

## HUPS Award Winning Photographers Present Lembeh Indonesia May 4th Meeting with Mary Lou and Jackie Reid

By Jim Mensay

If you have been a member of HUPS for 4 months or 14 Years, you already know that Jackie and Mary Lou Reid are 2 of the most award winning photographers in our club.

At our Monday May 4th, 2009 meeting, Jackie and Mary Lou Reid will present a digital slide show with the shots they took on their trip to the New Kasawari Resort in the Lembeh straits of North Sulawesi Indonesia.

In addition to viewing their pics, Jackie will be sharing some of the secrets of their techniques in acquiring these



Advanced 2nd Place - Mary Lou Reid, © 2009

shots.

If you've had the pleasure of accompanying the Reid's on a dive and photo trip, you know that they are always willing to share their experiences and knowledge (and even some of their gear-if the need arises).

Come early and get a good seat, the show will be a real pleasure.

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.

## Shoot Like You Are Talking to the Fish - An A to Z Photog Quicky by David Lenderman

By Jim Mensay

Just as we anticipated/suspected, the presentation given by David Lenderman at the April 2009 meeting was a virtual encyclopedia of the How To's for Underwater Photography. If you have been to one of his workshops, David once again presented to us Hupsters his many shots of Mr. Potato Head, and he demonstrated how the various manual settings on your rig affect the shot you are going to get. David treated us to

some of the basics as well as some of the Best Hints on how to take great underwater pics. We were all reminded that some of the best photo ops come from the self paced, low current dives and even better than that are the night dive opportunities for photography. Along with reviewing all the "THINGS" we need to remember to get a good pic, David left us with a great Maxim: When you are setting up and positioning yourself for that shot, SHOOT LIKE YOU ARE TALKING TO THE FISH. Well, we all know that a horse is a horse of course of course and no one can talk to a horse of course.....but David must have a lot of fish that are named Mr. Ed. Ooops, perhaps I got Narced on that one! Thanks again David for a review of the Basics and a demonstration of how good it can get.

# What Makes a Good Photographic Dive Trip?

President's Message

By Tom Collier

I just completed a seven day trip to the Red Sea; one of the top dive locations in the world ...and I was not satisfied with my trip. The dive operator did not cater to photographers and probably would have been just as happy if we were not there. This trip made me realize I have been spoiled by dive operators that do cater to underwater photographers.

The itinerary we chose offered some world class dive sites. Places that I have read about in the dive magazines: Big & Little Brother islands, Daedalus Reef, and Elphinstone Reef. Our live-aboard was fully booked, but there were only four of us diving with cameras. The rest of the divers just wanted to follow the leader and take the tour. It only took a couple of dives before the dive-master gave up trying to keep track of my small group. The other divers would zoom ahead and we would lag behind. We missed any opportunity for the dive-master to point out special items of interest. If we found something, we found it ourselves. In addition, we were scolded for not being good buddy divers and we tended to stay in the water longer than the boat captain wanted. As long as they did not bench me, I was going to pay attention to the dive briefing and then dive the dive at my own pace. Finally, they just gave up and gave us our own zodiac (with no dive guide) and we did what we wanted. (Hooray for the home team.)

We were all seasoned divers and I believe that the dive-master felt that we could take care of ourselves. Sometimes others would join our small group but they did not hang around long – we were too boring, stayed in the water too long and had no idea where we were going. However, we always made it back to the boat and tried to keep our dives to a maximum of 60 minutes. As soon we arrived back at the boat the crew would pull the zodiacs up onto the stern of the big boat and start motoring to the next site.

I do wish that we could have dived many of the sites more than once and dived at a more leisurely pace. That is my biggest complaint. I can overlook the lack of a dive guide and our do-it-yourself dive plan, but I always felt rushed to complete the dive so we could move to the next site. The skipper had a schedule and he was sticking to it. Our mistake: No way can you thoroughly dive these great dive sites located in the middle of the Red Sea in just one week. To make matters worse, they motored during the day – not at night – what's with that? Maybe weather related reasons, who knows, we were strangers in a strange land with different dive customs.

