



## Tropical Sealife of the Texas and Louisiana Gulf Coast July 2nd Meeting with Jesse Canclemo

*By Tom Collier*

I want to go diving - bad. Where can I go quickly? Cozumel, Roatan, Cayman? These are all quick and easy, but not really, not anymore. Those locations are not as suitable for a weekend quickie as they once were. The answer is in our own backyard - the Gulf. We are often so consumed with our big dive trip plans that we forget there is some really good diving right here.

For our July program, Jesse Canclemo is going to take us on a tour of our home town reefs. Some are familiar to many and a couple are known to only a few divers. He will show us images from the East and West Flower Gardens Banks, Stetson

Bank, Geyer Bank, Sonnier Bank and several artificial reefs off our coast. Many of the images are a preview of his soon-to-be published book titled Texas Coral Reefs, Texas A&M Press.

Jesse has been diving and photographing underwater for more than 30 years. He is a 1972 graduate of the Brooks Institute's underwater photography program. Jesse moved to Houston in 1976 and made his first trip to the Flower Gardens in 1978. Then he joined HUC and participated in the SEASPACE photo competitions. Soon thereafter he joined HUPS and served as HUPS's third President. Over the years Jesse has published hundreds of photo-

graphs in diving and wildlife magazines and has a number of international credits and advertising successes. He is a contributing editor for Dive Training Magazine and a frequent contributor to Scuba Diving Magazine. His third book Texas Coral Reefs is due out at the end of the year.

Come to the July meeting and see what we have been missing right here at home. Maybe our next dive trip won't be so far away after all.

As usual our meeting will be at - Bayland Community Center - 6400 Bissonnet. A map can be found on the back of this newsletter.

### Bags of Stuff

*By Tom Collier*

The June meeting featured four speakers who each described how they packed their camera related gear for a photo dive trip. The presentations ranged from compact cameras to elaborate DSLR systems. Fully packed baggage brought to the meeting spanned the range from a low cost backpack to a customized Igloo ice chest.

James Wiseman wowed us with his knowledge of digital dodads. Just as impressive was his choice of a carry-on backpack. I believe if he had a couple of those backpacks in the trunk of his car he could have sold them on the spot.

Jackie Reid amazed us with his array of sophisticated gear, custom neoprene packing material (where did you get that?), ice chest, i-Pod and his really cool hat.

Rob and Gaynor Mellor made us envious of their care free approach, small backpack and all. No worries there.

Dennis Deavenport convinced us that he should be with us on every dive trip because he takes an awesome save-a-dive kit on each outing.

Our thanks go to all four presenters for an informative and entertaining evening. There were tons of questions from the audience: so much so that we ran out of time, tells me there is lots of interest in this area.

# President's Message

## Dive Safe - Dive Nice

We all work hard to keep our camera equipment dry and functioning on dive trips. We spend extra dollars on equipment insurance and backup gear, just in case something goes wrong. We'll pack extra O-rings, a 2nd camera body, more strobe batteries, and even an extra strobe, just to be sure. However, do we spend enough time and effort to keep ourselves safe and out of trouble? The real answer is "No"; we can all probably do a better job of diving safely and being a good ambassador for underwater photography.

The first defense against dive-related injury or worse is your own body. Get in shape, lose those extra holiday-season pounds, get a check-up, and don't dive when you're sick or exhausted. A good cardiovascular system is your best ally since it lets you get out of trouble and dump excess nitrogen that builds up in our bodies when we dive. Diving exhausted, hung-over, sick, or dehydrated is a recipe for disaster. When you've been diving hard for several days, it's natural to get a bit run-down and tired. If you start to feel bad or out of energy, take a vacation from a dive or a day's diving and recharge the batteries. Drink plenty of fluids, get some rest, edit some images, and decompress physically and emotionally. Diving shouldn't have to be an ordeal. Listen to your body. Plan ahead when you're traveling half way around the world and give yourself a day or more to get acclimated to the time change and the rigors of travel. Get a massage, do some shopping, sight-see, or do whatever makes you happy.

Even more to the point, when you're actually in the water, pay attention to everything. You've got gauges and computers to tell you how long you can stay down before bad things happen. Your computer is your best friend underwater, make sure it gets fresh batteries or better yet, dive with a backup in case one falls off or loses its mind. How about that trusty BC and all those gauges you packed? Did you get them serviced before you left home? Finding yourself blasting to the surface when your inflator valve gets stuck in the open position isn't a good situation... nor is having a free-flowing first stage. A visit to a qualified equipment doc is always a good choice. At a certain point, nostalgia may not be a good thing. Old worn-out equipment can be a killer. OK, not all old equipment is bad but if you can't get it serviced, how will you know before it's too late? Support your local dive shop.

