

The Goby

San Diego Underwater Photographic Society

Volume 65 Issue 1

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

January 2026

President's Message

Dear Members - We are thrilled to welcome you back to the San Diego Underwater Photographic Society. The ocean has been patiently waiting for our return, and now it is time to slip beneath the surface once again, reconnect with our fellow divers, and rediscover the wonders that lie below.

This season promises:

- New Dive Sites to explore and document.
- Skill-Building Workshops to sharpen your techniques.
- Community Events to share stories, photos, and laughter.



Whether you have been away for a few weeks or a few years, remember—once you are part of our underwater family, you are always at home here. Let us make this season one of discovery, camaraderie, and unforgettable adventures.

The sea is calling, and together, we will answer. Are you ready to take the plunge? I am.

Lastly, I want to say thank you to everyone for supporting this amazing club. Last year opened the doors to a lot of opportunities and exposure for the club and its members. This year is shaping up to be another great year. See you at the next meeting

James Logan - SDUPS President

SDUPS online **Hybrid Zoom Meeting, January 22nd** 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>



Photo by Mike Poirier

CALENDAR

January 22nd – 7 pm SDUPS Hybrid Meeting at Sumner Auditorium (Map page 9)

January Competition Winners Pages 2 & 3

Presentation: - Tom & Maxine Baker Raja Ampat & Misool - Page 4

November Meeting - Walter Heim Shooting in Tidepools - Page 5

SDUPS Monthly Competition Rules Pages 6 & 7

SDUPS Membership Form Page 8

January Competition

"Best of 2025"

Greg Volger – 1st Place Advanced



Jack Der – 2nd Place Advanced



Lois Miller – 3rd Place Advanced



Matthies Scheer - 1st Place Amateur



Katherine Mauser - 2nd Place Amateur



Matt Wilbur - 3rd Place Amateur



January Competition

“Best of 2025”

James Logan – 1st Place Novice



Diana Hotz – 2nd Place Novice



Leo Lstaden - 3rd Place Novice



Video Competition January

1st Place - **Matthias Scheer**

2nd Place - **Kristin Carner**

3rd Place - **James Logan**

Stats for the January Competition: Best of 2025

Still Entries:

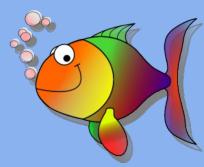
Novice = 3

Amateur = 5

Advanced = 14

Videos = 7

Votes Cast = 36

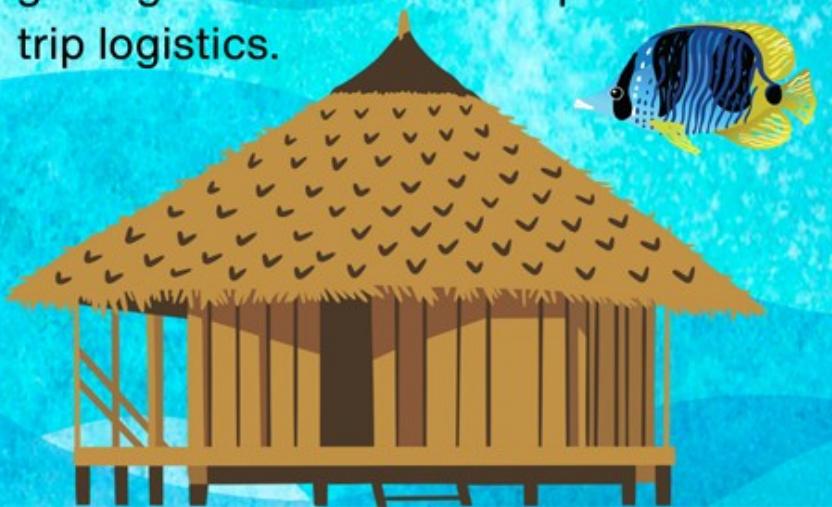


TOM & MAXINE BAKER

Presenting on
January 22, 2026
7:15 pm at
Sumner Auditorium
Scripps Campus



Fellow SDUPS members, Tom and Maxine Baker have been to Raja Ampat and Misool multiple times since 2013. They will describe that amazing area, considered the heart of the Coral Triangle, in both its topside and underwater splendor. They will also provide information on getting there and other important trip logistics.



SDUPS November 20th Meeting



The November SDUPS Meeting was attended by twenty people at Sumner Auditorium and eight people online. The rains didn't keep members & guests away.

Our President **James Logan** started the meeting off with two "Show & Tell" videos. The first up was a film by **Bob Yin** entitled "Small World". Bob's film was first presented at the UFEX film Festival last year. Bob had won a people's choice award at the festival. Second film was by **Walter Marti** entitled "Goby's". The film showcased beautiful images of the many types of Goby fish from around the world.

