

Ken Knezick at our April 3rd Meeting Presents:

How to Dive Successfully (and Safely) with Cameras

By Dennis Deavenport

In Ken Knezick's own words, "This will be a far-ranging discussion covering the nuts and bolts of taking cameras underwater." And so begins the introduction to April's program. What I find about writing an article about Ken is that it presents a curious dilemma. It's an easy job to find good things to talk about but difficult to summarize such a large and impressive resume of accomplishments. Here is someone who has arguably done more for the diving scene in Houston than any other person. Not only has he been actively involved with HUPS from its inception but he has been the key driving force for SEASPACE for years. Most divers in Houston know Ken through his many activities including his day job as President of Island Dreams Tours and Travel. Many of his excellent underwater images can be found on his company's website <http://www.divetrip.com/>.

HUPS has been very fortunate to have Ken as a long-standing contributor. And we are once again fortunate to have him step up to the stage for his own brand of entertainment where he



Image by Ken Knezick, © 2006

shares his wealth of diving and photographic skills with HUPS.

This month's program will focus on the many different things that you need to do when taking your new camera system underwater. As we have come to expect from anything Ken does, the show will be chock full of good advice and humor. Questions and comments are expected and invited. Topics that Ken will cover in his presentation are...

- Equipment lists and pre-planning
- Ways to rig your scuba equipment to avoid difficulties
- Ways to rig your camera equipment to avoid problems

- Strategies to avoid flooding your camera
- Keeping your equipment safe on the dive boat
- Keeping your equipment safe in the camera room at the resort
- Avoiding camera equipment theft while in transit
- Managing your digital files while you travel

Expect tips and advice to cover both compact digital cameras as well as more advanced DSLR systems. As one of the earliest adopters of digital technology in HUPS Ken has years of experience to share. The program will culminate with a short show of Ken's own most recent digital underwater photography, the product of his new D2x system.

You've heard me say it before but this is another of HUPS' outstanding programs that you don't want to miss. Come for the education but stay for the entertainment. A good time will be had by all.

As always the meeting will start at 7 PM and will be held at the Bayland Community Center on Bissonnett. A map can found on the back page of this newsletter. See you there!

President's Message

Our Club is here for you... Get Involved

HUPS is an organization with many good people. We have been around a long time and have achieved notoriety in the diving community and photography world.

One of the reasons we have done so has been due to the continuous involvement year after year of the many talented people that have brought us this far. Kudos to all of you, we couldn't have done it without you. As a new member 6 years ago, I was in awe of the talent level and the many images on display week in and week out. I really wanted to get involved and learn how to do all this and one day produce images equal to what I was seeing. Although everyone was extremely friendly, I knew to be able to accomplish this I was going to have to ask questions and get involved. Sometimes when we join a new organization, we tend to be a bit shy and just sit back. I would encourage any new members to ask questions and find one of our tenured members to help out. Everyone will be glad to offer suggestions and help in anyway they can. All you need to do is ask. There are many ways to get involved with our club. There always seems to be some sort of planning going on and we would love to have your input. There are workshops available to attend to gain more knowledge. Our monthly meeting time is limited so a workshop is an excellent opportunity to visit, ask more questions and get to know more people. For those who would like to do a presentation for a monthly meeting, don't hesitate to get with Dennis Deavenport or myself and we can certainly arrange it. We are always looking for new ideas and programs. This is open to anyone and we encourage new members to do some presentations. You don't have to be a seasoned veteran to do this. People will enjoy watching the growing process of our membership.

Every year we have Officer and Board of Director Elections. Feel free to throw your name in the hat. We are always looking for new ideas.

SEASPACE will be another excellent opportunity to get involved as well. HUPS always has a booth and we always need help selling raffle tickets, setting up the gallery etc. Many of us have limited time and we all certainly understand that aspect of things but I just wanted to encourage new people or even older members that haven't been very involved in a while to do so. Just remember, you always get out of something what you put into it. I look forward to working closer with many of you in the future!

