

The Goby

San Diego Underwater Photographic Society

Volume 65 Issue 8

Established 1961 - <http://www.sdups.org>

August 2026

President's Message

Hello Everyone

I hope everyone is doing well and staying cool. It's been a very hot summer, which has given us all plenty of chances to get in the water — and plenty of opportunities to capture some incredible photos and videos.

Last month's presentation from **Brett Eldridge** was outstanding. This month, we're doubling up with **two presenters**:

- **Melissa Foo** on *Blackwater Photography*
- **Dick Miller** presenting on *Multiple Topics*

Both are longtime SDUPS members, and your support means a lot. Please come out and join us.

Our **La Jolla Riford Library photo gallery exhibit** continues to be a fantastic event — for the library and for our club. Thank you again to everyone who attended the reception and brought family and friends. And the **La Jolla Art Walk** was a blast. Tons of foot traffic, great conversations, and lots of curious visitors asking about SDUPS.

Save the Date — Annual SDUPS Picnic

Saturday, September 12th, 2026 Location is still TBD, but we're looking for a spot with plenty of parking. More details soon. As always, we welcome members bringing their favorite side dishes and desserts.

Monthly Voting Reminder

Voting dipped a bit this month — understandable, since many members were traveling. But remember, you can vote from anywhere in the world. Voting is a key part of our monthly competition. It gives members valuable feedback, helps everyone stay engaged, and exposes us to new marine life, locations, styles, and techniques. Personally, I love seeing the submissions because they inspire questions: *How was this shot taken? What technique was used? What conditions were they diving in?* It's a great way to learn from each other and stay connected.

So, stay in the process — view, enjoy, and vote.

Thank you for your continued support.

James Logan -SDUPS President



SDUPS online **Hybrid Zoom Meeting**, **August 27 7 pm**. Join us to see old friends and enjoy an U/W presentation.

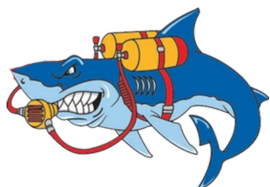
- * Download the Zoom app to your computer (<https://zoom.us/download>) or
- * Click on the Link below

* Meeting ID number: 859 403 9607

* Meeting Password: SDUPS1961



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8594309607?pwd=UEJtUG0rczl3bEhOcW15LzlydlZJdz09>



CALENDAR

August 27 – 7 pm SDUPS Hybrid Meeting at Sumner Auditorium (Map page 10)

August Competition Winners
Pages 2 & 3

August Presentation – Duel Presenters
Page - 4

SDUPS July Meeting -Page 5

Art Walk - Page 6

SDUPS at the Library - Pages 7 & 8

Walter Monk Day - Page 9

Club Picnic - Sept 12 TBA

Holiday/Awards Party - Dec. 5th.
more info to come

August Competition

Greg Volger – 1st Place Advanced



"Shooting the Surface"

Walter Heim – 2nd Place Advanced



Mike Poirier – 3rd Place Advanced



Amy Baldwin/Granger – 3rd Place Advanced



Melissa Foo - 1st Place Amateur



Tom Baker - 1st Place Amateur



August Competition

Matthias Scheer - 2nd Place Amateur



"Shooting the Surface"

Jennifer Riffin - 2nd Place Amateur



Doug Bonhaus - 3rd Place Amateur



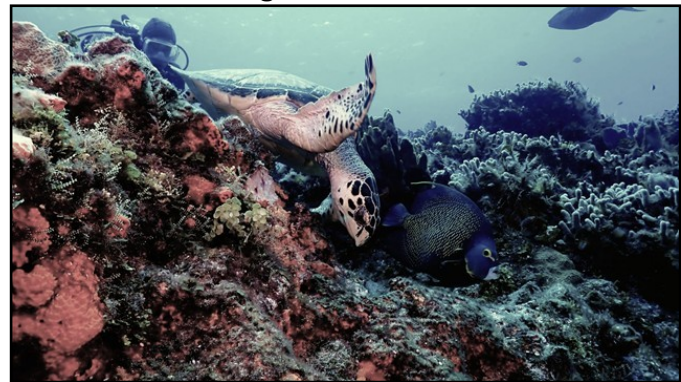
Victor Ramos - 1st Place Novice



Maxine Baker - 3rd Place Novice



James Logan - 3rd Place Novice



Video Competition August

1st Place - **Bob Yin**

2nd Place - **Walter Marti**

3rd Place - **Dick Miller**



Stats for the August Competition:

