The Goby

San Diego Underwater Photographic Society

Volume 65 Issue 11 | Established 1961 - http://www.sdups.org | November 2026

President's Message



Hello Everyone,
Well, one more meeting to close out an amazing year! I want to say how much fun I had, and I hope you all did as well.
We accomplished a lot of great things this year, and I am so proud to be a part of a club like SDUPS.
We have one last event before the year ends, and it's going to be a great one. I'm talking about the annual Holiday Awards Party, December 5th. I hope you will all be able to attend—it is the perfect way to wrap up an incredible year. I'll keep this short, as I will have a final message in December sharing what this year has meant to me and thanking our amazing SDUPS Board and club members.
So, again, please join me and your fellow club members for our final event of the year to enjoy great food, take part in amazing conversations, and possibly plan your next dive adventure!
James Logan - *SDUPS President*

SDUPS online **Hybrid Zoom Meeting, November 19** 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: 2022

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8594309607?pwd=UEJtUG0rczI3bEhOcW15LzlydlZJdz09



Want to stay down longer?

New dive equipment makes that possible. Get up to five hours bottom time including decompression time. Sounds to good to be true? Check with your local Dive Shop to see if they have the latest BIG capacity tanks.

Calendar/Contents

November Meeting one week early due to thanksgiving

November 19 – 7 pm SDUPS Hybrid Meeting at Sumner Auditorium (Map page 11)

November Competition Winners Pages 2 & 3

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San Diego Underwater Film Festival now available online - Page 7

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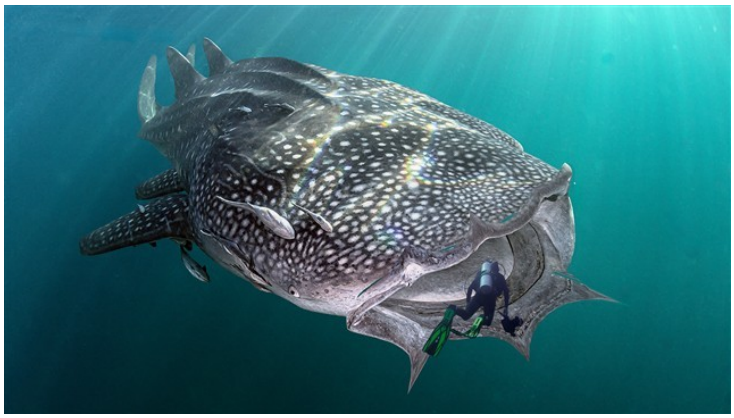
November Competition

"PhotoShopped"

Bob Yin – 1st Place Advanced



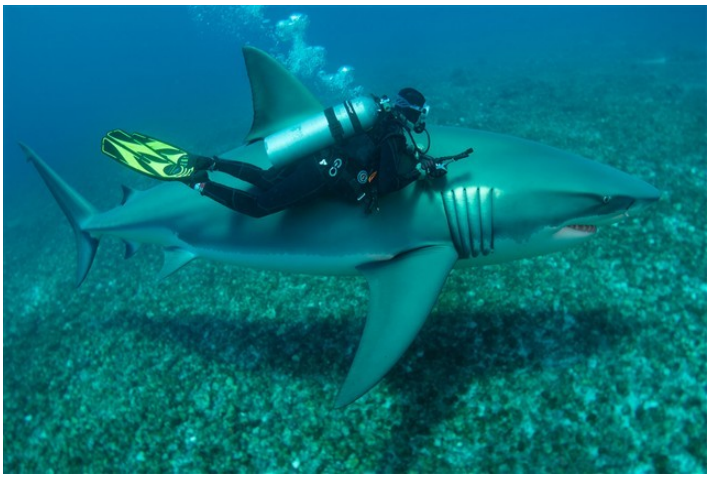
Greg Volger – 2nd Place Advanced



Amy Balwin/Granger – 3rd Place Advanced



Tom Baker - 1st Place Amateur



Matthias Scheer – 2nd Place Amateur



Doug Bonhaus – 2nd Place Amateur



November Competition

"PhotoShopped"

