



Borneo & PhotoweeK 2007

March 3rd Meeting with Leonard Cichowski

By Tom Collier

The March meeting will feature Leonard Cichowski's slideshow of the Sipadan, Malaysia marine life as well as wildlife photos from a Jungle excursion to inland animal refuges. Leonard is an excellent photographer, so we will be



Photo by Leonard Cichowski, © 2008

visually treated to everything from Pygmy Seahorses to Pygmy Elephants.

Leonard went to Borneo in June of 2007 to participate in PhotoweeK 2007. This annual organized photo competition featured photo pros Marty Synderman and Clay Wiseman. They were on hand to instruct critique and run evening seminars. Every aspect of South Pacific diving was experienced...from muck diving to sharks, turtles and schools of jacks. Leonard stresses that this event was more than just a photo contest, but they did have a photo contest...and Leonard won 2nd with his photo of a Flamboyant Cuttlefish...way to go Leonard.

Leonard Cichowski has been a HUPS member forever...almost 22 years. His contributions to the club are numerous; he has been president, vice-president, board member and member of the year.



Photo by Leonard Cichowski, © 2008

He has organized club dive trips to the Flower Gardens, Cozumel and Bonaire. He has also produced a presentation on the Komodo Island for SEASPACE. When not diving, Leonard is a professional Petroleum Geologist for El Paso Corporation.

As usual our meeting will begin at 7 PM- Bayland Community Center - 6400 Bissonnet. A map can be found on the back of this newsletter.

Can't Get Enough Wakatobi

By Tom Collier

Dwight Cole's presentation last month was the proof that you just can't get enough of Wakatobi. He presented a great slide show produced from photos

taken by local divers from HUPS and HUC and he also presented the 'Visions of Wakatobi' video produced by the professional videographer, Frazier Nivens. Wakatobi is a great dive destination for u/w photographers. I hear that Dwight is headed there again for a repeat trip. Thanks for sharing Dwight.

President's Message

Club Dynamics

By Dennis Deavenport

When I think of the word "club", I usually get turned off a bit. It's not that the word is an offensive or even inaccurate description for HUPS. It's just that I have a tendency to associate "club" with "clique". A club should be something that works for all members in an open and nurturing way. A clique is a closed-off segment that only accepts a select group of people that meet some arcane set of requirements known only to those actually inside the clique.

Unless I'm wrong, just about everyone in HUPS has been part of both types of groups at one time in their life. I hesitate to toss hand grenades at cliques simply because it's a personal decision that we make. There are advantages for the individuals involved. In a clique you get to choose your own standards and select your friends as you see fit. I guess that's OK if that's what you feel comfortable doing.

However, for a group like HUPS, the true sense of camaraderie and working for the common good should take front-row, center. In other words, we should act like a true club. E Pluribus Unum, or "out of many, one" should be the driving force for true clubs. We see this motto on the dollar bill and may not pay much attention to it but it is the basis for our nation.

This whole topic came up in a series of emails between Tom Collier and me as we discussed HUPS and how to make it a better organization for everyone. At one point, it occurred to me that we had just written this article... or more precisely, it had written itself.

As an organization, we're doing great. Membership is at its highest point ever. We have a great place to meet. We've got money in the bank. Our monthly programs are interesting and involve a broad range of topics and a wide spectrum of our membership. Workshops continue to be a dazzling beacon for our organization. Club-sponsored trips bring people together and allow us to learn from others by watching, discussing, and doing. And most importantly, it seems that we have a large core of members that routinely and happily volunteer their time to keep things running smoothly.

Is this enough? Yes and no, is my answer. Yes, if we're happy and complacent with our situation. No, if we still think that we can make improvements. An organization is made up of leaders, followers, and everyone between. Every year brings us new members and we see attrition as people move away or just lose interest. It's unreasonable to think that we can please everyone or even that we need to please everyone. However, we do have a duty to please as many as we can within our expanded charter.

"Expanded Charter"... what is that? HUPS has a constitution and a set of by-laws that outline what we are required to provide for our membership. This is what I consider our Charter and for the most part, we follow it pretty well. However, I see us growing monthly into new areas of involvement and interaction that extend beyond what is in the Charter. This is what I think of as our "Expanded Charter". In a sense, it is a fluid, dynamic function that changes as our needs change. It's also what I enjoy most about HUPS and what I think keeps people coming back year-after-year.

Stagnation is the earliest sign of death, in my opinion. We should try to avoid it like the plague.

