From the portfolio of Featured Photographer Sam Hodge

Also in this edition:

Club Members in the news, upcoming contests, classifieds, monthly contest winners, featured photographer Sam Hodge, pics from the 2012 Christmas Party courtesy of Tilda Jarocki, and much, much more!

January Guest speaker Chris Gug presents “Splitsville”- tips and techniques to capture the split shot, also known as over/under shots (Think October Masters Contest) Join Gug for this presentation on Tuesday Jan 8th.
SFUPS 2013
Meeting Schedule

Next meeting Jan 8 @ 7pm

February 12
March 12
April 9
May 14
June 11
July 9
August 13
September 10
October 8
November 12
December Holiday Party TBA

Meeting Location
El Palacio Hotel
21485 N.W. 27th Ave.
Miami, FL  33056
305-621-5801
www.sfups.org

Welcome New Board Members
Sam Hodge– President

Suzanne Bushnell– Newsletter Editor

Mark Widick– Membership

2013 SFUPS Board of Directors

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Secretary– Carol Schurtz
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### Masters November Winners

**Scorpionfish**

- **Steve Kovacs** 1st Place
- **Susan Mears** 2nd Place
- **Chris Gug** 3rd Place
- **Suzann Meldonian** 4th Place
- **Tony Barros** 5th Place

### Challengers November Winners

**Eye Eye**

- **Mena Olds** 1st Place
- **Mena Olds** 2nd Place
- **Ann Dupont** 3rd Place
- **Judy Townsend** 4th Place
- **Kirk Kilfoyle** 5th Place
January Featured Photographer Sam Hodge

Sam Hodge is the new president of SFUPS. It is only fitting then, to showcase Sam as this month’s featured photographer. Sam’s love of the ocean is evident in his amazing work.

I am married and have a darling little 4-year old whom has accompanied me to several of the monthly Club meetings. My family and I moved to Florida from California in 2004 to be closer to the tropical climates we enjoyed when growing up. Having been born in Belize, Central America this is where my love for the ocean began. It’s also where my passion for photography eventually grew into an outlet for creativity as I enjoyed the unique lighting scenes in tropical jungles.

In the late 80’s I moved to California and I purchased a pair of Canon A-1 35mm SLR’s for topside photography. It’s also where I took a more sincere interest in surf photography. Unfortunately I flooded one of my A-1’s with a rather good attempt in building my own housing so later migrated to a Minolta hand-held 35mm system. However, years later I hung up my swim fins when I moved to the cold waters of Northern California as well as an early morning encounter with a shark in the murky waters of Santa Cruz. In 2001 I migrated from 35mm to a Canon G2 digital camera and never looked back at 35mm imagery again. Later when I moved to Florida I upgraded to a Canon D60 (not the Canon 60D) where I purchased a rather bulky Sea&Sea housing (still have my old ports if anyone is interested in parts 😊). However, I took an extended hiatus from the Florida waters and again pursued photography in 2009. I presently shoot with a Canon 7D in a Nauticam housing with Sea&Sea strobes.

My pursuit that I share with our Club members is achieving excellence in underwater photography. As you glance through these series of images I hope to impress upon the viewer that excellence in underwater photography can take shape in virtually any body of water. Whether drifting out in the open ocean miles ashore with an uprooted palm tree or photographing toads and the neighbor’s kids in my side yard after a heavy rainfall, exceptional underwater/split shots can be taken in very creative scenarios for those dedicated enough to experiment. I enjoy talking about underwater photography so if you enjoyed the photos or would like to talk shop please don’t hesitate to contact me – sam@sea2020.com.
January Speaker Chris Gug

“Splitsville”

Tips and Techniques for Shooting the “Split Shot”

Chris Gug, or just Gug for short, is a local, professional underwater photographer with numerous awards, magazine articles, and magazine covers to his credit. Gug’s images have been displayed in museums throughout the world. His flagship art gallery in Fort Lauderdale showcases his pieces, which are being collected by art enthusiasts from all corners of the globe. Gug has been diving with a camera in his hand since the age of 15. He is an excellent teacher and enjoys sharing his techniques, inspirations and creative processes with new underwater photographers. As January’s featured speaker, Gug will explain some of the tips and tricks he uses to capture “split shots”, also known as “over/under” shots. This type of image gives non divers a glimpse into the magic of the ocean and are considered a must have by many underwater photographers. Join Gug at the next SFUPS meeting on Tuesday, January 8th to learn more about capturing these images.

www.GugUnderwater.com
Many of you have heard about the whale shark sightings happening recently on local dive boats. This first hand account comes from Nelson Chirillo. Thanks for the great pic and awesome story.

“It was a Saturday morning trip on Narcosis. We were just outside the PB inlet. I was finishing up my second dive, and as I got vertical to start ascending, I saw a few cobia flash by my mask. I had just killed a lion fish so I figured a shark had snuck up on me. I turned slowly and noticed the 13 ft whaleshark swimming 2 feet above me, lol. I immediately got the camera rolling and got the attention of another diver. I swam around with the shark for about 5 minutes. She was cool and curious. The shark had previously been unidentified, but via pictures sent in to whaleshark.org...She is now tagged as USA-003...It truly was an amazing experience.” Nelson Chirillo

Other News

A conservative legal group are asking the federal government to strip the manatee of its endangered status. To read the full article: http://www.wtsp.com/news/article/287249/19/Legal-group-challenges-manatees-endangered-status

Club Members In The News


Richard Ladisky’s gallery is on display at the Spanish River Library in Boca Raton


Chris Gug has 2 images on page 27 of Scuba Diving Magazine’s Nov/Dec issue

Congratulations to Mena Olds– Overall Winner and Matt Potenski– 2nd Place Wide Angle in the 2012 RSMAS Photo Contest


Congratulations to Steve Kovacs– HM Advanced Wide Angle, Judy Townsend– HM Advanced Macro and Mena Olds– HM Novice Macro in the NCUPS Sea International Contest.


