

SATURDAY SEMINARS

Room numbers and times are subject to change

SEASIDE 1

SEASIDE 3

SEASIDE 7

11AM - 12PM

DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF

Presented by Andy Sallmon and Allison Vitsky Sallmon
How do I get a black background versus a blue one? When do I need more magnification (and when is it unnecessary)? And what's with all the different lenses? This seminar on underwater macro photography will address the basics of getting great images of small subjects. We'll cover concepts such as composition, negative space, and creative lighting.

WHEN TO GO DIVING – USING NOAA & NEW CDIP FORECASTING TO DETERMINE THE BEST POTENTIAL FOR CONDITIONS AND VISIBILITY AT POPULAR SCUBA & FREEDIVING SITES IN LA COUNTY

Presented by Jess Rosas and Cindy Rhode
Los Angeles County is a part of the Southern California Bight which offers a rich and diverse marine environment for SCUBA & freediving, but the best diving spots are also in areas with the potential for high turbulence, and even with different turbulence profiles for each season. With concepts that can be applied to other diving locales around the world, this seminar will discuss how to utilize NOAA and newly enhanced CDIP forecasting tools to identify and forecast favorable weather, tide, surf and tidal flow turbulence patterns for popular dive sites in Los Angeles County. We will also discuss the forecast for the summer and fall turbulence patterns for the Southern California Bight.

HOW NOT TO DIE WHILE DIVING

Presented by Ken Knezick

Over the years there have been many presentations on why divers get hurt or die. This presentation approaches the issue from the opposite direction, providing insight on how to be a diver for a lifetime. This program focuses on safe diving practices, avoiding accidents before they happen, and maximizing comfort, enjoyment, and adventure of the sport of scuba diving. The presenter's perception of this vital topic is based on four decades as a divemaster and international scuba tour leader.

12PM - 1PM

THE STORIES BEHIND SOME OF MY FAVORITE IMAGES

Presented by Marty Snyderman
I have worked as a professional underwater photographer and filmmaker for more than four decades, and have enjoyed countless adventures. In this presentation, I am going to share some of my favorite underwater images and stories, and share why the selected photographs are special to me, the challenges of capturing them, what I did and what I might do differently if I could have a "do over". This presentation will be interactive, allowing people in the audience to ask questions. My intention is to share the backstories to help you learn about the shooting scenarios and challenges in an effort to help you be successful in similar circumstances. I hope you will attend

ADVANCES IN BREATHHOLD DIVING PERFORMANCE

Presented by Michael Lang and Karen Van Hoesen
Freediving is an important growing segment of U.S. diving activities. A recent UC San Diego interdisciplinary review of recreational and technical freediving experience highlights findings and status from clinical medical evidence, incident case studies, extreme freediving exposures, freediving safety training programs, experimental oxygen pre-breathing, and comparative marine mammal physiology to put human performances into perspective. This experience-based examination of practical/operational parameters of freediving athletes and evidence-based evaluation of scientific and medical issues provided the basis for experimental research designs of future breathhold diving studies. The challenges of duration and depth lead to a re-examination of the proposed 60-second breathhold limit.

MAPPING, PLANNING AND PACKING FOR ADVENTURE: A MISSION-SPECIFIC APPROACH TO DIVING

Presented by Cathryn Castle Garcia and Gui Garcia

How to employ a targeted, mission-specific approach to dive planning that will help you realize your wildest dreams as a diver and get you closer to your favorite marine animals. These simple techniques just might change the way you dive—and the way you relate to the underwater world.

1PM - 2PM

ARE YOU A RESPONSIBLE DIVER?

Presented by Dan Orr

Recreational scuba diving is inherently safe but is very unforgiving of mistakes. When you look at the circumstances surrounding a diving accident, especially diving fatalities, the majority are either directly or indirectly caused by human error. The concept of personal responsibility for diving safety will be explored through the use of available diving accident data. Divers should be able to reduce the likelihood that when something does happen, when they take personal responsibility for their own safety through proper planning, preparation and execution of a scuba dive.