Keeping people active and contributing is the very best way to have a good club. The interactions that come through common activities serve to cement friendships and friendships are really what will keep members coming back for more. Like all clubs or organizations, we're going to have sub-groups that some might call "cliques". Mostly, the people that complain about "cliques" are the ones that feel left out... not the ones that have found a sub-group or two to feel comfortable with. The responsibility to fight the "clique" mentality is a two-way street. Established members need to reach out and involve new members. New members need to overcome their reticence and seek out ways to get to know others and to get involved. HUPS is great for most of us. But, that doesn't mean that it's great for everyone. We can expect to see attrition every year due to lack of interest or other reasons such as, got too old, moved away, priorities changed, etc. However, HUPS has been relatively proficient in holding onto new members and turning them into active contributors. Everyone that has made an active contribution has been a factor in that. Have not illusions about this. Every member brings qualities and attributes to the table that can be valuable and useful. Making the decision to utilize these talents within the "club" structure is the key to our future.

That's about it for this month. Hope to see another big group at the March 3rd meeting. Tom has organized another great program and don't forget to send in your photo contest entries.

Dennis

It's Membership Time ...

Happy New Year! In case you have been asleep for the last few months it's time to renew your HUPS membership. If you attend the meeting, forms will be available at the information table. If you can't make the meeting this can be done by completing the membership form available on the internet at <http://www.hups.org/member.htm> and mailing it and your check for \$30 for an individual membership or \$35 for a family membership to: Jean Himes

6723 Imperial Leaf Lane
Spring, TX 77379



Compact Digital 2nd place (tie) - P.J. Roeder, © 2008

Nitrox Workshop Scheduled for April 5th

By Greg Grimes

Yes, that's right if you aren't diving with Nitrox, now is your opportunity to get certified by fellow HUPS members Jim & Debbie Mensay. I have 7 committed members so far and hope for a few others. This class will be held at Jim & Debbie's house (see address below) on April 5, 2008 from 9:30 am to around 4:00 pm. You'll learn the ins and outs of diving safely with Nitrox. There's no pool session required for this course, but there is a written test. Pass it, and you will be issued a TDI Nitrox Diver c-card.

The cost for this course is \$65 per person and that does include pizza delivery for lunch. The deadline to sign up is March 14, 2008 to allow for the ordering of the required book. If you have already signed up for this course at the February meeting, please bring your check to the next HUPS meeting on March 4th. If you can't make it to the next meeting please forward a check for \$65 to Debbie as soon as possible so she can order your book. Those who want to sign up for this class but will not be at the next meeting can email me at greg@soworld.com to add your name to the list AND send your check to Debbie.

In closing, these Workshops are for you and I would really like to hear from anyone with any future Workshop ideas.

Jim & Debbie's address:
1530 Goodnight Court
Sugar Land, Texas 77479
Email: fdbm82@msn.com

Greg Grimes
HUPS DEA

Get Those Pics of Elkhorn & Staghorn Coral While You Can!

By James Heimer

In May 2005 [Dive Training](#) reported that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, in response to a petition from the Center for Biological Diversity, proposed listing elkhorn and staghorn coral on the endangered species list. Now [Dive Training](#) reports that draft federal regulations have been published.

[Dive Training](#) notes that the proposed rules would prohibit the take (any activity that will result in mortality and harm), trade

and all commercial activities involving staghorn and elkhorn coral. They reference anchoring or grounding a vessel on the coral, dragging fishing gear, and removing or altering the coral habitat as being prohibited. Before applauding too loudly, however, you may want to read the proposed regulations in more detail. In addition to the prohibitions identified in [Dive Training](#) and the summary at http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories/2007/20071218_coralprotection.html, the draft regulation prohibits both commercial and recreational activities that constitute harm, including "significant habitat modification or degradation" "significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns including breeding, spawning, rearing, migrating, feeding or sheltering." It also includes the following specific wording on in the section identifying activities that would constitute a violation of the Endangered Species Act as being, "Activities conducted in shallow water coral reef areas, including recreational SCUBA diving, and snorkeling, that result in abrasion of or breakage to the listed corals." The regulations also make it clear, that such abrasion or breakage can be "by direct and indirect impacts, and intentionally or incidentally" and that the law is intended "to protect the species from take everywhere they occur, including on the high seas" everywhere the corals may be found.

I would submit that the implications for the sport diving community are profound in that SCUBA diving activities could be banned anywhere that staghorn or elkhorn coral is found (regardless of the amount or proportion of the total reef aquaculture), and - theoretically at least - US divers diving outside the US in areas where the endangered species are found, could be subject to prosecution. The only "out" would appear to be a benevolent interpretation of what constitutes "significant" modification, degradation or impairment. Environmental organizations, specifically the Center for Biological Diversity, which is driving this regulation, have rarely been open to definitions that favor activities, however benignly they may be portrayed, taking place in endangered species habitat.

