NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY SOCIETY

www.sfups.org

NEXT MEETING:
Tues. Jan. 11, 2011

Meeting Schedule
Jan 11
Feb 8
Mar 8
Apr 12
May 10
June 14
July 12
Aug 9
Sept 13
Oct 11
Nov 8
Dec TBA
Holiday Party

7:30 PM at
El Palacio
Sports Hotel
21485 N.W. 27th Ave,
Miami, 33056
305-621-5801

Cover Shot
Steve Jarocki

Submit “Cover Photo” material to the
Newsletter Editor
Suzan Meldonian,
561-394-6391
or e-mail:
newsletter@sfups.org
Info about the image is appreciated.
DEADLINE IS THE 25th!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Presentation:
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DIVING
WITH FLETCHER FORBES

PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR Winners Announced!
Intra-Club Contest Winners Nov 2010
Meet the new 2011 Board of Directors
New President’s Message
HOLIDAY PARTY
2011 Intra Club Contest Subjects
Links to Photo Contests, Classifieds, New Members

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JANUARY - A word from our new President, Steve Jarocki

I hope everyone had a joyous holiday season. I would like to express my appreciation to the SFUPS Board and all Club Members for my nomination for club President. My predecessor, Sharon Baron, has done an excellent job as President. As I follow in her footsteps, I hope to continue to promote our club this coming year. This past year I served on the Board as Membership Chairperson and it has been a rewarding experience. I moved from a passive club member to a position that involved me directly with club activities. I’ve acquired many friends during this time along with great knowledge of underwater photography.

I’m also a member of a land based camera club where I’ve picked up many different ideas on club activities. I would like to incorporate some of these ideas into our club, particularly expanding club dives and trips. The success of promoting these club activities is dependent upon club member participation. I ask that you try to involve yourself in as many activities this upcoming year as you can, I am sure that you will find it as rewarding as I have. Expanding our knowledge, friendships, and environmental stewardship, we will have a great 2011.

NEW SFUPS BOARD MEMBERS 2011
Congratulations to Steve Kovacs

Photographer of the Year!

Steve Kovacs, Photographer of the Year 2010

Steve Kovacs needs no introduction. In the past couple of years, Steve’s passion for photography has excelled with each year, winning multiple awards on the international circuit. Nature’s Best, Underwater Photography Guide, Epson Eilat Red Sea… just to name a few. His art work now hangs proudly in the Smithsonian Institute. And it does not stop there, he is also the author/photographer of “Magic Beneath the Seas.”

To understand the complexity of the international circuit, well, you are up against no less than 35,000 contestants from all over the world. The Epson Eilat contest was by invite only, until this year. Then it is best photographer while you are there. The heat is on! You are not allowed to alter your photographs. No Photoshop-ping permitted. So it becomes a combination of elements. Excellent ability, knowledge of behavior, excellent skill in photography, knowledge of your camera, lighting all spear against the elements of current, temperature and particulate matter and perfect buoyancy. And passion. Pure unadulterated passion for your craft!

Steve’s work is truly an inspiration to all and our club members as a leader in capturing the most amazing shots! To study his work, and learn from one another is what we are all about. Steve makes us reach. We learn from the best, and we are proud to have Steve as a member. We have learned so much from him, and surely more to come. What is so wonderful about Steve is his willingness to share his knowledge openly with others.

Steve’s favorite haunts seem to hunker down to Indonesia, Boynton Beach and our famed Blue Heron Bridge. What sets Steve’s work apart is his level of patience to wait for that special moment and his infinitesimal awareness of animal behavior. Both are key to his successful ability to astound.

. . . To quote Steve, “it’s not about quantity – it’s about quality and capturing just the right moment.”

If you would like to see some of his recent wins, click on these links below, or have a look at his gallery on SFUPS.org.

Once again, Congratulations Steve!

You are our prince of underwater photo magic & the Avatar of Underwater Eggology!

2010- Deep Indonesia International Competition- Honorable Mention- environment and conservation

2010- RSMAS international competition- 1st place portrait, 1st place macro


2010- Epson Red Sea World of Underwater Images International Competition- Environment- Finalist

2010- Epson Red Sea World of Underwater Images International Competition- Digital portfolio- 1st place

2010- LAUPS- Behavior- Honorable Mention (2) images http://laups.org/international_results/i2010/index.php

Steven Kovacs, Moore Haven, FL, USA, “Super Dad”, Steven Kovacs, Moore Haven, FL, USA, “Mating Cuttlefish”

2010- Ocean Art Competition- Behavior- 2nd place

Behavior- 3rd place

Super Macro- Honorable Mention

Nudibranchs- Honorable Mention

Nudibranchs- Honorable Mention

Complete list can be found at: www.underwaterbliss.com
Congratulations also to our 2nd Place Photographer

Shen Collazo

and also to our 3rd Place Photographer

Mike Schmale

The Florida Dive Show was a great success! Many new members & past members as well turned up.

