

Understanding Composition & Negative Space

January 5th Meeting with Ken Knezick

The wonderful new digital cameras put professional-grade tools in the hands of amateur photographers. But creating great underwater photography is not just about the camera. In the January 5th presentation we will explore the “rules” of Composition. We will learn how to use the Negative Space in your photographs to add impact and appeal to your primary photo subjects and create an overall image that has a story to tell.

Ken Knezick is one of better known HUPS members and certainly one of its most gifted speakers. He is owner/president of Island Dreams Travel www.divetrip.com and has logged a zillion dives at all the greatest locations. He knows what he is talking about and is easy on the ears. Come to the meeting, hear what he has to say – you won’t be disappointed.

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.



Manta Image by Ken Knezick, ©, 2009

Holiday Extravaganza

The annual holiday Pot Luck Dinner last month was the best yet. We had approximately 60 people in attendance with lots of tasty food and desserts brought by everyone. The creative

photo contest was the highlight of the evening; all the entries were unique and some were extremely cool! Thanks to those who donated almost everyone went home with a door prize. Thanks to Jean Himes, Mary McDonald and Sandy Bryan for the great evening.

Hi - How's it Going?

President's Message

By Tom Collier

The new year brings HUPS a new president – me and a new vice president – Jim Mensay. Things are running pretty smoothly at HUPS and we hope to do our part to keep things that way. This year we have a good mix of club veterans and semi-vets involved in club activities. HUPS is a growing and vibrant organization with lots of new people getting involved. Moving forward by keeping the general membership interested in participating will be our mantra. Offering interesting meeting topics, engaging workshops, a fantastic website, an internet forum and fun dive trips should do the trick.

I was discussing with a veteran HUPS member why our club is successful when some of the other dive clubs have not fared so well, his comment was “HUPS has a purpose”. He was so right. We are for the most part, single minded dive photo geeks. We are constantly striving to improve our u/w photographic skills and HUPS is the ideal platform to accomplish that goal. However, all work and no play is not much fun and I am happy to say that I have really enjoyed being involved with such a great group because you guys are also a lot of fun.

An exciting year is planned for 2009. We have excellent speakers lined up for our meetings, workshops in the works, dive trips planned and an opportunity to show off our photos at the upcoming Texas Dive Show. Work is also being done in the back rooms as the Webmaster and his helpers are doing a terrific job with the HUPS website, an update of the club By-Laws is progressing and a new Vice President is going to start writing better articles for the newsletter.

All in all, not a bad start for the new year.

Tom Collier

Texas Dive Show Jan 24 & 25

HUPS is planning to have a gallery at the upcoming Texas Dive Show January 24 & 25 at Reliant Center. If you want to contribute prints or help with set up/teardown or to work the booth please contact Jan Baughman (jbaughman@juno.com).

Of particular interest to HUPS members are two workshops to be taught by Cathy Church. Read all about it on here: <http://www.divechronicles.com/texas/>.

Support the SEASPACE Scholarship Fund

SEASPACE plans to hold a silent auction at the upcoming Texas Dive Show. Please consider donating a mounted or framed photographic print to the silent auction. Also while at the show be sure to bid on some items. All money generated goes directly to the scholarship fund. Over the years SEASPACE has awarded over \$500,000 in marine related scholarships and grants. Jean & Greg Truax have again volunteered to run the silent auction. They can be reached here: truaxhou@earthlink.net.

Nitrox Workshop Scheduled

By Greg Grimes, Director of Educational Activities (DEA)

Yes, that's right if you are not diving with Nitrox, now is your opportunity to get certified by fellow HUPS members Jim & Debbie Mensay. The class will be held in Sugar Land on Saturday, April 18, 2009 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 only \$65 per person, and that includes pizza delivery for lunch. What a great deal from your favorite diving organization in Houston!

The deadline to sign up for this workshop will be at the March 2nd meeting and payment is due on March 9th (One week later) to allow for ordering of the required material. If you plan on signing up on the last day be sure to bring your check book to the March meeting so you don't have to mail a check afterwards. Debbie will bring your class material to the April meeting giving you the proper time to get acquainted with the material all in time for the class. Any other questions please contact either of us.

Debbie: fdbm82@msn.com or Greg: greg@soworld.com

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

Congrats to Henry Ragland and Dick Zingula

Henry Ragland and Dick Zingula were both recently selected to receive the "Joyce and Frank Burek Lifetime Achievement Award". They will be honored in February at the TGCC banquet.

TGCC Banquet

The 2009 TGCC Banquet will be a buffet luncheon scheduled for 11am - 2pm January 31st. Awards for many area dive clubs, including HUPS, will be presented at this banquet. Twenty HUPS members have already purchased tickets to attend. It will be held at Bayland Community Center (where HUPS meets) in the main auditorium. Tickets are \$10 and are available from Frank Burek - jfburek@consolidated.net.



