



Houston Underwater Photographic Society

By-Laws

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HOUSTON UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

BY - LAWS

(Effective June 1, 2009, these By-Laws replace all existing Constitutions and By-Laws of the Houston Underwater Photographic Society)

ARTICLE 1: NAME AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE

The name of the Society shall be The Houston Underwater Photographic Society (herein referred to as HUPS or the Society). The principle office shall be at the residence of the President, or, at the President's option, another address used for the receipt of dues, membership applications, etc.

ARTICLE 2: GENERAL OBJECTIVES

HUPS is a not-for-profit Social Club formed to encourage and promote interest and participation in underwater photography and videography. At its monthly meetings, HUPS provides educational and entertaining programs, a monthly photo contest, and a convivial atmosphere of shared interests and camaraderie.

ARTICLE 3: LOGO

The Logo of the Society shall be specified by the Executive Committee and shall be published in the Society's official publication or on its web site. It consists of the letters HUPS in grey (R 150 G 187 B 214) with the image of a diving manta ray in black (R 0 G 0 B 0) superimposed on the letters. The logo may also appear on a blue (R 0 G 153 B 255) background.



ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

Anyone interested in becoming an underwater photographer or videographer or improving his or her present underwater photography skill level may be a HUPS member. Non-photographers and non-divers may also be HUPS members to take advantage of monthly slide and/or video presentations that feature dive destinations and exceptional photography.

A membership may be "individual" or "family." A family membership refers to husband, wife and children under 18 years of age. A family membership entitles the family to one vote.

ARTICLE 5: OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS / COORDINATORS

5.1 Officers

The Officers and Directors shall be empowered to do all things necessary to the carrying out of HUPS objectives. All officers, directors, chairpersons and/or coordinators must be a member of HUPS with payment of dues in good standing.

The elected officers of the Society shall be President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, who shall serve one-year terms.

There shall be no discrimination in regards to Society eligibility for membership or nomination for and election to any office or chair position in the Society.

5.1.1 President

The President shall be the principal executive officer of the Society, and with the support and assistance of the other officers, shall be responsible for implementing the policies established by the Executive Committee.

The President may make decisions concerning the overall operation of HUPS and is responsible for keeping the Executive Committee aware of any changes or decisions that may affect the operation of HUPS. Any sole decisions made by the President may be overturned by the Executive Committee by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

The President shall preside at all general membership meetings and Executive Committee Meetings.

5.1.2 Vice President

The Vice-President shall assume the duties of the President in the absence of the latter, and shall undertake such duties as the President may assign to him. In the event of the President's removal or incapacity, the Vice-President shall appoint a new Vice-President with the Executive Committee's approval.

The Vice-President shall be responsible for arranging guest speakers and/or HUPS members for presentations at monthly membership meetings.

5.1.3 Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for the Society's correspondence, and for the maintenance of the Society's records, including taking and issuing minutes of Executive Committee Meetings and maintaining current versions of HUPS By-Laws.

5.1.4 Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be the custodian of the Society's funds, shall handle all receipts, disbursements, and deposits to and withdrawals from the HUPS banking account. The Treasurer shall maintain all necessary records in connection therewith, including receipts or invoices, which are required for all payments.

The Treasurer shall also provide to the Executive Committee, at each Executive Committee meeting, a report of the current state of the Society's assets and liabilities, and prepare, on at least a yearly basis, a financial statement summarizing the Society's disbursements and the current state of the Society's assets and liabilities.

The Treasurer may also engage, after Executive Committee approval, the services of accountants and/or lawyers for the purposes of filing taxes and creating and filing other corporate forms, permits, franchises, and other documents necessary to maintain HUPS corporate and tax status and proper documentation thereof.

5.2 Directors

The Directors shall be 9 members, including the immediate past president, who shall establish policies and see to the proper conduct of the affairs of the Society in compliance with these By-Laws.

Directors shall be elected at the same time as the Officers of the Society and will serve one-year terms.

Directors may resign, be removed from office, or have replacements appointed as provided in section 5.3.5.

5.3 Executive Committee

5.3.1 Composition

The Executive Committee shall be made up of the above four officers and the Directors.

