

Experiencing the South African Sardine Run January 11th meeting with Ken Knezick

By Jim Mensay

So what challenge is left after that 4,000th dive? If you are Ken Knezick, President and owner of Island Dreams travel, you might try a Mount Everest type of adventure, but do it on Scuba.

At the HUPS meeting on January 11, 2010, we will get a chance to experience the thrills (and chills) of that type of adventure during what is sure to be another incredible and informative presentation by Ken.

Ken got another opportunity this past July to explore where few of us (actually no one else that I know of) have gone before, the Cape of South Africa, to dive in the middle of the annual sardine run. Rapidly moving sharks, dolphins, and dive-bombing birds - all going after a huge bait ball of sardines in low viz, cold water.... what more challenging situation could there be for an un-



Photo by Ken Knezick, © 2009

derwater photographer? Of course Ken got some incredible shots!

To see a more complete trip report, please click on the following URL:
http://www.divetrip.com/sardine_run_report.htm

And, for an advanced look at some of Ken's incredible photos from his trip, check out the following site:

http://www.divetrip.com/southafrica/sardine_run_photo_gallery.htm

Is this fact or fiction? See you at our meeting to find out. 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 Membership Renewals Online!

Proof that HUPS is ready for the future... membership renewals and new memberships can now be done online. Just click on the "Join HUPS" button on www.hups.org. Fill out the forms and pay online via PayPal or credit card. Easy as Pie!

If you prefer the old fashioned method you can just bring a check to the next meeting.

Thanks for the Holiday Party

By Jim Mensay

A BIG Thank You to all for your help with the annual holiday Pot Luck Party last month. As usual, everyone brought something to share and there was plenty of food, drink, and desserts to go around.

A SPECIAL Thank You to Jean Himes, Mary McDonald, Kay Collier for helping organize it and Charlie Waldron & Jan Baughman for the delicious brisket.

And by the way, if you want to know how some of those pics were made in the Creative Photo Contest, mark your calendar for our April meeting, when Dennis Deavenport and Kandace Heimer are going to share a few of the tricks of the trade on how to get these type of pics made.

President's Message

Happy New Year

By Tom Collier

What, another year already? Where did 2009 go? 2010 is here and when I hear it pronounced "Twenty-Ten" I think of some sci-fi movie. Twenty-Ten, wow, that sounds like some distant time in the future. But, the future is now and HUPS is ready.

Actually, we have a big jump on the New Year:

We have a fantastic dive trip scheduled in 2010 to the Philippines with record-setting interest among our members.

A BOD decision to offer more than just one trip per year – stand tuned.

Two photo exhibitions: Committee members are working hard on two projects to increase our club's presence and exposure: the Merrimack Valley Photo Club's 2010 Glennie Nature Photo Exhibition and the HUPS Collection at Moody Garden Aquarium. Both of these photo exhibitions will increase the public exposure of HUPS and its member's photography. (And there are hints of future exhibitions that are being explored.)

A new Photo Contest game plan that should stream-line and balance the competitions.

A multitude of Workshops are planned for the year. Some with a new and exciting format.

The VP is working hard on scheduling interesting monthly meeting presentations. Don't be surprised if he calls upon you – he has some creative programs in mind.

We have a new PayPal account established for the club – slated to be used in a multitude of ways.

A HUPS Store is being planned for the website. Finally, a great avenue for merchandising HUPS stuff.

New and more innovative web content utilizing Face Book and You Tube sites.

A new legal status for HUPS that you really don't care about, but is necessary for the continuity of our club's future existence.

Better photographs for all. I just know that I am going to improve in the coming year. The truth is that we are all improving – at warp speed, fitting the 2010 futuristic theme. The lines between the Novice/Intermediate/Advance photos shown at our meetings are fast becoming blurred. Our members are taking some great photos. The most obvious reason is that the many benefits of HUPS are being realized.

I have enjoyed my first year as President of your club. I enjoyed the experience and I thank you for the opportunity. We had some great leaps forward and some minor steps backwards, but it was a great year for HUPS. Even though the economy is down, our membership is up, our monthly meeting attendance is up, and member participation is way up. We are ready to move forward to an even more exciting year. I look forward to working with all who are willing in 2010.

Tom Collier

Greg Grimes Voted Member of the Year

The membership has spoken and Greg Grimes was voted as the 2009 Member of the Year. Thank you Greg for all of your contributions over the last year.

