

# The Solomon Islands, From Top to Bottom August 2, 2010 with Jan Baughman

*By Jim Mensay*

The presentation for the August meeting will be given by someone who says she is new at the art of formal presentations. But she certainly is not new in contributions to the HUPS. Jan Baughman coordinated our efforts at the Texas Dive show a couple of years ago, so she knows how to start from nothing and make it something SPECIAL.

Her slide show is entitled "Solomon Islands, Top to Bottom" and it preserves the memories that Jan had while spending eleven days on the Bilikiki. Jan had just as much fun taking pictures top side as under the water. The slide show will have many pictures of both. This will be a genuine "Show and Tell", as she will be bringing with her to the meeting several items that she purchased from the villages that she visited. Her dive buddies on this trip included some of the Dive Industry's best and well know; Jack and Sue Drafhall and Geri Murphy from Skin Diver Magazine.

Jan Baughman became a certified scuba diver in 1992. Helping to teach diving as a Dive Master for several years was very fulfilling for Jan as she could share her passion of diving with others. After Deep, Wreck, and Cave Diving certifications, Jan found her niche with underwater photography. Her mentor and teacher was world famous underwater photographer, Cathy Church of Grand Cayman. In 2003, Jan got serious about underwater photography and took a 9 day course from Cathy. The new advances in digital photography sparked her creative passion. Jan has dove many place in the world with her camera. The South Pacific is one of her favorites.

Come early to get a good seat and give Jan a big WELCOME.

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.

## Recap of Burek's Programs

*By Jim Mensay*

A big HUPS THANK YOU goes out this time to the Bureks. Frank & Joyce once again shared their time, talents, knowledge, and adventures with us Hupsters.

Their Nudibranchs on Review got a bit Up Close and Personal with some of these most colorful critters.

The South African Safari gave us a chance to see some of the greatest creatures in Africa in their own neighborhood. They drove their own rental car day after

day throughout this national park and did their own self guided tour. Their pics make you feel like you were right there with them in the back seat.

They ended the program by refreshing our memory on some of the basic tips to getting good images time after time again.

Thanks Frank and Joyce, we are already looking forward to the next time.

# President's Message

## Road Trip

By Tom Collier

In my younger years, nothing was more fun than a "road trip". It was cheap, required minimal planning and could be scheduled on short notice. Therefore, when I signed up for a MV Shearwater shark dive trip from Florida to the Bahamas, I decided it would be fun to make a dive road trip to Florida.

Just think of all the pluses. We could take my truck, 4 scuba tanks, have room for all the dive and camera gear, stop to visit some relatives, have a vehicle available for any side excursions, then Kay could fly home and after my Bahamas trip, I'd drive back making business sales calls. Isn't this just the perfect plan?

Well, it seemed like a good idea but it has not turned out quite as imagined. Things started going south before we even left home. If you are going to drive, you don't need to be organized and pack early - do you? You can leave it until the last minute and just throw it in the car - right? Thinking we had more room in the truck than we needed, let's just say we weren't as organized as usual. I brought a lot more stuff than I need and I left some things at home.

The day before we left, Kay decided it wasn't safe to travel with full air tanks in the back of a pickup...so she bled the tanks down to 700 psi. So much for spontaneity, now we would have to fill tanks before making a dive. But, that turned out to be OK; as the big oil spill nixed any thoughts of gulf diving and we just filled the tanks once we hit West Palm Beach.

When we were young, we could drive forever, with the infrequent pit stop along the way. But of course, we are all wiser now and do not drink and drive, so that makes for very short driving days. It took 3 nights and 2-1/2 days just to get to Orlando. Beer stops have been replaced with stops at Cracker Barrel to exchange DVD books. Road trips just aren't what they used to be.

Orlando is the site of one my estranged relatives who has now decided we should be "close" again and start having family vacations. They don't dive, so I doubt there is much future in that prospect. But we did stop and spend a nice evening catching up. Score some points for the 'road trip'.