5.3.2 Duties

The Executive Committee will appoint persons (who may be Directors) to carry out the following club functions:

- Membership
- Workshops
- Newsletter
- Webmaster
- Photo Contest
- Trip Coordinator

- Outside Events
- HUPS representatives to TGCC
- Christmas Party
- Club Historian

The Executive Committee may create, make appointments to, and abolish such other offices, or committees as may be expedient for the furtherance of the Society's objectives. However, no such ad-hoc office or committee shall continue in existence beyond the expiration of the President's term of office without approval by the Executive Committee.

5.3.3 Executive Committee Meetings

The Executive Committee shall meet at least two times per year at approximately six -month intervals. The time and location of such meetings shall be communicated to the members of the Executive Committee by e-mail or other convenient means of communication.

The Directors and club officers may convene a special Executive Committee meeting, and any action taken at such a meeting shall have the same effect as if taken at a regular meeting. Decisions on policy or club activities requiring Executive Committee approval may be derived without convening an official Executive Committee meeting as long as the method of communication of the issues is commonly available to the Executive Committee members and that adequate chance for discussion of the topic is provided. The President (or a designate) may, for instance, initiate such action via email, standard mail, or phone conversation. Decisions made in this manner will be communicated to all Executive Committee members and the general membership as appropriate.

It is recommended that the President (or designate) prepare an agenda prior to the meeting listing those topics that have been selected for discussion. Topics for discussion should be solicited from the Executive Committee in advance of the meeting.

5.3.4 Voting

At such meetings, each Executive Committee member shall be entitled to one vote on questions that come before the meeting.

A quorum at any meeting of the Executive Committee shall consist of a simple majority of those having voting privileges.

5.3.5 Removal from Office, Resignation, and Replacement

Any member of the Executive Committee or Chairperson may be removed from their position by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee.

Any member of the Executive Committee or Chairperson may voluntarily resign their position if they are unable or unwilling to perform the duties of their office as defined in these by-laws.

If any member of the Executive Committee resigns or is removed from their position, the remaining Executive Committee members may elect a replacement.

5.4 Committee Chairpersons, Coordinators, and Others

The chairpersons may attend the Executive Committee meetings on a voluntary basis in an advisory capacity only.

5.4.1 Membership Chairperson

The Membership Chairperson shall have the responsibility of handling all matters relating to membership, the membership roster, membership applications, and the updating of the mailing list. The Membership Chairperson forwards all dues generated from memberships to the Treasurer. The Membership Chairperson is also responsible for providing addresses of members to the Newsletter Chairperson or others, as authorized by the Executive Committee, for mail-outs.

5.4.2 Workshop Chairperson

The Workshop Chairperson shall be responsible for selecting workshop topics, scheduling the dates and locations for workshops, and the funding or collection of fees for workshops. The Workshop Chairperson may appoint special chairs for specific workshops.

If a workshop has expected costs exceeding \$200.00, the Workshop Chairperson must submit a statement of costs and expected revenue to the Executive Committee for approval, as stipulated in Article 9, prior to proceeding with the workshop.

5.4.3 Newsletter Editor

The Newsletter Editor shall have the responsibility for all matters relating to the preparation, production and distribution of the Society's official publication.

5.4.4 Webmaster

The Webmaster shall be responsible for the design and maintenance of the website, including keeping the registration and site host contracts current. Design and maintenance of individual website pages may be delegated to others.

5.4.5 Photo Contest Coordinator

The Photo Contest Coordinator shall have the responsibilities for assembling all photo entries for monthly photo contests. The Coordinator is also charged with selecting judges and coordinating all activities necessary for conducting the contest in an organized and orderly manner.

Additional duties include:

- Maintaining accurate records for all contest categories, including the points awarded and winners in all HUPS contests and the point tally for Photographer of the Year.
- Preparing images for use in the webpage and newsletter.
- Maintaining a comprehensive library of contest entrants and monthly winners.
- Announcing winners of the photo contests.
- Reviewing all contest entries for adherence to contest rules.
- Issuing approved lists of photo contest topics at least one year in advance.
- Providing contest results to the Newsletter Editor and Webmaster.

The Coordinator is also charged with the responsibility for storing, transporting, and maintaining all contest-related equipment.

