www.sfups.org

NEXT MEETING:
Tues. Mar 13, 2012

Meeting Schedule

Mar 13
Apr 10
May 8 Video!
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
Fletcher Forbes

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:
THE MEXICAN YUCATAN with Fletcher Forbes

And Tips ‘N Techniques with Tony Barros on Workflow using Photoshop
February Intra Club Contest Winners
Results/TIPS on “How do you Travel”
2012 Intra Club Contest Subjects
Outside contests, Classifieds

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Presentation:

THE MEXICAN YUCATAN:
The Ultimate Caribbean Dive Vacation!

After several years of diving the South Pacific oceans, last July, John and I scheduled an easy, close to home dive vacation. We “knew” the diving and photo opportunities wouldn’t be as wonderful as the Philippines, West Papua, or Indonesia. Not as exotic, not as cool. But the Mexican Yucatan is easy to get to… one quick flight into Cancun or Cozumel, and pretty inexpensive diving and lodging. Why not!!

We did our homework on the internet of course, and decided to dive some of the many cenotes along the Riviera Maya. I am cave certified and John is not. He thought he would quickly get bored standing around a cave entrance, taking video of rocks; so he planned to leave the cenotes to me and schedule ocean dives for himself.

OK, we had that planned out. What else can we do in that area?

Hmmmm. Could we hop on a boat that would take us to where whale sharks had been sited the year before? We contacted one outfit that we had read about. They were fully booked with charters during July, but were nice enough to tell us who had chartered the boat: our friend, Jimmy Abernethy! What luck!

Not to give away too much of the presentation, after the first cenote dive, John cancelled all his ocean dives. We both dove eight different cenotes in all, and each was more fascinating than the one before.

And after searching for the elusive whale shark for over fifteen years, we hit the mother lode…. We swam with over one hundred in one sunny summer Yucatan morning. We literally couldn’t get out of their way.

We were prepared to be underwhelmed. What we saw and experienced knocked our fins off! Fabulous! Unique! Once in a lifetime! And right in our own backyard!

Fletcher

http://fletcherforbes.com
This is my system (from Fletcher Forbes):

Carry-on luggage (2 pieces):
My dive trip carry-ons, no matter where I go, are a Thinktank international size rollaboard plus a Lowepro back pack.

The Thinktank carries:
Subal housing for a Nikon D700 (with 45 degree viewfinder)
Subal arms, unconnected
8" domeport
4" domeport
flatport for 60mm lens + 105 mm extender
spare D200 camera body (for topside) NOT in housing (made that mistake only once, sheared a pin inside the housing).
2 Inon 240's
portable external hard-drive
Gallileo dive computer in case
Sola 600 Light
Macbook Air in the outside slip

I carry on my dive camera (Nikon D700) with 5 lenses and SB800 speedlight in a Lowepro backpack. The front zip of the Lowepro is for Kindle, iPhone, very small flat purse with passport, tickets, credit cards (plus C card), money etc., and lipstick.

Checked luggage: (2 pieces)
Stahlsack wheelie holds the dive gear plus wetsuits (or drysuit) plus clothes. It weighs about 48 lbs. I use full foot fins unless drysuit diving. Saves weight.

Second piece of checked luggage is an AO Cooler bag, 36 pack size. It holds batteries, extension arms, another port extender, synch cords, surge protector, spare parts, Martin Edge’s book, D700 manual. It weighs about 28 lbs. After we arrive and the housing is set up, the cooler is where the housed camera stays unless it is in the water. The cooler is its safe home, can even act as a rinse tank.

I put big luggage straps around both pieces. Sometimes I lock them, sometimes not. The TSA locks are worthless IMHO. Going out of LAX, I wait for TSA to inspect the checked bags then ask them to put Master locks on them, which I hand them.

Everything that I value, including husband John, goes on board with me, and has on every flight including puddle jumpers. Using the 20” International size instead of the American 22” length is a lot more acceptable to the airlines. I highly recommend the ThinkTank International. This works for me, hope it helps someone else! Fletcher
How do you travel?  CARRY ON RECOMMENDATIONS

Arrive 3 hours early at the airport for international travel (not kidding!!!)

Carry-on: What do you recommend taking in your carry-on luggage?
- Carry on: Bodies, lenses, laptop, hard drives, prescription meds, and a bathing suit if heading to a warm climate.
- I use an overhead wheeled bag and multi chambered back pack.
- Carry ALL camera gear in a wheeled carryon, even if it weighs 100 lbs, computer, prescription dive mask,
- Carry on basic setup with housing, 1 w/a port, 1 macro port, camera, 1 w/a zoom and 1 macro lens, 2 strobes, 2 ext. HD, laptop, extra cards, dive computer, my camera/housing tool box, swim suit, couple t-shirts/shorts to wrap ports with and as back up clothes-in case.
- A day CompuPack that carries laptop, camera bodies and the few lenses for UW photo. I bought it on Best Buy about $80.00. My prescription mask in its case goes inside in the upper compartment.

Basically-if your dive bag or clothes are lost or delayed, you can rent dive gear from resort until your belongings arrive or not

On the return trip I keep computer, HD’s, camera, 1 zoom lens and basically replace heavier weight with lighter clothes

Remember everything that you feel has value should be insured -Wayne MacWilliams
I always carry-on Mix and match Separates that go together. Hand washables so that you can take less. I only check dive equipment because I must. I usually carry my regulator.