We're underwater with our buddy, right? Well, he/she was around a minute ago but you got mesmerized by that moray eel with the cleaner shrimp and that minute turned into eight. Hmmm, no buddy in sight. In fact, nobody at all in sight!! OOPS, I'm down to 200 psi air and my computer is flashing in deco. My friends, this is not the time to panic. That is never the answer. Look around for bubbles and start your controlled ascent obeying the instructions from your dive computer. If you locate someone, get over there and communicate your problem with hand signals. Together, you should be able to get back aboard in good shape. Back on the boat safely, take a few minutes to review what you did wrong and make sure it never happens again. Experience is the best teacher just so long as you survive the ordeal.

Other things to think about:

1) Bad diving conditions are going to happen, even when the dive-site has been pre-checked by the divemaster. If you find yourself in strong currents, bad surge, down-currents, bad visibility, or if you get entangled, have a plan. If you can get out of the pool, do so but do it properly and with your buddy.

2) If you get to the surface far away from the boat or your buddy, inflate your BC, put up your dive sausage (you do have one, right?), signal the boat with your Dive Alert, a whistle, or fire your strobe. Get someone's attention and give them a good chance to spot you.

3) If you get tangled up, have a serrated knife to cut through the junk and get free. If your camera gets stuck or if it's too difficult to fight the current or surge hauling it around, drop the gear. You can buy new cameras and housings. Life insurance isn't much good to you if you make the wrong decisions.

4) On long trips with lots of dives, consider being Nitrox certified to give yourself a bit more of an edge against DCS. And, make sure you don't over-dive the bottom limit when breathing Nitrox. Conking out at 140 ft will ruin your whole dive trip.

5) Never panic. (OK, I mentioned that before.)

It's best to avoid these situations but if/when they do occur, be ready to respond properly and effectively. DAN's "Alert Diver" magazine is full of good advice and should be on every diver's active insurance list. Each month, take a few minutes and read 2-3 articles. It's better to learn from other's painful or deadly experiences than to be subject matter for the next issue.

Diving NICE and diving SAFE are related. Nobody wants to dive with dive-turkeys. They make life miserable for everyone and can endanger others, as well. Stay with your buddy, or if you lose your buddy, stay in contact with others in the group until you can link back up. Hook up with a buddy that you're compatible with and dive responsibly. Be helpful underwater and back topside. If you observe anyone doing something dangerous, communicate it to them and take it to the divemaster if necessary. Don't let the situation persist.

Be courteous to others. Diving with cameras already pre-disposes other divers negatively. Dive in a way that changes that negative stereotype. Be an ambassador for HUPS and UW photographers everywhere.

Our next meeting is coming up Monday, July 2nd at 7 pm. Get there early and help us get set up or just enjoy sharing with other members or visitors.

Dennis Deavenport

## Dive Trip News

By Tom Collier

A Spring 2008 trip is in the works details to be release soon.

Contact me for more information: [tom@tpixs.com](mailto:tom@tpixs.com)

## Calling all Writers

The HUPS newsletter is **always** looking for articles. If you have anything you would like to share send it to [underh2o@ev1.net](mailto:underh2o@ev1.net). We welcome trip reports, equipment reviews, photo tips, suggestion of underwater photography related websites, just about anything that would interest your fellow underwater photographers. Please do your part to keep the HUPS newsletter interesting.

# Important Dates

Put them on your calendar

## July 2

HUPS meeting - Jesse Cancelmo - Photo opps in the Gulf of Mexico

## July 21

HUPS Workshop - Advanced digital Editing with Dennis Deavenport

## August 6

HUPS meeting - HUPS Little Cayman Trip Show & Contest

## September 3

HUPS meeting - James Wiseman - Africa Above and Below

## October 1

HUPS meeting - Jackie Reid - Indonesia

## November 5

HUPS meeting - David Lenderman

## Flower Gardens NMS Meetings

By Frank Burek

The Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS) is presently under taking a review of its Management Plan. The first is a Fishing Impact Meeting, the second is Boundary Expansion. These are important meetings in shaping the Management Plan for the FGBNMS for the next 5 years. Both meetings (workshops) are open to the public and are at the NOAA Fort Crockett laboratory in Galveston, TX. I believe that is Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, 4700 Ave. U, Bldg. 216, Galveston, TX 77551

The Fishing Impacts Meeting is Wednesday, July 18th, 9AM to 4PM. I expect the topics being discussed are fishing, no-take area, and possibly no-diving areas. I expect they are trying to plan the best way to implement these test areas and would like input on what the diving public wants to see to help conserve the environment of the FGBNMS.