5.4.6 Trip Coordinator

The Trip Coordinator shall have the responsibility for the planning and scheduling of trips and the finances and reporting associated with them. The Trip Coordinator may appoint special coordinators for specific trips.

The Trip Coordinator will prepare and insure the completion of trip related forms, including budget proposals, diver information, and waiver / release of liability.

The Trip Coordinator will present a trip proposal and obtain the approval of the Executive Committee prior to the booking of a trip. A trip report will be submitted to the Executive Committee following the completion of the trip.

5.4.7 Outside Event Coordinator

The Outside Event Coordinator shall coordinate the Society's participation in the events (for example, the Texas Dive Show, Museum of Natural History Exhibits, Photographic Exhibitions) if the Society decides to participate.

5.4.8 Texas Gulf Coast Council Representative

The Texas Gulf Coast Council Representative shall represent HUPS on the Texas Gulf Coast Council (TGCC) and will keep HUPS apprised of TGCC activities. Normally, each year a primary HUPS Representative and several Alternate Representatives are appointed and submitted on a delegation form to TGCC. At each TGCC meeting, one of these individuals is required to represent HUPS interests.

5.4.9 Christmas Party Coordinator

Each December meeting of HUPS includes a Christmas Party. The Christmas Party Coordinator shall coordinate this event.

5.4.10 Club Historian

The HUPS Club Historian maintains information related to HUPS past and advises the Executive Committee on past practices of the Society. He/she is also responsible for tracking HUPS members' progress on qualifying for the HUPS Lifetime Achievement Award and annually notifying the Executive Committee of those that qualified that year.

ARTICLE 6: ELECTIONS

The Officers and Directors shall serve one-year terms starting January 1 of the year following their election.

By October 1, the Executive Committee shall appoint a nominating committee for the purpose of selecting candidates for officer and director positions for the next term. All nominees must be members in good standing (dues paid for the current year) of HUPS. This committee shall submit a slate of one or more candidates for these positions for the next term at the November monthly meeting. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted at the November meeting, if seconded. The Secretary shall make all necessary arrangements to inform the members of the names of the nominees before the November membership meeting.

Each Society Member in good standing and in attendance shall have the opportunity to vote for the new officers and directors of the Society at the November meeting. Such voting shall be accomplished either via ballots or by a show of hands.

If an officer or director resigns or is removed during the year, the Executive Committee will be responsible for finding a replacement for that vacant position for the remainder of the term.

ARTICLE 7: MEETINGS OF THE MEMBERS

Regular meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month at a time and place to be determined by the Executive Committee. The date, time and place of the meeting may be changed for the convenience of the membership (for example, to avoid holidays), and notice of a change will be given in the newsletter and on the website.

The subject of the meetings and for the photo contest will be published in the Newsletter and on the website.

ARTICLE 8: FISCAL YEAR

The Society's fiscal year shall be the calendar year.

Prior to the beginning of the calendar year, each Committee Chairperson or other person with identifiable projected expenditures of Society funds will propose a budget to the Executive Committee for approval not later than the February meeting.

ARTICLE 9: EXPENDITURE OF MONIES

Obligations or indebtedness in the name of the Society shall be incurred only (a) for the general benefit of the entire membership and (b) by authorization of the Executive Committee. No personal liability shall result from action so taken.

Obligations or indebtedness incurred, other than as provided herein, shall be the sole responsibility of the person incurring them.

The President or Treasurer will sign all checks. Bills or receipts are necessary for all expenditures.

Any expenditure over \$200.00 must be approved by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

The President, prior to expenditures, must approve any non-budgeted expenditures.

Total expenditures of up to \$200.00, if previously budgeted by the Executive Committee, may be paid directly upon presentation of the proper bills or receipts by the chairperson of that event or activity.

ARTICLE 10: DUES

Annual membership dues for an individual membership and for a family membership shall be set by the Executive Committee and may be adjusted from time to time at the discretion of the Executive Committee. The membership will be informed of the change of dues at the next monthly meeting, and the new dues levels will be posted on the website and in the monthly newsletter.

Payment of dues will entitle the member to all benefits of the Society, including meetings, monthly contests, receipt of the membership directory and monthly newsletter, and free advertising of dive/camera related gear in the newsletter or on the website, and the display of their photos and links to their personal or business websites on the HUPS Website.