Celebrating the listing of elk- and staghorn coral as threatened or endangered may be premature for the diving community. It appears, that unless exceptions are made to the Endangered Species Act provisions (and who has ever heard of that), these new regulations could have a major impact on our ability to dive on reefs having any of the endangered coral species, anywhere. I would encourage HUPS members to read the regulation at http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/esa/pdf/72FR71102_Proposed_4d_Rule.pdf and then submit comments that reference (RIN) 0648-AU92 in the subject line by e-mail via the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov> or by fax to 727-824-5309, Attention: Jennifer Moore. The proposed regulation is 50 CFR Part 223.

Important Dates

Put them on your calendar

March 3

HUPS meeting - Leonard Cichowski - Borneo

May 5

HUPS meeting - James & Kandace Heimer - Hawaii

July 7

HUPS meeting - Ken Knezick - topic TBA

April 7

HUPS meeting - Scuba Bob Knapick - Intro to UW Video

June 2

HUPS meeting - PNG - Dennis Deavenport

August 4

HUPS meeting - HUPS Bali trip recap

Upcoming Monthly Photo Contest Topics

Each month we will have Advanced, Novice and Compact Digital Contests. For complete contest rules checkout: <http://www.hups.org/contestr.htm>

March - Coral Scenes

June - Turtles

April - Banded/Stripes

July - Camouflage

May - Man-made/Wrecks

August - Bird Fish (fish named after birds - parrot, cardinal, hawkfish ...)



Novice 1st Place - Patricia Linn, © 2008

Contest Results

January - Nudibranches

Compact Digital

- 1st - Tie - Mary McDonal, Mike Fernandez
- 2nd - Tie - Mike Fernandez, P.J. Roeder
- 3rd Tie - P.J. Roeder, Mary McDonald x2

Novice

- 1st - Tracy Bennett
- 2nd - Paul McDonald
- 3rd- Tie - Terry Moore, Tracy Bennett

Advanced

- 1st - Tie - Dennis Deavenport, Mary Lou Reid, David Lenderman, Tom Collier
- 2nd - Tie - Ken Knezick, Mary Lou Reid
- 3rd - Dennis Deavenport

February - Mating/Interactions

Compact Digital

- 1st Mary McDonald
- 2nd Mary McDonald
- 3rd Mary McDonald

Novice

- 1st Patricia Linn
- 2nd Paul McDonald
- 3rd Teresa Bennett

Advanced

- 1st Ken Knezick
- 2nd David Lenderman
- 3rd Ken Knezick

Coral Scenes

The topic for the March contest is "Coral Scenes". Pretty simple - scenes with coral. Everyone has shots like that. If you have some that you think are winners be sure to enter them in the contest. Don't forget t about the new compact digital category for you non-DSLR shooters. See more info on the new category in the article below. When submitting your entries please indicate which category you are entering.

Entries for the monthly 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@comcast.net or 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.

New Contest Category - Compact Digitals!!!!

Starting with the January 2008 contest, HUPS is sponsoring a new contest category for images taken with Compact Digital cameras. The rules are the same as for the Novice and Advanced categories with the exception that only images taken with cameras having fixed primary lenses will be accepted for judging. So, all you guys who have been shy about entering because you don't have a DSLR, this is your chance. You will be competing on even ground with other compact digital shooters. Don't be shy. You can't win if you don't enter!



Novice 1st place - Tracy Bennett, © 2008

Slide Show Tips with Pro Show Gold

By Joyce Burek

Ed. Note - Many of our presenters use a program called ProShow Gold by Photodex for putting together music synced slide shows. For more information on ProShow Gold check out - www.photodex.com.

If you plan on presenting your images in a slideshow you want to maintain the quality of the images. They should look as good on the projected screen as they do on your computer monitor. There are several things you can do to insure this happens.

First: Know the resolution of the equipment you are planning to use. If you intend to project it at HUPS, then you should know that the resolution of the projector that the club uses is 1024 by 768 pixels. All your images should be scaled and cropped to this size in your graphics program. Verticals should be 768 pixels high and any width. Images can be larger if you intend to use the pan or zoom functions of ProShow Gold.

Second: The only output format that ProShow Gold has that maintains the high quality of your images is if you save it as an executable file. But you must set the correct parameters.

Setup: Window size equals 1024 x 768

Image Size: check limit to 1024 by 768

Quality: Render check limit to 1024 by 768

Resize check manual limit to 1024 by 768

Image quality set to 100%

Resolution set to high resolution and high quality.

If you use these settings your images will be maintained exactly as you created them and will look great when projected. Since the club projector is set very bright, you will probably want to make your images darker than normal, especially those with white in them.

