

# San Diego Underwater Photographic Society 40<sup>th</sup> Film Festival

## Backgrounder

It is obvious that San Diego has always been connected to the Ocean. From early settlers some 20,000 years ago, that came across the Bering Straits and South down the Pacific Coast, to 1542 when Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo first discovered Point Loma, to today with our beautiful waterfront Convention Center the Ocean has always been a key part of San Diego.

A part of this connection to the Ocean occurred in 1961, when in a dive shop with the name “The Diving Locker”, a few of the early diving pioneers led by Ron Church and Chuck Nicklin got together and decided to form a non-profit club that was dedicated to showing people just how beautiful the ocean is, not only above water, but below its surface. That club, The San Diego Underwater Photographic Society, or SDUPS for short, continues today and on April 25, 2009 it will present its 40<sup>th</sup> Film Festival.

Past SDUPS Film Festivals have featured films and/or participation by some of the world’s most famous underwater adventurers, photographers, and cinematographers including Jean-Michel Cousteau, Stan Waterman, Jack McKenney, Howard Hall, Marty Snyderman, Chuck Nicklin, and Al Giddings. All of these men, pioneers in their own right, contributed to SDUPS’s ongoing commitment to the advancement of underwater imaging.

Building on its rich heritage, SDUPS 40<sup>th</sup> Film Festival will be held at Qualcomm Hall which features a state-of-the-art high definition projection and audio system. While the primary focus of the Film Festival remains films, this year’s event has been expanded to include a reception, a headliner film, and a worldwide film contest.

### Matinee Session -

The Matinee Session will feature 5 minute films from SDUPS members that travel and dive all over the world, as well as locally, to capture and present the beauty of the underwater world.

### Diving “Pioneer” Reception -

Following the Matinee Session, there will be a two hour reception with light finger food to honor many of San Diego’s underwater pioneers. The invited pioneers include Chuck Nicklin, Elwyn Gates, Barbara Allen, Bert Kobayashi, Eric Hanauer, Gordy Heck, Greg Morris, Marty Snyderman, Dick Long, Chet Tussey, Bob Yin, Lee Peterson, Steve Drogin, Ken Loyst, Werner Kurn, Howard and Michele Hall, Al Burton, Jimmy Stewart and Ozzie Wissel.

### Headliner Film –

Presented by Steve Drogin, Steve will take the audience some 1,200 feet below the Ocean’s surface in his submarine, DeepSea, to show rare and amazing high definition videos of the life at that depth.

### Worldwide Film Contest –

The last event will be the premier of ten 5-minute films, submitted from across the world. The audience will vote on a winner take all competition among these ten films.

In addition to a great night of socializing and films, a percentage of the profits will be donated to the San Diego Oceans Foundation. Additionally, The San Diego Oceans Foundation will be holding a raffle during the Film Festival where everyone is guaranteed to be a winner. The San Diego Oceans Foundation is a non-profit organization focused on the stewardship of the regions marine environment.

Additional information about SDUPS and its 40<sup>th</sup> Film festival can be found at [www.sdupsfilm.com](http://www.sdupsfilm.com). Admission for the Film Festival is \$20 per person and covers all the events. Tickets may be purchased online at the above website. Obviously, seating is limited, so be sure to purchase your tickets early.

*For additional information or questions, please contact Pete Fowler at [pfowler@cox.net](mailto:pfowler@cox.net)*