NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH FLORIDA UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY SOCIETY

Meeting Schedule

Feb 14
Mar 13
Apr 10
May 8
Jun 12
Jul 10
Aug 14
Sep 11
Oct 9
Nov 13
Dec 9
Holiday Party

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

Cover Shot
Craig Dietrich

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!

Presentation:
FRENCH POLYNESIA

with Kirk Kilfoyle

And Tips ‘N Techniques with Linda Ianniello on Lightroom

January Intra Club Contest Winners
Phil Rudin on Wide Angle Primes for Micro Four-Thirds

Members in the News

2012 Intra Club Contest Subjects
Outside contests, Classifieds

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The island nation of French Polynesia is perhaps most well known for its stunning natural beauty and friendly local culture, but quite a bit more is awaiting discovery beneath the waves. From the iconic laid back shores of Bora Bora to the legendary “wall of sharks” that reside off of Tiputa Pass on Rangiroa atoll, stunning photographic opportunities abound for both underwater and topside photographers alike.

French Polynesia is an island nation that is comprised of ~130 islands from 6 island groups, and presents many stunning photographic opportunities for both underwater and topside photographers alike. This presentation will cover some of the diving options in two of the most well known island groups: The Society Islands and the Tuamotus. The Society Islands are the most well known, and include Tahiti, Moorea, Huahine, Raiatea/Tahaa, and Bora Bora. Considered by many to be the inspiration for James A. Michener’s “Bali Hai”, the natural splendor of Bora Bora has made it one of the world’s quintessential tropical icons.

The island is characterized by an extinct volcano surrounded by a shallow turquoise lagoon and an outer fringing reef. Inside the lagoon there are many shallow dive spots, most of which are famous for an abundance of unique marine life, including manta rays. Switching from the inner lagoon to the slopes of the outer fringing reef you are likely to encounter lemon and Blacktip sharks, along with a host of easily approachable tropical fish. Onshore you can expect to find local shopping and dining options, some historical sites from WWII, and a friendly local atmosphere.

The Tuamotu island group consists of 78 islands to the north and east of Tahiti, and is the largest chain of atolls in the world. Largest among these atolls is the island of Rangiroa, which lies 250 miles NE of Bora Bora. Home to a small population of under 3,000 people, it has a distinctly off-the-beaten path feel to it...especially compared to bustling Papeete on Tahiti. The main attraction for divers visiting this remote island is Tiputa Pass, considered by many to be one of the world’s best drift
dives. Many atolls in this region share a common feature, whereby entry to the inner lagoon is restricted to only a few navigable passes that are influenced heavily by the tides. Typically, a dive through Tiputa Pass begins by entering the water from a small boat outside the reef on the incoming tide. The walls of the reef plunge to great depths very near to shore, and as you drift towards the pass the current steadily increases. Nearing the entrance to the pass at below 100' will put you face to face with the famous “wall of sharks”. Over 200 grey reef sharks routinely hold court at an array of cleaning stations along the entrance to the pass and will gracefully part to make way for the passage of a small group of divers. Once in the mouth of the pass, the bottom rises steadily and the current increases even more dramatically. The thrill of rushing past the reef at speeds approaching 3-5 knots is hard to describe, and at the end of the dive you are gently expelled into the inner lagoon and picked up by the waiting dive boat. But those who are slightly less adventurous are not out of luck. If you hug the walls of the pass the current is much more manageable, and the beautiful fringing reef is worth spending as much time on as the deeper, sharkier parts of the pass. Each and every dive was dramatic and memorable - on our very first dive we saw 5 species of sharks (grey reef, whitetip, blacktip, great hammerhead, and nurse), a pod of dolphins, several eagle rays, Napoleon wrasse, turtles, and myriad reef fishes.

Even though our trip to Rangiroa only lasted a few days, it left a lasting impression and I can think of few places that I would rather visit again. The island is virtually unspoiled. There is only 1 large resort, but it is very low-key and unobtrusive. Most visitors stay in one of several small quaint hotels or hostels in the main villages of Avotoru and Tiputa. Souvenir shops are virtually nonexistent, and the night life is centered on watching the stars come out and looking forward to the next day’s diving adventure. There are only 3-4 dive shops on the island, and even though divers have been coming to Rangiroa for many years, the island’s remoteness has allowed it to retained its rustic charm and back-of-beyond character. There are no cattle boats here. The neighboring atolls of Tikehau and Fakarava have similar diving opportunities and reportedly even greater sights to behold, but they are even further removed from society and so far have remained on the frontier of the mainstream diving community. Other diving opportunities in the area include diving with Humpback Whales in Rurutu and Moorea (July – October). Our trip to Rangiroa was in July, but our next trip will be in sometime between December and February. During those months the tidal passes are filled with huge schools of eagle rays, which in turn attract large numbers of hammerhead and tiger sharks. If small macro critters are your thing, you may be better off visiting PNG or Indonesia. But if reliably consistent close encounters with wide angle pelagic subjects turn you on, then French Polynesia is hard to beat!

Kirk Kilfoyle, M.S.
A little about our speaker . . .