Heartfelt thanks goes out to Susan & Jim Mears for this wonderful creation and all the members who donated images to the booth. It looked terrific.
Partyyyy!
Mention the words, “California Diving” to a Floridian and watch the shivering begin. True, you wouldn’t make a giant stride in a lycra skin, but diving in a kelp forest or the massive pinnacles around a Channel Island is as rewarding to a photographer as you would ever want. And think about it… what would happen if an ocean with a population of 12 million people next to it had 82 degree water temp?

This month’s presentation is about how we dive in southern California… beach diving (not me!), dive clubs, charter boat diving, and about what we see and photograph.

Cold water diving can be challenging if you are new to it. The water temperature is nearly always in the low 50’s to low 60’s in southern California, so photographers tend to wear dry suits with hoods and neoprene or dry gloves. The southern and Channel Islands hold the primary dive sites, and it can sometimes get pretty surgy in shallower water. Visibility can be great or a lovely shade of green. But there is always something to see and photograph.

Apart from beach diving, dive trips are always either a full day or multiple days. The closest island to LA is Catalina Island, 19 miles from most harbors (no, not 26 miles, that’s how long the island is.) Most day boats head to Catalina or the oil rigs and offer either 3 or 4 tank dives, leaving at 7AM and returning around 5 or 6PM.

Oh yes, the oil rigs. Not a happy subject in Florida right now, but the
California oil rigs are a sensational blue water dive, a complete marine habitat. I always have trouble deciding between wide angle or macro lens for a rig dive, they are absolutely alive with photo opportunities.

Dives to the more distant Channel Islands like San Miguel and Santa Rosa, and the trips to pinnacles and sea mounts are multi day trips. Prepare for Spartan living, chummy quarters, getting to know fellow divers, byob, and the best and most food you will ever eat. Oh, and fantastic diving!

Many of the islands seem to have their own “specialty,” from black sea bass at Catalina to sea lion rookeries at Santa Barbara to brittle starfish at Anacapa… and of course there are always bright orange garibaldi, the official state marine fish… the underwater forest of kelp… and lots of nudibranchs.

For anyone thinking of yet another trip to the Caribbean or South Pacific, the California coast offers a diving environment and critters to photograph unlike any warm water destination. It is easy to arrange a great trip, easy to rent dry suits or 7 mm wetsuits, everyone speaks English and the dollar is widely accepted! And you will certainly add a new category to your photo portfolio… the best and most diverse cold water diving in the world! ~ Fletcher Forbes
Wow, again! Congratulations to All ... You make us Proud!

Winners who are members of SFUPS:

**EPSON EILAT 2010** [http://eilatredsea.com/](http://eilatredsea.com/)
5 Best Images of the World: Winner... Steve Kovacs !!!!!!!!!!!! Woohoo!
Best Environmental & Conservation: Nominee 4. Steven Kovacs from USA
Best Humoristic Image: Nominee: 3. Kirk Kilfoyle from USA!!!

**NCUPS 2010**
[http://www.ncups.org/sea/SEA2010/conservation/content/adv_mc_stevenkovacs1_large.html](http://www.ncups.org/sea/SEA2010/conservation/content/adv_mc_stevenkovacs1_large.html)
Conservation: Honorable Mention Steve Kovacs Octopus in a Can
Conservation: Honorable Mention Steve Kovacs Fish with Hook in Mouth
Conservation: Honorable Mention: Suzan Meldonian “Spotted Eagle Ray
Conservation: Honorable Mention: Suzan Meldonian Blenny & the Hook

**Ocean Art**
Steve Kovacs: 5 images placed!

Kirk Kilfoyle 4th Place novice dSLR

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**DUES ARE DUE in January**

It’s time to pay your dues for 2011. The annual dues are:
- $35.00 for an individual
- $45.00 for a family
- $20.00 for an “Out of Area” non-participating membership

Send your check, made out to “SFUPS,” to:

Sharon Baron
12710 SW 77th Street
Miami, FL 33183
(Or bring your check to the next meeting)
This is not for points- just for fun.