Compact Digital 3rd Place - Rick Brower, ©2009

Biology of Coral Reefs Seminar

By Frank Burek

Dick Zingula announced a Saturday, January 17, 2009 class on "Biology of Coral Reefs" at our last meeting. Joyce and I attended a long time ago, and most of your "old time HUPS members" have also attended in the past.. We found it very worthwhile. I encourage all HUPS members to attend this \$20 course. Its more than knowledge, it opens your eyes.

The best way to improve our underwater photography is to find more things to photograph. The more you know about marine creatures and the marine environment, the more you will find. For some reason, once your brain learns what to look for, your eyes just seem to track things down.

The class is at the Bayland Community Center, the same place as our Monthly HUPS meetings. For more information or to sign up contact Dick at 713-721-8533.

Mantas at the Flower Gardens

Submitted by Jesse Canclermo

Many of us have seen and photographed Manta Rays at the Flower Gardens. There is an effort underway to learn more about the habits of Mantas visiting the Flower Gardens. The first step in studying the Mantas is to identify the individuals. Each manta has a unique set of marking on its underbelly, much like a fingerprint. These patterns are being used to identify the mantas observed at the Flower Gardens. On the Manta Catalog website there is an identification catalog you can view and/or download. If you have photos of a manta from the Flower Gardens try to see if it is the catalog. If not, it may be a new individual. Whether your manta is new or previously identified there is a "Report Observations" button at the bottom of the page to report your manta sightings. Many of the photos in the Manta Catalog were supplied by HUPS members. I bet there are other members that can add to the catalog. Here is the website - <http://flowergarden.noaa.gov/science/mantacatalog.html> Do your part to help scientist learn more about these beautiful creatures.

FOR SALE

I am reducing my Nikon lenses and camera accessory inventory. If interested in any or all of the items listed below, please email K. Heimer, mango9@earthlink.net. I have a Paypal Account if you would like to purchase that way. However, a 3% surcharge will be added to the price.

Sigma Zoom Super W/A, F4-5.6, EX DC HSM 10-20mm lens, U.S.A., includes box and bag, in excellent condition, (new at B&H for \$431.10), U.S.A., will sell for \$350.00, HUPS members for \$340.00.

Nikon Zoom Telephoto AF VR Zoom Nikkor 80-400mm f/4.5-5.6D ED Autofocus Lens (Vibration Reduction, U.S.A., (new at B&H is \$1319.95), in excellent condition, with box and bag, U.S.A, for \$1020.00, HUPS members for \$1010.00.

National Geographic NGEH2 Expedition Series Hydrostatic Ballhead with RC5 Sliding Quick Release - Supports 26.5 lb (12 kg), including Quick Release plates for Nikon 80-400mm lens, (new at B&H for \$409.95), in excellent condition with box, for \$250.00, HUPS members for \$240.00.

Tamron 28-75mm f/2.8 XR Di LD Aspherical (IF) Autofocus Lens for Nikon SLR, (new at B&H for \$349.95), in excellent condition, with box and bag, for \$250.00, HUPS members for \$240.00.

Visible Dust Arctic Butterfly 724 Rotary Sensor Cleaning Brush with Case, (new at B&H for \$109.95), in excellent condition, batteries included, for \$75.00, HUPS members for \$65.00.



Open 3rd Place - Pat Miller, © 2009

Important Dates

Put them on your calendar

January 5

HUPS meeting - Ken Knezick - Wide-Angle

February 2

HUPS meeting - Tom Collier - Wide-Angle & Raja Ampat

April 6

HUPS meeting - David Lenderman - Macro

January 24 & 25

Texas Dive Show <http://www.divechronicles.com/texas/>

March 2

HUPS meeting - James Wiseman - Supermacro

May 4

HUPS Meeting - Mary Lou & Jackie Reid - Indonesia Underwater

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>

January - Fish Faces

April - Vertical compositions

February - Fish Buddies

May - Invertebrates

March - Shots with divers

June - Crabs & Shrimp

Fish Faces

Fish Faces... no confusion there. The January contest topic is faces of fish. To clear up any confusion on topics hups.org now contains descriptions of the topics. For this month the description says: "Close up of the "faces" of fish. This subject does not include rays, eels, turtles, crabs, shrimp, other invertebrates and other critters. Just fish. The image may include the whole fish but the focus is to be on the face, regardless." So, there you go. You can't win if you don't enter!

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.