The Boundary Expansion Meeting is Thursday, July 19th, 9AM to 4PM. I expect they would like input and are trying to determine what support exists to adding additional banks and areas to the FGBNMS. Areas of concern are Stetson Ring (An extension of the existing Stetson Area), areas near the East & West Flower Garden Banks, and several additional banks in the Gulf of Mexico.

*Due to space limitations we are unable to print all of the information on these important FGNMS meetings in this newsletter. If you would like more information contact David Lenderman at [underh2o@mac.com](mailto:underh2o@mac.com).*

## Divemasters- The Good, the Bad and the Ugly

By David Lenderman

As photographers we are often at odds with rules set forth by divemasters. You know the rules: stay with the group, don't lag behind, stay with your buddy, limit your dive to X minutes. These rules often make it difficult to create great images. Divemasters can really add to or detract from your photography. If you are not diving with a photography dedicated group utilizing a photo dedicated divemaster I have a few tips.

1) Request to make slow dives. Some divemasters act as if diving is a competitive sport - who ever travels the furthest on the dive wins. That is bad news for photography. Ask to see more details on a smaller portion of the reef.

2) Be sure to explain that you will be taking photos and ask if you can lag behind the group. It may take a few dives, but when

the divemaster feels confident in your diving skills they will often let you do your own thing during the dive. Getting away from the group really is the best way to get better pics.

3) On each dive explain to the divemaster what type of lens you are using and what size subjects are suitable. This way the divemaster can point out subjects appropriate to your lens. There is nothing more frustrating than having the divemaster excitedly lead you into a strong current only to point out a small nudibranch when you are shooting with a fisheye lens.

4) Tell the divemaster what you want to shoot. They dive the same reefs day after day and so do their co-workers. If you want to shoot a seahorse, or whatever, be sure to ask.

5) If diving on a day boat be sure to tip at the end of each day. If you tip well the divemasters will be more likely to work harder at pleasing you.

## FOR SALE

### Mac Computers

All have DVD-R/CD-RW

Power Mac G5 1.8 GHz, 256 MB Ram, 80 Gb HD - \$1200

Power Mac G5 2.5 GHz, 512 RAM, 160 GB HD - \$1700

Powerbook G4 15" 1.25 GHz, 512 MB RAM, 80 GB HD - \$900

Powerbook G4 15", 1.67 GHz, 1.5 GB RAM, 80 GB HD - \$1200

These are great computers for photo and video editing. For more information contact Lynn Nicklo 281-933-9875.

**Ikelite housing for Nikon D 200 – NEW - \$1000**

Ports for Ikelite Housings \$75 each:

#5503

#5506

#5502

#5505.85

18-55mm Canon Digital Zoom lens - \$75.00

50 Macro Canon f/2.5 lens - \$175.00

Contact: Charlie Lundquist 281-341-5774

[cb.lundquist@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cb.lundquist@sbcglobal.net)

*As a HUPS member you can place a free for sale ad in the newsletter for up to three months. To place an ad email it to David Lenderman at [underh2o@mac.com](mailto:underh2o@mac.com).*

# 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>

July - Wide Angle

August - Ugly Mugs - A face only a mother could love

September - Juveniles

October - Cephalopods (Octopus, Squid and Cuttlefish)

November - Sharks and Rays

December - Best of HUPS special contest

## Contest Results

### June - Gobies and Blennies

#### Novice

- 1st - Ned Shimizu
- 2nd - Tom Collier
- 3rd - Ned Shimizu

#### Advanced

- 1st - David Lenderman
- 2nd - Tie - David Lenderman, Ken Knezick (x2), Jackie Reid
- 3rd - Tie - David Lenderman, Jackie Reid (x2), Dennis Deavenport

## Wide-Angle

So you like photographing the big picture? July is your month to shine. The contest topic this month is "wide-angle". If you have some awesome wide-angle shot then be sure to enter them into the contest. You can't win if you don't enter.

Entries for the monthly contest should be emailed to [photocontest@hups.org](mailto: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](mailto:ddeavenport@houston.rr.com) or [underh2o@mac.com](mailto:underh2o@mac.com). 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.