1st Place Susan Mears

2nd Place Susan Mears

3rd Place Alena Carlini

4th Place Carol Schurtz

5th Place Wayne MacWilliams
WINNERS of the INTRA CLUB CONTEST
Nov: Masters: Commensalism

1st Place: Linda Ianniello
2nd Place: Steve Kovacs
3rd Place: Wayne MacWilliams
4th Place: Judy Townsend
5th Place: Steve Kovacs
WINNERS of the INTRA CLUB CONTEST
Nov: CHALLENGERS: Cleaning Stations

1st Place: Mike Schmale

2nd Place: Fletcher Forbes

3rd Place: Bernd Meier
South Florida Underwater Photography Society Masters List

1992 - Phil Rudin
1993 - Michele Westmorland
1994 - Susan Mears
1995 – Michele Westmorland
1996 - Jeff Hutchinson
1997 - Linda Keiths
1998 - Maggie Martorell
1999 - Carol Schurtz
2000 - Wayne MacWilliams
2001 - Maria Lopez
2002 - Rob Darmanin
2003 - Tom Ferguson
2004 - Steve Kovacs (Film) & Linda Ianniello (1st digital)
2005 - Kelly McDuff, Rob Darmanin(digital)
2006 - Steve Kovacs (tie) Scott McDuff, Susan Mears (digital)
2007 - Suzan Meldonian, (film) Amaury Cruz (digital)
2008 - Rob Myers
2009 - Christopher Guglielmo
2010 - Steve Kovacs
## 2011 INTRA-CLUB PHOTO CONTEST SUBJECTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Masters 2011</th>
<th>Challengers 2011</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>Camouflage</td>
<td>Live Shells - If it crawls like a snail and has a visible hard shell, it’s OK. No seahares, melos, bubbles, sea slugs, bivalve clams or scallops. Shells must be occupied by their original owners - no hermits.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>Wide Angle Open - Wide angle scene of any subject matter. However, save your big fish and buddies for later in the year.</td>
<td>Triggernomics - East coast triggerfish and filefish. Atlantic species only.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>Eggs</td>
<td>Spring Flowers - an underwater composition that resembles a flower or bouquet of flowers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Out of the Darkness - Any subject against a black background. Can be shot in the day or night. Effect should be created in camera, not in the computer.</td>
<td>Green Flash - Subject matter should be primarily green in color.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>Upside Down - shot of an animal in an upside down position. Example: upside down jellyfish, filefish hovering with head pointed down, shrimp or crab hanging from the underside of a cave or ledge, etc. Please don’t just turn your photos over.</td>
<td>Wide Angle Wrecks - Wide angle view of any wreck.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Atlantic Lionfish - Any lionfish shot in Atlantic waters.</td>
<td>Your Best Tail Shot - Everyone has a butt shot, the one that got away.</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>Creative Lighting - Think of using your strobes in a different way. Might try backlighting or side lighting to create interesting shadow effect, snoots, etc.</td>
<td>Transparent - A subject you can see through. For example, a Tunicate, Juvenile fish, a clear Shrimp or jellyfish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Shallow Depth of Field - Most interesting use of limited depth of field to emphasize part of a subject. Only part of the subject (eyes, mouth, face, etc) in focus. This does not mean a sharp subject against a blurry background. Effect should be produced in camera, not in the computer.</td>
<td>Schools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Shooting Down - Best composition using a high viewpoint. We normally shoot at eye level or looking up. Try something different - for example, a wide image looking down on a reef top, curves and patterns of the top of an eel.</td>
<td>Frames - Best composition with a natural element or manmade structure framing your subject at least three sides.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>Little Devil - Evil looking critters, think Halloween.</td>
<td>Shoot your Buddy - Wide Angle shot of another photographer doing his/her thing. Camera must be visible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Big Fish Wide Angle - A wide angle shot including a large fish as the primary subject. Large fish might include goliath groupers, stingrays, barracuda, etc.</td>
<td>Sharks - Any kind, from wide angle to macro.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FUTURE  
INTRA-CLUB  
CONTESTS  

JANUARY  
M - Camouflage  
C - Live Shells  

FEBRUARY  
M - Wide Angle Open  
C - Triggernomics  

MARCH  
M - Eggs  
C - Spring Flowers  

APRIL  
M - Out of Darkness  
C - Green Flash  

MAY  
M - Upside Down  
C - Wide Angle Wrecks  

JUNE  
M - Atlantic Lionfish  
C - Best Tail Shot  

JULY  
M - Creative Lighting  
C - Transparent  

AUGUST  
M - Shallow Depth/field  
C - Schools  

SEPTEMBER  
M - Shooting Down  
C - Frames  

OCTOBER  
M - Little Devil  
C - Shoot your Buddy  

NOVEMBER  
VIDEO DUE  
M - Big Fish Wide Angle  
C - Sharks  

DECEMBER  
HOLIDAY PARTY  

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2011 PHOTO CONTEST RULES

Digital Files:
Realizing that some computer adjustments are necessary for digital files, we ask that only minor adjustments be made in the computer. Only minor cropping, color adjustments, backscatter removal and sharpening are allowed. No extreme computer manipulation, removing items or adding items to the image.

