The Goby

San Diego Underwater Photographic Society

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President's Message

What a Year for SDUPS!

Wow, what a year it has been for SDUPS! We have been incredibly busy, and it has been a lot of fun. Thank you to everyone who has dedicated their time, energy, and passion to helping make this club such a success.

As we begin wrapping up another fantastic year, it is time to start thinking about the SDUPS Board for 2027. As your President, I can honestly say it has been both a pleasure and an honor to witness how much this club has grown. That growth is a direct reflection of the amazing members who continue to support and strengthen our organization.

Now it is time to select the next group of leaders who will help guide SDUPS into the future. You can be part of that process and help continue the growth of this incredible club. If you have ever considered getting more involved, I encourage you to think about serving on the Board. It is a rewarding way to give back, help shape the direction of the club, and support our shared passion for underwater photography.

Nominations will be accepted at the October meeting, and voting will take place in November.

We are also still looking for donations for our End-of-the-Year Raffle. I hope you will consider contributing. The raffle is always a fun highlight of our holiday celebration, and your donations help make it a great event for everyone. Please consider helping out if you can.

Speaking of celebrations, our End-of-the-Year Holiday Party is right around the corner! It is one of my favorite events of the year because it gives me the opportunity to spend time with all of you and personally tell you how much I appreciate everything you do for this club.

I hope you will join us for an evening of great food, fun conversations, and plenty of laughter. It is also the perfect time to start planning your next dive adventure with fellow club members. Most importantly, it is a chance to celebrate another amazing year together as the SDUPS family.

I look forward to seeing you there!

James Logan
President, San Diego Underwater Photographic Society

SDUPS online **Hybrid Zoom Meeting, October 22** 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=UEJtUG0rczI3bEhOcW15LzlydlZJdz09

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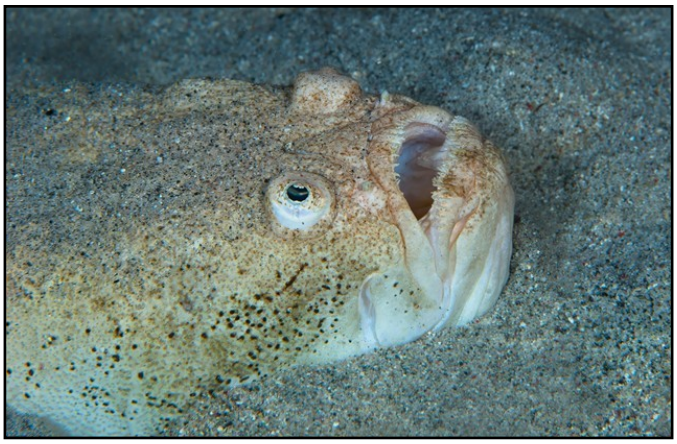
October Competition

"Spooky"

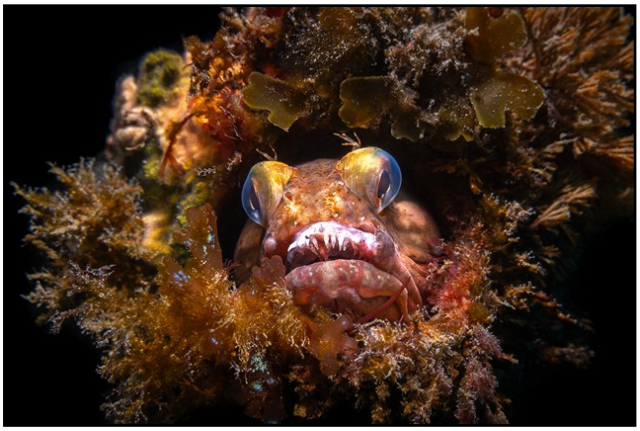
Hrold Dorr – 1st Place Advanced



Paula Shelby – 2nd Place Advanced



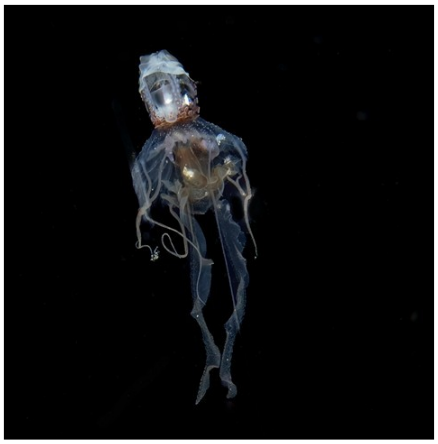
Jack Der – 3rd Place Advanced



Matt Wilbur - 1st Place Amateur



Brad Ellis – 2nd Place Amateur



Doug Bonhaus - 3rd Place Amateur



October Competition

"Spooky"

