

# Results for Manta Fest 2019

## 2019 鬼蝠魞攝影大賽得獎者出爐

Text | Tim Rock

**M**antas, sharks, cannibalizing squid and colourful mandarin fish... and lots more in between... once again the annual Manta Ray Resort Annual Manta Fest at Micronesia's Yap Island produced amazing encounters and fantastic images and videos. Held the last week of August and first week of September, people come from around the world to experience the warm, clear Yapese waters and the myriad marine life found on the healthy coral reefs.

Since its inception, I have been fortunate enough to participate in Manta Fest almost every session. From the perspective of being a teacher for the photo school aspect of the event to being a judge as the contest portion concludes, I look forward to meeting new people, helping out where I can in the form of talks or one-on-one sessions and especially seeing what creative and enthusiastic image makers produce during the course of two weeks of diving in the western Pacific.

Manta Ray Bay Resort and Yap Divers is the pioneer diving operation at Micronesia's Yap Island and owner Bill Acker is a Scuba Diving Hall of Fame member. This operator has brought in presenters such as Frank Schneider of Tauchen Magazine in Germany, videographer Any Schumacher, Maui's David Fleetham, Hall of Famer Marty Snyderman, diving guru Ray Bullion, the late explorer Larry Smith, house pro Brad Holland and many others over the years.

Not only an excellent Underwater Photographer, Tim Rock was also judging and teaching at an underwater photo school as a pro. Now he is covering the competition results and the event story for EZDIVE readers.

不只是一位出色的水下攝影師，Tim Rock 還為一所水下攝影機構出任專業評審兼教師。這次他為 EZDIVE 從雅浦島帶回 Manta Fest - 鬼蝠魞攝影大賽 - 得獎結果與活動報導。





鬼蝠魟、鯊魚、食人魷和七彩麒麟……以及眾多形形色色的海洋生物……密克羅尼西亞雅浦島(Yap)上一年一度的 Manta Fest 再次拉開帷幕，水下各種奇異的生物競相露面，照片與影片作品隨之大放異彩。比賽在每年八月的最後一周和九月的第一周舉辦，人們從世界各地趕來，親身感受雅浦島周圍溫暖清澈的海水，以及茁壯的珊瑚礁上棲息的各種海洋生物。

自從鬼蝠魟攝影大賽舉辦以來，我有幸幾乎每屆都在場見證。無論是作為攝影機構的教師還是作為大賽最後階段的評審，我都希望「江山代有才人出」，希望盡我所能（無論是舉辦講座或一對一指導）為選手提供幫助，尤其希望看到在西太平洋潛水的兩周，選手可以拍攝出令人耳目一新的作品。

Manta Ray Bay Resort & Yap Divers 是密克羅尼西亞雅浦島一家先鋒潛水公司，老闆 Bill Acker 是水肺潛水名人堂成員。這家公司多年來邀請了許多講師講學，例如德國 Tauchen 雜誌的 Frank Schneider、影片攝影師 Any Schumacher、毛伊島的 David Fleetham、名人堂成員 Marty Snyderman、潛水大師 Ray Bullion、新晉探險家 Larry Smith 和攝影專家 Brad Holland 等。

What is great is that I and my fellow presenters are able to join the shooters on their dive boats daily every morning as we head out for a couple of morning dives. I have been diving in Yap since 1984 and know many of the highlights of each site and I try to pass on any insights and tips to help the shooters get the best images. Even before we get to the sites, we often encounter spinner dolphin pods and try to get images above and below the sea of the amazing marine mammals. In the afternoon, divers may also do one or two dives. In late afternoon, seminars start, other presenters are available for one-on-one sessions, there are mandarinfish dusk dives, night dives and blackwater dives and even a few sunset shoots over at the sharky Vertigo dive site to create half-half shots of sharks below and sunset above. Then, after dinner, one of the pros wraps things up with a slideshow or video (or both) of his or her work.