Members shall pay dues no later than the March meeting.

The full membership dues will be charged until June 30th. After June 30th, new members can join at half-price.

Recipients of the Joyce and Frank Burek Lifetime Achievement Award are exempt from dues.

ARTICLE 11: SOCIETY PUBLICATION

“Underwater Images” shall be the official organization publication. This newsletter shall be published monthly. Underwater Images is distributed via e-mail only. HUPS members without internet access can request a printed version. A nominal fee may be charged for newsletter mailings.

ARTICLE 12: HUPS SPONSORED PHOTOGRAPHIC DIVE TRIPS

HUPS sponsored photographic dive trips are to be organized by the HUPS Trip Coordinator with the following provisions:

12.1 General

- All club sponsored photographic dive trips must be approved by the HUPS Executive Committee prior to announcement of the trip by the Trip Coordinator.
- All club-sponsored trips must be booked through a commercial dive travel agency or commercial dive company.
- Dive resort locations must have dive operators accredited by one of the established scuba training organizations, such as PADI, NAUI, SSI, etc.
- All scheduled diving on club-sponsored trips must be under the supervision of accredited dive masters furnished by the commercial dive travel agency, the dive resort or commercial dive company.
- Any unscheduled diving not under the supervision of accredited dive masters furnished by the commercial dive travel agency, the dive resort or commercial dive company will not be considered as part of the club-sponsored trip.
- All club trip participants must sign a waiver releasing HUPS and its representatives from any liability resulting from the trip.

12.2 Financial Aspects

- No individual member of HUPS or trip participant is to profit financially from a club sponsored trip.
- All monies for club-sponsored trips must be managed by the HUPS Treasurer.
- If a club sponsored trip results in a group discount, the HUPS Treasurer will retain and accumulate the discount monies for the sole purposes of:

- Establishing and maintaining a reserve to make or hold reservations for future dive trips.
- Purchasing D & O liability insurance.
- Additional excess monies are to be distributed equally among the trip participants as trip discounts.

ARTICLE 13: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* (as retained by the club Historian) shall govern the Society in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws and any special rules of order the Society may adopt.

ARTICLE 14: AWARDS

HUPS recognizes work done for it by its members with several unique awards. These are detailed in attachments to these By-Laws:

- HUPS Member of the Year
- HUPS Photographer of the Year
- Joyce and Frank Burek (HUPS) Lifetime Achievement Award

ARTICLE 15: AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these By-Laws may be proposed by any Society member in good standing, and will be adopted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE 16: ATTACHMENTS

The following attachments are a part of the By-Laws:

- Attachment 1 – Award – Member of the Year
- Attachment 2 – Award – Joyce and Frank Burek Lifetime Achievement Award
- Attachment 3 – Photo Contests Rules and Awards

Attachments have been made a separate part of the HUPS By-Laws because they are subject to frequent change. They may be modified by presentation to the Executive Committee and approval by simple majority vote.

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ATTACHMENT 1 – MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD

HISTORIC INFORMATION – In 1991 the HUPS Executive Committee established its Member of the Year Award to recognize and honor those individuals in HUPS who continually work on a day after day basis to make HUPS a club that provides service and utility to its members.

GENERAL CONCEPT – That club members in good standing be allowed to nominate one member for the annual HUPS Member of the Year Award. Nominations should be made with the focus of that person's contribution to the Society since January of the current year, and should recognize outstanding service to HUPS primarily during that period.

ADDITIONAL DETAIL:

- All nominations must be in writing and both the nominee and the nominator must be members in good standing (Dues current).
- Each member can recommend only one nominee (member or husband and wife team) per year.
- All nominating letters must be received by the President prior to the beginning of the November General Membership meeting.
- All nominating letters will be published in the December newsletter, posted on the website and read at the December meeting.
- The name of the person writing the nomination letter will not be made public. The President and/or Vice President will be responsible for verification that the award rules (nominator and nominee requirements) have been met.
- The President and Vice President of HUPS are not eligible for this award in the year that they serve.
- The nominee can not have received the award the previous year.
- If more than one individual (or team) has been nominated for the award, the members in attendance will select the Member of the Year by a secret ballot vote at the December meeting.
- The HUPS Member of the Year award will be presented at the TGCC Banquet. The award includes a Banquet ticket for the award recipient.