Maxine Baker – 1st Place Novice



Gia Boehrig – 2nd Place Novice



James Logan - 2nd Place Novice





Video Competition October

1st Place - **Walter Marti**

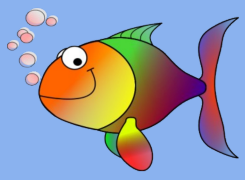
2nd Place - **Dave Hinkel**

3rd Place - **Kristin Carner**

Stats for the October Competition: Spooky

Still Entries:
Novice = 3
Amateur = 4
Advanced = 13
Videos = 6

Votes Cast = 35



GAYLE VAN LEER

Presenting
"Solomon Islands"
October 29, 2026
7:15 pm at
Sumner Auditorium
Scripps Campus



SDUPS
SAN DIEGO UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



A native Californian growing up in the Santa Barbara area, horses and the ocean were a passion from an early age for Gayle who currently is a consultant in the thoroughbred horse racing industry. From a child through her college years, when not playing in the surf and exploring tide pools, she was riding horses, often on the beach.

A diver for over 35 years Gayle is passionate about our oceans and is fortunate enough to have had the opportunity to travel to many top diving areas of the world in combination with her work.

Mostly a tropical diver for her first 600 dives, purchasing a dry suit changed everything about diving in our rich Southern California waters. Instantly hooked on the variety and endless surprises below our seas, she has been a regular at La Jolla Shores and on the local boats for years. Now thousands of dives later, while tropical diving is still a special treat, what's right here in our own backyard is spectacular in its own right.

Always an avid photographer, when photography went digital, she started taking a simple point and shoot camera on every dive. Today the camera may have grown in size but she would not know how to dive without one always in hand. Macro to wide angle, it's all good!

SDUPS Meeting September 2026



The SDUPS September meeting was well attended. Our President, **James Logan**, opened the meeting in the usual way. He had a couple of visitors who introduced themselves. Visitors are always welcomed at our meetings. There was no "Show & Tell" submissions for the evening. James encouraged members to submit a short film or a collection of images for our "Show & Tell" portion of the meeting.



We then had a very interesting presentation for the evening. **Rocio Bunker** (see sidebar) talked about filming underwater with 360 degree camera equipment. Rocio started off her talk by sharing a five minute video of various subjects that were taken with this fairly new 360 degree equipment. It takes a moment for the mind to process what you are seeing with an all around view, but it's a pretty dynamic scene. The second half of Rocio's presentation dealt with the editing of the video captured. She explained that the software that comes with the system allows you with a very wide number of options. This was the first time that most of us had seen this new technology which proved to be very interesting and exciting. Thank you Rocio.



James wrapped up the meeting with thankyous to members who helped with the Club Picnic, the Art Walk, and the display at the La Jolla Library SDUPS showing. James also reminded us that nominations and elections for club officers are coming up in the next couple of meetings.

Rocio Bunker is an underwater photographer whose passion for the ocean is rooted in curiosity, patience, and a deep respect for marine life. Inspired by the advice and experience of pioneers in underwater photography, she continues to learn from those who shaped the craft while embracing new technologies and creative possibilities.

Always eager to explore the latest camera systems and equipment, Rocio enjoys testing new gear and discovering how it can enhance underwater imagery. Yet, for her, technology is only part of the story. She believes that some of the most meaningful wildlife encounters happen when a photographer has the patience to slow down, observe, and allow animals to behave naturally.

A devoted member of the local diving community, Rocio also believes in sharing knowledge and helping others experience the underwater world. As a member of the **SDUFEX Board of Directors**, she contributes to the community she loves while sharing local dive conditions, observations, and practical knowledge with fellow divers and photographers through the San Diego Dive Report Facebook Group.

Her favorite place to dive is **La Jolla Shores**, where the changing conditions and abundant marine life continually offer new opportunities to explore, learn, and create. For Rocio, underwater photography is more than capturing beautiful images, it is a way to connect with the ocean, document its changing world, and inspire others to discover and appreciate what lies beneath the surface.