It lends a whole new meaning to the phrase "Dive In".

Lets Dive,
Chuck

Members in Action

Long distance HUPS Members Kimberly and Karl Dietz recently have their images featured in a solo exhibit at the International Photography Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City. The images will be on display until April 30th. For more information on the exhibit check out: <http://www.iphf.org/> and for more photography by Kim and Karl check out <http://www.kdietz.com/>.

It is the seasons for underwater photo contest results and we have some HUPS members who are winners. Well, all HUPS

members are winners, but these guys and gals won some contests:

In the Underwater Images Photo/Video Competition (<http://www.uwimages.org/>) Both Karl Dietz and Mary Lou Reid placed. Mary Lou received a second in Open Macro while Karl earned 1st place in Novice Wide-angle, 2nd place in the Majestic category and Honorable Mention in Novice Macro.

Karl also was recognized with a Honorable Mention in the Macro Unrestricted category of the Wetpixel/Dive photo Guide International Competition.

In the Scuba Diving Magazine Contest Mary Lou placed third in the Macro category while her hubby Jackie received a Honorable Mention.

Mary Lou also won 2nd Place Macro in the Beneath the Sea Photo/Video Competition (<http://www.beneaththesea.org/>).

If you know of a HUPS member who has recently been published or won an underwater photography contest let us know. Don't be afraid to toot your own horn. Send information to underh2o@ev1.net.

Thanks Frank & Joyce

By Dennis Deavenport

Frank and Joyce Burek have always been fantastic HUPS members willing to share their time and talent in many ways. Last March's presentation was just one more in a long line of superb presentations by this dynamic and thoroughly professional team. Nobody puts more effort and dedication into their art and profession and it always comes through when they step into the spotlight. Their triple treat show started off with "Indonesian Odyssey", a fascinating show featuring photographs taken on last year's two week Indonesian trip sailing from East Timor to Irian Jaya. This was followed by their signature show, "Two Different Worlds" which features scenic wonders from above and below the water. It's a real treat to see the world through the analytical and creative eyes of Frank and Joyce. Finally they let us take a peek at their own particular skills and how they use them routinely to create images that have impact. Using examples from their own stock of images, we saw the tricks and tips they use when taking outstanding photos and just what it is about those magical images that makes them truly special. Thanks again Joyce and Frank for another outstanding evening of wonder and education.

A Little Note from Frank Burek

The message below was recently sent to HUPS Newsletter Editor from Frank Burek.

David,
I have a quick comment for the newsletter. Joyce and I were very pleased by the response we got from the HUPS members to our March program. The audience was wonderful. Also we received a Thank You note from a member and a couple of calls from other members. HUPS really has great people.

Thank You,
Frank Burek

HUPS Travel Update

By Tom Collier, HUPS Trip Coordinator

April 13-23, 2006

Lembah Strait, North Sulawesi, Indonesia

Trip is Full. We have 8 divers from HUPS on this trip. Most have elected to extend trip for stay at Gangga Island Resort, which will offer wide-angle photography. This trip has worked out great – Macro at Lembah, Wide-angle at Gangga. We hope to bring back some good photos to share.

September 9-10, 2006

Digital Workshop at the Flower Gardens

8 spots open. - HUPS will be hosting a Flower Gardens digital photography workshop in September 2006. James Wiseman will be presenting a series of lectures covering digital photography topics such as gear selection and setup, digital photo underwater techniques, topsides image processing, and image archiving.

If you would like to participate in this workshop please mail your deposit as soon as possible. We will fill the trip on a first come, first served basis.

\$ 405.00 = Trip cost (\$65.00 extra for Nitrox)
\$ 50.00 = Deposit required to reserve your spot

Mail Deposit = Tom Collier, 1806 Buchanan St., Brenham, Tx 77833.

Summer 2007

Still working on planning a 2007 trip. Where do you want to go? Email suggestions.

HUPS Trip Coordinator: Tom Collier, tom@tpixs.com

HUPS April 22 Workshop Coming Soon!

