



St Abbs and Eyemouth VMR Splash In 2012

Competition rules

This year the competition will take place on the Bank Holiday weekend of 25th and 26th August. The entry fee for the competition is £20 which includes entry into the slideshow of all the images on the Sunday evening.

Registration

Entrants must register for the competition by completing the entry form below and submitting it with a cheque for £20 made payable to 'St Abbs and Eyemouth VMR' to: Georgia Conolly, St Abbs and Eyemouth VMR, Rangers Office, Northfield, St Abbs, TD14 5QF by 1st August. A maximum number of 45 entrants are allowed in the competition and places will be allocated on a 'first come first served basis'.

Registration will also be possible on the morning of 25th August but we would encourage all participants to register in advance by 1st August.

Competition categories

Not only is 2012 the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations, it is also the Silver Jubilee of the St Abbs and Eyemouth Voluntary Marine Reserve's annual underwater photography competition, the Splash In. To mark the 25th year of the Splash In, there will be a new category in the competition:

1. **Wide-Angle** - any photo that shows a wider angle of view than the human eye (35mm focal length), including over-under shots (half in the water, half out) and close-focus wide-angle photos. This category may also include divers in the view.
2. **Macro** - any photo that shows a smaller angle of view than the human eye (35mm focal length). As a guideline, macro subjects are generally 6 inches across or smaller.
3. **The John Goldie Themed Category: 25th Anniversary of the VMR Splash In** – Divers use your imagination! Digital manipulation is allowed in this category and whilst this is a photography competition and not a Photoshop competition, Photoshop may be used to add effects to the photograph that still has to have been taken on 25th August.

A maximum of 3 images may be submitted per person, but this must include one image in the Themed Category. If a competitor does not wish to enter this category, then only 2 images may be entered.

Competition rules and timetable

1. All competitors must check in at the Ebba Centre, St Abbs (the Old School building), between 8am – 9:30am on 25th August. Here they must demonstrate that their memory card is empty and that the correct date and time are set on their camera. Each competitor will be issued with a numbered ID card which they must photograph so that the first image on the memory card is of this numbered ID card. If they have not pre-registered then they must also enter and pay their entrance fee.
2. Only 1 memory card may be entered per competitor.
3. All images must be taken within the reserve on 25th August. Both underwater and surface shots are acceptable (but remember – the reserve only extends up to the high water mark so make sure all shots are below the high water mark!)

4. All entrants must return to the Ebba Centre, St Abbs, between 4pm – 5pm, where they must take another image of their numbered ID card to show that the last image on the memory card is of the ID card. All original images must be retained on the memory card until the end of the competition.
5. Images may be downloaded to the competitor's own computer to check quality and to perform any whole image optimisation as defined below, prior to downloading onto the VMR's laptop.
6. Minimal digital manipulation using sharpening, colour correction, spotting, brightness and contrast adjustment may be made to the whole image ONLY. No cropping is allowed. The event organisers reserve the right to examine the original untouched image. Their opinion as to whether an image submitted for the competition is eligible will be final. In addition, the judges reserve the right to examine the untouched images on their shortlist to determine whether the amount of postproduction affects their choice.
7. The VMR fully endorses the Marine Conservation Society's Photographer's Code of Conduct. Photographers must take all reasonable care not to disturb marine life and the marine environment in pursuit of images. Any images which in the opinion of the judges or event organisers present have been created as a result of handling, placing or interfering with wildlife may be disqualified.
8. Competitors must hand in their chosen images on 26th August between 9am – 12 noon at the Ebba Centre. No images will be accepted after 12 noon. All images must be presented in person – emailing of entries will not be accepted. Original, unchanged images must be kept on the memory card and the card submitted with the photos. For all winning images the original, unchanged image will be downloaded by the organisers to ensure that they were taken on the competition day and have not been changed other than as allowed by the rules. You are advised to write your name on the card, which will be returned at the end of the slideshow presentation.
9. Images may be taken in any format but should be submitted in JPEG format in the same size and resolution that they were taken – no change to size or resolution should be made.
10. Images should be downloaded onto the VMR's laptop using one of the following methods:
 - Your own camera USB cable
 - The VMR card reader
 - CD
11. Please note the VMR card reader can only read the following memory cards: CompactFlash; MultiMedia card; SecureDigital; SmartMedia; Memory Stick; Memory Stick Pro; Microdrive.
12. File names should comprise the photographer's name and the category e.g. Joe Bloggs WA1, Joe Bloggs M1, Joe Bloggs TC1 etc. If downloaded straight from a card they will be renamed and rotated as applicable in Photoshop by the organisers.
13. Exhibition of images will take place at the slide show held at the Ebba Centre, St Abbs at 7pm on Sunday 26th August. The competition judges (who will be announced closer to the date) will choose the winning images in the Wide Angle and Macro categories and the audience will vote on the winning images in the Themed Category.
14. Each entrant receives one free ticket to the slideshow, but as the hall has limited seating all other tickets must be brought in advance from Scoutscroft Dive Shop, Coldingham. Tickets for the slide show will go on sale at Scoutscroft Dive Shop at 8am on 25th August. The cost of a ticket is £2 per person, whatever the age of that person and does not include refreshments.
15. Prizes (which will be announced nearer to the date) will be awarded for:
 - Wide Angle 1st, 2nd, 3rd and best beginner*
 - Macro 1st, 2nd, 3rd and best beginner*
 - The John Goldie Themed Category 1st, 2nd, 3rd