Shooting the Surface

Still Entries:

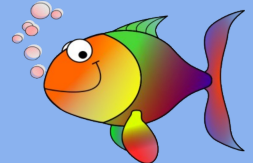
Novice = 3

Amateur = 5

Advanced = 13

Videos = 5

Votes Cast = 32



MELISSA FOO & RICHARD MILLER Double Feature

Presenting
August 27, 2026, 7:15 pm
at Sumner Auditorium
Scripps Campus



Presenting
“Blackwater photos from
Bali and Anilao”

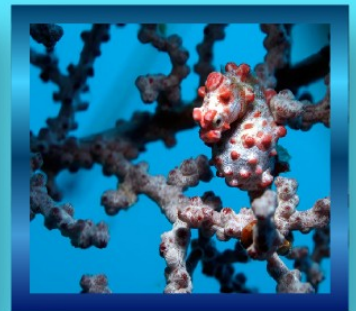


Melissa grew up in Vancouver, B.C. not far from the ocean and ever since she has always felt the need to live near a coast. Since learning to dive in Taiwan 20+ years ago, she has been fortunate to dive in countless places. Getting her first underwater camera a few years back has been a fun learning journey, prompting her deeper appreciation for the underwater world. Melissa hopes her daughter (now 8) continues to share her love for the ocean as she gets older. And yes, she does have quite a collection of warm water dive hoods with ears!

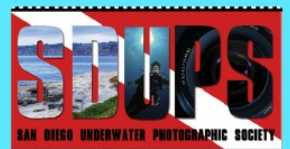


Presenting Multiple Topics:

- CapCut video edit
- Dive magazine - Jenny Stock's top tips
- Travel to: 2025 Indonesia Kalimaya, Coral eye
- Fiji Sau Bay, Philippines Solitude Acacia.



Richard Miller is a long-time San Diego-based underwater photographer and former Vice President of SDUPS whose career spans decades, blending technical expertise with a deep passion for marine conservation and artistry. He began diving in 1974 with Mark Flahan at San Diego State University, and his first underwater photography began around 1998–1999 using a pinch camera in an Ikelite housing. Richard is a retired CA State Park Ranger, having served in the state park system for 21 years. He is a former Vice President of SDUPS whose decades of work in the region and his association with SDUPS' history place him within the local underwater photography community. Richard's artistic approach—combining conservation awareness with high-quality imagery—aligns with the society's mission to promote and preserve the art of underwater photography.



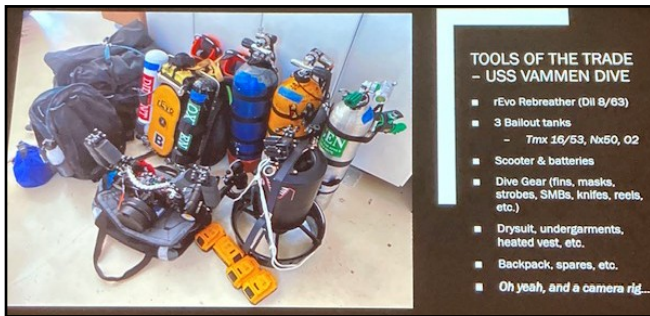
SDUPS Meeting July 23rd

The weather and the surf was great for the July SDUPS Meeting which made for some challenging parking at Sumner Auditorium. Despite this, twenty-six members and guests made it to the meeting. The summer months always makes parking difficult but do able.

Our President **James Logan** opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, introduced the Board members, and greeted five guests that were attending for the first time.

Next on the agenda was "Show & Tell" which was a slide show from SDUPS Library event on July 18th. (See page 5).

