

The Goby

San Diego Underwater Photographic Society

Volume 65 Issue 4

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

April 2026

President's Message

Hello Everyone

The La Jolla Riford Library Photography Exhibit plans are moving forward. So just a few words of encouragement. So, please be part of this amazing event.

Capture the magic beneath the surface!

Whether it's the vibrant dance of a coral reef, the graceful silhouette of a sea turtle, or the quiet beauty of light filtering through the blue, your lens has captured a world most people never get to see.

Exhibiting your work isn't just about showing off a technical skill; it's about sharing the **brehtaking mystery** of the ocean and inspiring others to protect its wonders. Your unique perspective deserves to be seen on the gallery walls.

Dive into your archives and pick your favorites—let's show the world the incredible stories hidden under the waves!

That is a powerful way to frame it. You aren't just displaying art, you are acting as ambassadors for a world that remains invisible to so many people.

There is something incredibly moving about the "bridge" a photographer builds between the shore and the deep. Most people see the ocean as a flat blue horizon, but your work gives it depth, life, and a voice. By sharing these images, you're transforming "the water" into a living, breathing ecosystem that people can finally connect with emotionally.

James Logan - Club President



SDUPS online **Hybrid Zoom Meeting**, April 23 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=UEJtUG0rczI3bEhOcW15LzlydIZldz09>

CALENDAR

April 23 – 7 pm SDUPS Hybrid Meeting at Sumner Auditorium (Map page 8)

April Competition Winners
Pages 2 & 3

March 26th Meeting Report - Page 4

April Meeting Presentation -Page 5

SDUPS Membership Form Page 6

SCUBA Show - Page - 6

San Diego County Fair Photo Competition info - Page 7



Greetings from the Philippines. Six SDUPS members are enjoying a couple of weeks of great diving. This issue of the Goby was put together nights after camera gear was setup for the next dive day. Hope you enjoy it - Mike Poirier - Editor

April Competition

"New Beginnings"

Harold Dorr – 1st Place Advanced



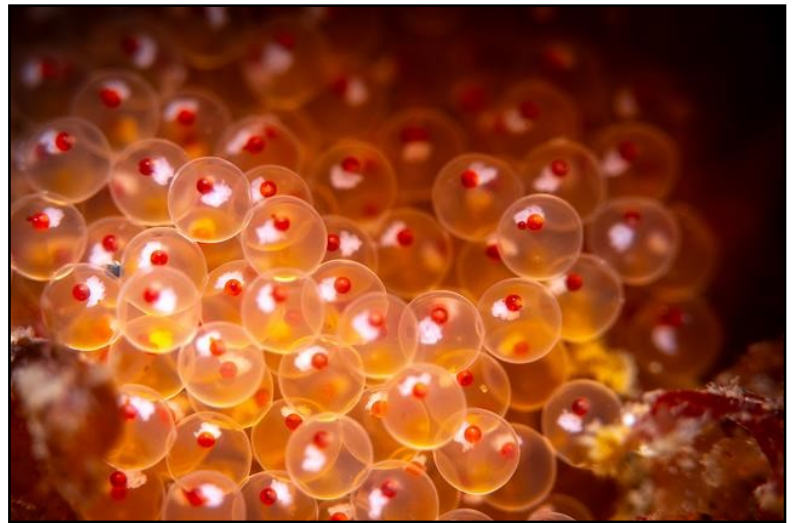
Bob Yin – 2nd Place Advanced



Greg Volger – 2nd Place Advanced



Jack Der – 3rd Place Advanced



Matthias Scheer - 1st Place Amateur



Katherine Mauser - 2nd Place Amateur



April Competition

Jennifer Riggin - 3rd Place Amateur



Greg Beadle - 2nd Place Novice



"New Beginnings"

Jerald Pratt - 1st Place Novice



Victor Ramos - 3rd Place Novice



Video Competition April

1st Place - Bob Yin

2nd Place - Walter Marti

3rd Place - Bill Ring



Stats for the April Competition:

New Beginnings

Still Entries:

