

# Action Packed Quadruple Feature

## October 5th Meeting with Shows from HUPS Bonaire Trip

By Jim Mensay

The next HUPS meeting on October 5, 2009 might be subtitled: Taking Memories With Us, and Leaving Bubbles Behind!

A large group of Hupsters journeyed to Bonaire in June to enjoy the treasures of the island, both topside and underwater. We may have all been on the same island, but everyone saw it through a different pair of eyes. Join us 10/5/09 to share several different looks at the island as we do a "battle of the boats".

We'll have 4 different presentations: 2 videos courtesy of Jim Heimer and Greg Grimes, and 2 slides shows courtesy of Dennis Davenport and Debbie Mensay, which will be featuring the photos of the still photographers from each of the two dive boats. Everyone was given a time limit for their show, so it should be fast and fabulous!

See you there....

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.

### HUPS Does Video

By Jim Mensay

It's not about the camera, it's not even about the picture, or in this case, the video. Although they are both very important, what we also learned from Jim Heimer's presentation on shooting underwater video, it's about the story you are trying to tell.

At last month's meeting we had an excellent presentation by Jim on the essentials of underwater videography: the equipment, the shooting techniques, and the post editing. For those of us that want to get started using this medium, this was a great Intro-101 course on the how to, what for, and the how much. Who knew the lights could cost that much?!?!

As we all know, still photography places a lot of emphasis on the composition and the negative space, as well as the subject itself. Well, Jim Heimer reminded us that, while those things are important in videography, things are moving too. You have to remember that you are telling a story, so shoot the exciting stuff, not the whole dive or or the whole dive trip.

And, if you want an award winning video, injecting a great sense of humor into your story line just might add the pizzazz that you may need to be number one.

Thanks Jim H.

# President's Message

## Everyone Should Give a HUPS Presentation

By Tom Collier

Do you want to learn something – I mean really learn it? Then you should give a HUPS presentation at one of our monthly meetings. Think of an u/w photography related topic that you are fairly familiar with and then research that topic thoroughly. Research it enough that you would feel comfortable making a presentation to a group of people who are of like mind. When you are finished with your research, you will know a whole lot more about your topic. You might not be an expert, but chances are you will be more informed than your audience. The big pay-off is that after your presentation you will find you retain most of that information and can put it to use in your own photography activities.

Our club is comprised of some very sharp people. It's easy to think that most of our members are more knowledgeable about photography than you might be. Certainly some are, but those folks are the most tolerant of our shortcomings and supportive of our efforts. Everyone started at zero, learned a little something, practiced what they learned and now love entering images in the monthly contests. Everyone can and does learn something from interacting with each other.

From nine to five, every day, our members are involved in all sorts of businesses and professions. But on the first Monday of each month, we gather together to listen to someone speak on some topic related to u/w photography. We are drawn together because of our collective interest in a fairly complicated and not too common passion for u/w photography. Our meetings are well attended because those in attendance want to be diving, but can't be at the moment, so this is the next best thing.

Being involved with HUPS is more than just attending the meetings and workshops. HUPS is about learning and sharing. Our members are remarkable when it comes to their willingness to share. Over time, we can learn from those who have information to share and then when the opportunity presents itself, do our part to give something back.

2010 is approaching and the monthly speaker schedules are now being drawn up. Consider volunteering to make a presentation. We all want to hear about your favorite dive location, learn about your photography equipment, see your photographs, and find out how you managed to get those great shots.

Tom Collier

## More Chips and Salsa Please

Everyone is welcome to join us for some Tex-Mex following HUPS meetings. A number of us meet at Don Carlo's Mexican Restaurant. This is a great opportunity to socialize with fellow HUPS members and eat some good Tex-Mex. It is on the 59 Northbound feeder just North of Hillcroft. Exiting Bayland Community Center go left on Bissonnet, left on Hillcroft and then right on the 59 feeder. It's about 100 yards on your right. You can't miss it.

