

2009 California Beach Dive Photographic Competition

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday, May 16, 2009 – Various locations around Monterey Bay Area

- 7:30am - 9:00am: Registration at Aquarius Dive Shop, 2040 Del Monte Blvd., **Monterey**
- 7:30am - 4:00pm: Dive and shoot images
- 3:00pm - 4:30pm: Digital images and video submitted at Backscatter, 225 Cannery Row, **Monterey**. Bring your own laptop to review images.
- 6:00pm – 7:00pm: Cocktail hour at Carmel Women's Club, SW corner of 9th & San Carlos, **Carmel**, across from the Sunset Center
- 7:00pm - 9:00pm: Dinner & Presentation at Carmel Women's Club, SW corner of 9th & San Carlos, **Carmel**, across from the Sunset Center. Featured presenter is Professional Underwater Photographer, Andy Sallmon (www.seait.com).

Sunday, May 17, 2009 – Monterey Institute of International Studies, Irving Auditorium in the McCone Building, 499 Pierce Street, **Monterey**

- 8:30am - 2:00pm: Judging of images and videos
- 9:00am - 11:00am Seminar: Through a Video Journalist's Eyes by Underwater Videographer, Video Journalist and Travel Video Producer Mary Lynn Price (<http://mlptravelvideo.com/Welcome.html>) (<http://www.divefilm.com/>)
- 1:00pm - 3:00pm: Seminar: Effective Composition presented by Award Winning Underwater Photographer Ken Howard, (<http://www.seaimages.org/>)
- 3:00pm - 5:00pm: Winners Show and Prize Selection

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The 28th Annual California Beach Dive Photo Competition will be held on May 16-17, 2009 in Monterey, California. Contestants may enter either video or digital still images.

REGISTRATION:

This is a one-day competition. Entrants must register between 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. on Saturday morning May 16 at Aquarius Dive Shop, 2040 Del Monte Blvd, Monterey. Each participant will receive a participant number. Digital media will be registered at that time.

Pre-registration entry fees are \$75 if postmarked on or before May 6, 2009. Thereafter, entry fees are \$90. The entry fee includes participant's admission to Saturday evening dinner and show, t-shirt, seminars on Sunday and an opportunity to participate in the door prize at the awards show on Sunday. Only registered participants will be eligible for the door prize.

Entry fees are nonrefundable. Mail entry fees and Registration Form to: Northern California Underwater Photographic Society, PO Box 1168, Alameda, CA 94501.

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CATEGORIES:

VIDEO: There will be one category of participants in which any videographer may participate.

NOVICE DIGITAL: Photographers who have won three or fewer first or second place awards in three separate photographic competitions other than those limited to the members of one photographic club and/or who have earned less than \$200 from photography.

OPEN DIGITAL: Anyone may participate in the Open Category regardless of experience.

INCLEMENT WEATHER CONTINGENCY:

The competition will take place Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17, 2009. In the event weather makes diving unsafe, the competition will take place on a date in September to be determined based upon venue availability.

CONSERVATION RULES:

We have adopted the Conservation Rules established by EPIC®. Marine life should never be stressed or endangered for the sake of a photo. Entries exhibiting the following behavior will be disqualified:

1. Divers visibly or potentially damaging the environment (e.g. gear dragging or touching the reef, etc.).
2. Animals with signs of stress (e.g., inking octopus, etc.).
3. Animals moved to an unnatural environment or risky location.
4. Animals being fed (especially artificial food from divers).
5. Marine life being touched (e.g. coral polyps, nudibranchs, sea otters, etc.).
6. Divers exhibiting poor buoyancy control.

GENERAL RULES FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS:

1. A participant may shoot either video or digital but not both.
2. All participants must sign in and pick up their information packet and participant number at the Aquarius Dive Shop, 2040 Del Monte Blvd., Monterey, on Saturday May 16, 2009 between 7:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m.
3. All participants must sign and submit a Waiver of Liability.
4. Images must be taken between 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 16, during beach dives within the Monterey/Pacific Grove/Carmel region. Point Lobos State Reserve is off limits due to limited access. All images must be taken underwater.
5. No boat, dive board, diver propulsion vehicle, or other flotation device may be used except for one inner tube float or one surf mat.
6. Collection of marine life prior to or during the competition for the purposes of the competition is prohibited and will result in disqualification of the participant.