On April 22 James Wiseman will teach the first HUPS workshop of 2006. It will be geared toward new digital photographers or those considering moving up to a DSLR. The presentation will run two hours with an additional hour of hands on and Question & Answers. The topics will include:

What camera is right for me?
What housing is right for me?
What strobe is right for me?
How do I get my strobe to work with my camera?
Selecting Lenses
Transferring Images

The April 22 Intro to Digital Workshop will be held at Cornerstone Mortgage located at 1177 West Loop South #200. The workshop will start at 1:00 pm and finish up about 4:00 pm. As with all our workshops these are free to HUPS members. Your HUPS membership continues to be a great value. The charge for this same workshop at the Boston Sea Rovers Scuba Show was \$100.

We have other workshops scheduled for the remainder of 2006 here is the complete lineup:

Intro to Digital: April 22

Getting Started in Digital UW Photography: May 6 (see page 6)

Composition: May 27

Photoshop and Digital Workflow: August 19

Lighting and Lighting Technique: November 11

How is that for some educational opportunities? Who would have thought that your \$35 membership would buy so much? If that wasn't enough we also have the September 9-10 Digital Workshop at the Flower Gardens that James will be leading. Get onboard and do something to improve your images... attend a workshop or six! When you see James tell him thanks for all his hard work.

Put Some Impact in your Shots

In case you missed the Burek's shows last month here are some tips from their "How to Create Images with Impact" program. Try to include one or several of these elements in your images.

Elements that give impact to an image include:

- Color
- Photograph at eye level
- Diagonal movement
- Eye contact
- Contrast between foreground and background
- Effective use of lighting
- Unusual or dramatic subject
- Room for subject to move
- Correct orientation - horizontal vs. vertical
- Depth of field
- Sharp focus of primary subject

Gunter R. Sabionski 5/1/1932 - 2/24/2006

By Jack and Tammy Allyn

We have had word that Gunter Sabionski passed away on February 24, 2006 in Germany after a lengthy battle with pancreatic cancer. Gunter was a long time member of HUPS - a colorful character who enjoyed underwater videography. He had a long career at NASA before retiring to his native Germany a few years ago. He will be missed.

Quick Tip

Before taking your camera underwater it is a good idea to dunk it in the rinse tank to test for leaks. Of course this is not the same as going down to 100 feet, but you may be able to detect a major problem before it's too late. Just put it underwater and look for bubbles coming from places that they shouldn't.

If you have a tip that would be of interest to other HUPS members please send it to David Lenderman - underh2o@ev1.net.

Upcoming Monthly Photo Contest Topics

Each month we will have digital and slide contests. For complete contest rules checkout:

<http://www.hups.org/contestr.htm>

April - Put Away that Strobe - Natural Light

July - Shoot your Buddy - Shots with divers

May - Texture and Color

August - Reef Scenes

June - Anemones and things that live in them

September - Two or more of a kind

How to be a Good UW Photographer? Part Three - Get Close!

By David Lenderman

This article is the third in a multi-part series on what an underwater photographer has to do to get consistently good images. There are lots of things that go into making a good photographer. I will try to cover the points that you MUST do to be a good underwater photographer.

Most every underwater photographer has heard that they should get close to their subjects, but few realize how important this really is. Also close is a relative term. What may seem close to some photographers may be way too far for more experienced photographers. Just an extra 12 inches between camera and subject can make a big difference in image quality.

By reducing the amount of water you must shoot through you get multiple benefits. Everyone has images with backscatter - those pesky illuminated particles. The more water you shoot through the greater chance you have of creating backscatter in your shots. When you move closer you reduce the number of suspended particles your flash illuminates and thus reduce the odds that they will flare up into backscatter.

Even in clear water the suspended particulate matter will add softness to the image. Getting closer will provide you with a sharper, crisper image.