Huh?

Website submitted by Jesse Cancelmo

Ever heard or read a photography related term and wondered what the heck it was referring to? The website dpreview has a handy glossary to help you with all of that photo jargon. Here is the link: <http://www.dpreview.com/learn/?/glossary/> .

Advanced Lightroom Workshop

By Greg Grimes, Director of Educational Activities (DEA)

As a follow up to Tom's beginner class back last May and back by popular demand is an Advanced workshop using Adobe LightRoom2.5. Our very own James Wiseman plans on showing everyone some tricks he's picked up while using this software over the last few years its been out. He 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 photos for a hands on demo. As with the beginner's workshop in May, he will 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. As we get closer to the date there will be more information to share.

The workshop will be February 6 from 1 - 4 p.m. at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church. All the details can be found here: http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/10Feb06_AdvLightRoom.htm The workshop sign up sheet is on the forum here: <http://www.hups.org/forum/index.php?topic=190.0>

Any other questions please let me know.
greg@theworldinaflash.com

These Workshops are for you and I would really like to hear from anyone with any future Workshop ideas by [Clicking Here](#)



Novice 3rd Place - Mike Grueter, © 2010

HUPS Awards for 2009

By Frank Burek

TGCC Banquet is Jan. 30, 2010 at Bayland Community Center. Social starts at 11:00 AM, lunch at 11:45 AM. Price is \$10. This should be on every HUPS members place to be list – good food, good camaraderie and a chance to honor the 10 HUPS members receiving their awards. Twenty-five people are already signed up, come and join them. Tickets will be available at the January HUPS meeting, or can be ordered through John Ringrose or Frank Burek.

Three husband & wife teams were selected by the HUPS Board to receive the HUPS' Joyce and Frank Burek Lifetime Achievement Awards this year. They are Joe & Lynn Nicklo, John & Kathy Ringrose and James Wiseman & Sarah Bernhardt.

Joe Nicklo has been very involved with the HUPS' Raffle system, the photo boards that we developed for our displays; the Workshop program, Library program, Mentoring program and our Lifetime Achievement Award. He was the 2003 HUPS Member of the Year, was our Director of Education for several years and served on the HUPS Board of Directors for two years.

John & Kathy Ringrose have been HUPS members for 22 years. John ran our Photo Contests for 9 years. He was on our Board of Directors for 10 years and served as the HUPS TGCC representative for 3 years. John received the HUPS Member of the Year in 1994 & 1998. Kathy was the chair/co-chair of our Christmas Party for 7 years.

James Wiseman moved HUPS into the digital age. He started our Digital Photo Competition and ran it for 3 years. He was the 2005 HUPS Member of the Year and served 5 years on the HUPS Board of Directors. He has written 27 articles on digital photography for UWL., given 8 Workshops and 12 programs at our HUPS meetings.

In addition to the Lifetime Achievement Award recipients mentioned above awards will also be given to HUPS Member of the Year - Greg Grimes, Compact Digital Photographer of the Year - Kay Collier, Novice Photographer of the Year - Paul McDonald and Advanced Photographer of the Year - Tom Collier.

HUPS Invited to Participate in George W. Glennie Nature Interclub Exhibition

By Jim Heimer

HUPS has received an invitation to participate in the George W. Glennie Nature Interclub Exhibition conducted by the Merrimack Valley Camera Club of North Andover, Massachusetts. Last year, our first year of participation, HUPS placed 5th out of 95 participating clubs from across the United States and several foreign countries. Two members, Tom Collier and Dennis Deavenport, won individual awards: Tom was best in the Marine Category and Dennis won a Merit Award in that category. Last year, entries were selected from those displayed at the Texas Dive Show at the Reliant Center. This year, we will use those photos submitted for the Moody Gardens display, but we will also solicit additional photos from those who may not have sent a photo in for that event.