Novice = 6

Amateur = 6

Advanced = 16

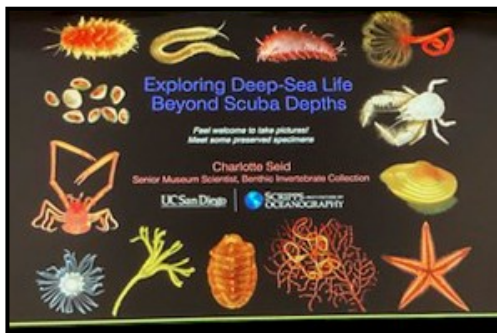
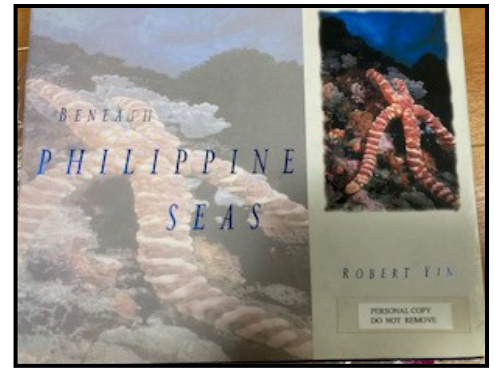
Videos = 5

Votes Cast = 37



SDUPS March 26th Meeting

Our March SDUPS Meeting was well attended by members and guests. The President, **James Logan**, opened the meeting by introducing a few guests, acknowledging the Board Members, and going over the agenda for the evening. First up was a "Show & Tell", with a video showcasing the efforts of the Philippines on protecting and saving their ocean environment. Member **Bob Yin** added comments by introducing a book that he had published on the undersea life he has been photographing in the Philippines over the years.



Our guest speaker for the evening, member **Charlotte Seid**, was introduced. Charlotte is employed by Scripps Institute and shared with us some of the work she is involved with. One assignment was exploring deep sea life beyond scuba depths. Charlotte took us on special cruise she had made to collect and study deep sea creatures. A highlight of that adventure was to take a deep dive on a submersible to collect specimens. You could tell

that this was a very exciting part of the trip, one she'll never forget.



Charlotte went on to explain the process of identifying, naming, preserving the animals collected. We were able to take a look at some of the specimens that she brought in.

We were also told that Scripps has thousands of specimens that they share with other scientists around the world.

Charlotte shared that she was very grateful for going on a trip such as this. There was time for questions & answers. Thank you Charlotte for a very informative and entertaining presentation.



It was time for our refreshment break and we thank **Tom and Maxine Baker** for setting up and providing the snacks for the meeting. It was very much appreciated.



The last part of the meeting was devoted to the Monthly Competition. The theme was "Behavior - Different Species". The Novice group had a strong showing with nine entries. James encourages all members to join in on the monthly competitions to show your stuff and learn more about taking good U/W images.



DR. CARMEN OBIED & STEVEN LOPEZ, MSc

Co-Founders, Explorers Photography | Underwater
Cinematographers & Maritime Archaeologists

Presenting on April 23, 2026

7:15 pm at Sumner Auditorium

Scripps Campus

Carmen & Steven will show their short film,
"Stories of the Kelp" featured at SDUFEX
2025 followed by a presentation on
their filmmaking process.