NORCAL'S BEST BEACH DIVES

Presented by Bruce Watkins

Years ago, I gave a presentation about a far off, tropical location that included images of some very colorful nudibranchs. Afterwards, a friend asked me where they could find such critters closer to home; the answer was, of course, Monterey, Northern California's marine life is an interesting as anywhere in the world. Yes, some very photogenic nudibranchs are found here, but there are also other colorful invertebrates, fish, and our legendary assortment of bearded marine mammals. Come see where to find these critters right off NorCal's many beaches.

WHAT'S AGE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

Presented by Susan Bangasser, PhD, and Erin O'Neill

Not dive? No way! Perhaps you are a veteran diver with no intention of giving up the underwater thrill and passion or newly-retired with finally time to really dive, we each think about our "mature" diver status. How can we stay fit for diving? Are there medical conditions that prohibit diving and adaptations we can use to continue diving? How about any legal challenges we need to know about? During this talk we will tackle the physical, emotional, social and rightful aspects we face now or in the future and provide strategies to revel in our underwater world!

2PM - 3PM

OCEAN PLASTIC POLLUTION SOLUTIONS

Presented by Dianna Cohen and Sandra Curtis

Global attention on Plastic Pollution has hit mainstream news outlets in a big way this past year, but the problem has been accelerating for over 20 years. While education remains critically important, we will focus on solutions that are being tested and implemented right now, addressing upstream solutions and source points as we live on an ocean planet and its downstream from everywhere.

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL: APPROACHING SHY MARINE LIFE

Presented by Mark Strickland

Whether you're interested in capturing marine life with a camera or simply observing, there is no substitute for being physically close. From tiny gobies to massive whales, many animals are inherently shy, making close interaction difficult. When approached properly, however, most sea creatures are surprisingly tolerant of divers. This seminar will teach you techniques that can turn fleeting glimpses into relaxed, intimate encounters. You'll learn how to approach shy animals, gain their trust, and get close without scaring them away, making every dive a more enjoyable and rewarding experience.

OFF THE BEATEN TRACK

Presented by Faith Ortins

Most divers are very familiar with diving in the Caribbean and maybe the South Pacific. However, this presentation highlights places that most people have never heard of.... or can even find on a map! From Tasmania to South Sandwich Islands to Azores- See what you are missing in these remote destinations around the world and be prepared to add some spots to your bucket list!

3PM - 4 PM

HOW TO SHOOT YOUR BUDDY WITHOUT GETTING BLOOD IN THE WATER

Presented by Andy Sallmon and Allison Vitsky Sallmon
Although photographing divers is common in underwater imaging, very few photographers have spent significant time in front of the lens working as a model. Andy and Allison have spent thousands of hours working together on both sides of the camera, and this entertaining seminar will provide a unique view on the subject from the perspective of both photographer and model, concentrating on teamwork. Included are tips on working with other divers, learning to share, basics of communication, gear and other aesthetic considerations, incorporating a model into both reef and wreck scenes, and optimizing your images' appeal to photo editors.

DIVING CALIFORNIA'S CHANNEL ISLANDS

Presented by Dale and Kim Sheckler

Excellent diving conditions in clear life-filled waters aren't just found in far-flung places requiring a flight. Excellent diving is in our backyard at the California Channel Islands. Five of the islands form a National Park. Anacapa, a mere 11 miles from the mainland; the furthest is the remote San Nicolas Island at 57 miles out; and of course, the island of romance, Santa Catalina. Each island is different: Different marine life, underwater topographies and diving opportunities. Colorful walls and pinnacles, the fun antics of sea lions, and of course the famous beauty of the giant kelp forests. With over 70 years of combined diving experience in California waters, authors Dale and Kim Sheckler will lead you on a tour of the wonderful Channel Islands.