Finally, we made it to West Palm Beach for some shore diving. First dive, I forgot my wet suit, Kay was missing a fitting on one of her regulator hoses and had to manually inflate her BC (like I said, we were not too organized). Going on a boat dive later that day meant we had to get a new hose, which we did, only to later find the missing part. On the small boat, we had six foot swells and four foot waves. Kay now knows that you can get "sick" underwater into your regulator.

However, we have discovered the 'Bridge' - the Blue Heron Bridge. We have made multiple dives there and we will dive it for two more days. We have forgotten all about reef diving here as we have found the 'spot' - an u/w photographer's paradise and I can back the truck right up to the entry point, so now the truck has some value and that makes me feel good. But, how am I going to get it home? Kay is going to fly home and after my Bahamas trip, I will start the long drive back. Fortunately, I can stop and visit with a couple of business customers on the way back, which will make the trip more bearable.

Next time, I am going to fly and rent a vehicle when I get here. I might not be able to pack the kitchen sink but maybe I will remember to pack my wetsuit. I don't even want to bring up the cost of fuel. I know that my truck does not get good fuel mileage but I am afraid to calculate how bad it really is. So, this trip has not been a budget trip, nor has it has not been a quick trip but it has been a fun trip and I have discovered that Cracker Barrel is a great place to buy some really worthless stuff.

Tom Collier

## Dive Trip News

By Tom Collier

### Bali '2-FER'

May 27 - June 5 2011

Two trips, back-to-back:

Trip #1 Komodo Dancer FLORES - ALOR - FLORES live-aboard trip

Trip #2 Bali land based dive trip - Scuba Seraya

Sign up for either one or both. Only 2 spots open.

More information, including a trip flyer, available on the HUPS forum.

### RIVIERA MAYA, YUCATAN, MEXICO

Oct 23 - 30, 2010

Trip leader - Mike Grueter

Catalonia Riviera Maya Resort, 50 miles south of Cancun. Fly in & out of Cancun, Mexico. All inclusive, including airport ground transfers. Airfare not included.

3 days of reef diving

2 days of cenote diving

\$1,385.00 per person (double occupancy), 7 spaces open

More information, including a trip flyer, available on the HUPS forum.



Intermediate 3rd Place - Jim Mensay, © 2010

# Life Time Member Spotlight- Dennis Deavenport

By Alicia Grimes

I recently drove to Milwaukee and back for work and I knew upon my return I would have to write an article about our lifetime member Dennis Deavenport. I thought to myself how can I relate the two, then it dawned on me as I was driving on highway 55 outside Memphis that learning a new skill such as underwater photography, is just like cars driving on the highway, how you ask? Well think about it, when you are going down the highway you see cars for the most part in 3 different lanes. Some are moving fast and passing all of the other cars, some are happy to go the speed limit in the center lane and there are those in the slow lane taking in the scenery. This is just how as humans we learn a skill. In relation to Dennis you can defiantly tell that Dennis is in the fast lane but like a good Samaritans on the highway he is always ready to give a hand to anyone in the other two lanes to help them get into his lane. Having dove with Dennis I can personally tell you that he is someone who is generous with his time and patience and is willing to help anyone learn this most challenging skill. Having said that lets dive into his past and present to find out what up his engine tick and how he can take us all along in the fast lane in his Porsche into the future of our club.

Dennis was born in Boulder, Colorado but moved to the Texas panhandle at the age of 8 when his family decided that cotton farming was to be there way of life. While in the panhandle Dennis became interested in photography at an early age with his first camera, an 8mm movie camera which later turned into a 35mm. During his college years he worked his way up to his first SLR and started in the darkroom creating his own developing chemicals as well as developing his own film and photographs. With such a background it is no wonder that when diving came into his life in 1990 it seemed a perfect fit to try dive with a camera on his first dive in Belize. He borrowed camera from his secretary and began to photograph the world he saw below the surface. He later purchased a Nikonos V with a strobe and later traded up to Ikelite housing for his Canon Elan II and finally with the digital age he currently uses a 50D with a Ikelite housing. Dennis's vast library of underwater creatures is amazing but he would still like to get a chance to photograph a whale shark as many of us would.