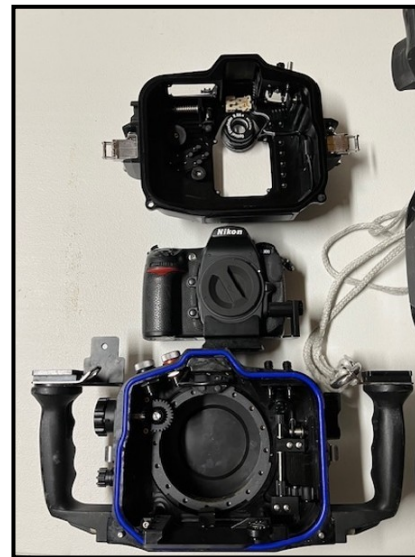
Steven Lopez and Dr. Carmen Obied are award-winning underwater cinematographers, maritime archaeologists, and co-founders of Explorers Photography. They approach the ocean as a living archive, combining scientific methods with artistry and cinematic storytelling for ocean preservation and advocacy. Trained as scientific and technical divers (AAS, GUE, TD), their work focuses on building visual records that connect ecosystems and show their change over time. Carmen began her career diving on ancient shipwrecks in the Mediterranean. She holds a PhD in maritime archaeology, specializing in photogrammetry and geo-spatial mapping of ancient/midtime cultural landscapes, trade routes, and wreck sites across the Mediterranean, Levant, and Red Sea. This expanded into her underwater cinematography and creative storytelling work, documenting wildlife and climate change across the Arctic, Antarctica, Amazon, and California's kelp forests.

Steven began his career as an avid diver, passionate about artistic ocean photography and his local marine environment around Catalina Island. His interests gradually expanded into the evolution of maritime navigation which led him to studying at the University of Southampton and later MIT. Holding a MSc, Steven's work now spans across ancient shipwreck sites, remote river systems, and polar waters, having dived and documented fragile underwater ecosystems, from the Amazon to the Arctic and Antarctic regions.

Their photography, cinematography, and research work have been featured through partnerships with the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (NHMLA), Honor Frost Foundation (HFF), Blue Green Expeditions, University of Southampton, British Film Institute (BFI), and British Museum, along with awards and recognitions from Dive Photo Guide (DPG), San Diego UnderSea Film Exhibit (SDUFEX), DPG's United Nations (UN) World Oceans Day Shark Trust UK, and Backscatter. Their work has also been exhibited in various fine-art galleries in Los Angeles.

CLASSIFIED AD**Underwater Camera Equipment For Sale****Contact Mario Kurn 760-814-7038**

- Pelican style hard case
- Sea & Sea housing
- 2 focus lights with mounting brackets
- 45 degree view finder
- Nikon D300 camera body
- Second Pelican style hard case
- Sea & Sea wide angle dome port
- 2 Inon strobes
- Arms for strobes
- Box with spare O-rings & misc. parts
- Sea & Sea macro port
- Nikon 12-24mm, 1:4 zoom lens
- Nikon 60mm, 1:2.8 micro lens
- Battery charger for D300 camera
- 3 batteries' for D300 camera
- Extra parts for strobe arms
- Manuals





CLASSIFIED AD

PFI Basic Freediver

Ages 16+



Activity details

This course consists of at-home study followed by a single weekend of classroom & in-water training.

Friday, April 10th - 5 PM - 9 PM - Classroom at House of Scuba

Saturday, April 11th - 10 AM - 2 PM - Pool

Saturday, April 11th - 3 PM - 7 PM - Classroom at House of Scuba

Sunday, April 12th - 8 AM - 1 PM - Open Water - Waterhorse Charters Mission Bay

Click Here: [PFI Freediver Course \(Basic\) – House of Scuba](#)

Thailand Liveboard 2026
 Chalong, Mueang Phuket District, Phuket, Thailand
 House of Scuba
 Oct 18 - 26, 2026 Group size: 10 - 10



Thailand 2026 Double Cabin

\$4,125

Thailand 2026 Quad Cabin

\$3,225

Click Here: [Thailand Liveboard 2026 in Chalong, Mueang Phuket District, Phuket, Thailand](#)



2026 MEMBERSHIP REGISTRATION RENEWAL

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

Name 1

Name 2

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

E-mail Address 1 (very important)

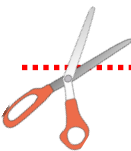
E-mail Address 2

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.org
Click on the MEMBER-
SHIP tab



Click on the Link Below



SCUBA SHOW LONG BEACH 2026

Join us for two incredible days, **May 30–31, 2026**, celebrating the world of diving at the **Long Beach Convention Center!**

All tickets are **all-access** — enjoy the **exhibit hall, seminars, and workshops** with one pass.