The west wall of Little Brother has to be one of the healthiest and most lush walls I have ever seen. Thankfully, we got to do two dives at that location. Everywhere else, we dived just once and then motored to another location. What a shame. The dive sites were fantastic, the visibility was awesome and the marine life was different.

Oceanic White Tip Sharks are the current rage. They were there, we saw them – once; a single dive with the biggest drawing card of the Red Sea. We had one chance to get the shot or too bad, you missed it and we are moving on. The dive plan called for diving the reef and then hanging in the blue toward the end of the dive to see if we could spot the sharks. Since this was near the end of the week and we were basically on our own, my buddy and I decided to go directly to the hang out spot. We had four passes from the much sought after shark and fortunately I got my shot. Others saw them maybe once but they were too far away to take good photos or too low on air to gain better positioning. If we could have had a second dive at that location everyone would have had a chance to get the shot. The dive operator did not care if we got

the shot or not – they were not catering to the photographers and basically that is why I will never do this type of dive trip again.

I am fully aware that our Red Sea dive operator was offering a competitive itinerary relative to that region, after all the boat was fully booked. However, I want more. I guess I need a specialized itinerary, one that accommodates u/w photographers. If this type of dive trip costs more, then so be it. I have spent a few dollars on my camera setup and I want to put it to good use. I do not want to waste my time, money or the possible opportunity for a great shot. I do not want to be the square peg in a bunch of round peg divers.

That's the story and here's the plug. HUPS dive trips have been the ideal solution to my needs. The whole group is made up of u/w photographers; the dive operators are aware of this and are chosen for their ability and desire to satisfy our needs. Plus, the HUPS trips do not cost more; they usually cost less as most of the group savings is passed on to the group. I truly have been spoiled by HUPS dive trips of the past where the dive guides don't go off and leave me in strange places – in fact, they are usually busy finding interesting stuff for me and then waiting for me to get the shot. That's my kind of diving.

Tom Collier

## Dive Trip News

By Tom Collier

### Bonaire in June 2009

June 13-20, 2009. Captain Don's Dive Resort on Bonaire. 32 Hupsters have signed up for the trip. Final payments are due. Trip leaders are Debbie & Jim Mensay - [fdbm82@msn.com](mailto:fdbm82@msn.com)

### The Philippines in 2010

April 17-30, 2010. El Galleon Resort – Philippines Islands. These dates are smack in the middle of prime time weather conditions. The trip consists of 10 nights at the El Galleon Resort featuring all meals and up to 4 boat dives per day. Costs start at \$ 1,520.00 per person (does not include airfare to Manila). Download a trip brochure from the HUPS Forum / Dive Trips board for more information. Trip leader is Tom Collier - [tom@tpixs.com](mailto:tom@tpixs.com)

## FOR SALE

Looking for a excellent ballhead but do NOT want to pay the high price? National Geographic NGEH2 Expedition Series Hydrostatic Ball Head with RC5 Sliding Quick Release, supports up to 26.5 lbs (12kg). In excellent condition. Selling for \$250.00. Cash, check or Paypal. Shipping & Insurance included. Purchased for my husband for a one-time photo safari. Quick release plate, original box, and instructions included. If interested, email [mango9@earthlink.net](mailto:mango9@earthlink.net)

For the photographer who doesn't want to spend \$\$\$\$ for a fancy ballhead but wants the great performance with a hydraulic system for a super-tight lock from a minimal turn. Constructed of lightweight magnesium with a 2" aluminum ball, Teflon coated. Covered with a rubber bellow to prevent dust & debris for trouble-free operation even in extreme conditions, such as Africa.