Dennis as well as his wife Martha are avid travelers and as connoisseur of the world they both highly recommend topside travel to Greece, New Zealand, France and Scotland and Ireland. For underwater he recommends the Nusa Tenebra group of islands that include Bali, Sumbawa, Komodo and Rinca Island as well as Wakatobi are all exceptional for capturing those incredible creatures of the deep.

As in previous months I always ask our lifetime member to relate a good dive story, here is Dennis's.

In 1990 Dennis took a trip to Bali where he rented some dive gear and a boat and dive master to take him about 10 miles out. The dive master and Dennis did a back roll off the boat only to be caught up into what felt like being in a washing machine as the current was really rough. It was a "total adrenaline rush" Dennis stated but both had to abort the dive and hang out in the shallow for the boat to come back and get them as they were getting pretty beat up. Not the best for photography but fun none the less.

When asked why he stayed active in HUPS? Dennis related that, that was a simple question. "I stay active in HUPS for the people, the diving, the beautiful work and a chance to contribute to something worthwhile" and we as the drivers in the other lanes are happy he stays active as we can only aspire to get to be in your lane someday. I would like to personally like to thank Dennis for his time and contribution to this article.



Novice 1st Place - Paul Nguyen © 2010

## Important Dates

Put them on your calendar

### August 2

HUPS Meeting - Solomon Islands  
- Jan Baughman

### September 12

HUPS Meeting - HUPS Philip-  
pines Trip Recap

### October 16

HUPS Workshop - Roundtable on  
creating slideshows using Pro  
Show Gold/Producer

### September 11

HUPS Workshop - Stop Taking  
Pictures & Start Creating Images  
by David Lenderman - [Link](#)

### October 4

HUPS Meeting - Jackie & Mary  
Lou Reid - topic TBA

### November 1

HUPS Meeting - Greg Grimes -  
Sipadan & Mabul, Malaysia



Intermediate 1st Place - Mike Greuter © 2010

## Underwater Images Contest Winners

The winning pics from the Underwater Images photo competition have been announced and are online for viewing. Viewing photo contest winners is a great way to get a little inspiration. Here is a link to the winners: <http://uwimages.org/2010/gallery/index.htm>

## Trashfest 2010

By Alicia Grimes

Are you looking for a way to interact with the Texas dive community as well as give back to the environment? Well join us this year at Trashfest 2010. As we did last year, HUPS is putting together a team for Trashfest where we will help clean up the Comal River in New Braunfels. Teams can be up to 8 divers. It would be great to have multiple HUPS teams. Preregistration is available now through Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested please let me know by email at [Alicia@theworldinflash.com](mailto:Alicia@theworldinflash.com). For more information about Trashfest click on the the TGCC website at: <http://www.tgccdiving.org/trashfest/about.html>. There is a BBQ and award ceremony following the clean up. Hope you are available to join us.



Novice 1st Place - John Van Atta, © 2010

## 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 Bissonnett, left on Hillcroft and then right on the 59 feeder. It's about 100 yards on your right. You can't miss it.