- Images will be submitted prior to the meeting so that they can be compiled for easy viewing and judging.
- Image size should be no greater than 1024 pixels on the long side and the file size should be less than 1.4 megabytes. Images should be submitted in JPEG format.
- Each image file name must include your name, month, category, and number. Use “mastr” for Masters Category and “chall” for Challengers category. For example an image submitted by John Doe for the January Challengers contest would be named: JDoe-JanChall-1.jpeg
- Entries must sent via email to Jim Mears at audiovisual@sfups.org by 12 noon on the Sunday before the meeting.

Once an image has won in any category, it must be retired from further competitions.

Jim will send you a confirming email to let you know he has received the file. Send to audiovisual@sfups.org

If you can’t find your newsletter- you can always check on our website. www.sfups.org

For our new members, winning shots accumulate points throughout the year. Challengers may compete in both Challengers and Masters categories. Only 2 entries per month -per person (except on the day contests). Masters are those who have previously won Photographer of the year, and they may only compete in the Masters categories.

The person with the highest points wins the illustrious title of “Photographer of the Year” and is awarded a beautiful trophy. Please see the website for the point system. Good luck! Bonne chance!
PHOTO CONTESTS

http://www.underwatercompetition.com/Competitions/deep-indonesia.2011
5TH ANNUAL DEEP INDONESIA INTERNATIONAL UNDERWATER PHOTO COMPETITION
HOSTED BY DIVEPHOTOGUIDE & WETPIXEL

** Deadline for submissions Jan 17, 2011 **
The fee to enter is $10 per image. As with all UnderwaterCompetition.com events, 15% of entry proceeds will be donated to marine conservation efforts

2011 Underwater Photo & Video Competitions: Our World Underwater and DEEP Indonesia

The Our World Underwater and DEEP Indonesia photo and video competitions are back again for their 6th anniversary, featuring over $120,000 in prizes of dive resort and live aboard packages, underwater photo and video equipment, and scuba diving gear. Our World Underwater has technical categories such as, Macro Traditional, Macro Unrestricted, Super Macro Traditional, Wide Angle Traditional, Wide Angle Unrestricted, Novice, Commercial, Conceptual & Fashion, Compact: Wide Angle, Compact: Macro, and General and Conservation videos. DEEP Indonesia features seven themed categories, such as Compact Cameras, Divers, Animal Portrait, Animal Behavior, Reefscape, Environment and Conservation, and Indonesia Residents, a category open to Indonesian residents only.

For more information and to submit photos and videos, visit the Our World Underwater, DEEP Indonesia and underwatercompetition.com Web Sites. 15% of entry proceeds will be donated to marine conservation efforts.

Our World Underwater 2011
DEEP Indonesia 2011
underwatercompetition.com Web Site

OCEAN VIEWS - Nature’s Best Photography
There’s still time to enter. The Ocean Views DEADLINE WAS EXTENDED THROUGH THE HOLIDAYS!
Last call to enter or finish up your existing entry by mail or online by 11:59pm Wednesday, January 5th, 2011.
Kirk Kilfoyle was the SFUPS Featured Photographer for December 2010 and Steve Jarocki is the SFUPS Photographer of the Month January 2011.

Visit www.sfups.org to see our galleries.

Your online gallery comes with your paid membership. Take Advantage!

**Parting Shot**

by Kirk Kilfoyle

South Florida Underwater Photography Society

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

SFUPS is a Non-Profit Organization promoting interest in Underwater Photography and general awareness of our ocean’s creatures through photography. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month (January -November) at 7:30 pm at the El Palacio Hotel located at 21485 NW 27th Avenue off the Florida Turnpike, Miami, FL, 33056 305-621-5801 near Calder Raceway.

Annual Dues are $35.00 (individual), $45.00 (family) and $20.00 for “Out of Area” non-participating members. Dues are payable each January. After June 1st, dues are pro-rated to 1/2 of the above for new members only.

A Membership form must be completed, signed and returned along with payment, a copy of your C-Card and dive insurance. Make checks Payable to SFUPS and send to: SFUPS c/o Sharon Baron 12710 SW 77 St., Miami, FL 33183

Membership forms can be found on our website at www.sfups.org and also available at the meetings, or contact Membership@sfups.org.