



OCUPS The Octopus

The Newsletter of the Orange County Underwater Photographic Society February 2016

www.ocups.org

February Speaker

Dr. Sam Miller on the history of OCUPS

Dr. Samuel Miller began his long diving career in 1943 as a result to a very serious eye infection contracted while swimming in a local YMCA pool. In order to continue swimming he was required to wear a pair of crude goggles for eye protection. When he had graduated from high school in 1950 he had managed to acquire a Sea Net mask and a pair of Churchill fins. He was a "goggler" in a sport that had no name, no shops, no magazines, no training programs, no organizations, no flag, and very few participants.

See more on Dr. Sam Miller at:

http://www.portagequarry.com/legendarticles/miller_bio.htm

March Speaker

Chuck Nicklin

Presentation is to Share Underwater Photography History

An underwater film pioneer Chuck Nicklin started as a free-dive spear fisherman in La Jolla, CA diving for abalone and lobsters. He has worked on Hollywood productions, National Geographic projects, documentaries and IMAX adventures. His love of the ocean and desire to share it with others is what motivated him and took him around the world more than once.

He has recently published his book "Camera Man: Stories of My Life and Adventures as an Underwater Filmmaker" will be available at the meeting and is also available on Amazon.

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

February Club Contest Transparent Animals

March Club Contest Spots

Monthly Contest "How to Enter" Entries emailed in due by Sunday before the Meeting Date

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, 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

Club Officers 2016

President.....Linda Blanchard
Treasurer and Membership....Jane Huessener
Workshops..... Bonnie Pelnar
Monthly Contest..... Evan Sherman & Julianne Steers
Newsletter..... Johanna & Bruce Wight
Refreshments..... Marcia Holland
Web Master & Chief Communicator.....Kevin Lee & Bonnie Pelnar
Speaker Chair.....Cindy Shaw & Patrick Smith

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 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. 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.

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

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San Diego County Fair Del Mar, CA

"The time has come," the walrus said" to talk of many things: Of shoes and ships-and sealing wax-of cabbage and kings" and the 70th annual International Exhibition of Photography held at the San Diego County Fair

- June 3, 2016 through July 4, 2016
- San Diego County fair
- Del Mar, California
- Starting 1947 this is the 70 annual International Exhibition of Photography at the San Diego County fair
- Over 10,000 Square Feet of gallery space
- Approximately 1,400 images selected to hang from international entries
- Entries selected to hang by a team of professional photographers and educators
- Twenty-five thousand dollars in prizes and special awards
- To keep informed about this event visit www.sdfair.com or contact gwild@sdfair.com

Subjects of Interest

Marine Damage Cause by Sunscreen

Did you know Coral bleaching is accelerated by the sunscreen that washes off in our oceans? However, there are some sunscreens deemed reef safe. For more check out the blog at: http://scubadiverlife.com/2016/01/01/top-four-reef-safe-sunscreens/?utm_source=phplist476&utm_medium=email&utm_content=HTML&utm_campaign=Undercurrent+Online+Update%2C+January+20%2C+2016