Matt Wilbur - 3rd Place Amateur



Victor Ramos – 1st Place Novice



Gia Boehrig – 2nd Place Novice



Susan Scheer - 3rd Place Novice





Video Competition November

1st Place - **Walter Marti**

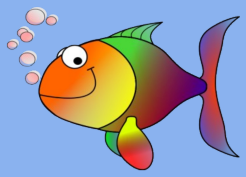
2nd Place - **Matthias Scheer**

3rd Place - **Bill Ring**

Stats for the November Competition: PhotoShopped

Still Entries: 16
Novice = 5
Amateur = 4
Advanced = 7
Videos = 3

Votes Cast = 33



November SDUPS Meeting Presentation



WEIWEI GAO &
AVELO DIVE SYSTEM DEMO

Presenting

November 19, 2026, 7:00 pm
Weiwei's Presentation begins at 7:30 pm
following Avelo Demo
Sumner Auditorium, Scripps Campus

What makes an underwater video truly captivating? Beyond beautiful subjects and stunning scenery, great underwater filmmaking is about capturing the right moments and bringing them together into a compelling story.

In this presentation, Weiwei Gao shares several practical tips drawn from his underwater filmmaking experience. From camera stabilization, creative lighting, and white balance to capturing motion, anticipating animal behavior, storytelling, and editing, he explores techniques that can transform ordinary footage into cinematic underwater videos. Through video examples and behind-the-scenes insights, he also demonstrates how emerging technologies can open up new creative possibilities.

Weiwei Gao is an underwater photographer and filmmaker based in La Jolla, California. A scientist by profession and an ocean explorer at heart, he combines his curiosity about the natural world with a passion for capturing and sharing the beauty of marine life. His underwater adventures have taken him from the kelp forests of Southern California to destinations such as Antarctica, the Philippines, and Canada. Through his films, Weiwei hopes to share the extraordinary moments and hidden wonders of the underwater world.

Emily Strand, PADI Course Director at Ocean Enterprises will present a demo of the Avelo Dive System. The Avelo system uses an integrated buoyancy control and high-pressure water tank, allowing you to dive with minimal effort and maximum control. In conventional scuba, buoyancy changes with depth. As a diver descends, the air in the BCD compresses and the diver becomes heavier. As they ascend, the air expands, and the diver becomes lighter. This creates a cycle of constant correction that demands attention throughout the dive. The Avelo System uses water instead of air to control buoyancy. Water does not compress or expand with depth changes. When the diver establishes neutral buoyancy, it holds steady whether they are at 15 feet or 100 feet. The result is fewer corrections, less effort, and more stable movement throughout the dive.







Dear Power Scuba,

It is with heavy hearts we share with you that our founder, president, and dedicated leader **Bill Powers** has passed away following a valiant battle with cancer. He was home in the loving care of his family and close friends.

Bill founded Power Scuba in 2008, after starting to charter boats for diving with friends. He opened the doors to everyone on Meetup, and for nearly two decades, his persistence and boundless energy built the core of this community we know and love so well. We are so lucky to have known him, and to have you all our lives.

He leaves his legacy in the hands of his trusted board of directors, leadership team, and fantastic group of organizers. In this time of transition, our normal activities will be on hold while we remember Bill and do the behind the scenes administrative work to ensure Power Scuba will be here far longer than any one of us. We expect to have our events back up and running by beginning of the new year. In the meantime, please bear with us, continue to dive safely, and know we are thinking of you. Whether you have been here since the beginning or just found us recently, we look forward to seeing you in the water again soon.

We are planning a memorial gathering for all of you to attend and will share with you here and on Facebook.

The remaining boat charters we had for 2026 have been cancelled and fully refunded, so please look for them to be completed by Zeffy in the next 15-30 days. For any questions regarding the payments, contact refund@powerscuba.org.

Your Power Scuba leadership team



Saturday December 5th
SDUPS Holiday/Awards Party
5:30 pm - Dinner at 6:00
Marie Callender's
6950 Alvarado Road San Diego 92120

Our Holiday & Awards Party will again be held this year at Marie Callender's Restaurant. The facility has a nice banquet room off the main dinning area. The cost of the dinner is $36.00 per person, includes tax & tip. The meal options will be a **Slow Roasted Pot Roast, Chicken Broccoli Pasta Alfredo, or Honey Glazed Salmon.** All dinners include cornbread, fountain drinks, ice tea, or coffee, and a slice of pie. A special dietary/vegetarian meal can be provided. There is a Bar in the Restaurant so beer, wine, or mixed drinks are available.