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.

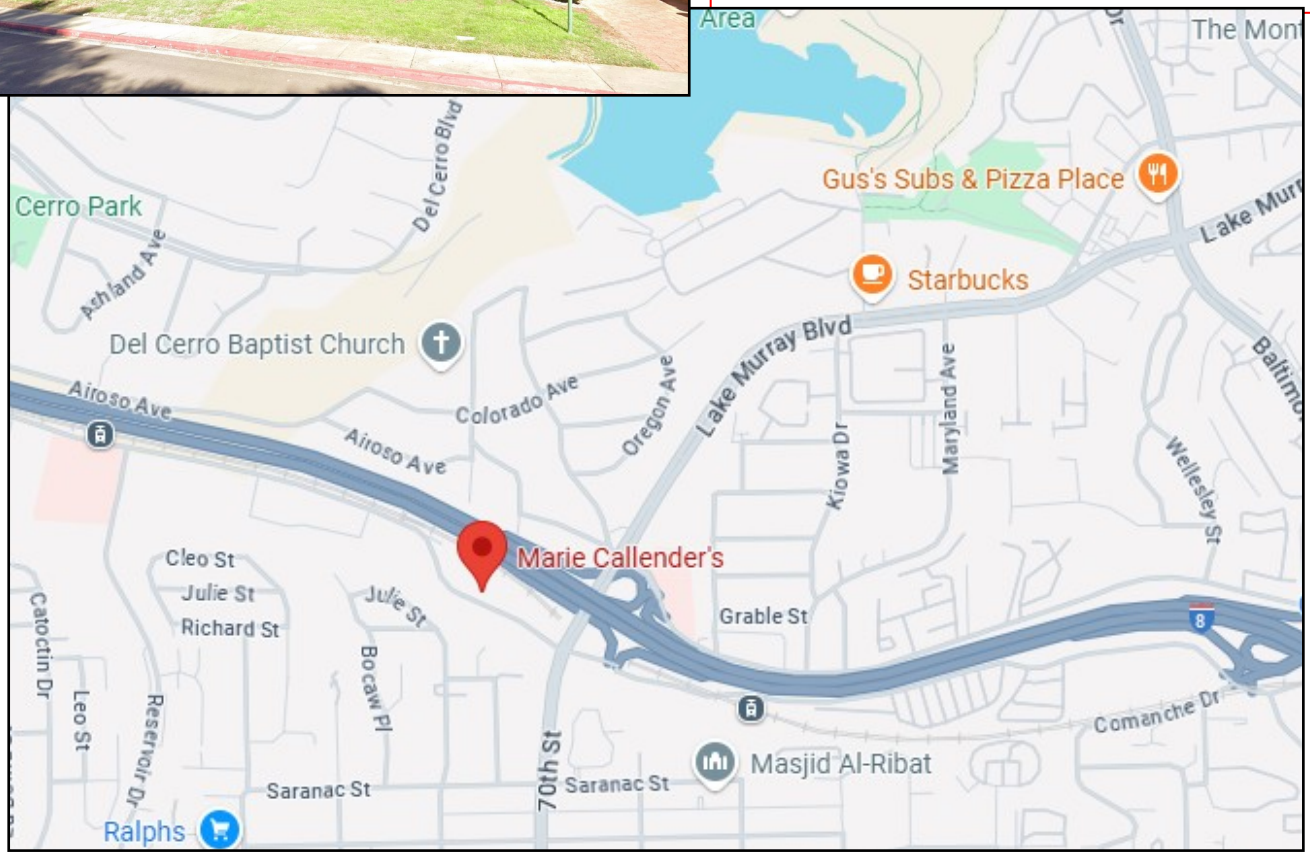
RSVP



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

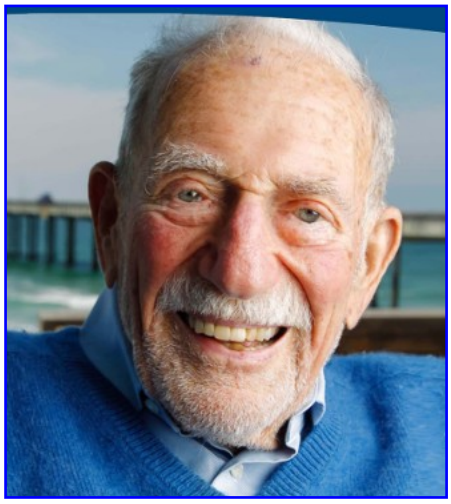
Email Mike Poirier at uwmike64@gmail.com with your dinner choice & number of people