James then introduced our guest speaker for the evening **Brett Eldridge**. Brett's theme was "Exploring & Photographing Deep Wrecks". These could be ships and planes that went down for various reasons. He talked about the challenges of finding, identifying, and photographing deep wrecks. When Brett talked "Deep", he was talking as deep as 400 feet. He explained, with pictures, what special equipment, SCUBA and photography, he uses to go to these depths. It takes a lot of gear and a lot of planning. He got into the technical part of deep diving including using rebreathers,



bailout bottles, and different gas mixtures. Then he went into the various techniques of underwater camera setting, and tricks in post pro-



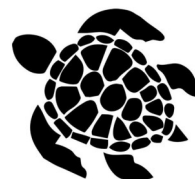
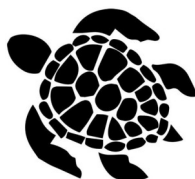
cessing to get the best images. Many of us divers will probably never dive to the depths that Brett does, but the information shared as far as underwater imaging and techniques were very valuable to all. Thank you Brett for an informative and entertaining presentation.

It was time for our refreshment break and as always, **Cind Liphay** had a great variety of snacks & drinks. Thank you.



Last but not least was the showing of the July competition images. The theme was "Big, Bright & Sunny" See page 14 for the theme for each months competition. The club encourages members to participate. We all can learn by seeing how a winning image was taken.

There will be some upcoming SDUPS events before the 2026 year is out. Keep an eye on future Goby Newsletters for event dates.



SDUPS at the La Jolla Art Walk



Again this year, SDUPS participated in the La Jolla Art Walk. Our activities chairperson, **Cindy Liphay**, had set-up a beautiful display highlighting the underwater images of club members. The Art Walk is a great venue to showcase the club and what we do. A big thank you to Cindy and club president **James Logan** for making this event successful.

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER'S SURVIVAL SKILL By Lori Morse (Reprinted from a few years ago).

I had been actively diving about 2 years when I took up underwater photography. On one occasion when I had not been taking pictures for very long, I ran out of air at 60 feet.

I was diving with another nameless photographer from the UPS (okay, it was Mike Miller) on a sea mount in the Sea of Cortez. It was pretty loose pairing, since Mike usually hunts for nudibranchs, and I was feeling overly confident in the warm water. Mike vanished somewhere out of sight, and I chanced upon a wonderful photo opportunity: moray eels. The first one I found kept me occupied for a while. As I finished taking picture of my first moray, I spotted another even more accessible one below me. I was so engrossed in the excitement of picture-taking that I forgot to keep an eye on my air. Just about the time I was ready to move on, I inhaled, and had the sensation of trying to breathe through a straw. I initially thought there was something wrong with my regulator, until I looked at the PSI gauge- ZERO.

I DID do a couple of things right. First, I did not panic (although I wanted to). All the decisions I subsequently made were split-second ones: I looked up at the surface, and I looked around for other divers. I spotted 4 others from our boat just beginning their dive. They were a distance away from me, but closer than the 60 foot swim to the surface. As I swam towards the divers for dear life, I decided to go straight for John, the doctor of the group, hoping he would react calmly to my emergency.

I communicated with John that I was out of air by slicing my hand across my throat. It was becoming harder to suck air out of my tank. John finally handed me his safe second stage. When we reached the surface, I knew I had been very fortunate! What I learned from that dive is something every underwater photographer should practice: Always check your pressure gauge before beginning a new subject and check again when you are finished. It is so easy to lose track of time when you are focused on taking pictures. If you keep in mind the diver's basics, you can enjoy the photography, and dive safe!

SDUPS July 18th Library Event

Thank you to everyone who attended July 18th event. It was our largest turnout to date, and your presence made it truly special. Thank you also for promoting the event and bringing family and friends; please extend our gratitude to them for joining us.

We want to express our sincere thanks to the Friends of the Library, **Diane Ryason**, and her staff for organizing such a wonderful event and preparing the gallery to display these incredible images.

Special thanks go to our Activities Director, **Cindy Liphay**, for her hard work in inspiring, encouraging, and gathering the photographers and their work to ensure everything was done beautifully.

Lastly, thank you to Roz Nicklin for lending us the **Chuck Nicklin** image of a Garibaldi. This piece serves as a powerful reminder of how fortunate we are as divers and underwater photographers to share a world with the community that many may never see. We are stewards of the oceans, and that is the lasting legacy Chuck Nicklin created with SDUPS.