Trip log Guadalupe Island Mexico October 2015

Text and photos by Johanna and Bruce Wight

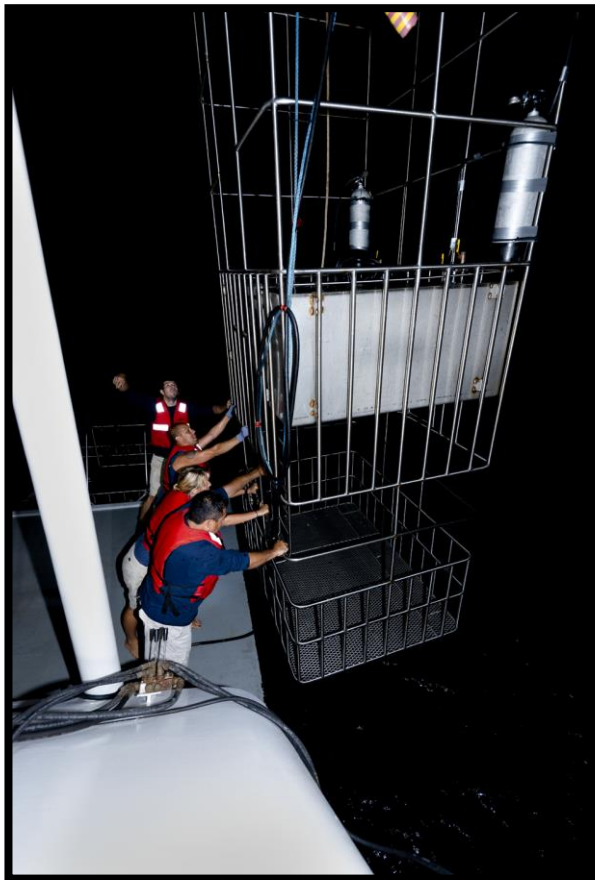
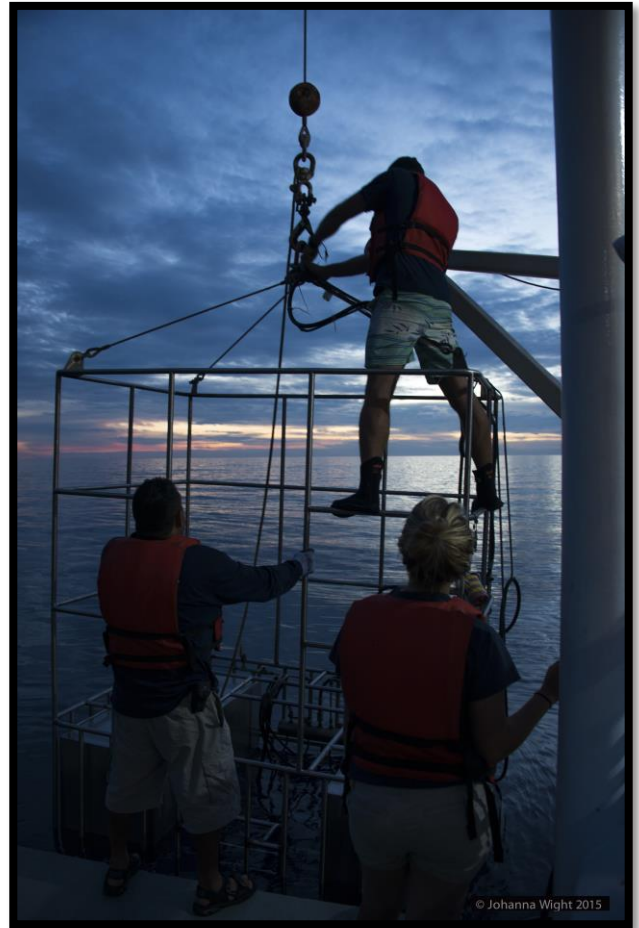
The journey begins in San Diego, CA. We clamber onto the chartered bus destined for Mexico. Navigate through customs in Tijuana and back on the bus we make our way down the highway heading to Ensenada where the boat awaits our arrival. The sun has set and the lights of Ensenada are mesmerizing as they reflect on the ocean. We disembark the bus at the dock and

board the boat that will make the long 21 hour journey to Guadalupe Island in search of Great White Sharks. As we pull our luggage up the gangplank, I wonder what possesses me to want to see these creatures up close and personal. Creatures that strike fear in many people, much of it generated from Benchley's depiction of a rouge, super giant, vengeful, Great White Shark terrorizing a sleepy island vacation destination. Hmm, sounds just like where I am heading, sleepy island setting???

It is still dark as the crane motor hums while the crew disentangle the stainless steel cages to be lowered over the side into the black inky ocean. The sun begins to rise and with its light invokes a friendlier looking clear blue ocean. The air has a tropical feel.

The schedule is posted and we are up in an hour. Just enough time to don my wetsuit, weights and grab my camera. I climb in, am handed the regulator that is connected to surface air supply and make my way down the ladder inside the cage. The cage swings out to the side and starts its descent to 30 feet, what an odd feeling not being in control of my decent rate.

The yellow fin tuna come at us in schools, silvery bodies reflecting strobe and video lights zoom past us. I look down into the blue abyss, searching, nothing, wait, what is that? The gray top of a stealthy camouflaged Great White slowly moves to the surface, how long has it been there? And then it is circling the cage. It slips gracefully through the water as it cruises past. I don't even raise my camera, I am in awe to be an arm's length from this magnificent creature.





© Johanna Wight 2015



© Bruce Wight 2015



MONTHLY PHOTO COMPETITION

Congratulations to OCUPS January Photo Contest Winners!

VIDEO

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

OPEN

1st: Michael Bonneau
2nd: Linda Blanchard
3rd: Barbara Jones

ADVANCED

Co-1st: Patrick Smith
Co-1st: Debbie Karimoto
2nd: Aaron Halstead
3rd: Ron Springer

AMATEUR

No Contest

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>

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

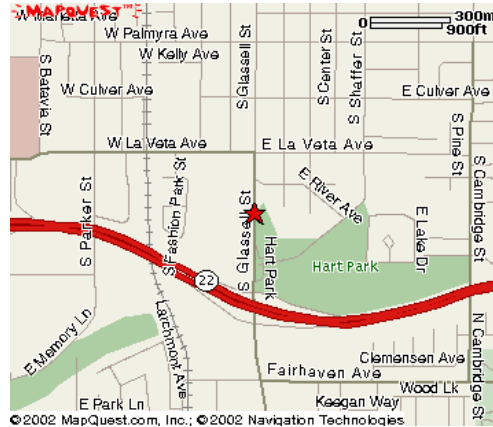
Schedule:

- 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