The evening's presentation was by long time member **Walter Heim**. Walter went over the various aspects of photography in tidepools. Everything from where to go, what equipment to use, to the various techniques to get good tidepool images.

It was time for a refreshment break. Our normal gal **Cindy** was on vacation but James did a very good job of setting it all up.

Next on the agenda was the competition winners for the November theme, "PhotoShopped".

James then opened the floor for nominations and voting for club officers for 2026. Here are the results:

President - James Logan

Vice-President - Paula Selby

Activities - Cindy Liphay

Treasurer - Bill Ring

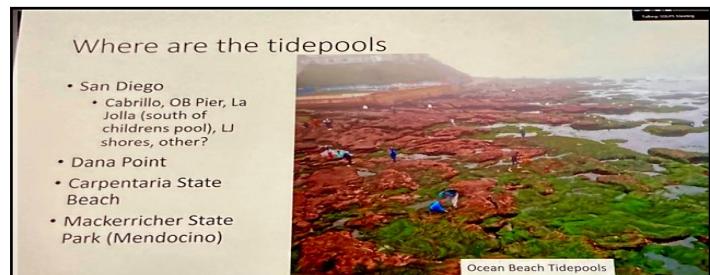
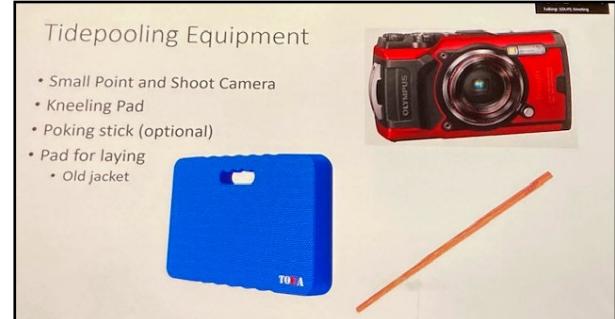
Membership - Harold Dorr

Secretary - Dick Miller

Historian - Walter Heim

Directors at Large Herb Gruenhagen, Greg Volger, and Jamie Leslie Feldman.

The meeting closed with James wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and inviting everyone to the Holiday Party.



SDUPS Monthly Competition Rules

1. You must be a current member of SDUPS to participate in the monthly competition.
2. You can submit one photo each month in your respective photo division and/or one video in the Video category. All entries follow the same defined competition category for the month. Submit entry via the online Submission Form on the SDUPS website.

3. Entry Deadline - In general, the deadline for competition entries each month precedes the monthly meeting by 2.5 weeks. We will send out an email to members with all of the info, confirming the deadline and other important reminders, about two weeks before the deadline. Voting is done via an online Google Form prior to the monthly meeting. Members and non-members may vote.

4. File Types

Photos - Submit .jpg files with resolution pixel count not exceeding 1920 on long end and 1080 on short end.

Videos - Must be submitted in MP4 format in 1920x1080 resolution. All videos must be under 30 seconds. There can be multiple clips within your video. Any video over the 30 second RULE will be disqualified.

5. File Name - Name your file with your class/category (in lower case)_first initial & last name (i.e. adv_mpoirier.jpg) nov=novice, ama=amateur, adv=advanced; vid=category for all videos.

6. Photo Division is determined by accumulated points. Advancement between divisions is announced at the SDUPS Awards Banquet, or its equivalent.

- a. Novice: 25 points of less
- b. Amateur: 26 to 70 points
- c. Advanced: 71 points or more

7. New members may choose which division, Novice, Amateur, or Advanced, when first joining. After that time, you will compete in that division moving forward and cannot request a change.

8. Competition Points are awarded for placement in the competition. In case of a tie, all tying entries will be awarded the corresponding point value of their placement.

- a. 1st - 5 points
- b. 2nd - 3 points
- c. 3rd - 1 point

9. Footage Modification:

a. Allowed: Cropping, Sharpening, Removal of noise/backscatter, Color Adjustments (Levels, Hues, Color Balance, Dodge & Burn, etc.)

b. Not Allowed: Alterations of image content, removal or addition of subjects or material. For example, removal/adding a diver, fish, etc.

10. Reuse of prior entries – To encourage creativity with entries, a photo or video that has placed 1st 3rd in any category may not be used again for three years. **A color/greyscale conversion is considered the same photo for the purposes of this rule.

(Continued from page 6)

11. Adopted Environmental Awareness Guidelines:

Marine life should never be stressed or endangered for the sake of a photo. Entries in our monthly competitions exhibiting the following behavior will be disqualified:

- a. Diver visibly damaging (i.e. gear dragging into) the environment.
- b. Animals with signs of diver induced stress (i.e. puffed puffers, inking octopus).
- c. Animals moved to an unnatural environment or risky location.
- d. Animals being fed artificial food from divers (i.e. chum visible in photograph).
- e. Marine life being harassed (i.e. touching corals, seahorse tails).