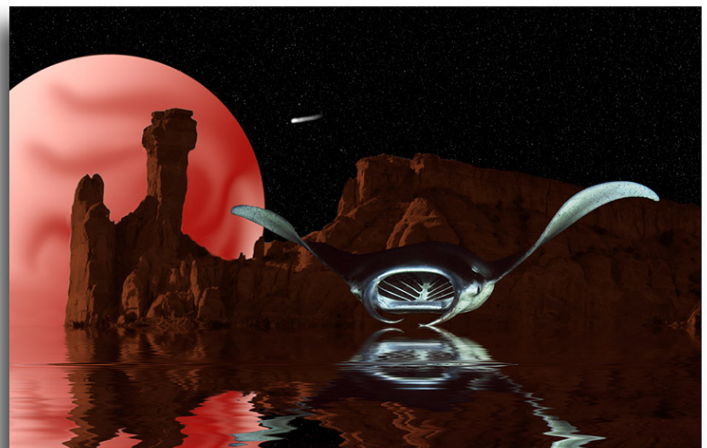
The Exhibition is open to all camera clubs and similar organizations world-wide; all are most welcome to join in as a means of sharing some of the seldom seen or observed scenes of the world that we inhabit with the broadest audience possible. It provides all clubs with the opportunity to participate to give a broad spectrum of Nature specimens submitted for the information and enjoyment of all. This is also one of the few opportunities that photographers may gain well-deserved recognition for their efforts, regardless of subject. This is due to the fact that individual, as well as club awards are presented in a very wide range of categories.

Details of the exhibition can be read at <http://www.glennie-exhibition.com/2010%20description.html>. The criteria that an image must meet to be considered nature photography are those of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) for Nature Photography at <http://www.glennie-exhibition.com/nature%20def.html>. This document also defines what adjustments may be made to an image. Also of interest is that the judges will weigh the story telling value of a photograph more than the pictorial quality. For examples, the photos from 2009 can be viewed at <http://www.glennie-exhibition.com/>. You will see that the winning photos generally featured animal behavior, rather than just being a wildlife portrait (although they are of generally high pictorial quality as well).

Of special interest this year is a new category - close up photography of specimens that are typically small, (insects and their larvae as well as fungi, flower blossoms, seed pods and microbes - and I would add marine creatures like nudibranchs, anemone shrimp, pygmy seahorses, etc). In general these photos were not submitted or selected for Moody Gardens, and we would like to have two or three of our 10 submissions meet this criteria.

Images should be submitted as 1024 x 768 pixel (maximum dimensions) JPG's at 72 dpi or higher resolution not to exceed 1 MB file size. This will also be adequate for final submission for the exhibition. Images should be sent to Jan Baughman at jbaughman@juno.com in January. Jan will organize a selection committee, and final selections will be made in February and submitted in March.

Contact Jim Heimer at hupsweb@earthlink.net if you have any questions.



Creative 1st Place - Kandace Heimer, © 2010

Ken Knezick Published in Wetpixel Quarterly

HUPS member, Ken Knezick, had an image selected as the Parting Shot in the most recent issue of Wetpixel Quarterly Magazine. It was an image from the South African Sardine Run. Wetpixel Quarterly is “the high quality print magazine dedicated to underwater photography”. For more information check out <http://www.wetpixelquarterly.com/>. Be sure to attend the January meeting to see more of Ken’s great shots from the Sardine Run.

HUPS Now on Facebook and YouTube

By Alicia Grimes

I would like to let everyone know that we recently set up a HUPS Group on Facebook that all HUPS members should be able to join and keep up with your diving and underwater photo needs. We hope to see everyone there. If you are on Facebook you can access this group using the following link: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=174168478778>

We started a HUPS YouTube Channel as well. We thought it would be a nice avenue to showcase some of our talented member's work. If you have some slideshows that you want to post please let Jim Hiemer or Greg Grimes know and they will get your slideshow published on the HUPS YouTube channel. You can access this HUPS channel by clicking the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/HUPSdotORG>

One Smart Octopus

Website submitted by Joe Nicklo

I remember when I was a kid in science class I was taught that the use of tools differentiated humans from other animals. Years later I learned that chimpanzees and even a couple species of birds use tools to catch and eat insects. Now scientists have documented a species of octopus using tools. I guess us humans aren't so smart after all. Here is a video clip to see the behavior:

<http://www.cnn.com/video/#/video/tech/2009/12/15/bennett.aus.octopus.tools.abc>

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>



Advanced 2nd Place - Dennis Deavenport, © 2009

Important Dates

Put them on your calendar

January 11

HUPS Meeting - Ken Knezick - South Africa's Sardine Run

February 6

HUPS Workshop - Advanced Lightroom with James Wiseman

April 5

HUPS Meeting -Dennis Deavenport & Kandace Heimer - Creative Editing

February 1

HUPS Meeting -Tom Collier - Dragon Quest

March 1

HUPS Meeting -Kay Collier & Mary McDonald - Little Cameras, Major Results

May 3

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>

January - Face the Camera

April - Crustacea

February - Juveniles

May - Odd Shaped Bottom-dwellers

March - Flat fish

June - Nudibranchs & Worms

January Contest

Here we go again, another year of photo contests! To get things rolling we have "Face the Camera". According to the definition on hups.org - "The subject is looking directly into the camera lens (must show at least 2 eyes)". You can't win if you don't enter!

