

2019 Monterey Shootout Results

Backscatter Underwater Video & Photo again hosted the largest annual gathering of underwater photographers in the USA. The Monterey Shootout is a four-day weekend of diving, educational seminars, celebration, and a chance to win over \$40,000 in prizes even with the simplest of underwater cameras. This year, 172 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 contest diving and a full four days of fun. We were blessed with pancake flat Monterey Bay and again the Breakwater produced the most award winning videos and photos. For 30+ years divers have gathered to this event in Monterey to photograph invasions of jellies and kelp inhabitants, but this year went to the birds with diving cormorants stealing the spotlight. Frisky sea lions were everywhere and the classic fringeheads and nudibranchs continued to win top honors in the macro category, yet our feathery friends the cormorants were the spectacle underwater.

Hanging out on the beach, parking lot, 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 to 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!

\$40,000 IN PRIZES FROM OUR AMAZING SPONSORS

The Monterey Shootout is primarily a social and educational event, but the serious level of prizes is what drives us all to envision photographs weeks in advance and feel the motivation from competition nipping at our heels. Thus, it's with great thanks that we honor the generous support of all of our great sponsors. Thank you sponsors for motivating our cold-water image-makers to new personal bests!

COMMENTS FROM THE PHOTO JUDGES

This year's photo judges included Chuck Davis, Berkley White, Sterling Zumbrunn, and Becca Boring. The photo judges were presented with over 600 underwater



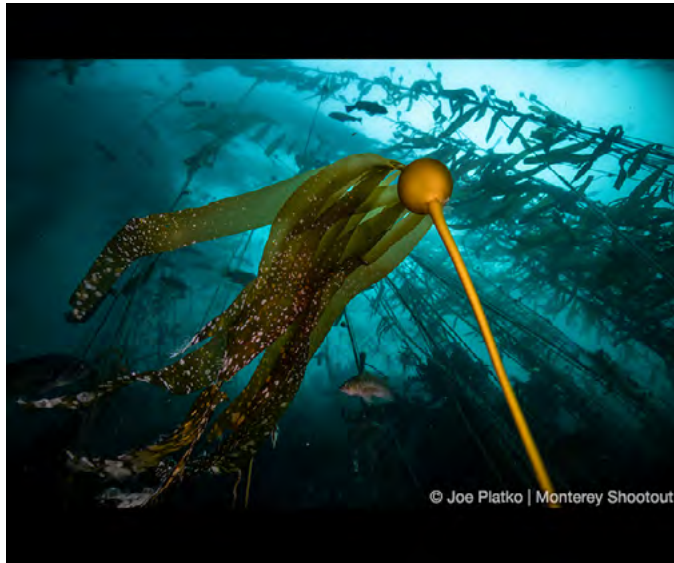
CHUCK TRIBOLET BEST OF SHOW AWARD

Chuck was a brilliant engineer by day and the de facto mayor of diving Monterey via small boats by weekend. He introduced many of us to early GPS systems, ocean weather sleuthing, and helped pioneer diving in Monterey. He was a major advocate of marine conservation and facilitated the judging of the Monterey Shootout and California Beach Photo Competition for over 20 years. Long live Chuck!

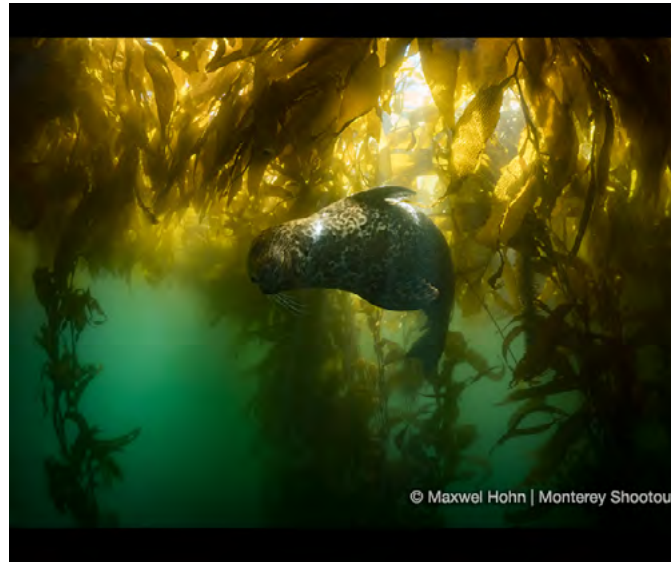
photographs to select their favorites within 4 hours. The rule in the photo judging room was “would I put this image on my wall?”. Most judges preferred a great wide angle scene, but appreciated a snoot lit macro photo. If you want to compete, get a snoot for macro and learn to use ambient light as your primary light for wide images.

