last year).  
<http://www.nbtennisclub.com>

**Dinner:** Caesar Salad, Prime Rib, Asparagus, Baked Potatoes, Rolls, Coffee or Tea included & Chocolate Cake; Drinks are extra. Please let us know if you prefer a vegetarian meal when you RSVP

**Cost:** \$40 per person in advance. RSVP and Payment due by December 1st. We must provide a solid head count for the restaurant, a week in advance, which is the minimum number we must pay for.

**RSVP** by email to [ljbdiver@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ljbdiver@sbcglobal.net)  
Payment in advance is required to confirm your reservation. Please send check payable to "OCUPS" to:

Linda Blanchard  
22695 Via Santa Rosa  
Mission Viejo, CA 92691

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

## January Club Contest Eels

### Monthly Contest "How to Enter"

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

#### Still Photography Submission Guidelines:

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

**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 on your photos 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

## 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

### 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 etc. for the single digit number, so photos stay in the order you want.

Email your prelude images by the **Sunday evening before the meeting**

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

Preludes will be shown dependent on time available.

### Videographers:

Please upload your files via [wetransfer.com](http://wetransfer.com). Please use 720 H264 format or just select the Vimeo/YouTube 720 HD preset format.

**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 deadlines:

Two weeks before the meeting date.

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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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**OCUPS website:** [www.ocups.org](http://www.ocups.org).

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## MERCHANDISE WITH OCUPS LOGO

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Shirts, blouses, jackets, caps and other merchandise can 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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### **El Nino 2015**

by Johanna Wight

This year's El Nino is predicted to be the strongest in 50 years.

I was fortunate to have received my SCUBA certification in an El Nino Year in Southern California, so I fell in love diving these waters not knowing how cold Southern CA diving could be. And once in love with diving California waters, the cold is no deterrent.

So what exactly is an El Nino?

An El Nino is a change in climate near the equator of the Pacific Ocean. This occurs when wind that normally blows east to west weakens causing the warm water that was pushed west to slide back east inhibiting the upwelling of cold water that normally occurs in the east Pacific.

But there's more, the warmer ocean causes the winds to get weaker in turn allowing more warmer water to slide east which further weakens the winds and the El Nino grows. Eventually El Nino is cancelled out by Rossby waves.

Simplified, a Rossby wave is very slow movement of approximately the top 300 or so feet of the ocean traveling in one direction and starting at approximately 300 or so feet and down the ocean is moving in the opposite direction very, very slowly.

El Nino creates Rossby waves that eventually reach Southeast Asia and reflect back. The temperature changes these waves carry on the rebound cancel out the original water temperature change that created the El Nino condition. This process can take months as Rossby waves would not even be visible to the eye if you were watching for them and they are hundreds or thousands of miles in length but not very deep.

So the diving this year off the Southern Coast of California was an experience to behold, sea turtles and more unusual creatures were seen that are not normally found off the coast of California. As a diver, it is a magnificent phenomenon to experience even though it does have some negative effects on the flora and fauna that usually reverse once the El Nino is over.

El Nino also affects the weather. El Nino can send frequent storms throughout from the West Coast of the US, into the Southern Plains, the Deep South and up the East Coast. Hopefully El Nino will bring some relief of the current drought in California.

# Around the Pier: Citizen Science Will Help Assess Effects of El Niño

Scientists enlist the public to help document anticipated major climate event

From Scripps Institute of Oceanography

As one of the largest [El Niños](#) in recent years continues to develop in the Pacific Ocean, Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego is calling on the public to help document a historic climate event.

Scripps Oceanography's "citizen science" projects will focus on data collection to document the impact of large waves on beach erosion and coastal flooding. Citizen science contributions may range from photographs to measurements of water temperatures and other environmental variables that are important to ongoing scientific research. Researchers are working with citizens and municipalities to expand their capabilities and engage amateur scientists, students, and teachers.

The citizen science surveys are part of an ongoing evolution of El Niño research at which Scripps Oceanography has been at the forefront for several decades. The research community's ability to forecast and understand El Niño events has progressed considerably since 1982, when one of the largest El Niños of the last century arrived almost undetected, and through 1997-98, the year of the strongest El Niño of recent times in which Scripps scientists made their first public calls for preparedness ahead of the event.

Project leaders anticipate that beneficiaries of this crowdsourced data will not be just scientists but a host of end-users ranging from fire departments to transportation managers, urban planners, and major Southern California port occupants including the U.S. Navy.

"The Navy is concerned about impacts of sea-level rise on its coastal bases. Taking additional measurements of regional impacts during this winter's El Niño storm events is an opportunity not to be missed," said Dennis McGinn, assistant secretary of the Navy for Energy, Installations and Environment. "More needs to be done to accurately characterize and predict the strength and frequency of regional sea-level rise impacts."

El Niño, a climate phenomenon that is characterized by warmer waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean among other conditions, could amplify the number and strength of winter storms along the Southern California coast. Researchers say the event presents an opportunity for the public to help monitor coastal erosion, and to use the record of these events as a predictor for the effects of longer-term sea-level rise along the coast. What happens this season could simulate the effects of sea-level rise that is projected over the next 30-40 years.

In August, a gift from Del Mar, Calif. residents Carol Dean and Richard Hertzberg established the Scripps Center for Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation. The Center will provide science-based strategies for adapting to climate change and public involvement in creating these strategies is among its missions.