## SeaSpace Endows Texas A & M Galveston

HOUSTON, Texas — SeaSpace Inc., a Houston-based nonprofit organization dedicated to marine environmental education and youth outreach, has created an endowment to help Texas A&M University at Galveston (TAMUG) students fund their educations. The SeaSpace Endowed Scholarship in the Marine Sciences — established at the Texas A&M Foundation — will provide multiple annual scholarships to undergraduate and graduate students in marine-related fields.

SeaSpace has been a longtime supporter of marine science students across the nation. Over the past 35 years, some 324 students have benefited from SeaSpace scholarships. Funds for SeaSpace scholarships were raised at the annual SeaSpace Exposition in Houston, an event which ran from 1969 through 2007. Now that the exposition no longer takes place, SeaSpace has opted to continue funding scholarships by transferring its Permanent Education Fund to the Texas A&M Foundation which will invest and administer the fund.

Ninety percent of the investment earnings associated with the \$400,000 SeaSpace endowment will fund university scholarships, while 10 percent of the earnings have been earmarked to establish the SeaSpace SeaCamp Grant Fund. This fund will provide multiple annual grants to middle school and high school students attending TAMUG's Sea Camp, a summer learning program in the marine sciences.

The Texas A&M Foundation is a private nonprofit organization that solicits and manages investments in academics and leadership programs to enhance Texas A&M's capability to be among the best universities. As some time is required to establish the new fund, SeaSpace will administer its own final scholarship distribution during 2010. Graduate and post-grad students in the marine sciences are invited to request a scholarship application.

Kenneth Knezick, who served as director of the annual SeaSpace Exposition, offered his profound thanks for the hundreds of volunteers who helped to make the event a success over the years. The Board of Directors of SeaSpace expressed their appreciation for the patronage of the many vendors who exhibited at SeaSpace. The support of volunteers and exhibitors made possible the endowment and grant to the Texas A&M Foundation.

To learn more about SeaSpace, and to obtain a scholarship application, please visit <http://www.seaspace.org>.

For additional information about the Texas A&M Foundation, phone 800-392-3310, or email to [fund-a-scholarship@tamu.edu](mailto:fund-a-scholarship@tamu.edu).

## Check it Out on The Web

Vimeo.com is a video hosting website for those serious about video & photography. It is like youtube without all of the garbage. As a photographer or videographer it is a great place to find some creative inspiration. Poke around and see what you can

find. I like this video: <http://www.vimeo.com/6533293> It is not an underwater video, but does have an environmental message. It is just over a minute in length, take a look

# Election of 2010 Officers and Directors

By Tom Collier

Soon we will hold elections for our 2010 Officers & Directors. The Officers & Directors are the members that make up the Executive Committee, which in turn, forges the direction of HUPS. If you would like to be part of that decision making process, now is your chance. Volunteer to be one of our 2010 officers or directors. Applications and nominations will be accepted at the October meeting and elections will be held at the November meeting.

Election of 2010 Officers, Directors and Member of the Year schedule:

## October meeting

Accept nominations and applications for club officers and directors for the 2010 year

## November meeting

General Membership votes for 2010 the officers and directors  
Accept nominations for 2009 Member of the Year

## December meeting

General Membership votes for 2009 Member of the Year

Dennis Deavenport will be the Chairman of the Nomination Committee, nominations and applications should be submitted to Dennis.

General membership voting will be conducted by written ballots or by a show of hands for the election of Officers & Directors. General membership voting for the 2009 Member of the Year will be by written ballot only.

# 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 ½ 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>

# Calling all Writers

The HUPS newsletter is **always** looking for articles. If you have anything you would like to share send it to [underh2o@mac.com](mailto:underh2o@mac.com) We welcome trip reports, equipment reviews, photo tips, suggestion of underwater photography related websites, just about anything that would interest your fellow underwater photographers. Don't be shy - share!