DIVING SAFETY IN REMOTE LOCATIONS

Presented by Louis Casabianca

The lecture covers risk management for the average to advanced diver when on liveaboards and in more remote locations, with or without access to a decompression chamber. The emphasis is on prevention, risk mitigation, recognizing hazards before they become problems or dangers, how to prevent decompression sickness, and what can and should be done when a diver suspects they might have issues. The speaker presents several real life examples of right and wrong decision making, and presents what can and can't be done with a chamber.

4PM - 5PM

PANEL DISCUSSION - WHY DIVERS DIE; DELVING INTO LA COUNTY SCUBA FATALITIES IN 2018

Karl Huggins, Ken Kurtis and L.A. Coroner John Kades
Any time there is a scuba fatality in Los Angeles County, the Office of Medical Examiner-Coroner is charged with finding out why. Sometimes it's medically related, many times it's diver error, but all fatalities are thoroughly investigated to determine what went wrong. In this very popular 90-minute panel discussion, you will get an overview of the Coroner's work. The actual cases from 2018 will all be presented, covering the accident, the attempted treatment of the victim at the Catalina Hyperbaric Chamber, what the accident analysis discovered, and what the takeaway lessons are. It is said that the wise man learns from the mistakes of others and divers of all experience levels can learn lessons from these tragedies that could truly prevent a death in the future.

LET THERE BE LIGHT

Presented by Brook Peterson

Using light effectively is the foundation for good underwater photography. But where should the strobes be placed, and how does the sun affect your image? What is a snoot and when should it be used? How does ambient light come in to play underwater? These topics and more will be discussed in a comprehensive look at how light can make or break an image, and how using light effectively can turn a blah image into a WOW shot.

EAT – FIT – DIVE

Presented by Gretchen Ashton

Be inspired to live and dive energetically. Divers love food and need to eat well to fuel diving activity, enhance mental acuity and maintain a healthy body composition. Combining ideal nutrition with performance-based exercise is key to a long happy diving lifestyle. Attendees take home the EAT – FIT – DIVE plan personalized to individual fitness level and diving experience. Discussion includes a brief on macronutrients, timing of meals for exercise and diving, weight management, injury prevention, and a QnA session. The sooner divers begin to exercise the better. Bring the family. Win fitness freebies in the FitDiver® raffle.

SUNDAY SEMINARS

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SEASIDE 1

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SEASIDE 7

11AM - 12PM

CAPTURING CALIFORNIA

Presented by Andy Sallmon and Allison Vitsky Sallmon
Andy and Allison are among the most prolific North American underwater photographers today, and many of their most successful images were taken in California. Using photos that have been successful in the past five years as illustration, they will discuss getting the best possible images from local waters. They'll touch on a wide array of shooting challenges we all experience in our local waters, including dark water, poor visibility, and seasonal fluctuations.

DIVING AMONG WHALES

Presented by Bruce Watkins

Some of the most exciting, memorable, and emotional experiences we'll ever have underwater involve our interaction with large whales. Have you ever been "scanned" by a sperm whale? Have you ever spent hours swimming with a mother humpback whale and her newborn calf? The moments when large animals accept our presence and allow us to share their most intimate moments are the most precious. Come hear stories about personal encounters with our largest mammals, as well as where to dive and how photograph them.

DISASTER-PROOF YOUR DIVE TRAVEL

Presented by Ken Knezic

This one-of-a-kind presentation is based on the knowledge acquired over a lifetime of hard traveling – a crystallization of Ken's more than forty years of international travel experience. This presentation is continually updated to reflect changes in the airport and international travel experience. The audience is invited to learn from Ken's (many) mistakes, resulting in a presentation equally humorous and informative. Audience participation is encouraged throughout, enabling all participants to benefit from their shared experiences.