Got News? Send it to Suzanne at newsletter@sfups.org to be published in the next newsletter.
Announcements

Call for entries– The Wild Blue Photo Competition-Deadline for entries January 31, 2013. This contest offers prizes worth $5000.
For more info: http://www.thebluewild.com/photovideocontest.htm

SFUPS dues are due in January– Individual $35 and Family $45 Questions? Email Mark at membership@sfups.org Membership has many benefits– including showcasing photographers images in the online gallery, tips and tricks from area pros and good times!

Please mail payments to Mark Widick, 898 Forsyth Street, Boca Raton, FL 33487 or bring your check to the January meeting. Make checks payable to SFUPS.

All members please read the new amendment to the SFUPS by-laws -

The Blue Wild Expo has donated a booth to SFUPS to showcase and sell members photos. The expo is February 23 and 24. SFUPS will be allowed to set up on Friday Feb. 22 from 5pm until 11pm. Show hours are Saturday 11:30am until 6pm and Sunday 10am until 5pm and breakdown from 6pm until 9pm. Members who are interested in volunteering to work the booth and showcase their photos please email Suzanne at newsletter@sfups.org. For more info: http://www.thewildblue.com

Gug Underwater Gallery will be hosting an event on Saturday March 2, 2013 to benefit Shark Savers. All donations at the door and a portion of sales for the evening will go to Shark Savers. For more information about the Shark Savers Foundation go to http://www.sharksavers.org. For more information about this event contact Suzanne at miami@gugunderwater.com.

Looking for something fun to do with the family– Check out the IMAX 3D “The Last Reef”. This IMAX presentation is a stunning underwater journey suitable for all ages. For more info: http://www.mods.org/IMAX/lastreef.htm
Congratulations

Steve Kovacs
2012 Photographer of the Year

Wayne MacWilliams
2nd Place Masters Division

Tony Barros
2012 Best Challenger (tie)

Judy Townsend
2012 Best Challenger (tie)

Sam Hodge
2nd Place Challengers Division
Classifieds

FS: Nikon D700 body and Subal ND700 housing. Housing has 45\(^\circ\) magnifying viewfinder. The viewfinder retails for $1300. Very gently used and never flooded, original box and all papers for camera included along with synch cords and 77mm zoom gear. If interested, contact Fletcher Forbes—my email is jandfforbes@cox.net

FS: 2005 Grady-White 228 boat with Yamaha 225 hp 4-stroke outboard. This boat is set up for diving. It is the walk-around model with cuddy-cabin, 49 sf of back deck space, tank racks, and camera rinse tank! Can handle 5 divers. Fresh water shower on the stern, sink and port-a-potty (never used). Motor has only 138 hours. Really. If interested, contact Fletcher Forbes—our email is jandfforber@cox.net

To place an ad in the classifieds send an email with information about the item to newsletter@sfups.org and it will be included in the next months newsletter.

Hey SFUPS members! Got ideas about how to make SFUPS even better? Let the board know what you think. SFUPS is always looking for new members, new ideas, and new places to dive. Keep the board informed of your thoughts and always bring a friend to meetings and dive trips!
Contest Calendar

Environmental Photographer of the Year-Entry Deadline 5pm Jan 7, 2013
http://www.parkerharris.co.uk/competition/EPOTY-2012#general_info

The Blue Wild Photo Contest- Entry Deadline Jan 31, 2013
http://www.thebluewild.com/photovideocontest.htm

Deep Indonesia 2013- Entry Deadline  Feb 9, 2013
http://wwwUNDERWATERCOMPETITION.com/Competitions/deep-indonesia-2013

Our World Underwater- Entry Deadline Jan 18, 2013
http://wwwUNDERWATERCOMPETITION.com/Competitions/our-world-underwater-2013

Spirit of Place Photo Contest- Entry Deadline Feb 1, 2013
http://www.mainemedia.edu/contest/photoadult

Dive Photo Guide Monthly Contest- This month’s contest- Macro
http://www.divephotoguide.com/monthly-underwater-photography-contest/

SFUPS Monthly Contest January

Masters
Odd Couples
2 fish or creatures (not humans) together that
are not a normal association. No shrimp & goby,
anemone & clownfish, cleaning stations, etc.

Challengers
Atlantic Spadefish
Subjects will get harder so take
advantage of this easy subject!
Thanks to the 2012 SFUPS Board

SFUPS would like to thank Steve Jarocki for his tireless efforts as president of SFUPS in 2012. Good luck in your future endeavors.

SFUPS would also like to thank retiring board members Sharon Baron, Kirk Kilfoyle, and Rob Myers for their time and effort as board members in 2012. Thanks for all your hard work.

Thanks to our sponsors

All images in this newsletter are the property of the photographer. All images are copyright protected and cannot be used without the written consent of the photographer. For information on how to contact the photographer, email Suzanne at newsletter@sfups.org
In Memoriam— Piers van der Walt

This photo was taken by Piers van der Walt, the captain of the Turks and Caicos Aggressor II. Many in this club were lucky enough to have known him and spent time with him on his boat in the Silver Bank of the Dominican Republic and in the Turks and Caicos. Piers was a great photographer, a true legend of diving, a defender of the ocean and a friend to all who knew him. He was taken much too soon and he will be greatly missed.