Our SDUPS Photographer of the Year Awards will be presented. If you have entered the monthly competitions, you should plan on being there. Also, raffle prizes will be given out.

This is our last event for the year. It will be a fun time to celebrate the Holidays and be with fellow SDUPS members. Hope to see you all there.

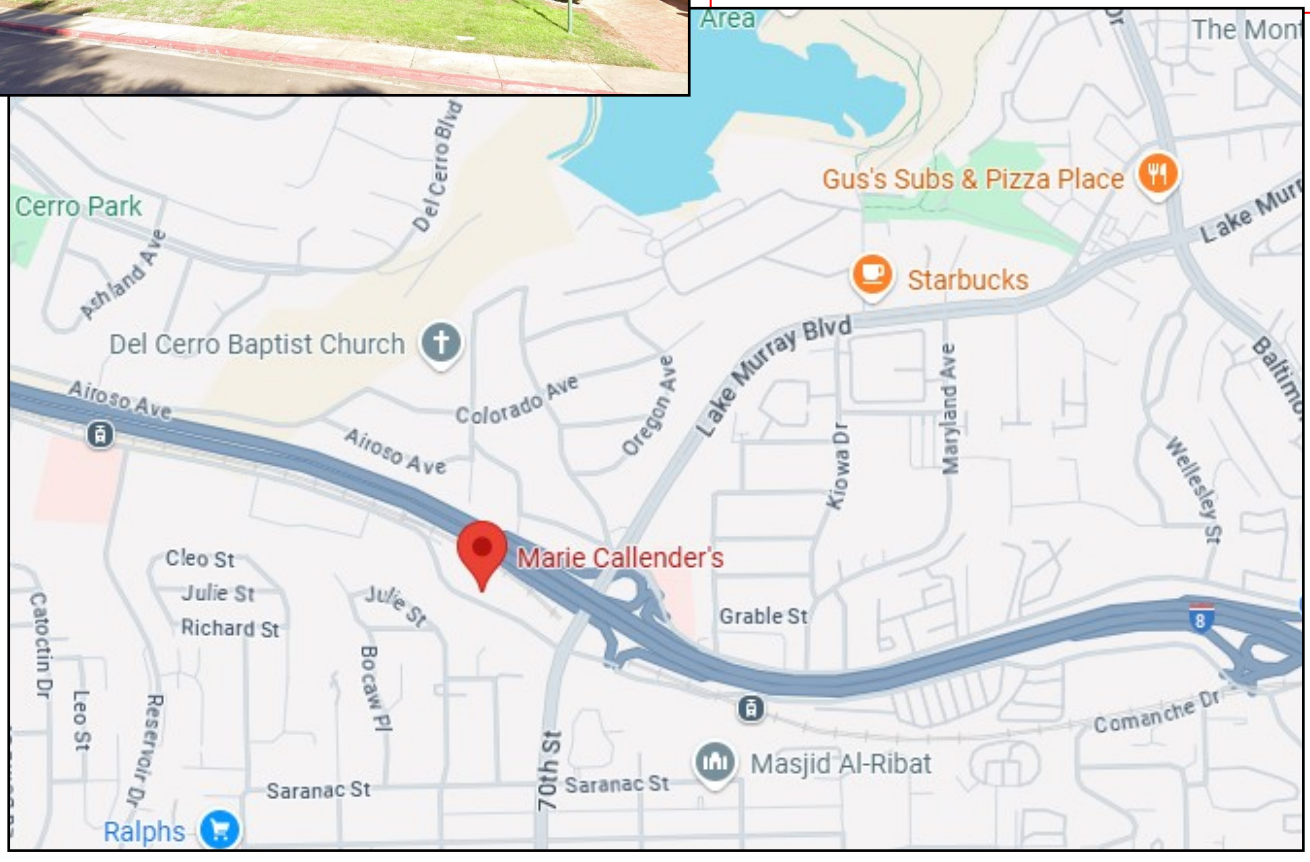
RSVP



Save the date - Saturday evening December the 5th. **RSVP by Monday the 23rd of November**.