The light from your strobe is absorbed by the water as it travels toward the subject and reflects off the subject back to the camera. Remember that water absorbs colors of the spectrum at different rates. Red is the first color to go followed by orange and then yellow. You can see this if your flash illuminated images that are shot from a distance. The light from your strobe will tend to look more blueish when shooting more distant subjects. Getting closer will help highlight those desired colors of red, orange and yellow.

Getting close will also allow the subject to fill the frame. Often photographers with zoom lenses think that they can just zoom in on the subject to have it fill the frame without having to move closer. This is a bad idea. The zoom is best used on only shy, unapproachable subjects. If a subject will allow you to get close do so.

So how close is close enough? That depends. For macro shots I rarely shoot anything from farther than three feet away, usually I am shooting from one or two feet from my subject. For wide-angle I prefer a very wide lens that allows me to get close to the

reef while still having a large area in my shot. For wide-angle I try to be within two feet of my primary subject.

Often we are limited by our lens and subject. If you have a larger subject you sometimes have to back off it to have it fit in the frame. In many of these cases you may have to wrong subject for your lens. You may get better results by getting closer and selecting a smaller portion of the subject to photograph. Instead of shooting the whole large parrotfish with your macro lens just shoot it's face or tail or whatever looks good. If your wide-angle lens is not all that wide don't try to capture the entire reef in one image. Select a particularly attractive coral, get close and make some great images. Choose subjects that will allow you to get close with your camera set up.

Monthly Contest Results

March: Leading Lines

Digital - Advanced

1st - Ken Knezick

2nd - Tie - James Wiseman, Mary Lou Reid, Jackie Reid, David Lenderman x3

3rd - Karl Dietz

Digital - Novice

1st - Sarah Bernhardt

2nd - Sarah Bernhardt

3rd - Sheree Fields

Slides - Combined

1st - Mary Lou Reid

2nd - Tie - Dennis Deavenport x2, Mary Lou Reid, Jackie Reid

3rd - Dennis Deavenport

Strobes? We Don't Need No Stinkin' Strobes

For the April contest the topic is "Natural Light". This means images shot with out the use of a flash or strobe. If you have some natural light shots you want to show off be sure to enter them in the April contest. You can't win if you don't enter.

At monthly meetings we will have both slide and digital contests. Entries for the slide contest should be brought to the meeting. Entries for the digital contest should be emailed to photocontest@hups.org at least **48 hours prior** to the meeting. This mailbox is reserved for entries only. If you have a question regarding the digital contest send your email to ddeavenport@houston.rr.com or james@reefs.org. Complete contest rules can be found at <http://www.hups.org/contestr.htm>. If you do not follow all the rules for digital entries your images will not be judged.

ASMP Digital Fine Art Printing Workshop

Saturday April 14th 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

The Houston Chapter of The American Society of Media Photographers (ASMP) is sponsoring a printing workshop detailed below. For more information on ASMP check out <http://www.asmp-houston.org/>.

This full day seminar will take look an advanced look at the skills necessary for high quality digital fine art printing. We will examine the history of digital fine art printing processes, and look at all the processes available today complete with sample prints. Special attention will be paid to niche black-and-white printing alternatives. RIPs, ink technology, terms like metamerism and bronzing, pricing and recommendations will all be discussed.

The seminar will also take an in-depth look at what every digital photographer needs: a well calibrated display. We will look at every single calibration package on the market, and discuss some advanced techniques about display calibration that you won't find elsewhere.

Demanding photographers know that lighting can play a crucial role to how work is interpreted. We will look at the lighting options available today and examine optimal scenarios.

We will also take an in-depth look at sRGB, AdobeRGB, Pro-PhotoRGB. What they are, why bigger is not always better, and when you should choose one over the other for your working space.

This seminar does not introduce or review the basics of digital imaging, and is instead focused to benefit those experienced participants who are ready to advance their skills toward excellence. We expect that even seasoned digital imaging professionals will benefit from the course.