Advanced 1st Place - Tom Collier, © 2009

## Important Dates

Put them on your calendar

### October 5

HUPS Meeting - Jim & Debbie Mensay - HUPS Bonaire trip Recap

### November 14

HUPS Workshop- Critter Behavior & Recognition - Joyce & Frank Burek, see page 5 of newsletter

### January 11

HUPS Meeting -TBA

### November 2

HUPS Meeting - Jesse Cancelmo - How to get your photos published

### December 7

HUPS Meeting - Holiday Potluck Dinner

### February 1

HUPS Meeting -TBA

## Upcoming Monthly Photo Contests

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

October - Symbiotic Relationships

December - Best of HUPS contest

November - Cephalopods  
- squid, cuttlefish and octopi

## Symbiotic Relationships

The October contest topic is "Symbiotic Relationships". The description from hups.org says - "Subjects that are interdependent on each other, such as the clown fish and anemone (of course, no one has any photos of these), gobies and their shrimp companions, cleaners, etc. Use your imagination." You can't win if you don't enter!

Descriptions of all 2009 contest topics can be found on 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>. If you do not follow all the rules for digital entries your images will not be judged.

## Contest Results

### September Contest - Sharks & Rays

#### Advanced

1st Tom Collier  
2nd Ken Knezick  
3rd Ken Knezick

#### Novice

1st Mike Greuter  
2nd Mike Greuter  
3rd Kandace Heimer (2 tied)

#### Compact Digital

1st Kay Collier  
2nd Kay Collier & Mike Fernandez (tie)  
3rd Kay Collier

## Dive Trip News

By Tom Collier

### 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) - 4 spots open.

## Scuba Divers Flea Market - Oct 10th

On Saturday, October 10th, 2009 the 34th Annual Scuba Divers Flea Market will be at the Landolt Pavillion located at 5000 Nasa Rd 1 in Houston - Clear Lake. For a map and directions go to [www.bayareadivers.org](http://www.bayareadivers.org) and click on the "maps" link.

The Divers Market & Expo will be open to the public from 10am to 4pm. This event will include exhibitors and vendors from all over Texas. There will be deals on used gear, new gear, dive trips and just about everything dive related. In addition to the items for sale there will be free presentations, door prizes and raffles. Admission is only \$5 and children 12 and under are free.

For more information go to the website [www.bayareadivers.org](http://www.bayareadivers.org) and click on the "Divers Market" link. If you have questions you can contact Neil Lowery SCUBA Divers Market Coordinator [info@bayareadivers.org](mailto:info@bayareadivers.org).



Novice 1st Place - Mike Greuter, © 2009

## WANTED

Want to borrow or rent Ikelite 4 D-cell NICAD battery packs for the Ikelite A100 (Ai) Strobe for April 2010 HUPS Philippines Dive trip.

Joyce & Frank Burek [jfburek@consolidated.net](mailto:jfburek@consolidated.net)

# HUPS Workshop News

By Greg Grimes, Director of Educational Activities (DEA)

Hupsters, we are winding down the workshops for the year but saved one of the best for last! The Bureks have put a lot of time and effort into the last workshop entitled: "Critter Behavior & Recognition". This should be a very rewarding and informative workshop that you should not miss. There is still room! It's scheduled for Saturday November 14<sup>th</sup> 2009 at the Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church starting at 1:00 pm. Read more about it on our website here:

[http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/09Nov14\\_Critters.htm](http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/09Nov14_Critters.htm).

Earlier in August we had a slight mix up on the Advanced LightRoom workshop so we will be rescheduling this session for the first quarter of 2010 so not to worry. Once James and I set a date I'll inform the group and pass around a new sign up sheet. Dynamically as it turned out the Advanced LightRoom group had a great collaboration on some LightRoom techniques and everyone helped each other learn something new with the software and it was a very successful afternoon in its own right. This may have well started something new in the workshop arena and I am looking into some new options.

See you at the next meeting!

## A Member's Issue with DAN Insurance

By Joe Nicklo

### Is Diver's Alert Network's (DAN) Membership Renewal Policy Legal?

Recently Costco was indicted in a class action suit for a membership renewal policy that was considered cheating people out of months of membership. Apparently they used to make the membership retroactive to the date you should have renewed instead of the date people actually did renew.