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7. Digital images and videos must be submitted on Saturday between 3:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. at Backscatter, 225 Cannery Row, Monterey. All entrants must leave Backscatter by 5:00 p.m. Laptop computers will not be provided. Participants are expected to provide laptop computers for their own use and are encouraged to share them with others. All digital media and computers will be subject to security measures.
8. Each participant is responsible for his/her own safety and the proper operation of his/her diving and photographic equipment. NCUPS does not represent that diving is safe at any location. Each participant must use his/her own judgment regarding diving safety. Should conditions make diving unsafe or should a large number of participants decide not to dive due to conditions, NCUPS reserves the right to postpone the competition to the weekend of a date in September to be determined based upon venue availability.

Judging:

1. The judges will not be participants in the competition.
2. There will be a set of judges for video and a separate set of judges for digital.
3. The judges will award a first, second and third place in each subject for each category of participants. Honorable Mentions will be awarded dependent upon the number of entries in a subject.
4. The judges have the authority to combine categories if there are fewer than five entrants in a category.
5. The judges will select a Best of Video and a Best of Digital. There will be no Best of Show. In order to select a best of digital, the digital judges will select a Best of Macro, Best of Wide-angle/Seascapes and Best of Marine Life Behavior from all digital images submitted in that subject regardless of category of the participant and regardless of media.
6. Images exhibiting violations of the conservation rules will be disqualified by the judges.
7. The decision of the judges will be final in all cases.

Protests:

1. Any protest concerning these rules, or the violation of them by any participant, must be submitted to the Event Director as soon as possible but in no event later than Saturday, May 16, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.
2. Protests regarding the selection of prizes must be made to the Event Director at the time of the prize selection.
3. No protest of the judges' decisions will be allowed.

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Prizes and Prize-Selection:

1. A weighted point system will be used for awarding prizes to encourage competition and reward excellence. Points are awarded for all places including honorable mentions.
2. Prize selection will occur immediately following the showing of the winning images based upon a highest point basis.
3. Each participant eligible to select a prize, whether through the competition or the door prize, must be present to select a prize unless they have designated a proxy in writing or by phone prior to the beginning of the awards ceremony. Any entitled participant who was not present during the prize selection and did not designate a proxy will have thirty days thereafter to select from any remaining prizes.
4. In the event of a tie, extra points (in $\frac{1}{4}$ point increments) may be added depending upon skill level of entrant, difficulty of class, and/or quantity of entries in the class.
5. No participant may receive more than one prize
6. All persons selecting a prize agree that their image(s) may be used by NCUPS for promotion of the club in future years.
7. NCUPS has solicited prizes from various individuals and companies. Each prize donor has represented to NCUPS that the prize offered will be provided to the participant who selects it. However, NCUPS does not guarantee that the donor will actually deliver the prize and will not be responsible if the donor does not do so.
8. Prize trips must be used within one (1) year and may have other restrictions.
9. Prizes are non-transferable.

DIGITAL SPECIFIC RULES AND REGULATIONS:

SUBJECTS:

Awards will be given in each category for the following subjects.

Macro: Imaged area the size of 4.25" x 2.83" (1:3 on 35 mm film) or smaller

Wide Angle/Seascapes: Image shot with equivalent of 35 mm lens or lower (28, 20, 14, etc.)

Marine life behavior: Any lens may be used. Subject must show natural marine life behavior. Capture a moment that says something about the subject's life or environment or illustrates what it is that makes that subject special

SHOOTING AND ENTRY INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Those shooting digital must provide their own digital media and **shoot in JPEG format.**
2. Digital shooters must **set their camera to the date assigned** at registration and JPEG images with that date must be submitted for judging.
3. All images must be **JPEG out of the camera.** No raw conversions will be allowed.