## HUPS Member Galleries

By James Heimer - Webmaster

The gallery page on the website has been revised to link to individual photographer's websites. As a starting point, those member sites identified on the news and links page have been used to populate the gallery page. If you have an individual gallery of your underwater photographic images (or a general photographic website that contains your underwater images), let the webmaster know what the link is, and he will add you to the gallery links. Here is the current gallery page: <http://www.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 2nd Place - Ken Knezick, © 2010

## Upcoming Monthly Photo Contests

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

August - Seafan City

November - Wide-angle

September - Anything with Lungs

December - Best of HUPS

October - Things Only a Mother Could Love

January 2011 - Eyes and/or Teeth

## August Contest

The August contest topic is "Seafan City". According to the HUPS website that means - "Seafans and things that live in and around them. The "things" need to be commonly associated with seafans and not just chance encounters. Examples: crinoids, pygmy seahorses, fan crabs, longnose hawkfish, flamingo tounge, etc." You can't win if you don't enter!

Descriptions of all 2010 & 2011 contest topics and rules 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>. **Please be sure to adhere to the file naming instructions.** If you do not follow all the rules for digital entries your images will not be judged.

## Contest Results

### July - Anemones & Things Living in Them

#### Advanced:

1st Dennis Deavenport, Jackie Reid  
2nd Ken Knezick  
3rd Jackie Reid

#### Intermediate

1st Mike Greuter  
2nd Debbie Mensay  
3rd Kay Collier, Jim Mensay

#### Novice

1st Paul Nguyen, John VanAtta  
2nd Monica Losey  
3rd John VanAtta, Lance Glowacki, Kandace Heimer

## Upcoming HUPS Workshops

We are about halfway through the year, but we still have several exciting HUPS workshop planned for 2010. Here is a quick look at the schedule:

September 11th - **Stop Taking Pictures and Start Creating Images** by David Lenderman. To read about this workshop check out this link: [http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/2010-Start\\_Creating\\_Images.htm](http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/2010-Start_Creating_Images.htm) If you have questions or comments or want to

sign up for this workshop you can do it on the HUPS Forum here: <http://www.hups.org/forum/index.php?topic=379.0>

October 16th - **Using ProShow Gold & Producer** - Oct. 16, 2010 (12 noon - 3pm) Have you ever wondered how to make those really cool videos that you see at the monthly meetings?

On Saturday October 16, 2010 HUPS will have a round table share and learn at the Bayland Community Center to discuss the software ProShow. This very dynamic and rich in content software is available in both Gold and the even more powerful version known as Producer.

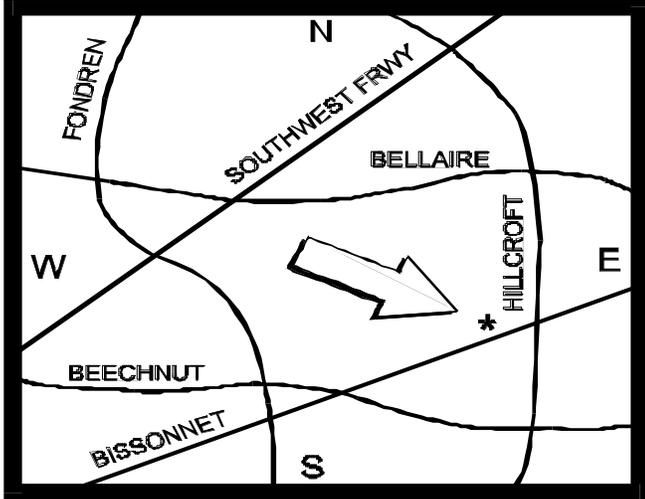


Advanced 1st Place - Dennis Deavenport, © 2010

Contest results through July 2010		
NOVICE		
1st	Kandace Heimer	429
2nd	Lance Glowacki	359
3rd	John VanAtta	291
4th	Mike Brower	287
5th	Jan Baughman	223
Intermediate		
1st	Kay Collier	455
2nd	Paul McDonald	424
3rd	Jim Mensay	395
4th	Debbie Mensay	393
5th	Mike Greuter	389
ADVANCED		
1st	Jackie Reid	477
2nd	Ken Knezick	460
3rd	Tom Collier	453
4th	Dennis Deavenport	423
5th	Ken Bean	333

*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>

**2010 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 Greuter

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**Underwater  
Images**

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