12PM - 1PM

RECEDING THE PLASTIC TIDE

Presented by Brittany Novick

We've all heard it before, plastics are an issue, humans are to blame for the destruction of the oceans and we need to change our ways before it's too late. While everyone wants to tell you to produce less waste and to change your ways, it is sometimes difficult to know where to start. An overwhelming problem that people want to help solve but no one knows where to really begin. This talk is to give divers the tools to start decreasing their impact on the planet, including one of their favorite places on earth – our oceans.

DIVING INTO A CAREER

Presented by Betty Orr

Whether it's your first job or the last of many, there are careers you can choose that will let your avocation turn into your vocation. We visit some of the options you may not have considered and look at some of the available scholarships that might help you to attain your dreams, regardless of your age.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST FISH IN YOUR FACE: SWIMMING WITH WHALE SHARKS AT ISLA MUJERES

Presented by Ken Kurtis

If you ask most divers to produce their bucket list of fish-I-wanna-see, chances are "swimming with a Whale Shark" will be at the top. And while it's an elusive goal for many, if you'd like to almost guarantee success, all you need to do is get yourself down to Isla Mujeres, an island off Cancun, where Whale Sharks congregate on a seasonal basis. Ken Kurtis has been guiding trips down to swim with these plankton-eating gentle giants for a number of years now and will share his experiences with you, as well as show you how you can do this on your own or as part of a group. And he'll also highlight the other things to do while in this area, which include exploring the Cancun Underwater Museum as well as diving some of the cenotes over on the mainland. And because interaction with the Whale Sharks is a snorkel-only experience (mandated by the Mexican government), this is a seminar that will be of interest to divers and non-divers alike.

1PM - 2PM

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL: APPROACHING SHY MARINE LIFE

Presented by Mark Strickland

Whether you're interested in capturing marine life with a camera or simply observing, there is no substitute for being physically close. From tiny gobies to massive whales, many animals are inherently shy, making close interaction difficult. When approached properly, however, most sea creatures are surprisingly tolerant of divers. This seminar will teach you techniques that can turn fleeting glimpses into relaxed, intimate encounters. You'll learn how to approach shy animals, gain their trust, and get close without scaring them away, making every dive a

U/W CAMERA CARE & MAINTENANCE: PREPARING FOR SUCCESS AND AVOIDING COSTLY MISTAKES

Presented by Devon Tomkins

Flooding damage is too common and post-dive preparation is necessary to prevent it. Participants will be provided with a complimentary personal maintenance kit that also enables an interactive approach to this seminar. Topics include: Common mistakes and why they happen; Preparing equipment to survive TSA inspections; Pre-dive & post-dive prep; Silicon lubricants and their applications; Sealing surfaces and their care; Swab-tech; cotton vs. sponge; Care of ports (acrylic and glass); Housings, strobes, and cables — what the Manuals Leave Out; Fiber Optic Cables: Function, myths, and reality; Moisture Alarms: Standard & Vacuum, rewards and risks; What to do when flooding occurs; Field repairs: MacGuyver or MacDesperate? Interactive from speaker to attendees and between attendees, this popular seminar is so different each time that a core group of established photographers attend yearly.

THE OCEAN IS FOR EVERYONE

Presented by Jaclyn Friedlander

Bring the kiddos as this session was specifically designed for ages 5-12. And their parents of course. Children will be introduced to pre-scuba diving activities they can participate in until they are old enough to get certified and they will be encouraged to love the ocean and marine environments. Jaclyn will show you ways to work together as a family to participate in conservation efforts!

2PM - 3PM

FIVE MISTAKES IN DIVING SAFETY

Presented by Dan Orr

Recreational scuba diving is inherently safe but is very unforgiving of mistakes. When you look at the available diving accident data, especially the 'triggering events' in diving fatalities, the majority are either directly or indirectly caused by human error. A review of mistakes divers make and their consequences.

HOW TO HOOK YOUR VIDEO VIEWERS

Presented by Eric Hanauer

Whether you make videos for YouTube, competitions, or just to show to friends, if you don't grab their attention in the first 20 seconds, you've probably lost your audience. This presentation will demonstrate how to lead with your best shot, tell your story, and leave your viewers with something to remember. It's all about the edit.