Kirk Kilfoyle is a PhD student and full time research assistant at the Nova Southeastern University Oceano-graphic Center and the National Coral Reef Institute in Dania Beach. His research deals with monitoring reef fish populations on natural and artificial reefs throughout South Florida and the greater Caribbean, water quality sampling from Dade to Martin County, and various coral reef restoration techniques. An active club member since 2007 and now a Director at Large on the SFUPS board, he is fortunate in that his various research activities have meshed well with his growing passion for underwater photography. His photos have been featured on numerous websites, in displays in public aquaria, included in textbooks and scientific publications, and have performed well in various local and international contests. While favoring wide angle subjects, he enjoys being able to find worthwhile photographic opportunities on virtually every dive.

NEW MEMBER ALERT!

Dean Pasko
Craig Dietrich

Welcome Back Carol Cox

DUES ARE DUE

It’s time to pay your dues for 2012. The annual dues are:

$35.00 for an individual
$45.00 for a family
$20.00 for an “Out of the Area” non-participating membership

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

Sharon Baron
12710 SW 77 Street
Miami, Florida 33183

(Or, bring your check to the next meeting)

DAN Insurance Updates are also needed.

In order to participate in club dives it is important that all members update their proof of Dan insurance every year . . . so now is the best time to provide copies of your current Dan card with your renewal. Send to Sharon Baron.
I had a chance to shoot two wide angle lenses with the Olympus E-PL3 camera and Nauticam NA-EPL3 housing while diving with Splash Dive Center (splashbelize.com) in Placencia, Belize. I spent several days diving in the Silk Keys after the November 2011 DEMA show.

My Nauticam NA-EPL3 housing was equipped with the Nauticam 4.33 inch dome port which I used with the Panasonic 8mm F/3.5 fisheye and the Olympus 12mm F/2.0. I found both lenses to be very sharp behind the dome with little corner softness. Both lenses focuses very close (to the dome port) which allowed me to get within inches of the Lion fish below.

The 12mm is a great lens for fish portraits and larger animals like the Loggerhead turtle feeding on lobster remains which had been dumped near the keys by local fishermen. I also took some split shots during lunch on one of the local keys. The smaller dome and 12mm lens combo set at F-22 using ISO-200 gave me a shutter speed of 1/160th in the bright mid-day sun light. The other 12mm images were also exposed at ISO-200 and 1/160th in a range from F/7.1 to F/9 using two Inon Z-240 strobes for fill lighting.

The Panasonic 8mm fisheye lens is very well suited to underwater photography but requires time to master due to the wide angle of view. When I started using fisheye lenses underwater I ended up with my fins, strobe heads, strobe cords, diver parts and more in the frame. Fisheye lenses because they are so wide often include the sun particularly when shot vertical. This can cause the sun to burn a hole in the image as in the upper right corner of the gorgonian image below. With the Jelly fish shot I put the sun to my back to avoid the problem and with the vase sponge I got low and close putting the sun behind the sponge. Fisheye lenses also distort objects with straight lines like wreckage, large animals and more. Because the lens is so wide it may fool the auto focus system as well. See in the photo below how the lens in auto focus chose to focus on the water drops on the surface of the dome port (yes, that is how close the lens will focus) rather than the much larger boat.
Linda will do a brief presentation about Lightroom keywords, explaining how to create them, how to assign them to images, and how useful they are to manage a large number of images. She will show how she uses them in her workflow as images are being imported into Lightroom.

**Tips ‘N Techniques**

Presented by Linda Ianniello


**Members in the News**

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<th>Name</th>
<th>Medal</th>
<th>Category</th>
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<td>Gold</td>
<td>Super Macro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suzan Meldonian</td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>Macro Not Swimming</td>
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<td>Suzan Meldonian</td>
<td>Runner</td>
<td>Macro Close Up</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ben Joubert</td>
<td>Runner</td>
<td>Topside Photography</td>
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To see the winning images and other great photos... go to:


**FOR SALE:**

Mares AirTrim BCD.
Truly in great condition.
Size M. $100
Contact: Rich Ladisky
ASAP at 561-395-8942
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<th>Month</th>
<th>Masters</th>
<th>Challengers</th>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td><strong>Fish Faces</strong> - close portrait of a fish face.</td>
<td><strong>Mating and Courting</strong> - mating and courting behavior of any underwater animal, NOT the results of mating activity like the jawfish with eggs in mouth.</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td><strong>The Cleaners</strong> - Best cleaning station.</td>
<td><strong>Beautiful Butterflies</strong> - butterfly fish from around the world.</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>Patterns</td>
<td><strong>That's Funny</strong> - A humorous image. Can include a diver.</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td><strong>W/A featuring a model</strong> - Wide angle image must have another diver(s) in the image. Diver can be close or in the distance.</td>
<td><strong>Turtles</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td><strong>Dinner Time</strong> - A predator catching and/or eating its prey.</td>
<td><strong>Rainbow Reefs</strong> - Wide Angle reef scene with many colors.</td>
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<td>Special June Contest</td>
<td><strong>Creative</strong> - Open to everyone. Maximum two entries in this contest in addition to the regular June Categories listed above. Computer manipulated, creative images. Anything goes. (No points for this one, just for fun)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td><strong>Super Macro (less than 1:1)</strong> - An image showing the details of the macro world. Must use a macro lens and diopters or teleconverters. Super macro image shot in camera, not super cropped in the computer.</td>
<td><strong>Spots and Dots</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td><strong>W/A featuring hard corals</strong> - Hard corals are the predominant foreground subject matter.</td>
<td><strong>Crabs</strong></td>
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<td>September</td>
<td><strong>Panning</strong> - Use a panning technique to show motion. Main subject, especially eyes and face should be sharp while background is streaked or blurred showing motion.</td>
<td><strong>Close Focus W/A</strong> - making a small subject look big compared to surroundings and background by using a wide angle lens very close to the main subject.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td><strong>The color Orange</strong></td>
<td><strong>Shadows</strong> - best use of side lighting and shadows for an interesting composition and image.</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td><strong>Scorpionfish</strong></td>
<td><strong>Eye Eye!</strong> - Beautiful or interesting eyes. Animals eyes are the main focus of the image.</td>
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Winners JAN Intra Club Contest
Masters; SHRIMP