You can see this classified ad with photos of the ball head on my website at the following link:  
[http://www.kandfoto.com/equipment\\_sales.html](http://www.kandfoto.com/equipment_sales.html)

# HUPS Ties for Fifth in Intra-Club Competition

By Jim Heimer

Each year an annual nature photography exhibition and competition is held by the Merrimack Valley Camera Club, North Andover, Maine. For 2009, the Merrimack Camera Club was looking to broaden participation, and late last year, HUPS was invited to participate in this event, the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual George W. Glennie Nature Interclub Exhibition. The competition is limited to photographic clubs, each of which may submit no more than 10 photographs in any of the eight categories: amphibians, birds, botany, insects, land and seascapes, mammals, marine life, and reptiles. No individual within a club may submit more than two photographs in any category.



*"Hammerhead"* by Tom Collier, © 2009

The contest rules require that photographs conform to the Photographic Society of America's definition of what constitutes nature photography. This definition requires that photographs depict nature honestly, with the story-telling value of a photograph given more weight than the pictorial quality. Human elements are generally excluded, and manipulation of the photographic image is restricted, in that the integrity of the subject cannot be compromised by such things as cloning, or adding, deleting, or combining details in the photo. For a photographic subject to be considered "wildlife", it must be living free in its natural habitat.

The Exhibition judging was to be in March, and since the Texas Dive Show was occurring in January, HUPS decided to select entries for the marine life category from those on exhibit at the show by balloting HUPS members who attended. In the end, 10 photos by Jan Baughman, Tom Collier, Dennis Deavenport, Kandace Heimer, Ken Knezick, Mary McDonald, Paul McDonald, Wendy McSwain, and Sue Watson were selected. These photos can be seen on the News and Links page of the website at [http://hups.org/News\\_and\\_Links/Images/0902%20Exhibition/index.htm](http://hups.org/News_and_Links/Images/0902%20Exhibition/index.htm).

In the end, 95 photography clubs from 21 states and 3 foreign countries participated. HUPS scored 218 points on the 10 photos submitted, just 13 points behind the winner and one point out of fourth place – not bad for our first time as an entrant. Individual awards were received by Tom Collier (Best Marine) for "Hammerhead" and by Dennis Deavenport (Merit Award in Marine



*"Lookin' for Leftovers"* by Dennis Deavenport, © 2009

Category) for "Lookin' for Leftovers." Individual scores are posted on the News and Links page of the website, [http://hups.org/News\\_and\\_Links/links.htm](http://hups.org/News_and_Links/links.htm). Other details on the contest, including a list of the clubs participating and the Best of Show and Best Wildlife photos can be seen at <http://www.glennie-exhibition.com/>.

## Publish Your Photos

By James Heimer

Again this year, HUPS will undertake to publish a Photobook of members' work. Volume 1, published in 2008, was a pretty good-looking product showcasing nine HUPS photographers.

Participation is easy- submit between three and six of your best underwater photographs as 10x8 or 8x10 (approx) jpg or tiff formatted files at 300dpi, a short biographical sketch, and a photo of yourself at the same resolution and format (but it doesn't have to be as big). Your biographical information should contain things like when you started diving, taking underwater photographs, your favorite dive locations and subjects, what "turns you on" about underwater photography, and similar information.

Once again, it is planned to have Mpix publish this book for us using their template pages, and the cost will be about \$55 including postage.

We will also need a cover photograph, which must be at least 22 inches long and 8 1/2 inches high at 300 dpi to wrap around the book cover.

An image of last year's book is on the web toward the bottom of the page at <http://hups.org/Gallery%20Pages/Photographer%20Gallery%20Pages.html>

## New Ocean Features on Google Earth

If you have not downloaded the latest version of Google Earth you should. It is packed with features for us interested in the oceans. Check out the video here and get started: <http://earth.google.com/tour.html#v=4> .

# What's Up with Workshops?

By Greg Grimes, Director of Educational Activities (DEA)

Due to a schedule conflict we have postponed the NITROX workshop. New dates will be announced soon.