- **Single Day – \$33:** Valid for **Saturday or Sunday**, with **unlimited re-entry**.
- **Weekend Pass – \$60:** Full access for both days.
- **VIP Pass – \$100:** Includes a weekend pass **plus** 6 issues of *Scuba Diver North America*, 6 issues of *California Diving News*, and a **Scuba Show T-shirt**. (Magazine Delivery US & Canada Residents Only)
- **Under 16s – Free!** Bring the family and let the kids dive into the fun with our **try-dive pool**.

One ticket. Full access. Endless inspiration.

[Long Beach Ticket 2026 – Scuba Show | One Show, Two Locations](#)

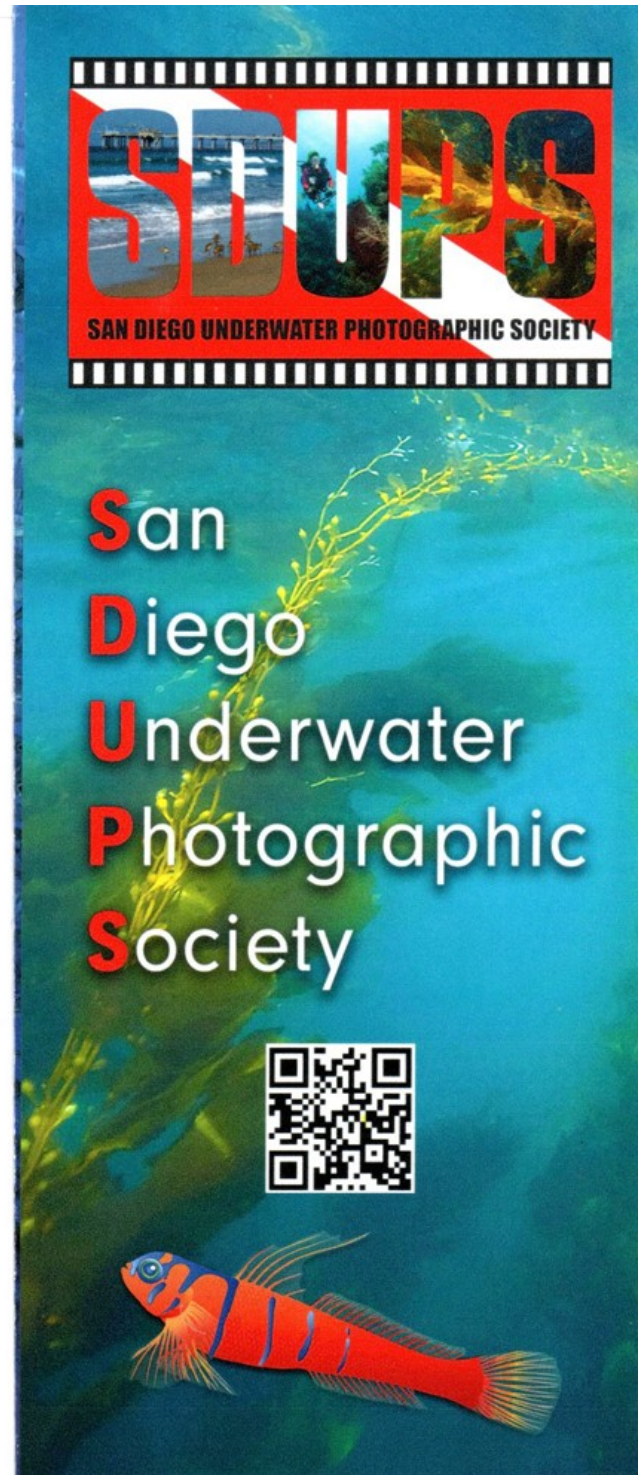
New SDUPS Promotion Materials

The SDUPS Board of Directors have come up with some new promotion materials for the club. We are always looking for new members to grow our club with fresh ideas. New members can bring the enthusiasm and want for learning.