San Diego Underwater Photographic Society

Presents

"IN THE OCEAN"



July 5, 2026 to September 6, 2026

La Jolla Riford Library

7555 Draper Ave., La Jolla, Ca 92037

Come Meet the Photographers • July 18, 2026 • 3 - 5 pm



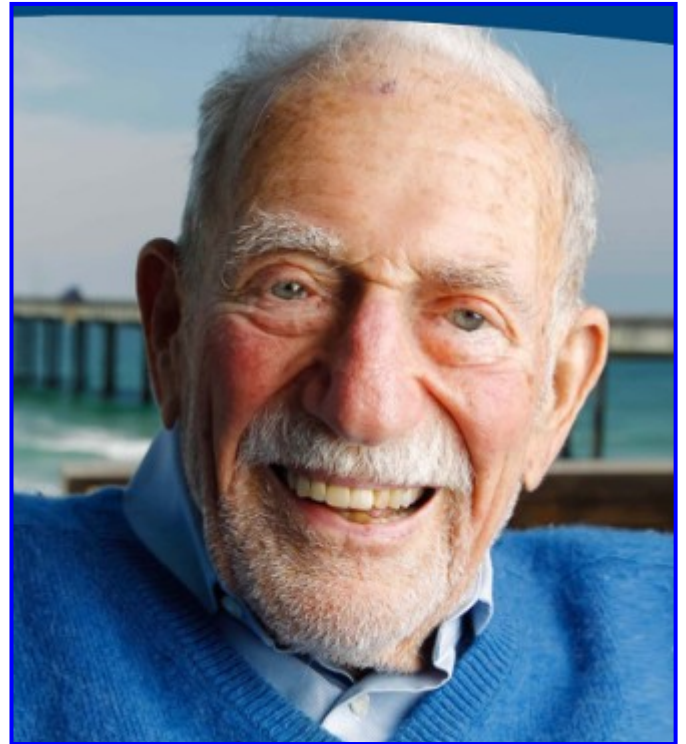


HISTORY

Based in La Jolla, California and established in 2017, The Walter Munk Foundation for the Oceans was founded by Walter and Mary Munk to continue Walter's legacy of daring exploration and discovery in the field of oceanography.

Through the Foundation, Walter Munk established partnerships with leading researchers in Baja California, Mexico working to understand and protect the vulnerable *M. munkiana* species of ray — named after Walter. Walter and Mary also selected Lake Altaussee, Austria to begin comprehensive long-term studies with leading Austrian researchers about the lake's history, geology, ecology and response to climate change.

Following Walter's death in 2019 at the age of 101, the scientists and educators at WMFO continue Walter's legacy of education and outreach. Today the Walter Munk Foundation for the Ocean supports the enduring programs Walter and Mary started, with a renewed focus for developing engaging, exciting and impactful ocean science and education initiatives. Join us!



SDUPS has once again been invited to participate in **Walter Munk Day** on Saturday, October 3rd, 2026, at La Jolla Shores

We're calling for volunteers to help us:

- Welcome guests and share what SDUPS is all about
- Represent the club at our booth
- Talk with families, students, and ocean lovers
- Help inspire the next generation of underwater photographers
- Support the event team with light setup and community engagement



If you can volunteer for a shift or stay for the full event, we'd love to have you.

Every hour helps. Every smile helps. Every conversation helps.

Contact SDUPS Club President, **James Logan** or V.P, **Paula Selby** if you would like to help out.....

