

2018 Monterey Shootout

The Monterey Shootout is a four-day weekend of diving, educational seminars, celebration, and a chance to win over \$30,000 in prizes, even with the simplest of underwater cameras.

This year, 159 participants brought their friends and families to share the fun and see what amazing images can be made in a tight 36-hour window of diving.

The ocean and weather cooperated by giving us small pockets of good visibility and a full on jellyfish invasion. Record numbers of photographers joined the Thursday, Friday, and Sunday seminars to dial-in their techniques and captured stunning images for the contest.

Hanging out on the beach and boats with like-minded divers gives us cold-water enthusiasts a real sense of community. After two days of diving, over 200 people gathered back at the Backscatter mother ship for a night of celebration and drinks stiff enough to heat up the most waterlogged diver. This is the most welcoming and enthusiastic group of underwater photographers in the USA!

The Monterey Shootout is primarily an educational and social event, but the serious level of prizes is what drives these cold-water photographers to envision images weeks in advance and feel the motivation from competition nipping at their heels. It is with great thanks and appreciation that we honor the generous support of all of our sponsors. Thank you sponsors for motivating our diving community to new personal bests in image making!

Advanced Wide Angle Traditional



Advanced Macro Traditional



Advanced Wide Angle Unrestricted



Advanced Macro Unrestricted



Comments From The Photo Judges

This year's photo judges included Chuck Davis, Scott Campbell, Jim Decker, Jennifer Penner and Berkley White. Judging is no easy task, especially when there's serious creative effort on display from over 600 entries. Jellies, fringe-heads, and whiskered animals stole the show, as they were more compelling than abstracts that have won in previous years. The rule in the photo judging room was "Would I put this image on my wall?" The judges commented on how they've seen a significant improvement on macro lighting with snoots and controlled lighting placement in both macro and wide angle. It was also noted that the Advanced Macro Traditional category had much fewer entries than previous years. It was theorized that the advanced shooters were either focusing on video or getting cold feet in the competition with their content. The Intermediate category had the largest set of solid images and the longest deliberation to determine a winner. Wide-angle images were the most compelling and were pushed forward for consideration for the Best-of-Show. Ultimately, the winning photos displayed a balance of technical skill and artful composition that would stand the test of time.

Art Haseltine Best Of Show Award

Art Haseltine was a very dear friend to the Monterey diving community. His passion for cold water diving, and photography is legendary with local divers. Anyone who has ever met Art will remember him for his warm and gracious demeanor, and nothing but kindness. Art worked as a marine biologist for the California Department of Fish

Intermediate Wide Angle Unrestricted



and Game for 22 years. Most of that time was spent doing research on shellfish aquaculture at the Department's Granite Canyon laboratory south of Carmel. As an underwater photographer, his photographic style was influenced by the black and white legacy of the Monterey Peninsula. His subject matter was from the eye of a marine biologist; but his final product - the fine art black and white print - was from the imagination of the artist.

An early practitioner of medium format underwater photography, when you only had 12-24 exposures per dive and a darkroom was necessary for film processing, Art also pioneered aerial kite photography years before drones were commonplace. His indelible mark on Monterey diving and underwater photography will always be remembered. It's with great pleasure that we dedicate this year's Best-of-Show in his honor.

www.montereyshootout.com

Beginner Wide Angle Traditional



Beginner Wide Angle Unrestricted



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