

# OCUPS **The Octopus**

The Newsletter of the Orange County Underwater Photographic Society August 2016

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

## August Speaker Todd Winner Close Focus Wide Angle



Todd Winner has been diving and photographing marine life since 1990. As a professional underwater photographer and cinematographer, his work has appeared in commercials, museums and private collections.

Todd is a regular contributor to Sport Diver and Scuba Diving magazines and has won over 60 international underwater photography competitions.

Recently, Todd co-founded [Immersed Imaging](#) with friend and fellow professional photographer, [Michael Zeigler](#). Focusing on marine environments, Immersed Imaging specializes in customizable video production services, stunning marine-focused stock images and domestic and international expeditions.

Todd is a proud member of the [Ocean Artists Society](#), which uses ocean art to inspire people around the world to a greater awareness of our need to protect and preserve our natural world.

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## August Speaker Todd Winner Close Focus Wide Angle

## August Club Contest Flat Worms

**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

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## September Club Contest Close Focus Wide Angle

### 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

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..... Needed  
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).

**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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## Subjects of Interest

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### Flat Worms

Why are marine flat worms very thin? Since they breathe by passing oxygen and carbon dioxide in and out of their skin, having very thin bodies allows them to be successful with this type of respiration.

Their bright colors boldly warn other marine creatures of their toxicity if eaten. This colorful toxic advertisement gives them the advantage to not only be tucked into small spaces but also to be out in the open crawling along or dancing in the water column. They are so fluid as they elegantly swirl and ripple past and can be mesmerizing to watch. I have followed many on a pied piper's lure to capture them with my camera many times.

They are sometimes mistaken for nudibranch but on closer examination you can see they don't have a bronchial plume or other appendages that nudibranchs have.

Flat worms have the incredible ability to regenerate a part of their body. If cut in half, each half will regenerate the missing piece and you wind up with two flat worms. This unique ability is being studied by scientists with the hopes of developing medical techniques to help the people.

Depending on the species, marine flat worms live from 3 weeks to 3 to 4 months.

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### Baby Giant Sea Bass of Southern California

#### Laguna Sea Dwellers invite

One of OCUPS members, Mike Couffer is a member of the Laguna Sea Dwellers and has invited OCUPS member to attend the following special speaker for the Laguna Sea Dwellers August meeting.

Those of you who dive locally may have seen adult giant sea bass (formerly "black sea bass") floating about our kelp beds, but have you ever seen any babies? The young-of-the-year (fish less than 1 year old) look very different from the adults and undergo several drastic color changes--from black, to brown to a bright orange--you wouldn't even recognize them as baby giant sea

bass! Not only do they look different from the adults, they live in completely different habitat. The babies live in areas where few divers linger, and hide so well that unless you look in just the right place at the right time of year, and are familiar with their behavior, you may swim right over the top of them.

Stephanie Benseman of Cal State Northridge has been researching baby giant sea bass for four years, and was the first to work out when, where, and how to find them. In conducting her research, she has described, for the first time, many behaviors and distributional patterns that were previously unknown. Some these findings disputed earlier theories about these beautiful, tiny, and elusive fish.

Why is her research important? Adult giant sea bass populations were devastated by both recreational and commercial fishing in the early 1900s, and have yet to recover. Due to their depressed populations little is known about this species as adults, and practically nothing is known about the juveniles. Giant sea bass are now prohibited from intentional take in California by sport and commercial fishermen, but by way of a loophole, one fish per trip can be kept and sold by commercial gill and trammel net fishermen if they catch them while targeting other species. The regulations assume that adults lost to incidental take will be replenished by babies without real knowledge of current populations or estimates of future populations. How can you really manage a species if you know almost nothing about adults and their young?

Stephanie is finishing up her Master's thesis at Cal State Northridge, where she teaches both Biology and Marine Biology. She has been studying the ecology, distribution, and growth rates of baby giant sea bass both in the field and in the lab. She is now analyzing the otoliths (ear stones) of young-of-the-year sea bass to establish their growth rates, which will finally complete our understanding of the age and growth curve for this critically endangered species.

At 6:30 pm on August 17<sup>th</sup>, at the Laguna Sea Dwellers' monthly meeting at the Newport Beach Tennis Club, Stephanie will tell us about her research into this underwater icon of the California kelp beds. If you need directions to the meeting place or a more current reminder about where and when to arrive, please Google the Laguna Sea Dwellers' web site.

# MONTHLY PHOTO COMPETITION

Congratulations to OCUPS July Photo Contest Winners!

## VIDEO

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

## OPEN

1st: Brook Peterson  
2nd: Bob Pasqua  
Co-3rd: Fletcher Forbes x 2  
Co-3rd: Bob Pasqua

## ADVANCED

1st: Mike Couffer  
2nd: Julianne Steers  
3rd: Aaron Halstead

## 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](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.