Dive Trip News

By Tom Collier

Bonaire in June 2009

Debbie & Jim Mensay are leading the HUPS trip to Captain Don's Dive Resort on Bonaire June 13-20, 2009. Approximate cost is \$1,500.00 per person, not including airfare. Unlimited diving, free Nitrox, truck rental included, and a lot more extras. Grab a trip flyer at the next meeting and read all about it – or go to the HUPS forum and download a copy. Thirty-two Hupsters have signed up to date. We are in need of one male and one female room mate. If you were worried about going solo this is your chance.

The Philippines in 2010

The HUPS trip to the Philippine Islands is tentatively set for April 17 – 30, 2010. These dates are smack in the middle of prime time weather conditions and we will be home before Mother's Day. The trip consists of 10 nights at the El Galleon Resort featuring all meals and unlimited diving. Find resort details and more info at this website:

http://www.divetrip.com/philippines/el_galleon_resort.htm.

Thirty-four members have pre-signed for this adventure. Contact Tom Collier if you have an interest in this trip.

Contest Results

December - Best of HUPS

Compact Digital

1st - Mary McDonald

2nd - PJ Roeder

3rd - Rick Brower

Novice

1st - Paul McDonald

2nd - Kandace Heimer

3rd - Paul McDonald

Advanced

1st - Tom Collier

2nd - Dennis Deavenport

3rd - Pat Miller

Creative

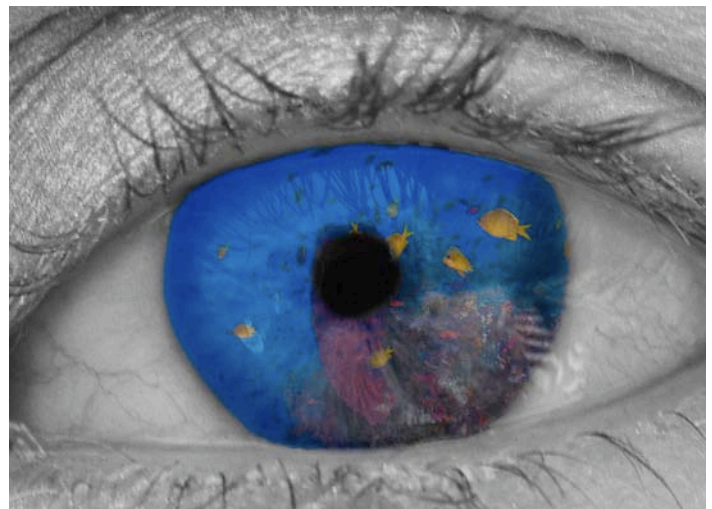
1st - Jan Baughman

2nd - Ken Bean

3rd - Mary Lou Reid

Dues Are Due

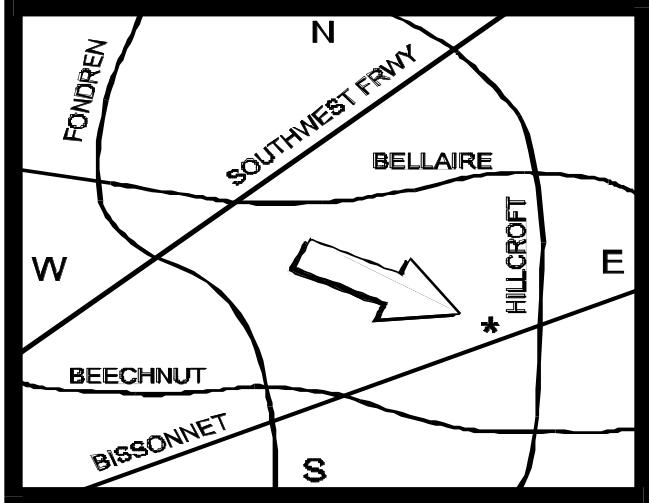
Dues may be paid at the January meeting. Have your check or cash ready and your name will be added to the 2009 roster. Dues are \$35 for Individuals and \$45 for families.



Creative 2nd Place - Ken Bean, © 2009

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>

2009 HUPS Officers

President Tom Collier

Vice President Jim Mensay

Secretary Tammy Allyn

Treasurer Henry Ragland

Membership Jean Himes

Photo Contest Dennis Deavenport

Newsletter David Lenderman

TGCC Rep Frank Burek/Debbie Mensay

Librarian John Anderson

Web Master James Heimer

Workshops Greg Grimes

Travel Coordinator - Tom Collier/ Jim & Debbie Mensay

Historian Frank Burek

Board of Directors

Jan Baughman

Frank Burek

Kandace Heimer

Ken Knezick

Greg Grimes

Mary McDonald

Harry Montecinos

Charlie Waldron

Dennis Deavenport

**Underwater
Images**

HUPS
PO BOX 270056
HOUSTON, TX 77277-0056