- Best image in show

*a beginner is someone who has not been placed in a previous competition or had images published.

16. The VMR reserves the right to publish winning photographs on the VMR's website. Winning images may also be used in future promotional material such as magazine publications royalty free, but copyright remains with the photographer.

17. The organiser's decision on any matters arising from these rules shall be final.

If you have any questions about the competition or rules please contact the Marine Ranger, Georgia Conolly, by emailing gconolly@nts.org.uk or calling (018907) 71443.

Safety

Participants are responsible for their own safety at all times. Divers must dive within the limits of their own dive certification level and abide by the VMR Code of Conduct at all times. The VMR cannot accept responsibility for the safety of participants during their diving activity, nor does it accept responsibility for any damage to personal equipment that may occur as a result of diving activities.

The VMR would like to thank all sponsors for their kind donations and volunteers for their hard work and help in organising this event.

Happy diving and GOOD LUCK!

Silver Jubilee Print Competition NEWS!

This year the VMR will also be holding a print competition as part of the Silver Jubilee celebrations. Anyone who wishes to enter the print competition should send their entries to the VMR Marine Ranger Georgia at the usual address by 1st November 2012. The cost of entering 1 print into the competition is £20. The exhibition of all images will be displayed in St Abbs, Eyemouth and other locations throughout the Borders over the winter months and the general public will vote on the winning images. Winners images will be announced in April 2013 and prizes awarded.

Rules:

- There will be 2 categories in the competition: wide angle and macro. The winning image in each category will be voted for by the general public during the months the prints are displayed for. There will be a cash prize for 1st place in each category and also a prize for the winning image overall (as voted for by the general public).
- Entries should be 10" x 12" or 12" x 16" and mounted on suitable exhibition mount board.
- The following information should be included on the back of each entry: name of photographer, contact details, equipment used, location photo was taken, date photo was taken and a name for the image.
- All photographs must not have been entered into or won a previous competition award.
- All photographs must have been taken between 1st November 2011 and 31st October 2012 within the Voluntary Marine Reserve. For winning images a data file will be requested that shows the date the file was taken.
- Photographs will be used for on-going exhibitions unless specified for return. Postage will be applied.
- There is no limit to the number of photographs which may be entered into the competition.

For more information contact Georgia (details above)



The St Abbs and Eyemouth VMR Splash In 2012
25th – 26th August

ENTRY FORM

This form should be returned no later than 1st August. General entry can be made on the day but please enter and pay your entry fee in advance if possible.

PLEASE PRINT YOUR DETAILS LEGIBLY SO THAT WE CAN CONTACT YOU IN FUTURE IF WE NEED TO

NAME:		
ADDRESS:		
POSTCODE:		
TEL:		
EMAIL:		
ARE YOU A BEGINNER? (a beginner is someone who has not been placed in a previous competition or had photos published)	YES NO (delete as appropriate)	

I enclose a cheque made payable to 'St Abbs and Eyemouth VMR' for £20. I have read the rules published on the VMR website and agree to abide by them.

SIGNATURE **DATE**

Please return this form along with your entry fee to: Georgia Conolly, St Abbs and Eyemouth VMR, Rangers Office, Northfield, St Abbs, TD14 5QF no later than 1st August.

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date received:

Fee received:

Entrant registration number:

Memory card returned on time:

Type and number of images: **WA** **M** **TC**