Also, you need to set the screen resolution of the laptop to 1024 by 768 so that the images have the correct aspect ratio. This is very important, if you are using a wide screen laptop to send your show to a projector. To insure that the images have the proper intensity and color, you should calibrate your laptop monitor. Then, if possible adjust the projector to give a matching image quality to that which you see on the laptop.

If you only intend to display your show on a standard TV, then you can create a DVD disk. The maximum resolution of a DVD will be 720 by 480 pixels. So you can make your images smaller. In the output screen choose High Quality Maximum with high quality encoding. Please remember that the edges of the image are lost in this mode, so make sure your subject is not cut-off. If you attempt to use the club projector, then these lower resolution images will be magnified and result in a poor quality show.

If you have a High Definition TV and recorder capable of high definition, then newer versions of ProShow Gold or ProShow Producer can output up to 1920 by 1080 pixels.

The most important thing to remember is make your show at the highest resolution that your projection equipment supports and use an output format that will maintain the quality of your images.

Dive Trip News

May 14- 26, 2008

Bali Dive Safari

Sold out - Waiting List Started

Land-based Dive Safari on the East and North coasts of Bali. 9 days of diving + 3 days of land touring. \$ 1,500.00 double-occupancy, excluding air. More info: tom@tpixs.com

Where do you want to go in 2009? We are looking for suggestions for future HUPS trips.



Compact Digital 1st Place (tie) - Mike Fernandez, © 2008

FOR SALE

Nikonos SB-105 Strobe

New in the box, never been used. Asking \$200 Contact Wendy McSwain 832-858-9007 or wendy@outbackdivers.com.

Aquatica Housing for Nikon D70/D70S Housing is in excellent condition, has only been used on one dive trip since full service by Marine Camera. Housing has two Nikonos style bulkheads, includes 8" dome port with shade and cover, optical glass flat port with cover, 1.2" port extension, spare o-rings and grease. \$1,300 Contact George Berko 713-299-7564 or gberko@swbell.net

Seacam Fuji S2Pro Housing with two strobe connections, CSM switch, moisture alarm \$1100. The ports and viewfinder are not included. If the housing is purchased will sell a S2Pro camera for \$500. With the S2Pro you can shoot TTL. Contact Mary Lou Reid jrandml@houston.rr.com

Oly C7070 and Strobe Underwater Package consisting of the following: Olympus C-7070 camera (7.0mp), Oly Underwater Housing, Inon D-2000 Strobe with fiber optic cable, adapter, and diffuser, and Ultralight 8" double arm, tray and handle package for \$672.00. All items purchased March, 2005, in excellent condition. Can be purchased separately. If interested, please contact K. Heimer at 832.203.7049 or email: mango9@earthlink.net

Please make checks payable to HUPS.

Bring to next meeting or mail to: Jean Himes
..... 6723 Imperial Leaf Lane
..... Spring, TX 77379

www.hups.org

Houston Underwater Photographic Society Renewing Membership Application

Name(s): _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

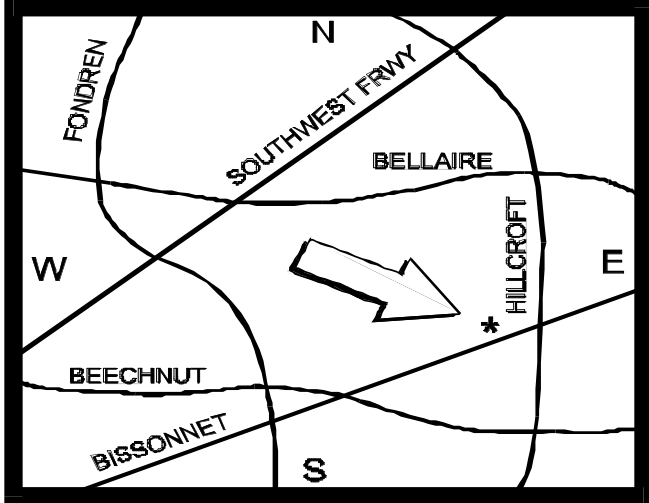
Email Address: _____

Would you like to receive your newsletter via email? Yes [] No []

Dues (check one):.....
_____ Individual (\$30) _____ Family (\$35)

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>

2008 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 J. Ringrose/D. Lenderman

Librarian John Anderson

Web Master Pat Miller

Workshops Greg Grimes

Travel Coordinator - Tom Collier

Historian Frank Burek

Board of Directors

Jan Baughman

Frank Burek

James Heimer

Ken Knezick

Patricia Lin

Mary McDonald

Harry Montecinos

Joe Nicklo

James Wiseman

**Underwater
Images**

HUPS
PO BOX 270056
HOUSTON, TX 77277-0056