**Basic Lightroom** - The top voted workshop request will be held on Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> entitled Basic LightRoom. This workshop will be conducted by Tom Collier who plans on showing everyone some tricks he's picked up while using the Adobe LightRoom software over the last few years it's been out. Be prepared to download the trial version of the software and bring along your computer, extension cord and photos for a hands-on demo. He will also touch on the important reasons you should always shoot in RAW while still understanding the database structures of the software through its entire workflow process.

For up to date information:

[http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/09May23\\_BeginLightRoom.htm](http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/09May23_BeginLightRoom.htm) Please sign up for the class so that we can get a head count. Use the link above to find directions on adding your name to the sign up sheet.

**Advanced Lightroom** - As a follow up to Tom's workshop in May we will have an Advanced LightRoom workshop on Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> instructed by James Wiseman. James will step you into more of the technical techniques of the software. Be prepared to download the trial version of the software and bring along your computer, extension cord and photos for a hands-on demo.

For up to date information:

[http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/09Aug22\\_AdvLightRoom.htm](http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/09Aug22_AdvLightRoom.htm)

**Critter Recognition & Behavior** - To round out the year we will have the second most requested workshop on Saturday, November 14<sup>th</sup> entitled Critter Recognition & Behavior. This workshop will be instructed by Frank & Joyce Burek who plan on showing everyone how to approach and spot those shy & timid critters that have evaded you in the past. Get up close and personal with these guys once you know the secrets of their behavior. The Burek's always bring a great show to the table and I know this one will be no exception. Mark your calendar to attend this one for sure!

For up to date information:

All these workshops are FREE to paid up members (except the Nitrox class is \$65) and will be held at the [Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church](#) (The room number(s) will be announced at a later date.)

<http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Mem%20Pres%20Church%20Map.html>

That's it for now; please submit your workshop ideas so we can get them into the curriculum. Without your ideas and input along with our knowledgeable instructors these workshops would not be possible.

## Macro Workshop a Hit

By Greg Grimes - Director of Educational Activities (DEA)

For those of you who missed our recent workshop on "Shooting Macro Underwater" presented by Dennis Deavenport you missed a fabulous training opportunity. Dennis as always gave a detailed presentation on how to get the best shots with your equipment as well as gave the participants time to work with their gear in a hands-on personal training experience afterwards. He shared some tips on how best to descend with your gear as well as the benefits of shooting in the manual mode and how to get close and work a location. We even had a bonus 15 minutes on macro composition as well! On behalf of the 15 participants I would like to thank Dennis for his fabulous presentation and hope everyone is looking forward to using these techniques on the Bonaire Trip next month if you are going.



Advanced 3rd Place - Terry Moore, © 2009

## Important Dates

Put them on your calendar

### May 4

HUPS Meeting - Mary Lou & Jackie Reid - Indonesia Underwater

### June 1

HUPS Meeting - James Wiseman - The Philippines & El Galleon Resort

### August 3

HUPS Meeting - Joyce & Frank Burek -

### May 23

HUPS Workshop - Basic Lightroom - by Tom Collier - see page 4 of this newsletter

### July 6

HUPS Meeting - TBA

### August 22

HUPS Workshop - Advanced Lightroom - by James Wiseman - see page 4 of this newsletter

# 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>

May - Invertebrates (except crabs & shrimp)

August - Schools of Fish

June - Crabs & Shrimp

September - Sharks & Rays

July - Eels

October - Symbiotic Relationships

## Invertebrates (Except Crabs & Shrimp)

The topic for the May contest is Invertebrates. For our contest we are going with the following definition: Sea creatures lacking a vertebral column (i.e. backbone). The group includes all animals except those in the Chordate subphylum Vertebrata, such as fish. In my book, this includes Sponges, Cnidarians, Ctenophores, Worms, Molluscs, Crustaceans(\*), Lophophorates, Echinoderms, and Ascidians. Yep, time to get out your ID books or check out Wikipedia. \* The contest excludes crabs, shrimp, and lobsters (which have their own contest). You can't win if you don't enter!

Descriptions of all 2009 contest topics can be found on [hups.org](http://hups.org).