Sumner Auditorium Parking Map

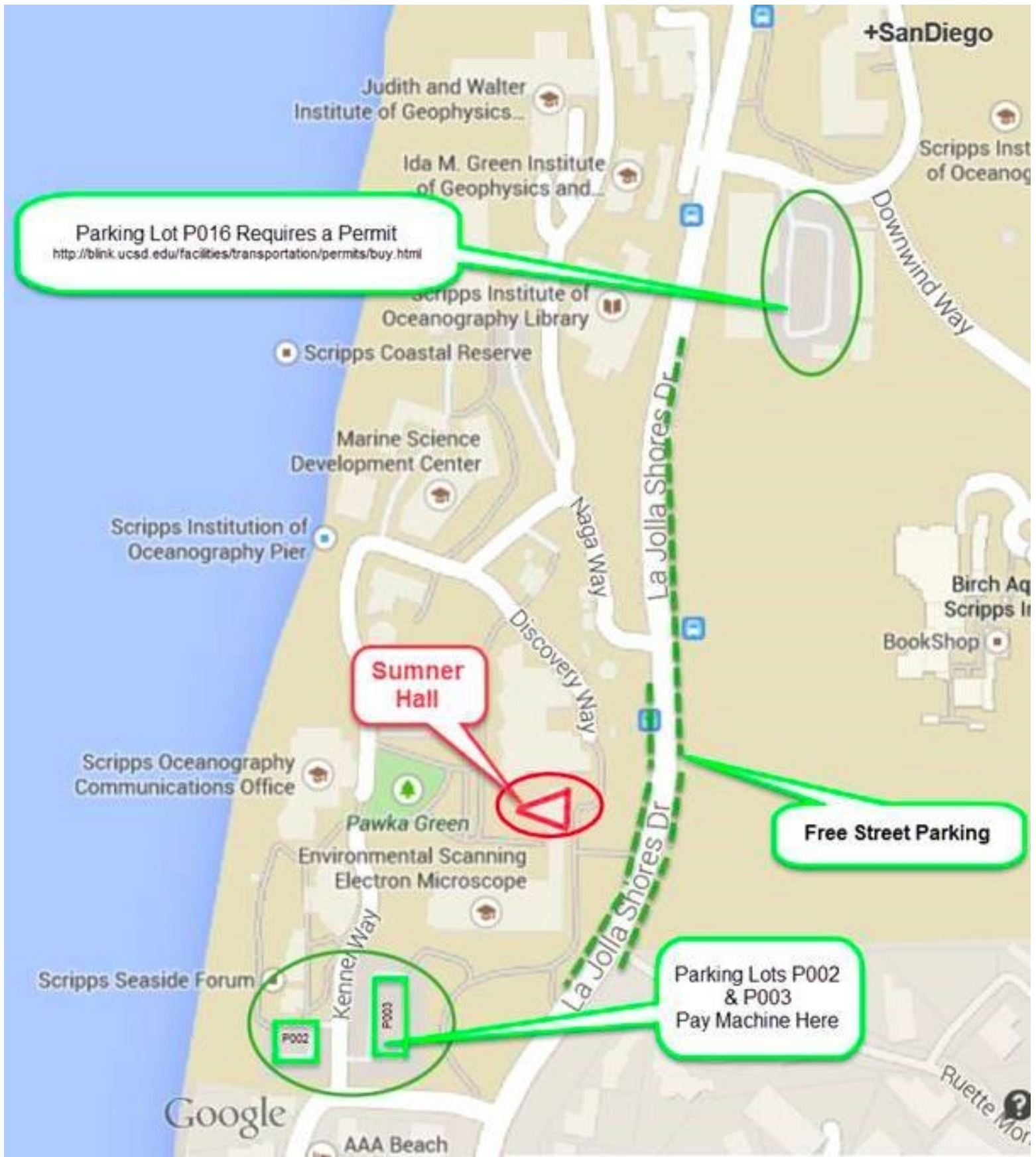
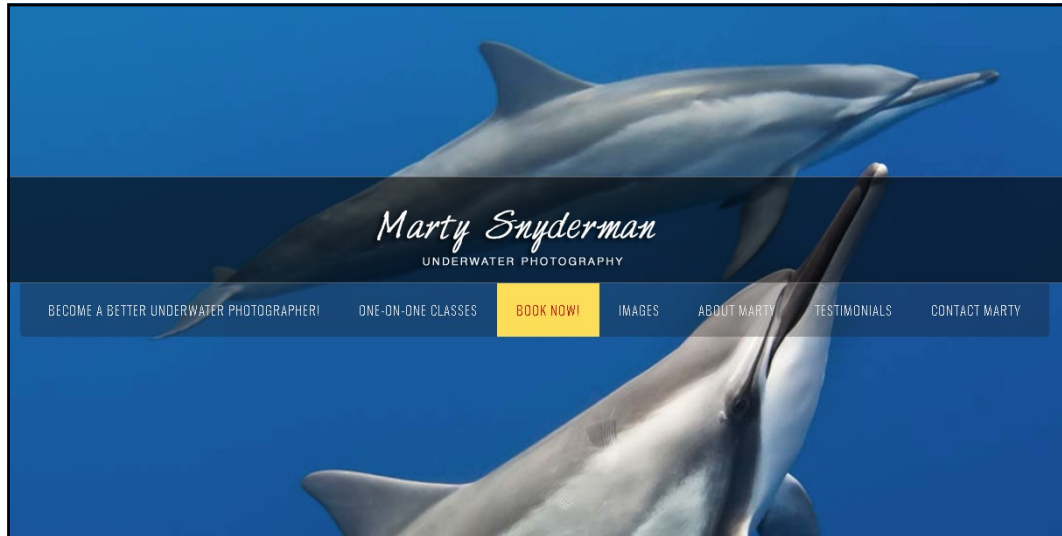