## Workshop News

By Joe Nicklo - DEA (Director of Educational Activities)

**Coming up July 21st from 1- 4 PM Dennis Deavenport will lead an advanced photoshop workshop.** Dennis is going to share with us how to use Photoshop to enhance your images. Keeping with the experiential theme, attendees are encouraged to bring their laptops to follow along with the exercises lead by Dennis. Come to this workshop and take your editing skills to the next level. As usual this workshop is free to HUPS member and \$10 for non-members.

This workshop will be held in room 202 of Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, 11612 Memorial Drive, at Blalock. Here is a link to a map which will be helpful. <http://www.mdpc.org/cgi-bin/index.cgi?name=maps>. Park in the lot off Blalock just North of the church. Enter the building via the covered entrance closest to Blalock. Proceed past the Parlor and up the stairs on your left.

## Save-a-Dive, Save-a-Camera Kits

By Dennis Deavenport

Last month, the program was on packing for dive trips. It's a good topic, especially since we're all under pressure from the airlines to cut back on what we pack for trips. Packing too much stuff results in significant extra charges on most airlines. The old diver's adage of "Get the Lead Out" has a slightly different meaning now.

This article goes a bit against this by recommending that we all consider putting together a kit of tools and repair/replacement gear when we head off to the world's hinterlands to dive.

Why should we do this you ask?

- Because bad things happen – gear fails or gets flooded
- You don't always have a buddy that can loan you extra stuff
- UW photography is an expensive hobby – don't waste the opportunity
- Simple tools can do wonders to fix a lot of problems
- It's a good way to make friends

For most HUPSters, a small gear bag stuffed with a carefully chosen set of tools, replacement parts, and repair materials, is probably a good tactic. Most of us aren't all that afraid of technical gear and have experience trouble-shooting and fixing stuff. Make use of those skills by being prepared for emergencies.



On at least two occasions, I've repaired my housing and kept on diving and taking photos. Both times, my dive photography would have been over without my tool kit. On other times, I've worked on other people's gear or loaned tools to help them get back up and running. On one trip, I field-stripped the captain's Shimano fishing reel and repaired it. Needless to say, I was on

his good side for the rest of the voyage. I was also able to fix a dump valve on my BC that was leaking badly. I gave away a fin strap to a divemaster in Fiji and made another friend. I've seen other people fix their own gear or help fix other people's stuff on numerous occasions. Help and expect help. That's the sensible way to dive with cameras.

There's no guarantee that we can fix any problem that comes up but you'd be surprised how many times a simple screwdriver and other basic equipment can make the difference. I've spent years assembling my Save-a-Dive / Save-a-Camera Kit. It's changes over the years and I keep repacking it differently for each dive trip. For short trips, I pack light. When I'm off for 7-12 days of diving half way around the planet, I tend to pack more stuff. A lot of gear that I used to pack but never used has been ditched or replaced with more effective stuff.

This is the list that I currently have in my Small/Medium Size Kit:

- Dive gear stuff
  - 2 flashlights (standard & night)
  - Extra bulbs for lights
  - Batteries (standard or rechargeable)
  - Extra dive computer
  - Extra batteries for dive computers
  - Fin strap
  - Mask strap
  - Copies of C-cards, nitrox card, dan card, drivers license, passport, insurance cards
- Camera and housing stuff
  - Extra O-rings
  - Extra camera batteries
  - Misc housing and strobe parts
  - O-ring grease
  - Micro-fabric, lens cleaning solution
  - Cotton gloves
  - loupe
- Tools
  - Set of small screw drivers (std & phillips)
  - Allen wrench set (std or metric)
  - Small crescent wrench
  - Small channel lock
  - Small needle nose pliers
  - Long tweezers
  - Multi-tool (
  - Utility knife (multi blade)
  - Small file
  - Brush
- Supplies
  - Tie-wraps (misc)
  - Zip-lock baggies (misc)
  - Rubber bands (misc)
  - Q-tips, cotton balls, pipe cleaners
  - Duct tape, medical adhesive tape, band aids, 2-sided tape
  - Aluminum foil
  - Sand paper (different grits)
  - String (light & medium weight)
  - Spool copper wire
  - Tubes of super-glue and epoxy cement
  - Velcro

## The Year Was - 1986

*By Joyce and Frank Burek*

In 1986, HUPS officially changed the name of its prestigious club award from HUPSTER of the Year, to HUPS Photographer of the Year. HUPS also moved its meeting location from the Ramada Inn to the Holiday Inn - Galleria West, in June of 86. The year also saw a "Summer Social", hosted by Bobbett Kelley around the hotel pool after the August meeting. Club approved trips were to Crystal River (Florida), Cozumel, Cayman Brac and Little Cayman.