"What we learn about the effects of an El Niño on our coastline is not limited to this weather event. And after the El Niño, we will continue to monitor sea-level rise and erosion along the coast due to climate change," said Scripps Oceanography Director Margaret Leinen. "Engaging our researchers with community volunteers will provide access to more information and help us assess the changes to our coastal environment."

Scripps researchers Julie Thomas, Sarah Giddings, and Timu Gallien are spearheading the efforts to recruit the public to collect data during El Niño.

Thomas, executive director of the Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) and the Coastal Data Information Program (CDIP) is hoping that members of the public will send in high-resolution photographs of damage along the

Southern California coastline caused by storms or of wave impacts on beaches. The photo record can validate the simulations that are part of ongoing research to [measure the impact of waves on the shoreline](#).

“Geo-referenced, high-resolution photographs of coastal flooding and inundation during energetic wave events can be used to correlate wave heights collected by the CDIP buoys,” Thomas said.

Funded by the California Department of Boating and Waterways and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CDIP real-time wave information can be found at [cdip.ucsd.edu](http://cdip.ucsd.edu).

Thomas is also looking for repeatability of photos over time.

“If someone takes photos from the exact same location during high tide everyday for a specified period of time, this could also help us quantify the effects of large waves causing seawall damage or damage to the shoreline,” said Thomas.

Scripps oceanographer Sarah Giddings, who studies nearshore and surf zone processes, will be observing how physics impacts important biological and chemical processes in the coastal environment. Giddings is interested in monitoring the effects of an El Niño on estuaries (bays, lagoons, harbors, or marshes) along the Southern California coast.

Giddings will be working with a high school environmental science class to monitor the salinity, temperature, and depth of estuaries to better understand the characteristics of estuaries, and how an estuary responds to El Niño.

“This experiment will help us understand how the water circulates in the estuary and how oxygen levels increase or decrease after a big storm, and, how this affects marine ecology in the estuary,” she said.

Giddings will partner with the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) to engage with cities and counties to study smaller estuaries. Specifically, the researchers hope to obtain before-and-after photos of high-tide events along as much of the California coastline as possible.

“These before-and-after photos will be a good indicator of future sea-level conditions. Extreme sea events are likely to occur more often as the ocean responds to climate change,” said Giddings.

Timu Gallien, a postdoctoral researcher at Scripps Oceanography, is an expert on urban coastal flooding, sea-level rise mitigation, and regional flood risk forecasting. Gallien has partnered with municipal entities to collect high-quality data to accurately measure topographic structure of beaches.

“We are looking for data that will be within two centimeters of accuracy,” said Gallien.

Gallien says that these data sets will help with flood mapping, observing morphological change along the shoreline, estuaries, and other habitats.

“The size of the beach matters, and we will watch the coastline closely if this El Niño happens,” said Gallien.

**Those wishing to contribute photos of storm events along the coast or to obtain more information on how to help document this year’s El Niño can e-mail researchers at [stormphoto@sccoos.org](mailto:stormphoto@sccoos.org).**

– Christina Wu

# MONTHLY PHOTO COMPETITION

## Congratulations to OCUPS November Photo Contest Winners!

### VIDEO

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

### OPEN

1st: Dave Hinkel  
Co-2nd: Kelly Bracken  
Co-2nd: Dave Hinkel  
Co-3rd: Kevin Lee  
Co-3rd: Kevin Lee

### ADVANCED

Co-1st: Brook Peterson  
Co-1st: Brook Peterson  
2nd: Bob Pasqua  
3rd: Patrick Smith

### AMATEUR

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

Congratulations and thanks to all participants

### Contest Categories 2016

January: Eels

February: Transparent Animals

March: Spots

April: Flatfish

May: Unique Homes/Strange Habitat

June: Schools of Fish

July: Positive use of Negative Space

August: Flatworms

September: Close Focus Wide Angle

October: Side by Side

November: Majestic

A complete description of each month's theme is  
available online at:

[http://ocups.org/index.php/photo-contest/2016-  
categories](http://ocups.org/index.php/photo-contest/2016-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!

**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 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the Month  
Park Plaza at Orange  
620 South Glassell St., Orange  
It's off the 22 Fwy north on Glassell

**Schedule:**

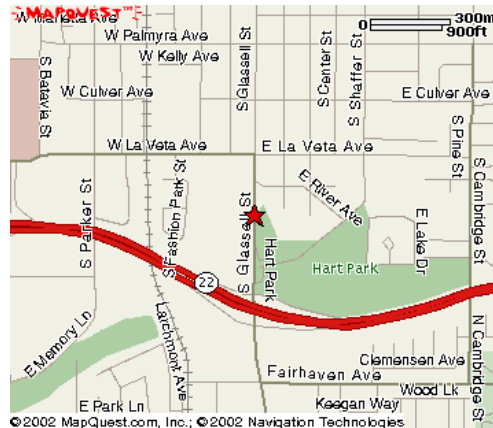
- 7:00** Set up: contest and prelude submissions
- 7:15** Welcome  
Introduce guests  
Announcements/ Congratulations  
Business
- 7:30** Workshop - maximum of 10 - 15 minutes
- 7:45** Prelude - 10 – 15 minutes: limit: 15 Slides, 3 minute Video
- 8:00** contest
- 8:15** Break; count ballots
- 8:30**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