Instructor

Scott Martin is a digital photography trainer and consultant who works one-on-one with professionals in their studios fine tuning the techniques and color management necessary for top notch work. With full-time devotion to this exclusive environment since the 1990s, his experience with a wide variety of imaging equipment and applications is unsurpassed. Martin was an early adopter and proponent of RGB scanning workflows, digital image capture, color management with ICC profiling, RAW workflows and advanced fine art printing processes well before any of them were popular. He has worked with digital photography since the 1980s and has guided thousands of photographers through the transition from film to digital photography. Martin's digital imaging consulting firm, OnSight, is one of the premier, personalized, one-on-one training and consulting service for those that like to stay ahead of the competition and the technology learning curve.

Mr. Martin's interest to technology begins with a passion for art. He is a fine art photographer whose work has been seen in numerous solo exhibitions and is included in many private and public collections. He describes himself as passionate about working with images, and brings a printmaker's approach to making them look good. He holds a degree in Digital Photographic Imaging, is an Adobe Certified Photoshop Expert, an i3forum member, and serves on the board of the Texas Photographic Society. He has worked with some of the finest photographers, ad agencies, and printers in North America, Europe and Australia. www.on-sight.com

The location of the seminar is:
Joe Robbins Studio
6400 Westpark, Suite 440
Houston, Texas 77057

It's close to the intersection of Hillcroft and Westpark. The charge is \$50.00 per person. The workshop is scheduled for Saturday April 14th from 9 AM until 4 PM. There will be a lunch break to allow everyone to go out and get something from a nearby restaurant.

People wanting to sign up should send a check made out to ASMP Houston to:

ASMP Houston
Attn: Scott Kohn
730 East 9th Street
Houston, Texas 77007

Excellent Article on the State of the Oceans

Submitted by Jack Allyn

As underwater photographers, divers and humans we should all be concerned with the health of the Oceans. If we do not act as stewards for the marine environment who will? A must-read article "The Fate of the Ocean" is featured in the March/April 06 issue of the Mother Jones magazine. This issue, which is jam packed with other great articles, just hit the bookstores on March 6th, and can also be checked out on their website

http://www.motherjones.com/news/feature/2006/03/the_fate_of_the_ocean.html



Novice Digital 3rd Place Sheree Fields, © 2006.

FOR SALE

Members are welcome to submit for sale ads of scuba and photography related items. These ads will run in the newsletter space permitting for three months at no charge.

Nikon PB6 bellows and rail with PS6 slide copying adapter, with the double cable release needed. It's pristine though 10 (?) years old. Retail around \$400, but will sell for \$100 or best offer.

Pentax 90WR Zoom 38-90 auto-focus FILM camera. It's water resistant and is a great beach/rafting/... camera. Great condition. Original retail about \$300, but will sell for best offer.

Contact Dave Van Rooy dvanrooy@SeaBelow.com

Getting Started in Digital Underwater Photography Workshop - May 6th

So we now have a name for this event: "Getting Started in Digital Underwater Photography". Some of our best speakers are being lined up and Powerpoint files are being put together.. May 6th will be here before you know it.

This will be a great learning opportunity for newer photographers. The primary focus will be to bring in new members to HUPS. Of course current members are welcome to attend as well. If you have dive buddies that have an interest in taking up underwater photography this would be a great event for them to attend. We will need everyone's help to make this event a success. The topics will be covered in a very fundamental overview type manner but will also touch on some more advanced material.

This event will consist of four sessions. Session One will be devoted to equipment choices. The advantages/disadvantages and cost of different types of photography systems will be discussed. This will be a shorter version of James Wiseman's "Intro to Digital" workshop scheduled for April 22nd.

Session Two will be devoted to getting started with the new equipment. How to put it together, tips on how to use it, etc..

Session three will be dedicated to work flow and editing. This will be an overview, not an in-depth session. A much more in-depth editing and workflow session will be presented at our August 19 HUPS workshop.

The final session will concentrate on how to get good images. This will include where to go, how to stalk critters, macro skills, wide angle skills, lighting, composition, etc. This again will be a very basic overview of these concepts aimed to get a beginner started.