The fun part, as you can imagine, is that there is always something going on. Non-stop photo fun for every level is offered

我很喜歡的一點是，我和其他講師每天早上都可以跟隨攝影選手的潛水船，一起進行幾次晨潛。我從 1984 年開始到雅浦島潛水，了解每個潛點的精彩之處，於是我試著把我的思考與建議傳達給攝影選手，希望幫他們拍出最好的照片。在到達潛點之前，我們通常會遇到飛旋海豚群，可以試著拍攝牠們在水上和水的矯健身姿。下午，潛水員們可能還會進行一到兩次潛水。再晚些，研討會開始，其他講師可以一對一指導，有七彩麒麟黃昏潛、夜潛、黑水潛水以及在鯊魚出沒的潛點進行幾次夕陽潛，拍攝鯊魚在下夕陽在上的「半水面」效果。晚飯後，其中一位專家會用自己作品製成的幻燈片或短片進行總結。

有趣的部分是總有可教可學的地方。在這裡，各個級別的選手都能體會到攝影的快樂，而作

and as a presenter, that keeps us all busy as there is no such thing as a question we won't try to answer.

Divers don't have to own any photo experience to take part. If someone wants to just try underwater work, I will help that diver get set up with a housed GoPro and offer advice. If someone has been shooting stills but would like to get into video, I'll work with that person on the basics of how to do set up the camera and how to do sequential shooting to make a nice underwater video. No experience, no problem, we get people into it.

And Yap is one of the best environments for image making in the Pacific. Clear waters on the outer reefs and close encounters with large marine creatures like manta rays in the island's deep channels provide a great environment and lot of opportunities for fish portraits, shark and manta images and a couple of very productive macro sites for close-up work. And at dusk, the mandarinfish come out for their nightly dances.

為講師，因為要回答選手的每一個問題，經常十分忙碌。

潛水員無需任何攝影經驗就可參加比賽。如果有人只是想嘗試一下，我會幫他裝好水下攝影機並提出建議。如果有人之前拍攝靜態相片，但想嘗試拍影片，我會教他如何設定相機以及如何進行連續拍攝來製作優秀的水下影片。沒有經驗也沒關係，我們負責引導。