### Is DAN's membership renewal policy any different than Costco's?

My DAN membership expiration date was August 30, 2009. I renewed my policy on September 9, 2009. When I received my renewal confirmation it showed my expiration date as August 30, 2010. When I called to question the August 30, 2010 expiration date, I was told, "that is our company policy and it is because we offer a 30 day grace period". I asked where I could locate the grace period information in the DAN Hand Book. The representative could not tell me where but said not to worry DAN insurance will cover any claim submitted within the 30 day grace period as long as the member submitting the claim would agree to renew their policy. Realizing this could be a problem if contested, I was not satisfied with this explanation. I asked to speak with a manager and was eventually told after waiting for five minutes that the manager was not available. I then asked to speak to anyone who could address the 30-day grace period and was transferred to the Claims Department. When I told the Claims Department representative the reason for my call she said "there is no such thing as a 30 day grace period." Frustrated I immediately asked to speak to the manager and was told his name is Dick Clark and he was not available but

would return my call. Having not received a return call after several hours, I once again called the Membership Department and was greeted by a different representative who after much conversation attempted to pacify me by offering to change my policy's expiration date. I expressed my appreciation and asked to speak to a manager. The manager reminded me that the expiration date had been changed to which I replied their policy needed to be changed. He was polite but refused to do more.

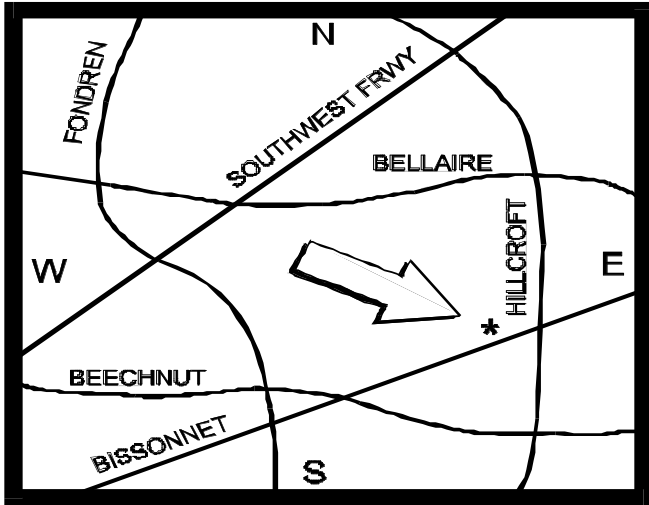
Since I had not received a call from the Claims Department I decided to call again. This time a rather aggressive female representative who was already knowledgeable of my original call greeted me. She said Dick Clark, the manager, refused to speak to me and I should discuss my complaint with the Membership Department. She said I had to speak to a manager in that department and without any more conversation rudely put me on hold while she transferred me to the Membership Department where I was greeted by the same manager I spoke to earlier who this time informed me DAN's renewal policy and its 30 day grace period is not in writing and does not appear in the DAN Hand Book. He said the 30 day grace period is required by the State of North Carolina and referred me to the state web site at NCDOT.gov. I told him the renewal policy was unfair to members and that it should be changed immediately. He attempted to pacify me by telling me once more that they had changed my expiration date to September 30, 2010 to which I replied, "The problem is your policy".

My concern here is about all the DAN members who don't renew on/or before their expiration date? Are they aware their current expiration is not the date they renewed but was made retroactive to the date they should have renewed? In my case we are talking about nine days, not an overwhelming number. Amortizing my annual premium it amounts to 30 cents per day or \$2.70 for the nine days. I will not miss a meal because of it. However if all the 250,000+ DAN members were treated as I was it could be a very significant revenue stream for DAN. Is it fair? I don't think so!

	Contest results through September 2009	
<b>NOVICE</b>		
1st	Paul McDonald	522
2nd	Kandace Heimer	508
3rd	Leonard Cichowski	493
4th	Jan Baughman	420
5th	Mike Greuter	404
<b>COMPACT DIGITAL</b>		
1st	Kay Collier	594
2nd	Mary McDonald	444
3rd	Mike Fernandez	383
4th	Kandace Heimer	281
5th	Mike Brower	252
<b>ADVANCED</b>		
1st	Mary Lou Reid	593
2nd	Tom Collier	585
3rd	Ken Bean	500
4th	Dennis Deavenport	497
5th	Terry Moore	457

*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**

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