IT'S ONLY LIFE SUPPORT EQUIPMENT - WHAT COULD HAPPEN?

Presented by Mark Gresham

Divers tend to take their equipment for granted. This includes their scuba "tank" (cylinder). Not only do they take the cylinder for granted, they may also take for granted the credentials of their favorite technician. We want to raise awareness among scuba divers that their equipment is not to be taken lightly – especially their scuba cylinders.

3PM - 4 PM

LOOK, MA! DAD'S ON THE EVENING NEWS! CONNECTING THE DOTS ON HUMAN ERROR

Presented by Gareth Lock and Mel Futrell

As long as your paperwork is in place, and you've bought all the best equipment, you'll be safe... right? Sure, safe from a lawsuit, maybe, but are you really safe? Consider that 41% of fatalities in a DAN research study listed "Out of Air" as a cause. But, why did they run out of air? Certainly, these divers all "knew better"! Learn what you can do to maximize your real safety by reviewing diving cases and exploring why we humans are so error prone. Come find out why accidents and incidents really happen and how you can avoid being 'That Story'!

TRAILBLAZER: THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF DIVING PIONEER DOTTIE FRAZIER

Presented by Karen Straus

Dottie Frazier is a diving legend. She claimed her place in diving history after becoming the first woman certified scuba instructor in 1953. Some of her many life achievements include: spearfishing champion in the 30s, skin diving instructor and commercial fisher in the 40s, scuba instructor in the 50s, dive shop owner and wetsuit manufacturer in the 60s and 70s. Dottie survived the deadly Long Beach earthquake of 1933 and served her country as a "Rosie the Riveter" during World War II. Nearly 97, she works out on a treadmill daily, gardens and just sold her beloved motorcycle.

LEGAL ISSUES FOR CALIFORNIA DIVERS

Presented by Rick Lesser and Jorge Lopez

Div lawyers Rick Lesser and Jorge Lopez discuss the legal issues facing recreational divers, with a particular emphasis on those affecting divers in California. Among the issues they will discuss are the standards of care applicable to recreational divers, the legal obligations of "dive buddies," the impact and consequences of medical statements, and the validity of releases of liability in different contexts. They draw upon their years of experience litigating dive cases from both the plaintiff and defense sides and share real-life examples from cases they have litigated and are currently litigating in different courts throughout the country.

4PM - 5PM

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S BEST BEACH DIVES

Presented by Dale and Kim Sheckler

Beach diving along the Southern California coastline is fun and easy. And you can avoid the crowds (both divers and non-divers if you know where to go). This seminar, given by the authors of the popular book Southern California's Best Beach Dives, will touch upon some of these hidden treasures. The popular seminar will include what you can expect above and below the water, marine life encounters, and tips on how to make your beach dives as enjoyable as possible.

OCEAN EMOTION: A FRESH NEW WAY TO SEE THE SEA

Presented by Cathryn Castle Garcia and Gui Garcia

There's a whole lot happening below the surface. We'll examine some of the fascinating relationships and behaviors taking place underwater, and we'll explain how changing the way you dive and employing few simple tips for observing marine life can give you a deeper appreciation of the underwater world.

VIDEO TIPS, TECHNIQUES, WORKFLOW AND EDITING BASICS FOR UNDERWATER VIDEO SHOOTERS

Presented by Walter Marti

You're going on a dive trip with your camera, you're going to shoot hours of video footage. No one wants to watch hours of unedited footage, what to do? I'll show you how to optimize your shooting techniques, to make an interesting and watchable video production. You'll learn how to organize a streamlined workflow, from prior to pressing the first REC button, to a final edited movie. This isn't just for video camera shooters, most cameras have a video feature. This is for all shooters, from GoPro to Compact, to Mirrorless, to DSLR's. We'll discuss various editing software, from free to monthly subscriptions, to the game changing DaVinci Resolve.