The new Tri-fold contains information about our club, its mission statement, and meeting information. It also contains information on Activities, Membership info, Diving with members, and a Membership Application.

The business card invites divers to come see what we are all about and easy to pass out.

These two products can be passed along to friends or anyone interested in Underwater Photography. They will be available at the monthly meetings. Come on by and pick up a few to hand out.





YOUR PHOTOS ON DISPLAY

The **International Exhibition of Photography** invites photographers of all skill levels to participate in one of the most prestigious and long-standing photography competitions in the United States.

This juried exhibition celebrates the art of photography, fostering connections between photographers of all skill levels and photo enthusiasts. The competition offers more than \$23,000 in awards money for 35 diverse classes of original color and black-and-white photographs. While this is one of the San Diego County Fair's most prestigious and competitive exhibitions, you need not be a professional photographer to enter — there's even a class for cell phone photos!

Join us in celebrating the photographic arts and the awe-inspiring power of visual storytelling through the lens of the camera.

Photo Shoot-Outs

Capture the magic of the San Diego County Fair in a fast-paced Photo Shoot Out! Put your skills to the test, showcase your creativity, and impress the judges—all in just 90 minutes. Are you ready for the ultimate photography challenge? Mark your calendar now and plan to join in on one (or both!) of the two Photo Shoot outs below!

Photo Shoot Out #1: June 21, 2026

Photo Shoot Out #2: June 28, 2026

COMPETITION TIMELINE

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Entry Deadline | Tuesday, April 7, 2026, by 8pm |
| Tier 1 Notification Email | Wednesday, April 15, 2026 |
| Shipped Entries May Arrive | Thursday, April 16–Tuesday, May 12, 2026 |
| Entry Delivery | Monday, May 11, 2026, Noon–7pm and Tuesday, May 12, 2026, Noon–7pm |
| Fair Dates | Wednesday, June 10–Sunday, July 5 (closed Mondays and Tuesdays) |
| Artist Reception | Wednesday, June 10, 2026, 6:30pm |
| Judges' Roundtable | Saturday, June 13, 2026, 7-9pm |
| Judges' Critique | Saturday, June 20, 2026, 7-9pm |
| Entry Pick-up | Tuesday, July 7, 2026, Noon–7pm |

Link to S. D. Fair Photography Competition:

[San Diego County Fair International Exhibition of Photography: Competition Details & Entry Guide](#)