Photo Classes

One-on-one online classes in underwater photography with **Marty Snyderman** Classes are scheduled at your convenience and customized to match your goals 20% of the class fees are donated to SDUPS



BECOME A BETTER UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHER! Underwater photography is a learned skill. So, you might as well learn from the best, an excellent photographer that is also an excellent teacher. Your instructor, Marty Snyderman, is that person.

When taking classes from Marty, you will receive one-on-one instruction as you review your images, discuss ways to improve your underwater photography, refine the techniques you are using, and learn new techniques, concepts, and skills that will help you create the photographs you want to make. The sessions center around techniques and are not tied to any particular make, model, or type of camera or camera system that can be used to make still photographs underwater.

Sharing a session with Marty is also a great way to re-fresh your photography skills before your next diving vacation. If you only get to dive a few times a year, during your next trip you are likely to spend a few days relearning and refreshing your skills. A session or two with Marty before your trip can turn the frustration and lost time from having to relearn into fun dives and pleasing photographs.

How It All Works The one-on-one program is completely customizable to your knowledge, skill level, and personal goals. Marty will use Zoom software to work with you. He has licensed a version of the software that enables the two of you to keep the sessions private.

During each session, Marty will share his expertise and help you gain a better understanding of various factors involved in underwater photography, and he will suggest techniques for you to employ that can help you improve your underwater photography. Each session can be up to 60 minutes long. The cost for a session is \$65.00 U.S. Any additional time that you will not be charged for is provided at Marty's discretion or through the purchase of another session.

For more information on Marty's Classes, click on the link: www.martysnyderman.com

SDUPS SPONSORS


San Diego's #1 family-owned dive center for training, gear & travel.

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Show this coupon at checkout for 15% OFF in store purchases for SDUPS members only. Exclusions apply, call store for details.



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SDUPS SPONSORS

House of Scuba
5141 Santa Fe St. Ste A
San Diego, California 92109

House of Scuba is offering members a 5% discount on most gear at the store and it will also be giving members a 5 fill air or 3 nitrox fill card. Air cards are not transferrable, so if members do not dive locally and therefore can't use the air card, they can still take advantage of the 5% discount on already guaranteed best prices. A list of members will be kept at the store for the air cards. www.houseofscuba.com

All Natural Insect Repellent

Lita's All Natural Insect Repellent products are proven effective worldwide in preventing, and treating, insect bites with natural ingredients and applications last approximately 6 hours. Lita's All Natural also offers insect repellent candles in a variety of scents.

Lita's products meet TSA requirements for carry-on or checked luggage. All containers are refillable and recyclable.

