

SEA 2008 RULES AND REGULATIONS

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:

SEA 2008 is open to all amateur photographers and/or videographers. Industry professionals, including those who teach underwater photography, photo trip leaders, and previous judges are not eligible for the SEA competition. The competition officials reserve the right to determine the level of an industry professional.

New this year:

1. Credit cards are no longer accepted unless used as a PayPal transaction.
2. Video entries should be between one and two minutes long with a maximum length of two (2) minutes.
3. Entries accepted via web upload images on the NCUPS website.

Although all possible care will be exercised, Northern California Underwater Photographic Society (NCUPS) and competition officials will assume no responsibility for the loss or damage of entries before, during or after the competition.

Print entrants must include correct return postage for return of entries (optional). CD's and DVD's will not be returned.

Permission to reproduce any entry for the promotional purposes of NCUPS is inherently granted by the entrant. No reproduction fee will be paid. Due credit by name is given to the photographer and the photographer retains all rights to the image.

Entries must have been taken underwater in a natural environment. No pool or aquarium shots will be accepted. Fresh water shots taken in a natural environment are allowed.

Digital manipulation is restricted to RAW conversion as necessary, sharpening, cropping (no more than 20%), saturation, and contrast adjustment (levels and curves). Minor backscatter cleanup is allowed. Masking, compositing, cloning, multiple exposures, and other digital manipulation are not allowed except in the Creative category.

Any of the following will be basis for disqualification of one or all entries by an entrant at the sole discretion of the competition officials:

1. Aquarium, pool, book reproductions and split-images.
2. Images having won a Best of Show or first place award in any major competition (competitions not restricted to a club member only) prior to submission.
3. Images previously published commercially.
4. Improperly formatted prints, video or digital media.
5. Images derived from one original entered in more than one category.
6. Insufficient entry fees.
7. Misrepresentation of skill level.
8. Failure to provide on request the original negative, slide or digital file.
9. Images displaying breach of conservation and exploitation of wildlife and/or the ocean environment.

The judges and/or competition officials may disqualify any images exhibiting divers touching coral or animals, feeding animals, animals under stress or in an unnatural environment.

DEADLINE: Entries must be received by October 10, 2008.

JUDGING:

All decisions of the judges are final.

Digital and video categories will be judged separately. Novice entries will be judged separately.

Competition officials reserve the right to regroup categories by skill level or subject if an insufficient number of qualifying entries are received in any one category. Novice categories are available in Digital Still categories, and the Print category. NCUPS reserves the right to separate classes (creative, video) by skill level if enough qualifying entries are received.

Winners will be announced on the NCUPS website, and the winners notified by email or telephone.

PRIZES:

Points are awarded for all places including honorable mentions. All first through third places will be awarded. Honorable mentions will be awarded, at the discretion of the judges, depending on quantity of entries in a category.

No entrant may receive more than one prize. After the judging, winning entrants will be contacted and asked to fill in their preferences for prizes, from the competition prize list. Prizes will then be awarded on a highest point-highest priority basis. In the case of a tie extra points (in ¼ point increments) may be added depending on skill level of entrant, difficulty of class, and/or quantity of entries in an individual class. **Prize trips must be used within one (1) year and may have other restrictions. Prizes are non-transferable.**

ENTRY SPECIFICATIONS:

All entries must be accompanied by an entry form and payment.

Print Entries:

- 1 Prints must be **matted/mounted** to an outside size of no more than 16 x 20".
- 2 To facilitate judging, prints must be mounted on mount board 3/16" – 1/4" thick and may be matted.
- 3 No framed or glass-covered prints will be accepted.
- 4 Entrant's name, title or number of print, and category should be written on the back.
- 5 Please indicate "UP" on the back at the top.
- 6 There will be a Novice and Advanced skill level class in traditional print and one skill level in creative print.

Video Entries:

- 1 Video entries should be between one and two minutes long with a maximum length of two (2) minutes.
- 2 At least 80% of footage, exclusive of titles and credits must have been taken underwater.
- 3 The entrant is responsible for any copyright liabilities with regard to music and title formats.
- 4 Label each entry with the entrant's name and title of video.
- 5 DVD format only will be accepted.
- 6 There will be one skill level in video.