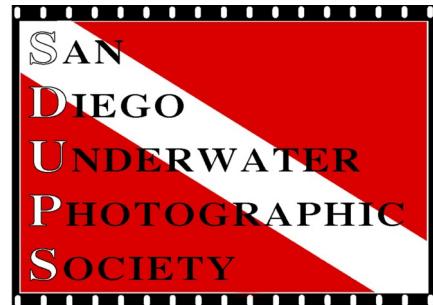
12. Photographer and Videographer of the Year recognition and corresponding award shall be given to the member in each division who earns the most competition points during that calendar year. This recognition and corresponding award will be given during the SDUPS Awards Banquet, or its equivalent.

13. Competition Winner Results/Records - Each month the competition committee will provide results to the Secretary/Historian to keep an accurate record of all members' current point status, and is available for any questions arising on this topic. Current competition results and process documents are saved on the SDUPS Google Drive and/or club computer and are available to audit.

14. Participation Points – each competition entry earns one participation point. You can earn an additional participation point per entry if the defined Bonus Challenge criteria is met. Participation points are used for the end of year prize raffle and are separate from the category winner competition points.

15. Music used in videos must be royalty free. You can find a link to some royalty free music resources at: <https://www.sdups.org/resources/>





2026

MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION RENEWAL

Single \$35 Family \$50 Student \$15 (21 & under)
 New Member This is an Address Correction

Name 1

E-mail Address 1 (very important)

Name 2

E-mail Address 2

Address

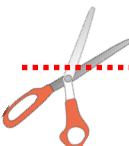
Please make checks payable to: **SDUPS**

Mail to:

**San Diego Underwater
Photographic Society**
12525 Salmon River Rd
San Diego, CA 92129

Dues may also be paid
online. Go to:
www.sdups.com
Click on the MEMBER-
SHIP tab

Phone



How many of you older divers were influenced by Mike Nelson?

Check out the two hose regular, mask, and camera gear!



