

SEA 2009 RULES AND REGULATIONS

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY:

SEA 2009 is open to all amateur photographers and/or videographers. Industry professionals, including those who teach underwater photography and photo trip leaders are not eligible for the SEA competition. Previous SEA Competition 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:

A Video Snapshot class has been added with entries to consist of one unedited clip running from 10 to 30 seconds. See further description below.

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 (over-under 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. The judges and/or competition officials reserve the right to request original images from entrants for review. If an original image is requested for review, the entrant has 2 weeks to comply or the entry may be disqualified.

DEADLINE: Entries must be RECEIVED by October 9, 2009. Please, if mailing, mail your entries early enough to be received by the deadline.

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 excepting Creative. NCUPS reserves the right to separate classes (creative, video, print) 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.**

In the event that an award winning entry is later found to have violated any rule, it will be disqualified, and the competition officials reserve the right to recall prizes or request reimbursement of fair market value if a non-refundable prize.

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 one skill level in the print class.

Video Entries:

- 1 Classic Video entries should be between one and two minutes long with a maximum length of two (2) minutes. At least 80% of footage, exclusive of titles and credits (do not put your name in the credits) must have been filmed underwater.
- 2 Video Snapshot entries should be between 10 and 30 seconds in length, and must be unedited continuous clip with no music, text or voice effects allowed and must have been filmed completely underwater.
- 3 No pool, aquarium or pole-cam shots are allowed.
- 4 The entrant is responsible for any copyright liabilities with regard to music and title formats.
- 5 An entrant may enter both the Video Classic and Video Snapshot categories.
- 6 DVD format only will be accepted.
- 7 The same DVD can contain both classic video entries and video snapshot entries for the same entrant. However, please add a DVD menu that clearly shows there are two (or more) entries on the DVD.
- 8 Please put two second black slugs on either side of your video entries, and a two second title slug before each entry.
- 9 Label each physical DVD with the entrant's name and title(s) of video entries.
- 10 There will be one skill level in video classes.

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.

SKILL LEVELS:

There will be novice and advanced skill levels in the digital categories and one skill level in the video, print and creative categories.

Novice: Any amateur photographer who has been taking underwater photographs for two years or less, and has not won more than two (2) 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". In the Macro category a certain feature or part of the subject takes up most or all of the frame. Macro images are useful for showing detail. Extreme Macro is allowed in this category. Extreme macro would be used to show extreme detail such as an image of an eye filling the frame or to show an extremely small creature such as a pygmy seahorse or skeleton shrimp.

W-A: Images where a full frame image has a minimum life size of 8 x 5". This category will show a wide shot of an entire scene, placing the subject(s) in their environment. The point of the image is to show the subject in its surroundings.

California Underwater: Any image that was taken in the California state waters. Fresh water images taken in the state of California are allowed.

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. Print entries should be an image that one would like to see displayed on a wall. Print entries will be judged on subject, print and paper quality, and quality of mounting and matting.

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.

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

VIDEO:

Video entries will be judged on filmmaking ability, originality, creativity and entertainment value. Please see entry specifications above.

Classic: Any qualifying short subject, between one and two minutes in length. The primary objective of this

category is to tell a clear story using edited video clips together with music and/or voice and/or text. At least 80% of the footage, exclusive of titles and credits (do not put your name in the credits) must have been filmed underwater. Special effects are allowed.

Snapshot: A video snapshot is one unedited continuous segment shot by the entrant and is a video at least ten (10) seconds but no more than thirty (30) seconds in length. It must be taken 100% underwater. Adding titles, music or sound effects will disqualify the entry. White balancing is encouraged.

HOW TO ENTER:

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 on CD or DVD, and video(s) on DVD, and/or prints, with completed entry form, paying with either PayPal or personal check (U.S. only). This is our second 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. Entries will be accepted at the September and October 2009 NCUPS Membership Meetings, see www.ncups.org for meeting information.

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 2009
c/o KATHY MENDES
952 DESERT ISLE DRIVE
SAN JOSE, CA 95117 USA
4. Although every attempt will be made to confirm receipt of your entry mailed entries may not receive a confirmation that they have been received until after the October 9, 2009 deadline date. If you do not receive a confirmation please contact SEA@NCUPS.ORG.