Monthly HUPS Photo Competition Winners- Jack Allyn, Darian Barker, Frank Burek, Joyce Burek, Pat Coates, John Crochet, Ed Cutrer, Gary Goolsby, Bobbett Kelley, Kirk Leissner, Dave Van Rooy, Carolyn Roundtree, Jim Skarzynski, Ben Stluka and Dick Zingula. The HUPS Photographer of the Year was Bobbett Kelley.

1986 Program Contributors - Darian Barker, Frank Blagg, Frank Burek, Joyce Burek, Jesse Cancelmo, Jim Creighton, Steve Davis, Linda Golden, Jack Krohn, John Wayne Leek, Stefan Myers, Cliff Segerstrom, Jane Segerstrom, Jim Skarzynski, Carolyn Skarzynski, Franklin Viola, Bob Warkentin and Barry Warner.

1986 Officers & Chairpersons:

President - Jesse Cancelmo

Vice President - John Pyle

Treasurer - Betty Gill Simpson & Carolyn Skarzynski

Programs - John Wayne Leek & John Pyle

Membership - Pat Coates

Newsletter & Travel - Sheryl Maruca

Photo Instruction - Jim Creighton

Photo Contest - Bobbett Kelly

TGCC Rep. - Kirk Leissner

Members who joined and are still active that year were Jack & Tammy Allyn, John Anderson and Mary Lou (Martin) Reid.

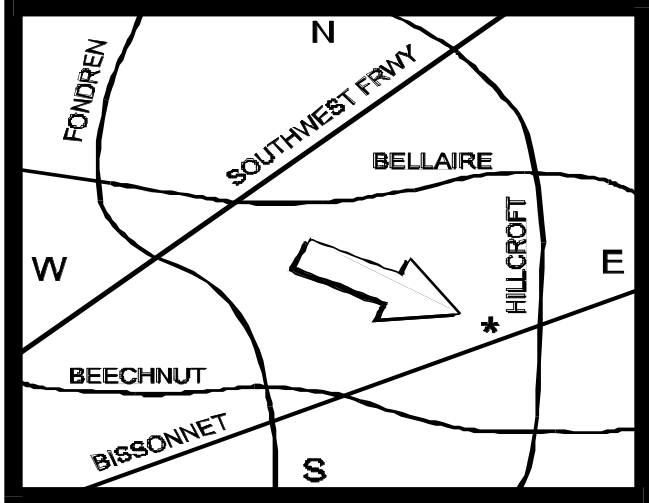
Jack & Tammy are great contributors to HUPS. Jointly they have served one term as our Vice President, 9 terms on the Board of Directors, 2 times as HUPS SeaSpace Booth chairperson, once as the HUPS Shoot-out chairperson, 8 terms as our Photo Judge Coordinator, 4 terms as Secretary and ran our recent name tag project. They have also done 4 programs for our monthly members meeting.

John Anderson is a driving force in marketing HUPS. John served 1 term on the HUPS Board of Directors, 1 term coordinating our workshop and three years running our library. John has also given us a program on his "First 50 Years of Diving" and Sipadan - A digital movie by him and his son Ken. We are looking forward to John's sequel - "The Second 50 Years of Diving".

Mary Lou (Martin) Reid was the first to show up at a HUPS meeting; her future husband followed a couple of years later. This team of photographers has influenced the photography of every club member. Jointly they have served once as our Vice President, 5 terms on the HUPS Board of Directors, 7 years as editor of Underwater Images, contributed to the 1990 HUPS Book project and chaired 1 of our HUPS Shoot-Outs. They have also done 29 programs and/or instructional units for our members. Jackie has been the HUPS Photographer of the Year (Open or Advanced, Slide or Digital Categories) 12 times. Mary Lou has been the HUPS Photographer of the Year in 2006 and the Member of the Year in 1997.

*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 are always welcome.*

**\* BAYLAND COMMUNITY CENTER**



<http://www.hups.org>

**2007 HUPS Officers**

**President** Dennis Deavenport

**Vice President** Tom Collier

**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** Joe Nicklo

**Travel Coordinator** - Tom Collier

**Board of Directors**

Jan Baughman

Frank Burek

Tom Collier

James Himer

Bob Knapick

Ken Knezick

Paul Levy

Wendy McSwain

Harry Montecinos

James Wiseman

**Underwater  
Images**

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