Sumner Auditorium Parking Map

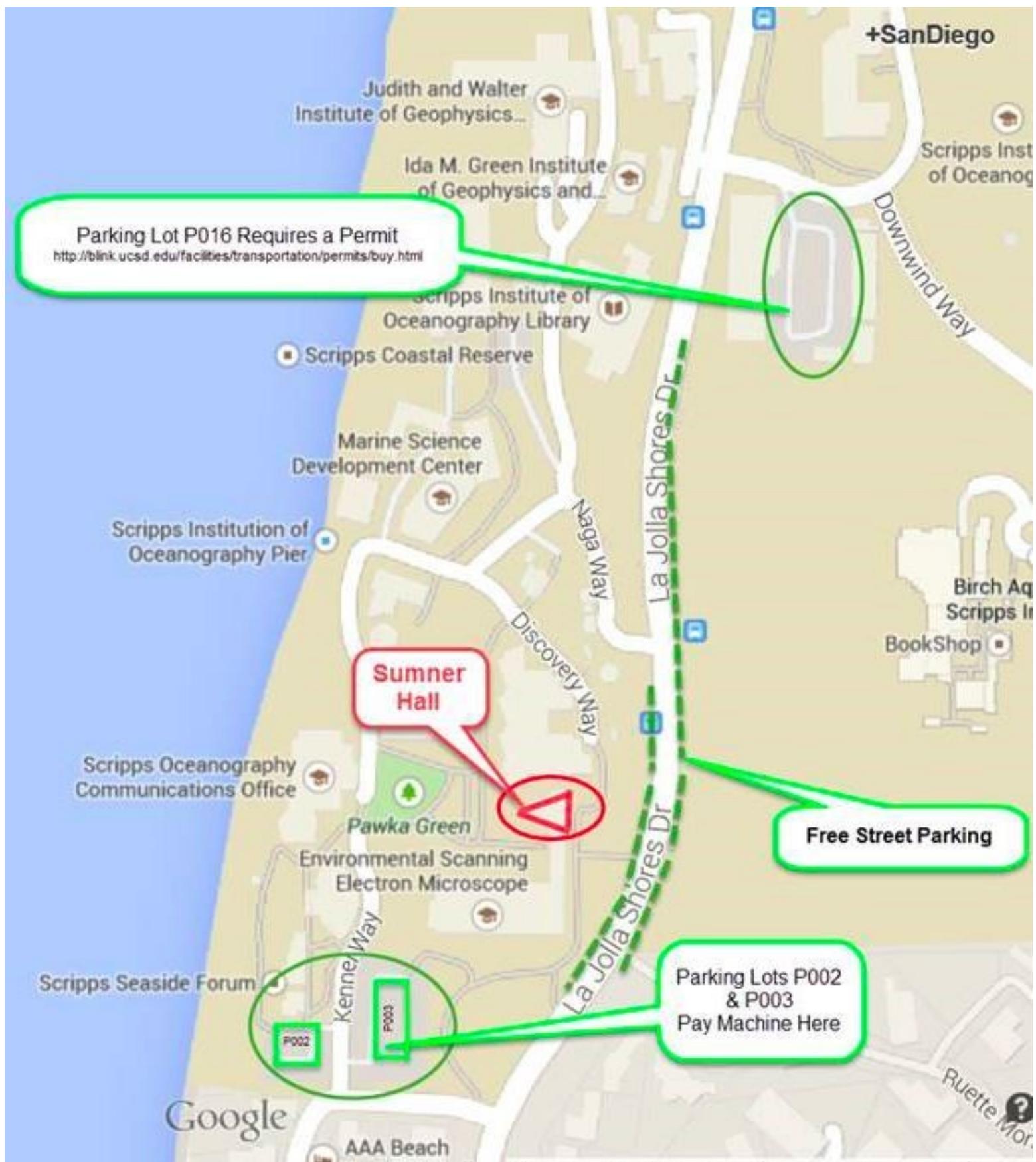
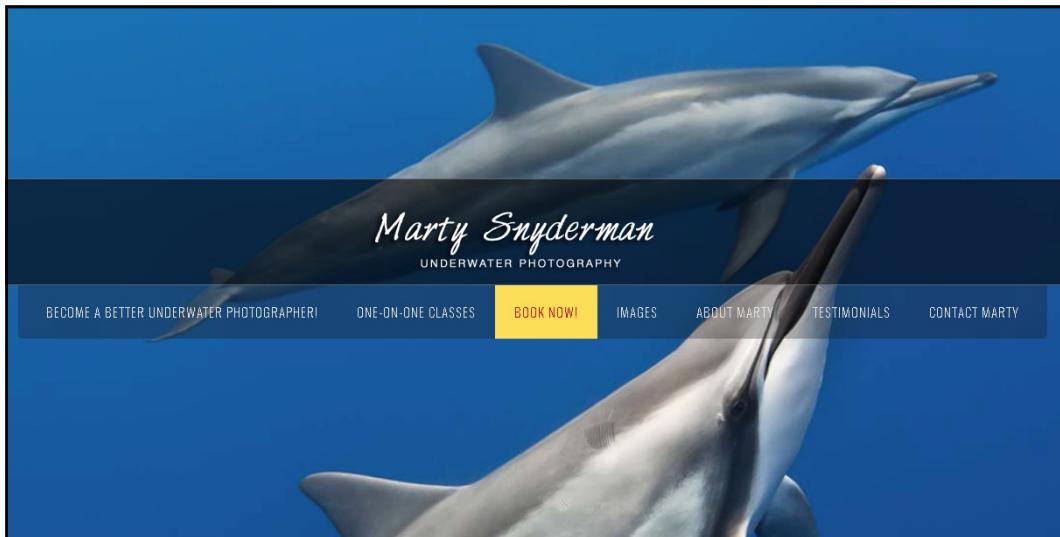


Photo Classes

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

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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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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

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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, Sea 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 light	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

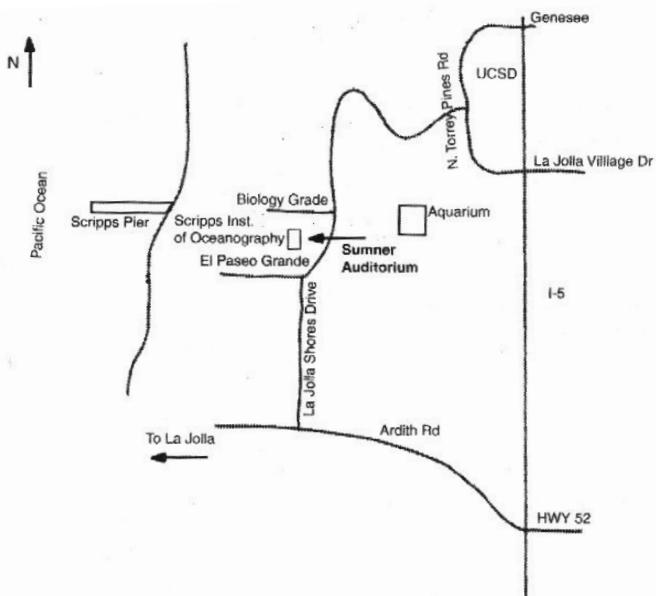
Monthly Meetings

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

Dick Miller
rngr900@cox.net

Treasurer

Bill Ring
wring@san.rr.com

Membership

Harold Dorr
blueox25@gmail.com

Activities

Cindy Liphay
cindyliphay@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