Many of the best wide angle images didn't use strobe and the photographer became a hunter of natural light in less than 10 feet of water. Shallow water produces the most dramatic light, more subject options, and you can even stay longer.

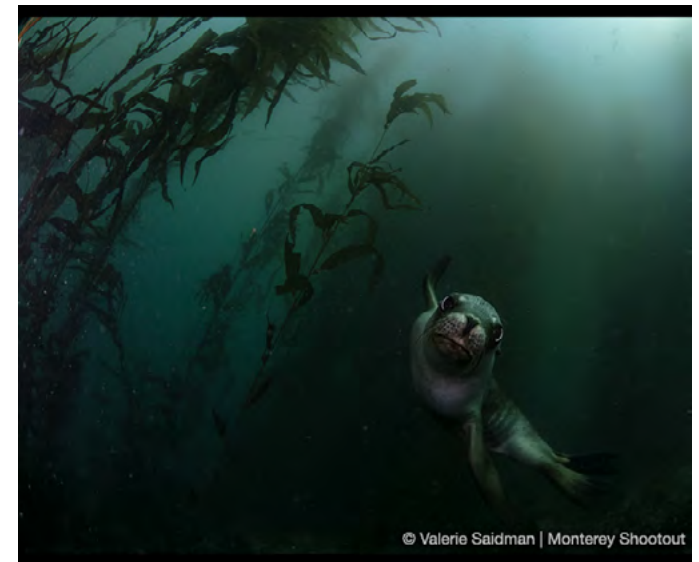
ADVANCED WIDE ANGLE TRADITIONAL



ADVANCED WIDE ANGLE UNRESTRICTED



BEGINNER WIDE ANGLE UNRESTRICTED



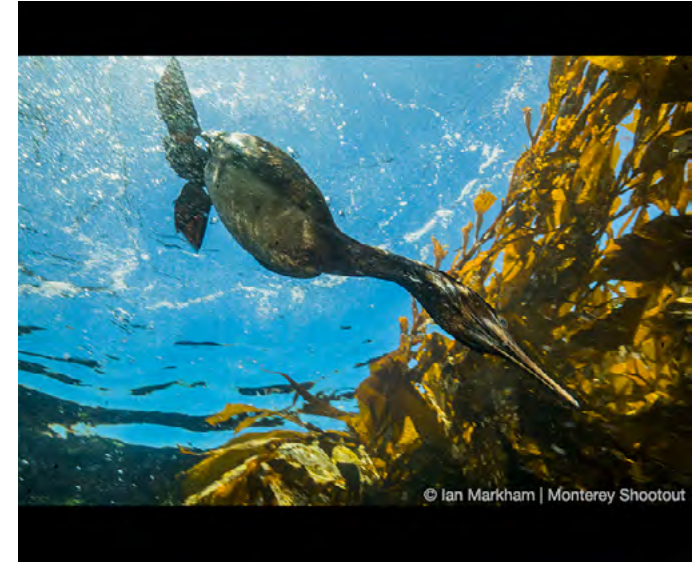
COMMENTS FROM THE VIDEO JUDGES

In the video judging room, our judges Carl Miller, Jim Decker, and Rusty Sanoian had a similar challenge to watch 78 videos in a brief window. As with previous years, the judges had a difficult time giving weight to story telling vs. image quality. The judges were happy to see great story telling efforts, but great stories suffered from poor image quality. This years best of show went to a video that told a story with stunning images without saying a word. While a crudely shot video can tell a story and go viral, our judges decided that viral type videos can go stale over time. High quality imagery with a dash of story will win the day and become something you want to watch over and over years later. The judges recommend to tell a story, but spend more time on the quality of your B roll footage. If you're A roll is just so so, your're B roll should be amazing.

ADVANCED MACRO UNRESTRICTED



INTERMEDIATE WIDE ANGLE TRADITIONAL



36 HOURS 172 UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHERS AND THE BIRDS

<http://www.montereyshootout.com/event-results/2019.php>