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



WALTER MUNK
FOUNDATION FOR THE OCEANS

SDUPS And Walter Monk Day















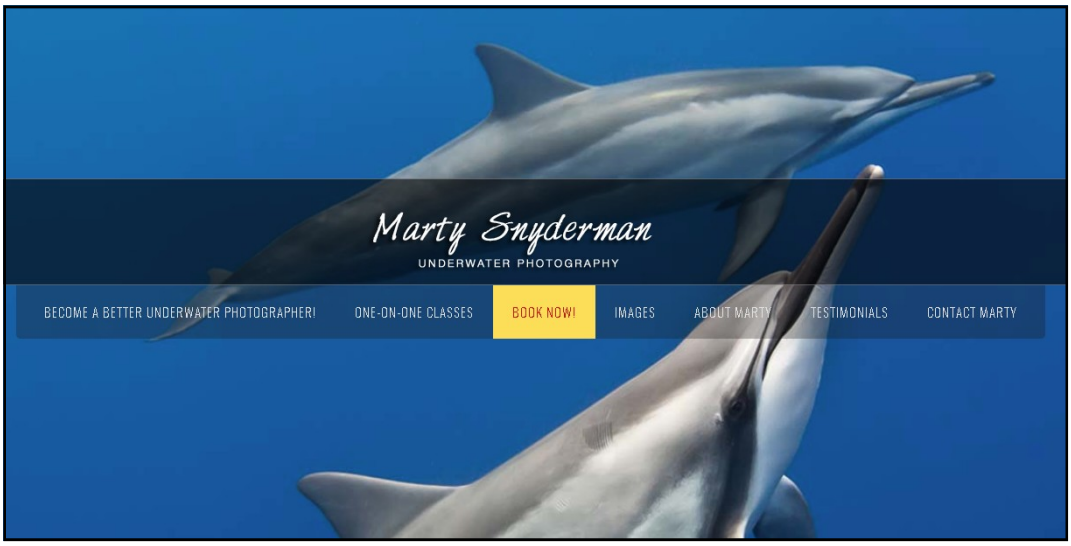
But Tickets Here

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**

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San Diego's #1 family-owned dive center for training, gear & travel.
15% OFF
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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SEA OF CORTEZ
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PALAU
at the Palau Pacific Resort
November 22 - 29, 2026
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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 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 to at least one partner)
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 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 similar	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

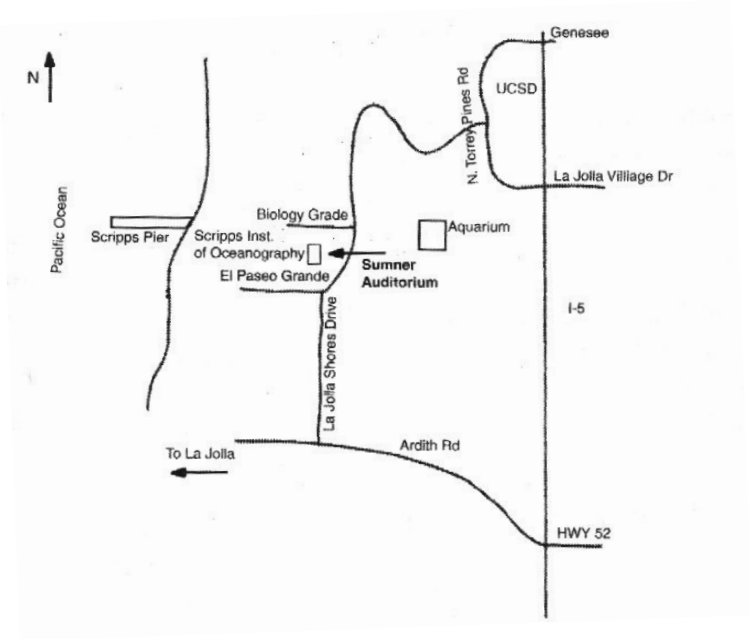
Monthly Meetings

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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