Email Mike Poirier at uwmike64@gmail.com with your dinner choice & number of people

Cost is $36 (includes tax & tip) per person to be paid in cash or check the night of the dinner.





But Tickets Here

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE: Complete Underwater Photography Setup – Ready to Dive!

Complete underwater camera package includes everything you need to get started: camera, underwater housing, strobes, strobe arms and floats, lighting, snoot, camera cradle, camera bag, batteries, chargers, and additional accessories.

Only used twice and in like-new working condition!

This is a fantastic opportunity for someone looking to get into underwater photography or upgrade their current setup without the hassle and expense of purchasing each piece separately.

Ideal for beginner to intermediate underwater photographers who want a complete, ready-to-go system. Simply gear up and dive in!

Selling as one complete package only. Not interested in separating or selling individual items.

Please see the detailed equipment breakdown below.

CAMERA & HOUSING UNIT

OM System TG-7 digital camera/4k video, with easy to program modes for wide angle and macro shooting. Comes with 2 dedicated batteries (primary and secondary) and charging station. Manual included. Brand New $585

OM System PT-059 underwater housing unit, 52mm Threaded Port, all camera controls accessible, compatible with TG-7 with a depth rating of 148ft. Manual included. Brand New $399.99

WIDE ANGLE LENS

Backscatter M52 underwater 120^ Wide Angle Wet Lens. With a 120 degree angle of coverage, sharp corners, and no vignetting at 24mm this lens is the perfect combination for the first-time wide angle shooter with a TG camera. Comes with dome cover, rear lens cap, custom backscatter travel case. Brand New $479

Backscatter No Burp O-ring For TG Housings & M52 Wide Angle Lens Brand New $9.95

XTAR 21700HP 5000mAh 25A Li-Ion Rechargeable Battery. Brand New $32.95

AOI Quick Release System 01 Adapter 3 for Backscatter M52 Wide & UWL-400A Lens. Brand New $64.00 and the AOI Quick Release System Mount Base for M52 Threaded Flat

Ports. Brand New $99.00 (makes adding and removing wide angle lens a breeze, especially underwater).

AOI Fiber Optical Cable Adapter for PT-059 TG Housings. Brand New $19.00

STROBES

Inon S220 S-TTL Underwater Strobe Price x2. Compact body yet delivers GN22. Equipped with a fly-eye dome lens enabling super wide underwater beam angle of horizontal 140°×vertical 100°. Reliable and proven "S-TTL Auto" and 12-step "Manual Flash. Large wheel dial for dramatically improved operability. A phosphorescent panel for easy readability. Double O-rings greatly reduce the risk of flooding. Manual Included. Brand New $1,046

Backscatter Universal Fiber Optic Cable x2. Brand New$198.00

Panasonic 4-pack of Rechargeable Eneloop 2000mAh NiMh AA Batteries with Charger. Brand New $32.25 plus extra 4 batteries $17.49. Enloop charging unit $22.00

Inon Z Joint Strobe Adapter x2. Brand New $42.00

ADDITIONAL LIGHTING & SNOOT

Backscatter Mini Flash 3 & Optical Snoot Combo Package. Automatic TTL For Sony, Olympus & OM System Cameras. Wireless Remote Control. High-Speed Sync. Built-In 1000 Lumen Focus Light. Test Mode & Beacon. Fast Recycle Time. 21700 Battery for Long Run Times. Manual Control For All Cameras. Toggle Learning Mode Based on Triggering Needs. Double O-Ring Seal For Reliability. Instruction sheet included. Brand New $749

The Optical Snoot OS-1 is easy to mount, with a simple click on/click off. The Optical Snoot OS-1 is small enough to keep in a pocket or clip off with a double-ender clip, allowing for a quick and easy switch from a wider beam to snooted macro (included in mini-flash price).