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**ATTACHMENT 2 – JOYCE AND FRANK BUREK LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT
AWARD**

HISTORIC INFORMATION – In 2007 the HUPS Executive Committee established its Joyce and Frank Burek Lifetime Achievement Award. Originally proposed as the HUPS Lifetime Member Award, the motion to the Executive Committee was amended to honor its first two recipients Joyce and Frank Burek, thus the formal name adopted by the Executive Committee was “Joyce and Frank Burek Lifetime Achievement Award.

GENERAL CONCEPT - The Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes long service and/or significant contributions of leadership to HUPS. It is based upon the belief that after 30 years of paid membership, a member now should be viewed as a member for life and will no longer be required to pay annual dues. In addition, it was believed that certain members exist that have contributed so substantially to HUPS that they should achieve this recognition prior to their 31st membership year. To identify those unique individuals and/or husband and wife teams, a weighted point system was established. The minimum qualification for consideration for the Lifetime Achievement Award was set at 100 points for the period prior to January 1, 2010 and thereafter 130 points.

ADDITIONAL DETAIL:

The HUPS Historian is charged with developing and maintaining a tracking system of the Society’s members contributions to the Society based upon many factors, especially the ones listed below. In the final quarter of each year, at the Executive Committee meeting, the HUPS Historian is charged with identifying for that group those HUPS members who have pasted the benchmark points (or will reach 31 years of membership in January of the next year) and should be considered for this award. Members are added to the list of award winners by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Committee present at that meeting.

Accumulated points are based upon the following:

- 1 term as President or Vice President = 5 points
- 1 term as an officer as specified in the By-Laws (except President or Vice President) = 3 points
- 1 term as UWI Editor or Web Master = 3 points
- Special Projects - Project Manager = 3 points
- 1 term on the HUPS Executive Committee = 2 points
- 1 term as a Committee Chairperson or HUPS Primary TGCC Representative = 2 points
- A program presented to the society = 2 points
- A workshop or class presenter = 2 points
- HUPS Photo Table Book Project Participant = 2 points
- Article published in Underwater Images; on Web Site; or the HUPS Book = 1 point
- Christmas Party Chairperson; HUPS Alternate TGCC Rep.; Assistant Chairperson = 1 point
- Volunteers and contributors (i.e. trade show booth, print displays, joint work programs) = 1 point
- Years of membership = 1 point per year (1 - 10 years), 2 points per year (11 - 20 years), 3 points per year (21 - 30 years)

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ATTACHMENT 3 – HUPS PHOTO CONTEST AWARDS AND RULES

HISTORIC INFORMATION – In 1984 HUPS began a program of photographic competition at its General Membership Meeting. The first award for Photographer of the Year was given that year and it has continued to develop and evolve year after year.

GENERAL CONCEPT – The HUPS monthly photo contest serves to recognize the developing talent of HUPS members; provide a basis of photographic education for all members in attendance; and educate the HUPS members about marine life and the marine environment.

These Rules will become effective on January 1, 2010

1. MONTHLY CONTEST AND GENERAL RULES

1.1 Judging Criteria

All monthly photo contest entries will be judged on an equal basis. Images are judged on the following:

- Adherence to the month's contest topic description.
- Technical image quality - sharpness, exposure, and lighting.
- Composition.
- Impact, drama.
- Degree of difficulty.

1.2 Categories of Photographers

Initially for 2010, photographers will be assigned to the Novice and Intermediate Categories based on their accumulated point totals for 2008 and 2009. The allocation will be done by the Photo Contest Coordinator. Any person may, at any time, appeal their category assignment to the Photo Contest Coordinator.

1.2.1 Novice

The Novice category is for those that meet the following criteria:

- Photography is a hobby.
- Have never taken best of show or 1st - 3rd in national or international photographic competitions.
- Has not been a HUPS Photographer of the Year.
- Has not won a 'Best of HUPS contest.
- Has not advanced to the Intermediate Category.