1st Place: Wayne MacWilliams

2nd Place: Steve Kovacs

3rd Place: Chris Gug

4th Place: Susan Mears

5th Place: Lureen Feretti
Winners Jan Intra Club Contest
Challengers: Flounder

1st Place: Tony Barros

2nd Place: Anne DuPont

3rd Place: Judy Townsend

4th Place: Dan Rios

5th Place: Jonathan Lavan
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 1400 pixels on the long side in order to be displayed properly by our new HD digital projector. 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!

FUTURE INTRA-CLUB CONTESTS

FEBRUARY
M -Fish Faces
C - Mating-Courting

MARCH
M -The Cleaners
C - Butterfly fish

APRIL
M - Patterns
C - That’s Funny

MAY
M -W/A w-Model
C -Turtles

JUNE
M -Dinner Time
C -Rainbow Reefs w/a

JULY
M - Super Macro
C -Spots & Dots

AUGUST
M -W/A Hard Corals
C -Crabs

SEPTEMBER
M -Panning
C -Close Focus
W/A

OCTOBER
M - The Color Orange
C -Shadows

NOVEMBER
M -Scorpionfish
C -Eye Eye

DECEMBER
HOLIDAY PARTY

http://www.force-e.com
GET READY!
The 2012 Windland Awards will open for entry
We are now working on the awards exhibition design featuring the category winners and selected highly honored images from the 2011 competition.

CALL FOR ENTRIES

2012 Windland Awards is open now!

Take your images on a journey from the wild to the walls of the Smithsonian! CLICK HERE http://www.naturesbestphotography.com/
The editors of Nature’s Best Photography magazine invite all photographers to enter the 2012 Nature’s Best Photography Windland Smith Rice International Awards competition.
Category Winners and a selection of Highly Honored photographs will be displayed in an exhibition at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History, one of the most widely respected and highly visited museums in the world. In addition, all winning images will be published in the Fall/Winter 2012 Awards special Collector’s Edition of Nature’s Best Photography magazine.
Entries are judged on technical quality, originality, and artistic merit. Enter a TOTAL of up to 20 images for one entry fee ($25 US dollars no foreign checks). Each submission must follow the guidelines.

For sale:
Spyder 3 PRO monitor calibrator almost new $100.00
Easy to use and nicely calibrates your monitor colors.
Sharon Baron
305-775-7092

Outside Contests

Just a month left to enter!
Submit your best pictures to Veolia Environnement Wildlife Photographer of the Year and take part in the world’s most prestigious photography competition.

Where the power of the image and its integrity take precedence
Where technique and artistry meld with patience and ingenuity
And where the natural world is brought into exquisite focus

Enter online now
Deadline for entries: 23 February 2012 (23.59 GMT)

There is not better way to learn underwater photography than by practicing in the field under the tutelage of a seasoned pro. To really improve, we need all need help from others, so why not get it from the best? That’s why DPG is proud to announce that professional underwater photographer Keri Wilk will be running an underwater photography workshop this May to Fiji.

Fiji, known as the soft coral capital of the world, is an underwater photographers playground -- especially for wide angle photography. More over, the clear waters of Fiji are the perfect place for refining your photography skills. We will be on board the Nai’a, a luxury live aboard that has been in Fiji for decades, diving some of the most diverse and pristine coral reefs in the world.

Keri will be there to provide one on one assistance with all areas of your photography:

• Strobe positioning
• Basic exposure settings
• Getting great blue water
• Post processing and editing

While the focus will be on wide-angle, Keri will also be there to assist on the macro and all of the creative techniques that he has become famous for, like snoots, super macro, self modeling, abstracts and reflections.

Space is very limited, so please inquire immediately if you are interested in this unique workshop. Feel free to reply to this email with any questions!

Where: Fiji
When: May 12-22 2012
Price: $4607

http://www.divephotoguide.com/
Parting Shot by Craig Dietrich

Craig is the SFUPS Featured Photographer for February 2012

Visit www.sfups.org to see our galleries

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