Digital Entries:

- 1 Images may be burned onto a writable CD or DVD and mailed along with the signed entry form and correct payment. We will not accept email entries. Alternatively, entrants may upload still images using the UPLOAD link on the NCUPS SEA web page.
- 2 Write your name and e-mail address on the CD or DVD.
- 3 All digital entries need to be in JPEG format.
- 4 Scanned images are accepted.
- 5 All images will be judged on a large monitor and should be sized to be **between 2000 and 6000 pixels in the longest dimension**. Please limit your images to a maximum file size of **5,000KB (5MB)**.
- 6 It is recommended that images be saved in the highest JPEG quality for optimum viewing.
- 7 Images should be saved in AdobeRGB 1998 or sRGB color space.
- 8 File name format:
 - Skill level: nov or adv (nov = novice, adv = advanced)
 - Category: macro, wa, ca, mc, cre (wa = wide-angle, ca = California, mc = marine conservation, cre = creative)
 - Entrant name: first name last name (ex. janesmith)
 - Number 1-5 if entering more than one entry per category.
 - File name example: adv_macro_janesmith1.jpeg**(Underscore between file name components and use lower case.)
- 9 Images without an entry form will not be judged.
- 10 There will be novice and advanced skill levels in the digital categories and one skill level in the creative digital category.

SKILL LEVELS:

Novice: Any amateur photographer who has been taking underwater photographs for two years or less, and has not won ANY best of, or first places in a major photography competition. A novice may enter the advanced skill level if they so desire.

Advanced: Any other amateur photographer.

CATEGORIES:

STILL DIGITAL:

No creative editing allowed. Only crop, dodge and burn, contrast adjustment. Please note entry specifications above.

Macro: Images where a full frame image has a maximum life size of 8 x 5".

W-A: Images where a full frame image has a minimum life size of 8 x 5".

U/W California: Any image taken in the California marine environment.

Marine Conservation: The entries in this class should illustrate a marine conservation issue; whether it is an endangered or rare species or environment, an illustration of a non-sustainable fishery; or something more positive such as re-growth of an environment, return of an endangered species, or an illustration of the benefits of artificial reefs. Open to still images taken underwater anywhere in the world. Entries should include a few sentences describing where the image was taken, what the story behind the image is, and why it was important to the photographer to take the image and tell the story. (Maximum of 75 words.) Still images only. Proceeds to be donated to a marine conservation/environmental educational organization of NCUPS choosing. Winning images to be displayed with description, on a special marine conservation page on the NCUPS website.

PRINTS: Any qualifying image. Please see entry specifications above.

CREATIVE:

This category is for the photographer to showcase their individual creativity. The only restriction is that the original image must have been taken by the entrant, underwater. Entrants are encouraged to use any and all tools available to express their individual creativity.

Print: Any qualifying creative image. Please see entry specifications above.

Digital: Any qualifying image. Please see entry specifications above.

VIDEO: Any qualifying short subject. Please see entry specifications above.

HOW TO ENTER:

In 2008 there are two methods to submit entries. The first method is by uploading still images via the link on the NCUPS website, filling out and submitting an online entry form, and paying with PayPal. The alternative is to mail entries with digital still images and video(s) on CD or DVD, and/or prints, with completed entry form, paying with either PayPal or personal check (U.S. only). This is our first year using an upload process with an online form and PayPal payments. We would appreciate receiving your feedback on how this process worked for you by emailing SEA@NCUPS.ORG.

UPLOADING ENTRIES:

1. Complete the digital entry form. Note the amounts to be paid using PayPal as instructed on the form. Before submitting the form...
2. Select the PAYMENT button and follow the payment process to pay with PayPal using the amounts to be paid from the entry form. Take note of the PayPal transaction number.
3. Enter the PayPal transaction number on the entry form and press SUBMIT.
4. Select the UPLOAD button and follow the instructions to submit your digital still entries.
5. You will receive a confirmation that your entries have been received within 24 hours. If you do not please contact SEA@NCUPS.ORG.

MAILING ENTRIES:

1. Download and complete the PDF entry form. If paying with PayPal take note of the amounts to be paid.
2. Payment options.
 - a. If paying with PayPal select the PAYMENT button and follow the payment process. Write the PayPal transaction number on your entry form in the space provided.
 - b. If paying with a checks (U.S. only) they should be made out to NCUPS and mailed with your entries and entry form.
3. Package it all up (entries, entry form, and payment) and send to:
NCUPS – SEA 2008

3871 PIEDMONT AVE., BOX 19
OAKLAND, CA 94611 USA

4. Mailed entries will not receive a confirmation that they have been received until after the October 10, 2008 deadline date. If you do not receive a confirmation please contact SEA@NCUPS.ORG.