1.2.2 Intermediate

The Intermediate category is for those that meet the following criteria:

- Photography is a hobby.
- Have never taken best of show or 1st - 3rd in national or international photographic competitions.

- Has won HUPS Photographer of the year in the Novice category.
- Has not been a HUPS Photographer of the Year in the Intermediate or Advanced categories.
- Has demonstrated intermediate level skills and petitioned the Photo Contest Coordinator for permission to participate in the Intermediate category.
- Has not advanced to the Advanced Category.

1.2.3 Advanced

The Advanced category is for those that meet the following criteria:

- Photography is a hobby or profession.
- Has won Photographer of the Year in the Intermediate category.
- Have taken best of show or 1st-3rd in national or international photographic competitions.
- Has demonstrated advanced level skills and petitioned the Photo Contest Coordinator for permission to participate in the Advanced category.
- Club members who have won Photographer of the Year in the Advanced category will continue to be eligible to compete in future year's Advanced competitions.

1.3 Entering Images

Each HUPS member will be allowed to enter three (3) images per contest in the category for which they are eligible. However, from time to time it may be necessary, at the discretion of the Photo Contest Coordinator, to reduce the number of entries from three to two or even one per photographer in one or more of the entry categories.

Images should be submitted as JPEG or JPG files.

Contest entries must be e-mailed to PhotoContest@hups.org at least 48 hours prior to the meeting. Photos submitted after this deadline may be accepted by the contest Chairperson, at his or her discretion and availability.

The photographer does not have to be present at the monthly meeting to enter their image(s).

1.4 Types of Images / Editing

Images must be captured underwater using a digital or film camera. Only digital files are allowed. Images will be projected via a digital projector. In the event no projector is available, judging will take place via a laptop monitor. The original content of the image captured may not be changed or augmented. Removal or addition of subjects or objects is not permitted. Extreme computer manipulation is not permitted.

The following minor computer adjustments are allowed:

- Resizing and cropping.
- Adjusting levels, curves, brightness, contrast, and color.
- Backscatter removal and sharpening.

1.5 Image Naming Structure

Images should be named as follows:

- Contest code + First initial + Last name + Number 1, 2, or 3.

The contest codes are:

- Novice – Nov
- Intermediate - Int
- Advanced - Adv

For example, if John Doe (a Novice contestant) entered three images for the contest his files should be named:

- NovJDoe1.jpg
- NovJDoe2.jpg, and
- NovJDoe3.jpg

Spaces, dashes, or underscores may be used to separate file name parts.

If images do not meet the above criteria, or if they are not consistent with the category description, they will not be considered for judging. Photographers who submit a photograph that is rejected may be notified and permitted to resubmit a conforming photograph (time permitting), which must be received before the contest deadline.

1.6 Image Size

Images should not be greater than 1024 x 768 pixels and a file size of not more than 500 kb each.

1.7 Other Restrictions

No aquarium or pool shots; unless a monthly contest topic specifies such.

Photographs with divers stressing marine life will not be judged.

Entries that have won 1st, 2nd, or 3rd, in previous HUPS contests, or any major competition are ineligible. The only exceptions are permitted during the Best of HUPS night at the December meeting.

Images may not display copyright or any other identifying markings (except for the December contest).

Images will be disqualified if in the opinion of the Photo Contest Chairperson and monthly judges, the images do not meet the monthly subject matter, or do not meet one of the aforementioned rules.

1.8 Judges

All contest judging will be performed by a panel of three judges selected by the HUPS Photo Contest Coordinator, except on nights when it is announced that the general membership will judge – such as the Best of HUPS contest in December. Judges will be directed to use the Judging Criteria as stated in section 1.1.

The Photo Contest Chairperson (or his assistant) will tabulate all ballots and announce the winners to the members in attendance (time permitting).

1.9 Scoring

Each of the three judges scores each image from 1 to 9 points.

The total points for each image (between 3 and 27) will be recorded.

- The image winning the most points in each category will win 1st place.
- The second most points will be 2nd place.
- The third most points will be 3rd place.

Ties will be awarded for photos having the same number of points.