XTAR 21700HP 5000mAh 25A Li-Ion Rechargeable Battery x 2. Brand new $65.90

Xtar SC2 Battery Charger. Brand New $19.99

ACCESSORIES

Backscatter Wide Double Handle and Tray for GoPro, Compact & Mirrorless Housings, with additional tray arch. Brand New $129.00

Backscatter 1-inch Ball Mount Base for Flip Filters Double Handle Tray x 3. Brand New $74.85

Ultralight 8-inch Double Ball Arm x 4. DB-08 is Ultralight's signature standard double ball arm. 8" from O-ring to O-ring or 9" in total length. Made of 6061-T6 aircraft-grade Aluminum with Type III anodizing. It will work in the harshest of environments and is built to last .Brand New $211.80

Ultralight New Style Clamp with 1/4-28" Thread. Quantity 7. Brand New $307.65

StiX Adjustable Buoyancy Jumbo Floats 4 Pack for Ultralight Strobe Arms, each float 6.4 oz. Brand New $110.00

Backscatter GoPro Mount for Wide Double Handle Tray. Brand New $22.00

Backscatter T-Bolt for Wide Double Handle Tray. Brand New $6.00

Cetacea Housing Coiled Lanyard with Brass Snap. Brand New $22.90

Underwater Camera housing Carry Lanyard Military Grade Parachute Rope Waterproof Case Soft Handle with 2pcs 316 Stainless Steel Swivel Eye Bolt Snap Hooks. Brand New $15.99

MOSISO Camera Backpack, DSLR/SLR/Mirrorless Photography Camera Bag. Brand New $66

TOTAL: $4,847.71 Selling for $3,700 OBO (cash only)





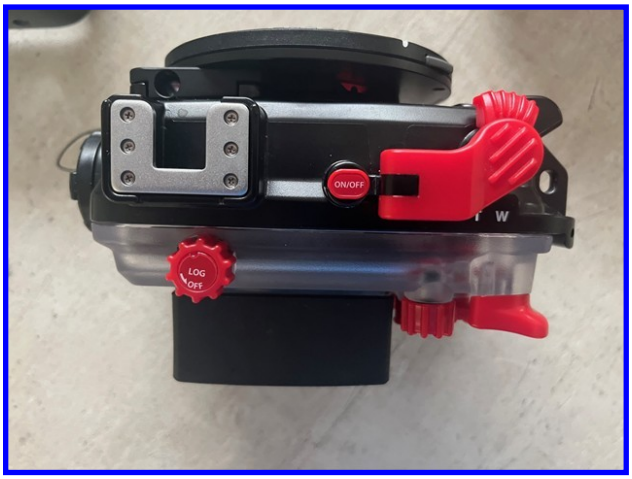
More Picture on Next page

CLASSIFIED ADS













House of Scuba + SeaLife

UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

Info Session

House of Scuba is hosting SeaLife representative Ray Bullion at **Coronado Brewing Company** for a lesson on SeaLife camera equipment and underwater photography!

Come have a drink and learn from a pro!





Location
Coronado Brewing Company
1202 Knoxville St, San Diego CA 92110

Date & Time
Thursday, November 19th
6:30 PM - 8PM

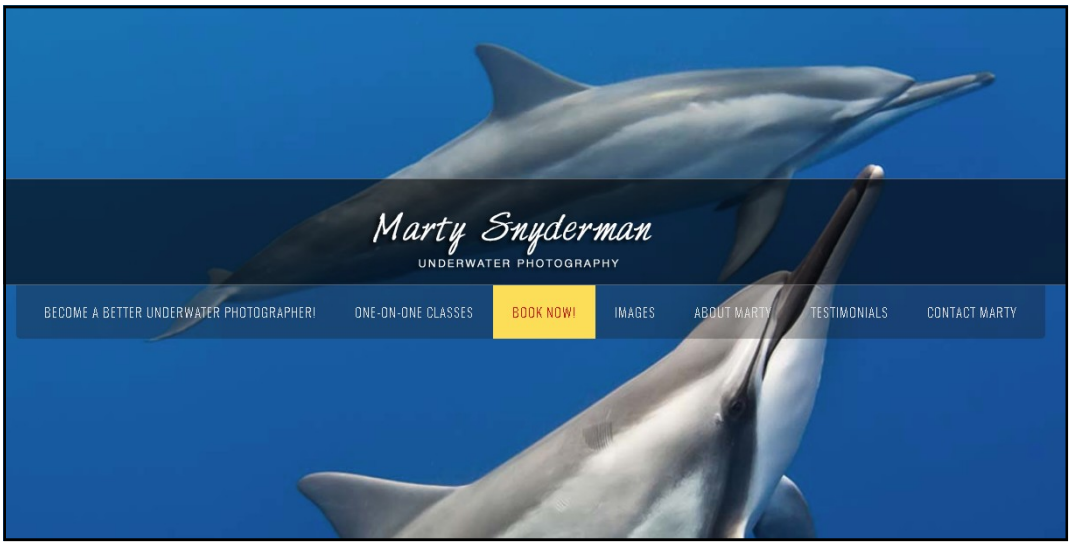
RSVP NOW!