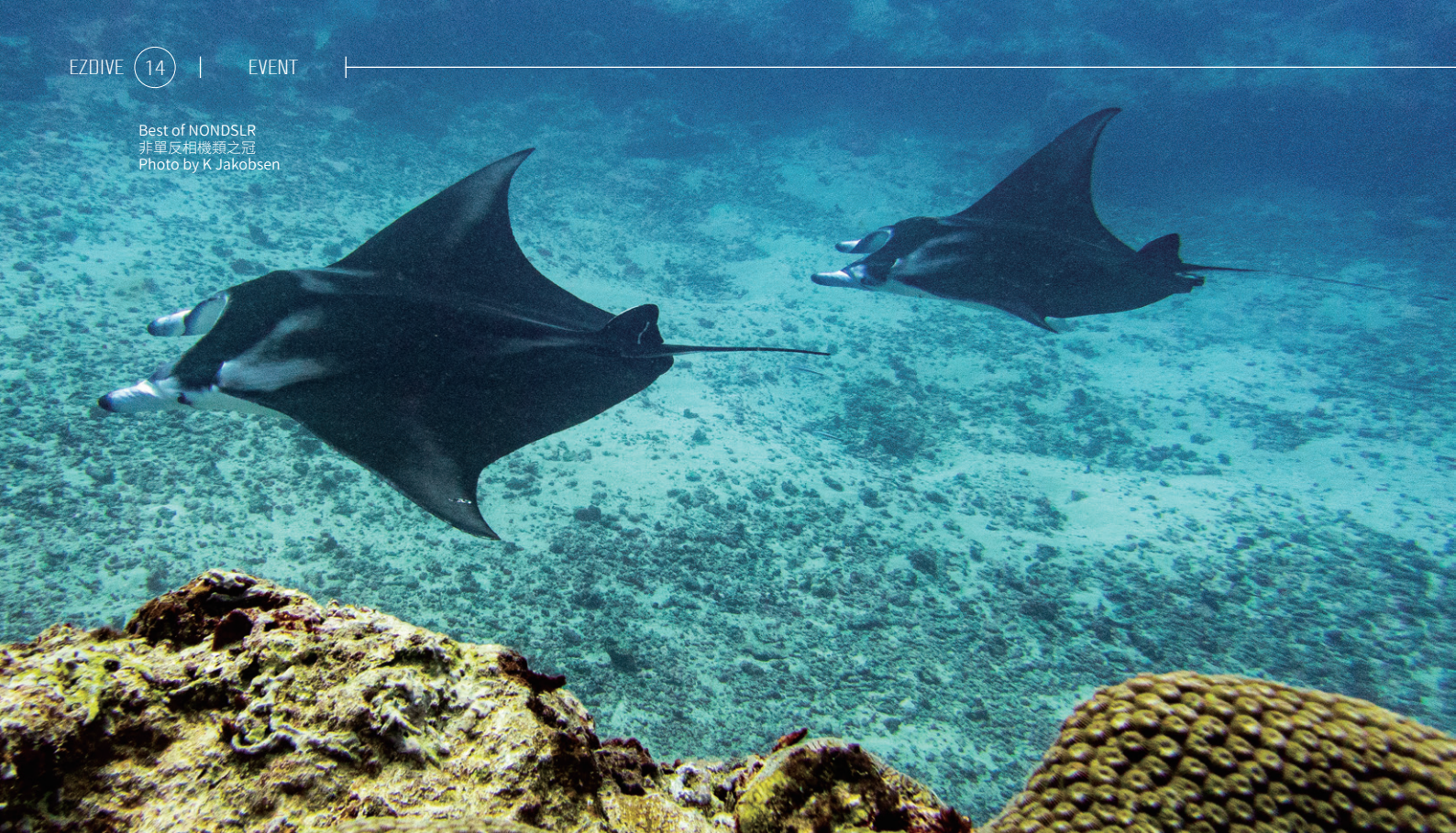
雅浦島是太平洋地區最好的攝影地點之一。週邊礁石上的海水清澈，外加與該島的深隧道中棲息的大型海洋生物（如鬼蝠魞）近距離接觸的機會，讓人們可以在一個絕佳的環境中拍攝魚類面部，拍攝鯊魚和鬼蝠魞，同時還能光顧幾處機遇滿滿的微距潛點。而到黃昏時分，七彩麒麟悄然登場獻舞。





Best of DSLR 2019  
2019 年单反相機之冠  
Photo by M Fusco

Best of NONDSLR  
非單反相機類之冠  
Photo by K Jakobsen



The event is called Manta Fest and for good reason, Yap has been quite famous for its resident manta rays that are seen at cleaning stations on both the east and west sides of the island. The consistency of seeing the big rays year 'round at a place like Mi'il Channel, the Grand Canyon of the Pacific or coral-covered Gofnuw Channel has attracted photographers and divers worldwide. They have been named and the vigilant crew at Yap Divers helps manta biologists keep track of the mantas and their behaviors.

In addition, gardens of beautiful hard corals, dropoffs and caverns at the crystal clear island south end of Yap, gravelly critter-filled slopes and even a few small wrecks all make this island an ideal spot to hold a photo school event. And for the experienced, we try to offer tips that will make their underwater time the most productive as well as pass on many tips for in-the-field shooting. Afterwards, we take turns giving seminars on post-production for both stills and video.

One very popular new experience has been blackwater diving. The Yap Trench off Yap Island is the second deepest ocean trench in the world giving way only to the nearby Marianas Trench. Divers wait until dark and go offshore a mile (1.6km) or more and then put lights down at 40 feet (about 12 metres) or so and see what comes by that is attracted by the lights. Then, drifting with the ocean currents, divers hope to shoot larval stage creatures, colourful squid and even larger fish. The 2019 overall winner, Sheila Ott, nailed the split seconds when a larger squid attacked and ate one of its own species.