- Regular Carry on sized “was old” suitcase padded with foam (old insert from pelican cases) This is for the housing, strobes with arms, ports, strobe cables and charger. The ports fit inside of the lens case of my (80-400mm lens) which it also goes in this suitcase too.

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.
How do you travel?

- If possible or practical fly airlines where you have an elite membership or status. Oftentimes they have weight restriction rules for regular passengers and more lenient rules with higher weight limits for elite members free of additional fees or for less than the average passenger would pay.

- Normal carry-on restrictions allow for a personal bag and one carry-on. Take along a compact shoulder/backpack camera bag which doubles as your personal bag streamlined to fit the majority of your camera gear while still leaving plenty of room for other dive equipment and clothing/personal toiletries in your carry-on. Mostly appropriate for men, but may also be applicable to women who can pack a small purse in their carry-on or combine the contents into the shoulder/backpack camera bag.

- Take a visibly dated photo of all camera gear documented before your trip in the event of loss/theft throughout the duration of your trip for insurance purposes.

- Leave your expensive and oftentimes heavy laptop at home and try substituting with a $200 miniature Netbook for your trip alongside a pocket-size external hard drive for transferring photos. This also means to leave all the post-processing photo-editing work for your return as it’s not crucial to do this while abroad.

- Carry along light weight tools appropriate for your gear purchased at the dollar store or from the $5 or less specials at your local hardware store as they are easily replaceable. Emphasis is on a single-trip use or for giving them away to the local dive operator who in most remote locales would greatly appreciate the gesture.

- If practical, take along your secondary camera body/point-and-shoot and dedicate it to top-side photography. There is nothing worse than to have a camera malfunction or problem arise with your main underwater camera on your first day because you were anxious to take pictures of the local flora and fauna that later prohibited you from using underwater through the duration of your trip. Make it a mantra not to use your underwater camera for anything other than underwater use.

- Zip ties and Zip-lock baggies are your best friend and always take them along as they pose no real issue with added weight.

- Never get your underwater camera or dive gear serviced before a trip; do it after the trip if you have the luxury. Oftentimes as a preparatory point we try to get things serviced for optimal use before a trip even though there may not be a need and are disappointed to find your gear may not work as expected for any number of reasons. If it worked before, just test it again and do not invite any unknown opportunities for failure like having others inspect/maintain your gear.

Suggestions from Sam Hodge

WE NEED YOUR VIDEO!

All SFUPS videographers are asked to start putting together their new clips for submission for our May Presentation. Folks, we love this segment each year, because we get a chance to see some amazing behavior in action and enjoy the thrills. Please contact Jim Mears (audiovisual@sfups.org) if you can commit to producing a 5 to 10 minute edited video of your new work. Details of the exact time limit will depend on the number of people participating and will be determined later. Right now we need to get a count of members willing to show off their work.

The best shows are planned out well in advance. Please do not wait til the last minute.
FOR SALE:
Mares AirTrim BCD.
Truly in great condition.
Size M. $100
Contact: Rich Ladisky
ASAP at 561-395-8942

Hear Ye!
Hear Ye!

Classifieds

FOR SALE

Subal ND 30 Housing for Nikon D 300 $2700 comes with a magnifying 3x straight viewfinder.
Nikon D-300 $800 1 card 2 batteries charger original box and all paperwork

Nikon lenses
105mm 2.8  have box and paperwork $750
35mm 1.8 $150
11-16mm 2.8 $550

Also Nikon sb-900 speedlight flash $400

All are in great shape with boxes and paperwork.

George Ordenes
305-812-6722
rentownrealty@hotmail.com

FOR SALE:
Mares AirTrim BCD.
Truly in great condition.
Size M. $100
Contact: Rich Ladisky
ASAP at 561-395-8942

Members in the News

Richard Ladisky will be presenting at Beneath the Sea again this year in N.J in March.
3 seminars:

1. Philippines: Above and Below
2. Ten Tips on Better Underwater Photography
3. Macro Photography Underwater

The full brochure may be found at:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Masters</th>
<th>Challengers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<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><strong>Patterns</strong></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>
</tr>
<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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<tr>
<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</strong> (less than 1:1) - 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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<tr>
<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>
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<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>
</tr>
<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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http://www.reefphoto.com
Winners FEB Intra Club Contest
Masters: FISH FACES

1st Place: Steve Kovacs

2nd Place: Judy Townsend

3rd Place: Sharon Baron

4th Place: Amaury Cruz

5th Place: Suzan Meldonian
Winners FEB Intra Club Contest
Challengers: Mating & Courting

1st Place: Lureen Ferretti

2nd Place: Tony Barros

3rd Place: Patrice Marker

4th Place: Kirk Kilfoyle

5th Place: Mark Widick
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!

http://www.force-e.com
GET READY!
The 2012 Windland Awards will open for entry January 1 - May 7, 2012.

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.

Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Sciences
RSMAS UNDERWATER PHOTO CONTEST
MARCH 35th DEADLINE

http://www.rsmas.miami.edu/outreach/underwater-photography/contest-rules/
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 Fletcher Forbes

Fletcher is the SFUPS Featured Photographer for March 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