Sumner Auditorium Parking Map

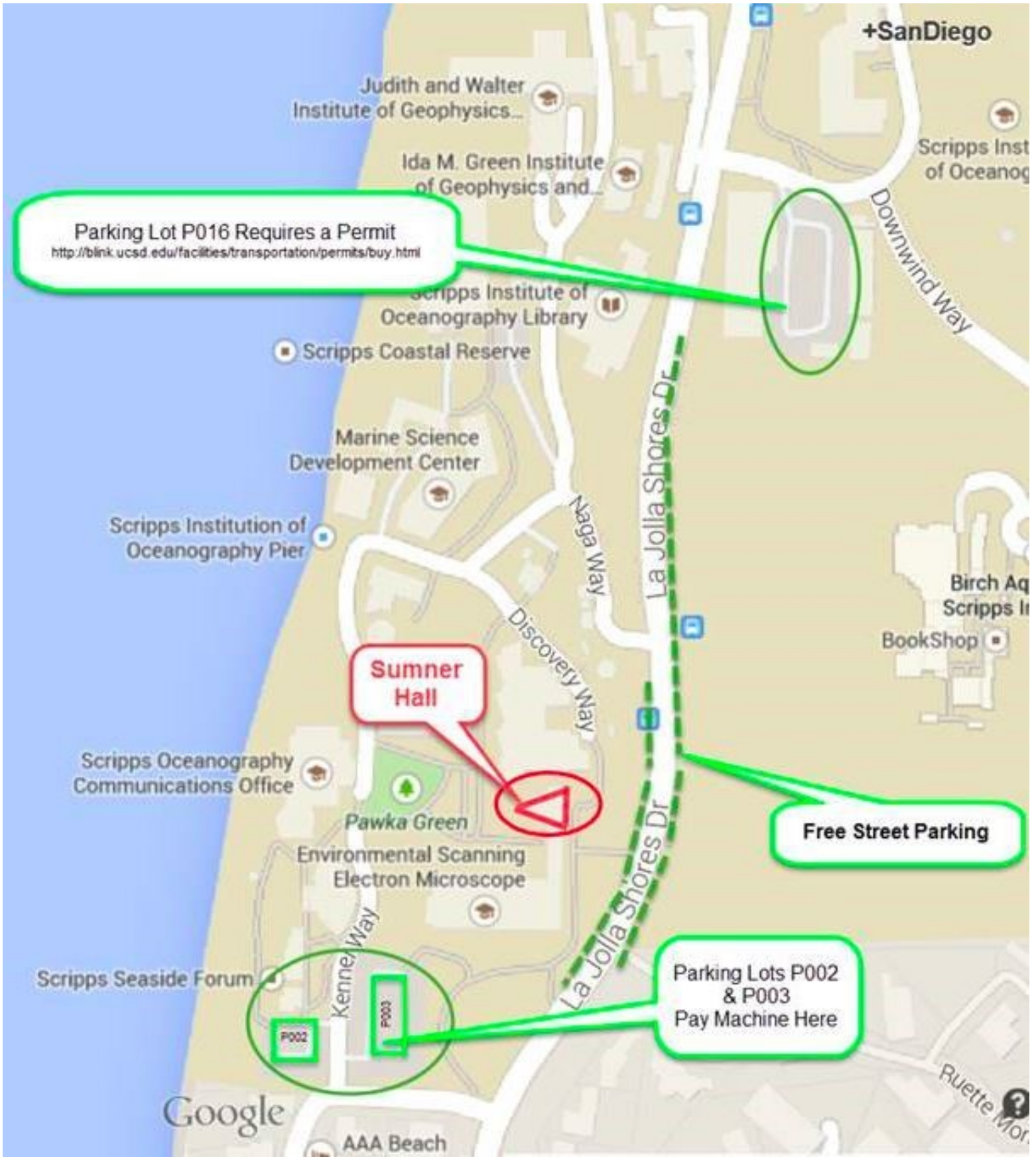
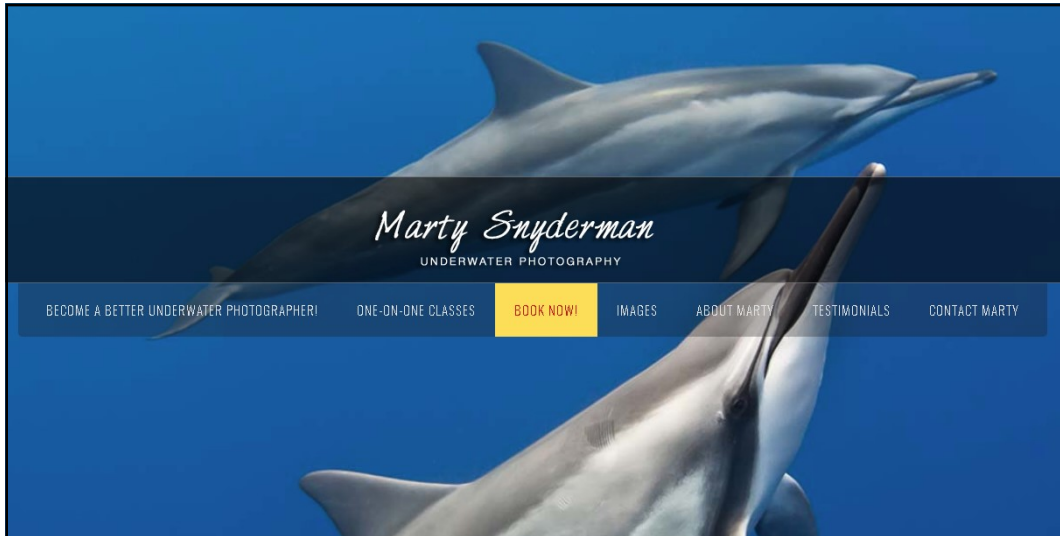


Photo Classes

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



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.