In addition to the points awarded for each image, extra points will be awarded for the first, second, and third place images as follows:

- Entering the contest = 1 point
- Placing third = 3 points
- Placing second = 6 points
- Placing first = 9 points

A running total of all points earned will be maintained for the months of January through November. December is not included, as it is a separate contest. The "active" HUPS member in each category accumulating the most points from January through November will be the HUPS Photographer of the Year in that category.

1.10 Contesting Results

If a member wishes to question the results of a contest, they must submit their complaint in writing to the Photo Contest Coordinator or any club officer.

The complaint must include: complainant's name, questionable image, nature of complaint (indicating rule broken), and the proof behind complaint. The Executive Committee will review the complaint, and if they find merit, they may disqualify the image.

If a first, second, or third place winning image is disqualified, the photographer will receive no points for that image, and the image(s) with the next higher point total(s) will be declared the first, second, or third place winner.

1.11 Use of Images

Persons entering a contest, including those with winning digital images, agree to allow HUPS to retain and use the images in the newsletter and on the web page or for other club-sponsored activities. HUPS agrees, in return, to not abuse this privilege by marketing the image in any form, and will use it in promotional literature only with the advance consent of the photographer owning the image and with full recognition of said ownership of image(s).

2. DECEMBER MEETING "BEST OF HUPS" PHOTO CONTEST RULES

2.1 Categories

There are four categories:

- Novice
- Intermediate
- Advanced
- Creative

The first three categories are the same as the monthly contest (including the limitations on image size, image manipulation, submission to PhotoContest@hups.org 48 hours prior to the meeting, etc.) with some clarifications:

- Any image that has won 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in a monthly contest is eligible. Any image that was won a previous 'Best of HUPS' contest is not eligible.
- Any underwater subject may be used.
- Anyone can enter the fourth "creative" category.
- The overall photo should have an underwater context or connection of some sort. For instance, a school of fish swimming through the "canyons of New York City" is a perfectly acceptable entrant even though most of the image may be a cityscape.
- Any image is allowed as long as it has been taken or created by the person entering the photo. One cannot take photos of other photos or take images off the web, etc.
- Any form of digital manipulation is allowed.
- Three images may be entered in each category for which the photographer is eligible.

2.2 Judging and Scoring

Judging will be done by everyone at the December meeting using paper ballots. Each person participating as a judge will award 3 points for the best photo, 2 points for the next, and 1 point for their third choice in each of the four categories.

The points will be totaled after the meeting, and the results will be announced on the website, in the January newsletter, and at the January meeting following the contest.

Points in the December contest DO NOT count toward Photographer of the Year.

2.3 Restriction on Future Use

Best of HUPS winning images are no longer eligible for any other HUPS contest.

3. PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

A Photographer of the Year is recognized in each of the Photo Contest entry categories: Novice, Intermediate and Advanced. The winner of this award is determined by an accumulation of points as stipulated in section 1.9 Scoring.

To qualify for a Photographer of the Year, one must be a member in good standing and "active" in the club by participating in three (3) meetings or workshops or a combination of both in the year of the contest, or has participated in an annual HUPS trip within the current or previous year of the contest. Once a member has qualified, they will be grandfathered in for any subsequent year if they move away from the area and cannot attend the meetings or participate in the trips.

Members in good standing who do not meet this standard may enter monthly contests, but they will not qualify for Photographer of Year. If during the year, a member does fulfill the standard, they will be able to compete for the current year's award.

The Photographer of the Year award will be presented at the TGCC Banquet. The award includes a Banquet ticket for the award recipient.

HUPS By-Laws – Approval and Ratification

Effective June 1, 2009, the attached By-Laws and Attachments replace the existing Constitution, By-Laws and Attachments of the Houston Underwater Photographic Society.

By-Laws

Attachment 1 – Member of the Year Award

Attachment 2 – Lifetime Achievement Award

Attachment 3 – HUPS Photo Contest Awards and Rules

Approved and ratified on May 20, 2009 by:

2009 HUPS OFFICERS:

Tom Collier - President

Jim Mensay – Vice-President

Tammy Allyn – Secretary

Henry Ragland – Treasurer

2009 HUPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Jan Baughman

Frank B

Dennis Deavenport

Grimes

ace Heimer

Ken Knezick

Mary McDonald

Harry Montecinos

Charlie Waldron

Original Signed by Officers
and Directors
May 20, 2009