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4. Each participant may submit up to **FIVE** images total, spread between macro, wide angle/seascapes and marine life behavior, but, no more than three images in any one subject.
5. Participants must bring their own laptop for image viewing and selection. Selection must be made prior to submission.
6. Multiple volunteers will be collecting images from participants. Participants are asked to be prepared to quickly tell the collection volunteer which category they are in (Novice or Open) and the number and subject of each image they want to enter. A participant may direct the volunteer downloading images to rotate their images as desired.
7. The collection volunteers will not assist participants in selecting their images. Anyone trying to submit images before they have selected them will be required to go back and select their images and return to the back of the line. Feedback from other participants on image selection is encouraged.
8. Images submitted in the wrong subject will be disqualified.
9. In-camera duplicates will be judged only in the first category the judges see them.
10. Digital images may not be manipulated in camera or by any program such as Adobe Photoshop. Images may not be cropped. Any manipulated images will be disqualified.
11. Images from cameras that have a black and white setting will be allowed provided the images have not been post processed. Anyone using this setting must show the collection volunteer the setting and explain how they took their images.

VIDEO SPECIFIC RULES AND REGULATIONS

Participants will enter video snapshots. A video snapshot is one continuous segment shot by the entrant and is a video **at least ten seconds, but no more than thirty seconds** long (longer entries will be disqualified). It must be shot 100% underwater on the day of the competition, between registration and the designated drop-off time. Adding titles, music or sound effects will disqualify the entry. White balancing is encouraged. No pool, aquarium or pole-cam shots are allowed.

Both SD (Standard Definition 4:3 aspect) and HD (High Definition 16:9 aspect) entries will be accepted. Entries can be either mini-DV tape (SD) or HDV tape (HD). Judging will be made on the production quality of the snapshot entry over and above the quality difference between SD and HD.

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Category Definitions

Each entrant may submit one video snapshot in EACH of the following categories:

Close-up: Width of physical screen shot less than or equal to 13 inches. In the close-up shot, a certain feature or part of the subject takes up most of the frame. For example, a close up of a person usually means a close up of their face (unless specified otherwise). Close-ups are obviously useful for showing detail. Extreme Close Up (ECU) is allowed in this category. The ECU gets right in and shows extreme detail. You would normally shoot ECU to create a very dramatic scene or for a very small critter like a skeleton shrimp.

Wide Shot: Width of physical screen shot is greater than 13 inches. When referring to a person, a wide shot means they take up almost the full frame height. In other situations it means a wide shot of the whole scene, placing the subjects in their environment. The point of this shot is to show the subject's surroundings.

Behavior: The snapshot can include close-ups or wide shots taken of animal behavior. The snapshot must capture a memorable, unusual or interesting behavior. Judges will look for shot with an aesthetic appeal, a unique interest value and dramatic action.

Video Entry Submission

1. SD 4:3 or HD 16:9 (HDV) format will be accepted.
2. Entries can be either mini-DV tape (SD) or HDV tape (HD).
3. Entrants must supply their own video equipment and videotape or recording media.
4. At registration, entrants must bring a new tape (in the factory wrapper) to be used for the competition. Registration personnel will mark each tape.
5. Entries must be submitted between 3:00 PM and 4:30 PM on Saturday, May 16th, 2009 at Backscatter.
6. Entrants must note the beginning and ending time code for each clip they wish to submit, leaving about 5 seconds on either side. We will capture each clip onto a non-linear editing system for review and judging.
7. The recorded media with the registration mark must be left with the collection volunteer and will be returned at the awards ceremony on Sunday. Video snapshots from media without the registration mark will be disqualified.
8. A cell phone or local phone number is required in case there is an issue in downloading the video snapshots. For your protection, please bring your media capturing cables with you to the event in case they are needed.

Video Judging Criteria

All video entries will be judged based on filmmaking ability, originality, creativity and entertainment value.