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 not 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



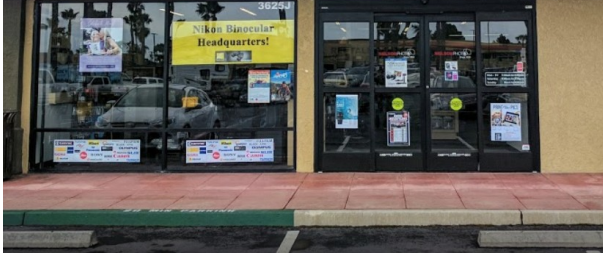
www.oceanenterprises.com

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Where cameras, supplies and good service come together

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http://nelsonphotosupplies.com/













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

- Natural Insect Repellent (Yellow Label)
- 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 that 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
May	Attention to Detail	Examples include tiny subjects, close-ups of large subjects or other artistic intention that emphasizes details	Repeating patten/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 promi-	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

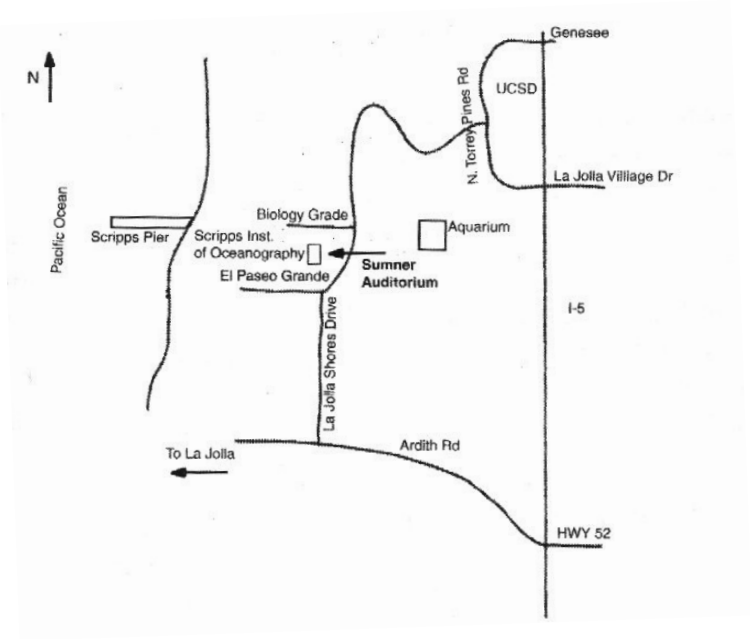
Monthly Meetings

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

Sumner Auditorium
Scripps Institute of Oceanography8602
La Jolla Shores Drive
La Jolla, CA 92037

For more information
check the SDUPS web page

http://www.sdups.org



2026 Board of Directors

President
James Logan
sdups1961@gmail.com

Vice President
Paula Selby
plselby@cox.net

Secretary
Dick Miller
rngr900@cox.net

Treasurer
Bill Ring
wring@san.rr.com

Membership
Harold Dorr
blueox25@gmail.com

Activities
Cindy Lipthay
cindylipthay@sbcglobal.net

Board Members at Large:
Herb Gruenhagen
Greg Volger
Jami Feldman
Beth Besom

Appointed Positions
SIO Liaison - Charlotte Seid
Mike Poirier - Goby Editor
Dave Hinkel - Equipment Tech
Kris Carner - Web Master
Kris Carner - Social Media
Beth Beason - Computer Tech
Walter Heim - Historian

SAN DIEGO UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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