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@comcast.net](mailto:ddeavenport@comcast.net) 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.

## Contest Results

### April - Vertical Compositions

#### Advanced

- 1st Tom Collier
- 2nd Mary Lou Reid
- 3rd Terry Moore

#### Novice

- 1st Kandace Heimer (2 tied), Leonard Cichowski,
- 2nd Mike Greuter, Jan Baughman
- 3rd Paul McDonald

#### Compact Digital

- 1st Kay Collier (2 tied), Mary McDonald
- 2nd Kandace Heimer

## Photo Day at the Houston Zoo

By Greg Grimes, DEA

Photography enthusiasts - come out to the Houston Zoo on Saturday, February 21 at 7:30 a.m. to capture images of the Zoo's animals and lush landscaping an hour and a half before normal opening time. Take advantage of morning lighting and cool

weather and get memorable shots of some of the Zoo's early risers.

Photo Day Ticket Prices (includes zoo admission, access to all outside public exhibits and continental breakfast):

Adult Member : \$12.00

Adult Non-Member : \$20.00

The Burek's, Alicia and I made it out to the 1<sup>st</sup> Photo Day at the Houston Zoo a few months ago and it was a great opportunity to practice photographing animals both captive as well as migratory. It is very good practice in my opinion and just two weeks before the club trip to Bonaire so a good and timely event. Alicia and I are zoo members so we can get everyone in for \$12 each (\$20 for non members) if I have a head count and order the tickets all at once. Once I have a head count I can order tickets the week before the event and pass them out at the entrance to the zoo on the day of the event. We can all go for a quick lunch afterwards and talk diving. - [greg@soworld.com](mailto:greg@soworld.com) .

## TGCC Scholarship

The Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs (TGCC) may award three Michael Szewczyk College scholarships (1 @ \$1,000 and 2 @ \$500) during 2009. Named in memory of TGCC's long time supporter, Michael Szewczyk, this award's purpose is to support the members who support the dive clubs in the Texas Gulf Coast area. The award will be paid by TGCC directly to the college towards tuition.

Eligibility Rules:

Scholarship applicant must be a college undergraduate or graduate student attending college in 2009, or a high school senior that has been or will be accepted to college in 2009.

The applicant, the parent(s) (biological or through formal adoption), or the grandparent(s) of the applicant, must be an individual member of TGCC or a member of a TGCC member club with dues current in 2009.

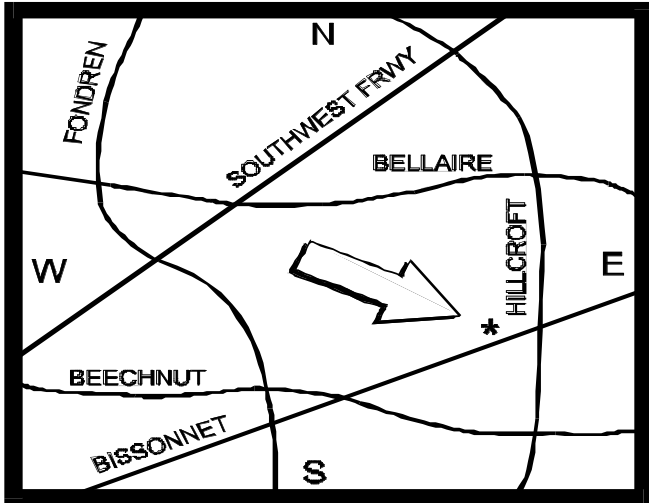
Application (see other side) must be received by the TGCC Donations Committee prior to June 26, 2009. TGCC will review all completed applications on July 9, 2009.

Applicant shall have the high school/college furnish a transcript of grades, courses and class standing.

The complete application can be downloaded here: [http://www.tgccdiving.org/tgcc\\_forms.html](http://www.tgccdiving.org/tgcc_forms.html)

*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** John Ringrose / Frank Burek / Debbie Mensay

**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