I get great satisfaction in helping someone who thinks his/her shot is just 'OK'. With a little help from Lightroom or Photoshop, an 'OK' image can be cleaned up to be quite presentable. Getting people into the digital darkroom and show them how to work that magic is an integral part of underwater shooting. Just like Ansel Adams when he did his famous work in the California wilds, divers normally visibly improve after a couple of weeks of learning proper editing and workflow. We can see just how well a shooter has progressed when it comes to judging time.

At the end of the event, people turn in their prized images and spend a day fun diving while the judges normally spend a full day pouring over entries and selecting the best of the best. Judges express their opinions and sometimes we all agree and often we don't. In the end, we are always amazed to see a crop of great images from the sea. In the evening, people gather for awards, spirits and island food and plenty of fun.

The two weeks go fast but I always enjoy my time at the photo contests like Yap's Manta Fest and others I have worked. Underwater photography is one of the finest ways to educate and entertain people about the diversity and beauty of our oceans and I am happy to help people make these kinds of images.

Please visit the event official website for more information: [www.mantafest.com](http://www.mantafest.com). **EZ**

Best of Show 2019  
賽事之冠  
Photo by Sheila Ott



雅浦島的鬼蝠魷攝影大賽名副其實，因為這裡的鬼蝠魷經常出沒在島東西兩側的清潔站，聞名世界。在 Mi' il Channel、太平洋大峽谷或長滿珊瑚的 Gofnuw Channel，巨大的鬼蝠魷常年可見，吸引著來自全世界的攝影師和潛水員。牠們都已被命名，Yap Divers 機敏的員工還可幫助鬼蝠魷生物學家追蹤牠們的軌跡，記錄牠們的行為。

另外，雅浦島南端清澈的海水中還點綴著美麗的硬珊瑚園、斷崖和洞穴，再加上充滿小生物的碎石坡、幾艘小小的沉船，都使該島成為舉辦攝影比賽的理想場地。對於有經驗的選手來說，我們會嘗試給出建議，使他們的水下時光收穫最多，同時提供諸多實地拍攝的經驗。然後，我們輪流開研討課，討論靜態照片和影片的後期處理問題。

新近流行的項目是黑水潛水。雅浦島外的雅浦海溝是僅次於附近馬里亞納海溝的世界第二深海溝。待天黑後，潛水員游出一英里 (1.6 公里) 左右，然後將集魚燈放到大約 40 英尺 (約 12 米) 深處，等待追隨光線而來的生物。之後，潛水員可以隨洋流漂流，期待遇見海洋生物的幼蟲、色彩斑斕的魷魚，甚至體型較大的魚類。2019 年的總冠軍 Sheila Ott，拍攝的便是一隻較大的魷魚攻擊並吞食另一隻魷魚的精彩瞬間。

幫助那些認為自己的照片「尚可」的人特別有滿足感。只需要 Lightroom 或 Photoshop 略加修飾，一張「尚可」的照片就能變得相當不錯。引導選手了解數位攝影的暗室，向他們展示如何使用這些魔法工具，是水下攝影不可或缺的一課。就像 Ansel Adams 在加州荒野拍攝的著名照片一樣，潛水員們在學習幾週編輯和工作流程後，照片品質會得到明顯提升。到評比環節，我們就能看到選手們的進步有多大了。

比賽最後，選手們紛紛繳出自己滿意的照片，然後可以休閒潛水一整天，在這期間，評審們緊鑼密鼓地評比著所有的作品，優中選優。評審們會分別給出意見，有時候意見一致，但通常意見相左。最後，我們總會看著選出的優秀照片歎為觀止。晚上，大家聚在一起，頒獎、喝酒、品嚐美食，歡聲笑語不斷。

兩周時間飛逝，但我總是留戀雅浦島的鬼蝠魷攝影大賽和其他類似賽事。水下攝影是為人們普及海洋多樣性與美感的最佳途徑之一，我能為此略盡綿薄之力，深感榮幸。

更多資訊請見活動官網：[mantafest.com](http://mantafest.com)。 |