Descriptions of all 2010 & 2011 contest topics and rules can be found on hups.org.

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>. If you do not follow all the rules for digital entries your images will not be judged.

Contest Results

December Best of HUPS

Advanced

1st Tom Collier
2nd Dennis Deavenport
3rd Dennis Deavenport

Novice

1st Paul McDonald
2nd Kandace Heimer
3rd Mike Greuter

Compact Digital

1st Kay Collier
2nd Mary McDonald
3rd Mary McDonald

Creative

1st Kandace Heimer
2nd Dennis Deavenport
3rd Kandace Heimer

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 - Trip full, wait list started.

Wanted: HUPS Presenters

By Jim Mensay, Vice-President

Please consider this a personal invitation, and we can shake hands on it afterwards.

Wanted and Needed, a monthly presentation at the HUPS meeting.

Consider sharing in a special way, your own personal story that demonstrates your talents and skills as an underwater photographer and adventurer (or misadventures - - after all, we sometimes learn best when things go wrong!).

Our club is fortunate to have so many diver/photographers that are willing to give it their all for this type of presentation. In addition to learning something every time, we all get a chance to join you on that unique adventure-filled vacation.

Please contact me if you would like to be part of a meeting in the near future.

And thanks to all you have been our presenters in the past years, we want to hear and see more of your trip logs in the future.

Send your presentation topic/idea/format or suggestion to Jim Mensay, Vice President-HUPS, email fdbm82@msn.com

HUPS 2010 Contest Page Now on HUPS.org

By Greg Grimes

Here is a link to the new 2010 Photo Contest Page:

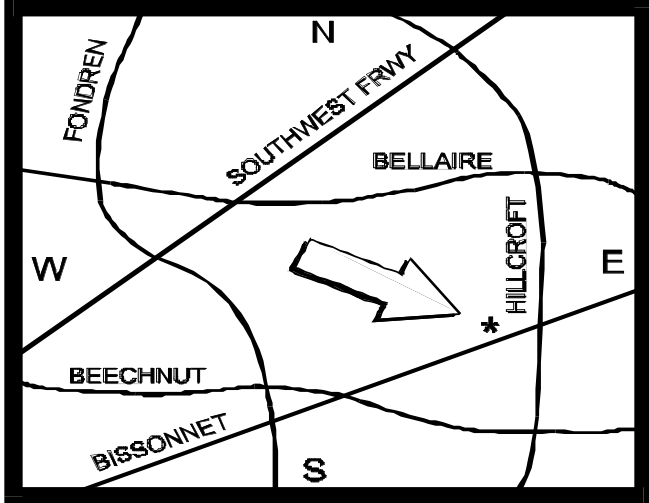
<http://www.hups.org/Photo%20Contest/Photo%20Contest%20Current.htm>

At the top of the page you can download the 2010 and 2011 topics list to print and put on your refrigerator for quick reference.

The page has a new look and feel. Each month you will be able to watch the slideshows for all three categories as we had set up last year. However we will be keeping track of the POTY standings for all subsequent months as the year progresses in all categories. Also there is a button to keep up to date with the discussions for each month here on the forum. Now you have no excuses to send in your images. Good Luck!

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/Promotions Alicia Grimes

Photo Contest Dennis Deavenport

Newsletter David Lenderman

TGCC Rep Frank Burek / Debbie Mensay

Web Master James Heimer

Workshops Greg Grimes

Trip Coordinator - Tom Collier

Historian Frank Burek

Special Events Jan Baughman/Greg Grimes

Board of Directors

Jan Baughman

Frank Burek

Dennis Deavenport

Greg Grimes

Mike Grueter

Kandace Heimer

Ken Knezick

Russel Ramsey

**Underwater
Images**

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