Receive a 15% discount with promo code SDUPS at: www.LitasAllNatural.com

Our Products

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- 2-in-1 Natural Insect Repellent & Itch Relief (Green Label)
- Natural Insect Repellent Candles

.Contact info: NoSeeUmNoMore@aol.com



BACKSCATTER
UNDERWATER VIDEO & PHOTO

Go to: <https://www.backscatter.com/>



Competition Themes For 2026

Month	Topic Name	Description	Bonus
January	Best of 2025	Select your favorite underwater footage from 2025	Tell why you chose this entry (use note field in submission form)
February	Popping Up/Out	In honor of Groundhog Day, composition with subject(s) popping up/out of a hole or from behind a barrier	More than one subject together
March	Behavior - Different Species	Composition that shows different species interacting in same way	Shows a symbiotic relationship (a close & recurring interaction, beneficial)
April	New Beginnings	Showcase eggs, newborns, or juveniles	Vertebrate subject(s) - fish, reptile, bird, mammal)
May	Attention to Detail	Examples include tiny subjects, close-ups of large subjects or other artistic intention that emphasizes details	Repeating pattern/texture
June	Sea Slugs	Any marine gastropod without a shell - Nudibranchs, Sear Hares, Sapsuckers, Headshield Slug, etc.	Provide the common or scientific name (use note field in submission form)
July	Big, Bright & Sunny	Wide angle Composition with prominent	Ambient light only
August	Shooting the Surface	Subject is on the surface (boat, swimmer, bird, etc.) footage shot from your perspective. Over/under, silhouettes, or	Sky is visible
September	Leafy	Animals resembling vegetation (such as sponges, tunicates, anemones, pipefish, seahorses, sea dragons)	Autumn colors –strong use of red, orange, and/or yellow
October	Spooky	Open to your interpretation. Examples: “dark & stormy”, compositions or a scene that is scary for other reasons.	Shows something not alive (dead animal remains or inanimate objects such as wrecks)
November	Photoshopped	Creative editing/manipulation using digital programs such as PhotoShop. No restrictions. “Your entry must include your underwater work somewhere in the composition, Anything else used must be royalty/copyright free.	Add a title (use note field in submission form) Can be creative or humorous

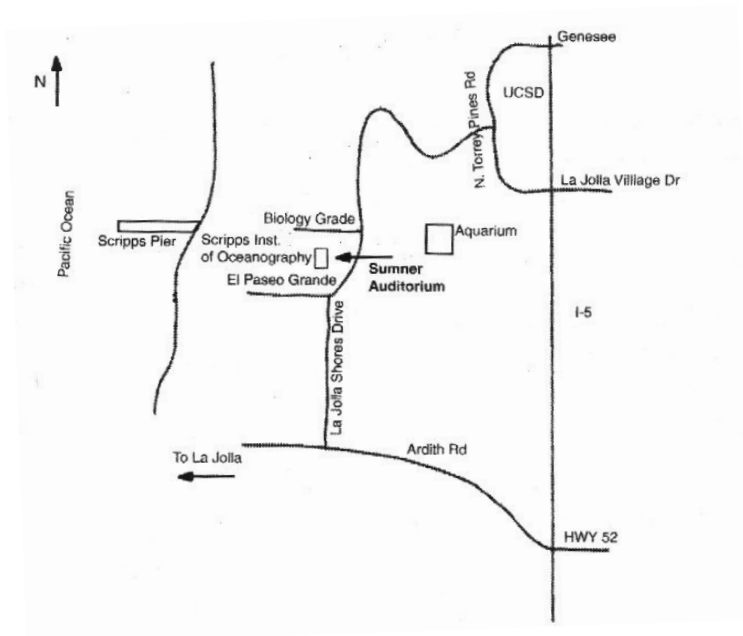
Monthly Meetings

Usually the fourth Thursday of each month
7:00pm
(No meeting in December)

Sumner Auditorium
Scripps Institute of Oceanography 8602
La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

For more information
check the SDUPS web page

<http://www.sdups.org>



2026 Board of Directors

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James Logan
sdups1961@gmail.com

Vice President

Paula Selby
plselby@cox.net

Secretary

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rng900@cox.net

Treasurer

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Activities

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cindyliphay@sbcglobal.net

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Mike Poirier - Goby Editor
Dave Hinkel - Equipment Tech
Kris Carner - Web Master
Kris Carner - Social Media
Beth Beason - Computer Tech
Walter Heim - Historian



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