TRAVEL WITH US!
OUR UPCOMING TRIPS

| | | |
|---|--|--|
|  <p>TUBBATAHA on the Philippines Aggressor II</p> <p>June 13 - 20, 2026 Starting at \$4,845</p> |  <p>SEA OF CORTEZ on the Nautilus Belle Amie</p> <p>July 24 - 31, 2026 Starting at \$3,145</p> |  <p>PALAU at the Palau Pacific Resort</p> <p>November 22 - 29, 2026 Starting at \$4,575</p> |
|---|--|--|

(858) 565 - 6054
 info@oceanenterprises.com
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 www.oceanenterprises.com

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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 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 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 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 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 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 |

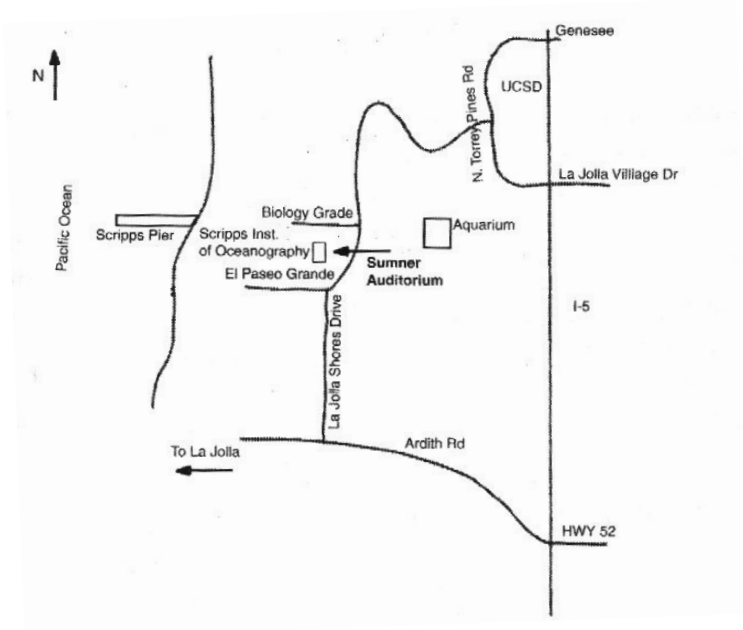
Monthly Meetings

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

Sumner Auditorium
Scripps Institute of 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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sdups1961@gmail.com

Vice President

Paula Selby
plselby@cox.net

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Dick Miller
rngr900@cox.net

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wring@san.rr.com

Membership

Harold Dorr
blueox25@gmail.com

Activities

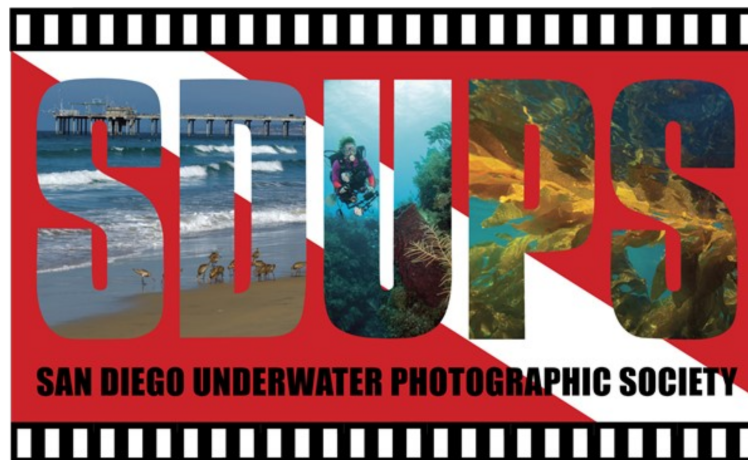
Cindy Liphay
cindyliphay@sbcglobal.net

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



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