The event is scheduled for 10 am - 3 pm Saturday May 6th. Lunch, coffee, soft drinks, and other goodies will be provided as part of the entry fee of \$15 (free to members). It will be held at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, 11612 Memorial Drive, at Blalock. We have rooms 202 and 203 reserved for the workshop. Following is a link to a map which will be helpful. <http://www.mdpc.org/cgi-bin/index.cgi?name=maps> Those who wish to attend need to RSVP to David Lenderman at 281-342-5475 or underh2o@ev1.net.



Novice Digital 2nd Place Sarah Bernhardt, © 2006

Basic Concept of the Month - Liveboards

Okay, so liveboard dive boats are not really a photographic term or concept. However, liveboards can help you create better images. The advantages that liveboards offer photographers include:

- less need to haul heavy camera gear around
- often do multiple dives on the same site so you get another try at those special subjects
- typically offer unhurried dives where you can take your time with subjects
- offer 4 or even 5 dives a day including night dives most nights (more dives = more images)

These and numerous other benefits make liveboard dive boats a great tool to help improve your underwater images. If you have never been on a liveboard try it you'll like it.

In an effort to help educate our less experienced members we will try to feature a basic term or concept in each month's newsletter. If you have an idea for a featured concept or have a question you would like answered email it to underh2o@ev1.net.

Important Dates

Put them on your calendar

April 3

HUPS meeting - Ken Knezick - How to dive successfully (and safely) with cameras

May 1

HUPS meeting - Jim Heimer - Digital Video for Beginners

May 27

HUPS Composition Workshop

April 22

HUPS Intro to Digital Workshop - James Wiseman - see article on page 3 of newsletter

May 6

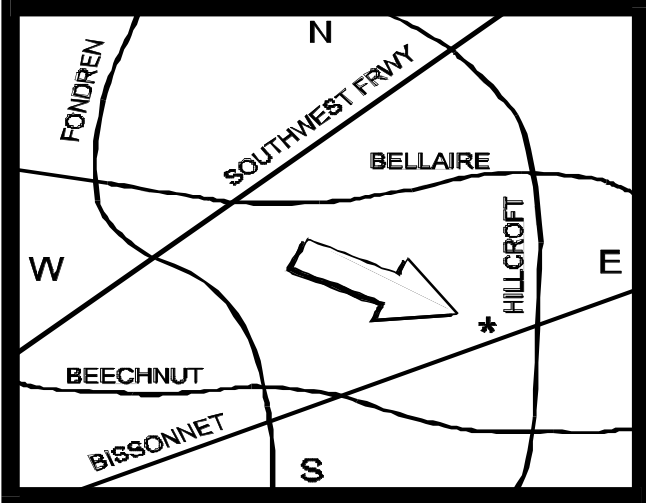
HUPS Getting Started in Digital Underwater Photography - Workshop geared toward non-members and new digital UW photographers - see page 6

June 5

HUPS Meeting - Christa Loustailot - Red Sea Adventures

The Houston Underwater Photographic Society meets the first Monday of the month at 7:00 PM at Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, near Hillcroft. Social time begins at 6:45. Visitors always welcome

*** BAYLAND COMMUNITY CENTER**



<http://www.hups.org>

2006 HUPS Officers

President Chuck Jensen
Vice President Dennis Deavenport
Secretary Tammy Allyn
Treasurer Henry Ragland
Membership Jean Himes
Photo Contest Paul Levy
Newsletter David Lenderman
TGCC Rep F. Burek/D. Mensay
Librarian John Anderson
Web Master Pat Miller
Workshops James Wiseman

Board of Directors

Jack Allyn
Ken Bean
Frank Burek
Sheree Fields
Ken Knezick
Paul Levy
Patricia Lin
Paul McDonald
Joe Nicklo
Dennis Vernon
James Wiseman

**Underwater
Images**

HUPS
PO BOX 270056
HOUSTON, TX 77277-0056