



# OCUPS The Octopus

The Newsletter of the Orange County Underwater Photographic Society April 2016

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

## April Speaker

**Michael Zeigler**

**Presentation is on Negative Space**

In photography, design, sculpture, and pretty much every genre of visual and sound art, negative space is perhaps the single most important aspect that helps the subject in your work - the element of interest - stand out and attract the viewer's attention. Negative space can drastically change the mood of an image, and in some cases, it is the mood. In this presentation I will explore this very powerful tool, how I use it, and how you can use it to not only find new ways of composing your photographs, but also new ways to learn and tell the story of your subjects.

### Bio

Shortly after graduating from Michigan State University, Michael bought a one-way ticket to Southern California and immediately fell in love with the ocean. Ever since taking his first underwater photo in 2009, Michael has been obsessed with underwater photography. Since then, he has had the opportunity and privilege to work with some of the best editors from around the world, and has recently formed Immersed Imaging with his good friend, Todd Winner. Although Michael has had the opportunity to dive many amazing places around the world, he prefers capturing the beauty of the diverse marine life that inhabits the rich kelp forests of Southern California.

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## May Speakers

**Bonnie Pelnar and LindaSue Dingel**

## April Club Contest

Flatfish

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## May Club Contest

Unique Homes/Strange Habitats

## 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](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

Check out the OCUPS Web site at [www.ocups.org](http://www.ocups.org)

## 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

**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

**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 [libdiver@sbcglobal.net](mailto:libdiver@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

Shirts, blouses, jackets, caps and other merchandise can be ordered with the embroidered club logo. See the complete catalog link below. 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

<http://www.companycasuals.com/rjemb/start.jsp>

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### Sad News

One of our long time members Tim Baskin has passed away. He held the office of Speaker Chair for OCUPS in past years and helped OCUPS at SCUBA Show for many years.

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## Subjects of Interest

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**Mark your calendars for the 29th annual SCUBA SHOW!**

⤴ JUNE 4 & 5, 2016 ⤵

**at the LONG BEACH CONVENTION CENTER, LONG BEACH, CA**

**Don't forget to start picking your photos for OCUPS booth at the SCUBA Show!**

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**Chamber Day  
MAY 4, 2016**

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

Your Chamber needs you. Join in on the fun!!!!  
Sign up for a dive spot, make a donation!



**Orange County Fair Visual Arts entry  
deadline is June 1st**

For more information go to:

<http://www.ocfair.com/2016/index.asp>

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**Del Mar Fair Photo Entry deadline is April 15**

For more information go to:

<http://www.sdfair.com/>

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**Flatfish**

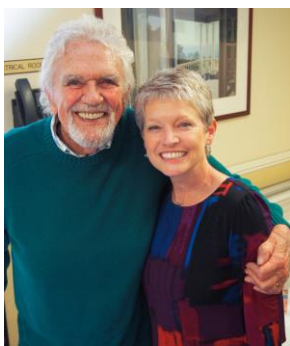
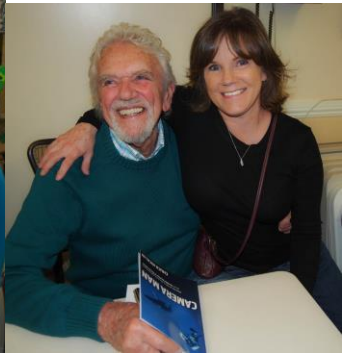
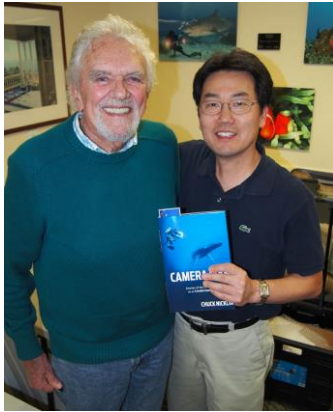
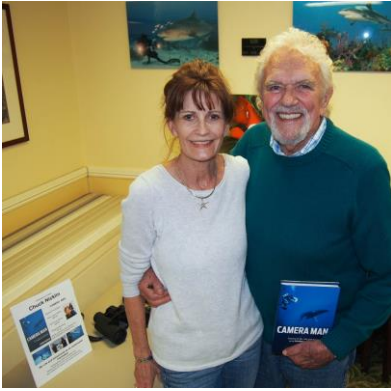
Photos by Bruce Wight

Did you know that flat fish start out looking like other fish with their eyes on either side of their body (bilateral symmetry). Then as the larvae develops, one eye actually rotates around to be on the same side and voila', flat fish with eyes on one side (asymmetrical). The bones actually shift and bend to accomplish this. Talk about a difficult time in life, for a while during this transformation they swim at an angle. There are over 500 species of flatfish.

For an interesting read about flatfish development go to:  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/next/evolution/flatfish-evolution/>



# Fun with Chuck and Roz Nicklin at March OCUPS meeting



# MONTHLY PHOTO COMPETITION

## Congratulations to OCUPS March 2016 Photo Contest Winners!

### VIDEO

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

### OPEN

Co-1st: Brook Peterson  
Co-1st: Kevin Lee  
2nd: Dave Hinkel  
3rd: Fletcher Forbes

### ADVANCED

1st: Aaron Halstead  
2nd: Patrick Smith  
Co-3rd: Patrick Smith  
Co-3rd: Patrick Smith

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

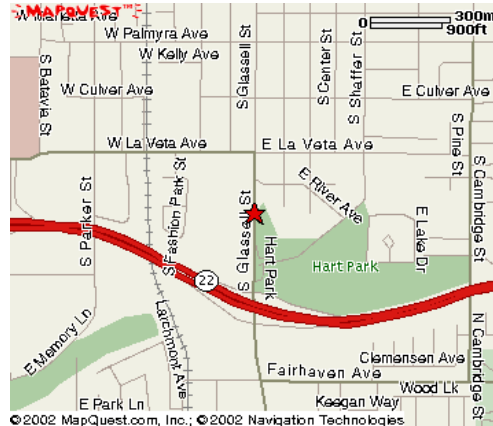
- 7:00** Set up: contest and prelude submissions
- 7:15** Welcome  
Introduce guests  
Announcements/ Congratulations  
Business
- 7:30** Workshop - maximum of 10 - 15 minutes
- 7:45** Prelude - 10 – 15 minutes: limit:  
15 Slides, 3 minute Video
- 8:00** contest
- 8:15** Break; count ballots
- 8:30**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

