



September Newsletter

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September 2017

How-To, Indonesia, Marine Mammals, Penguins

The September presentation will teach you how to improve your photos of Indonesian mammalian penguins. Hopefully that got your attention – if not I'm sure the presentations that the Burek's have prepared for Monday night will! A lot of ground (literally) will be covered as they are planning to take us around the world with multiple topics:

- **How-To on Improving Your Images** – interactive review and discussion of images to provide impact, improve composition & visual presentation
- **Indonesian Odyssey I** – 15 minute A/V program covering muck and coral diving during 1500 miles of sailing from East Timor to Irian Jaya and sites around Bali
- **Marine Mammals** – 10 minute A/V program of images from around the world of seals, whales, walrus, dolphins, sea lions, and sea otters
- **Penguin Parade** – 4 minute A/V program of a variety of penguins such as King, African, Gentoo, & Magellanic, Rockhopper from around the world

Joyce and Frank Burek are marine life photographers. They record and document with photographs the underwater environment. This differs significantly from the typical vacationing “shooter” or “impact” photographer. They have pursued their craft since being certified in 1980. Since then, they have logged almost 2,200 photographic dives. Originally photographing with Nikonos and housed film systems, they now shoot digital with Fuji S-2 camera systems and dual Ikelite A-100 strobes (a somewhat antiquated system).



The Burek's joined HUPS at its organizational meeting in May of 1983. Both have individually won the HUPS Member and HUPS Photographer of the Year awards. Frank has been President of HUPS 5 times and both of them have served on the HUPS Board of Directors. Frank is on the current HUPS Board, serves as one of our TGCC Representatives and is our Historian. Joyce served several years as HUPS Membership Chairperson and our newsletter editor. Frank has served several times on the HUC & SeaSpace Boards of Directors, and as an officer for the TGCC – currently the TGCC President. Joyce and Frank were the SeaSpace Photographic Competition Chairpersons from 1993 through 1998. Prior to turning professional both have won 1st place awards at SeaSpace.

Their photos have appeared in calendars, brochures, books, magazines and posters with numerous publishers including Audubon Society, National Geographic Society and the National Wildlife Federation. In 2000 NOAA recognized them for their photographic work for the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS) with the Environmental Hero Award. Frank also served on the FGBNMS Sanctuary Advisory Council as a Recreational Diving Rep from 2006 to 2012. They are the authors and publishers of three (3) computer based marine identification CD-ROM products - the Marine Life of the Flower Garden Banks NMS, the Marine Life of the Bay Islands of Honduras and the Marine Life of Indonesia.



President's Page

Are You a Distracted Diver?

This month's **President's Page** deals with **Distracted Divers** and is pertinent to all of us who dive and in addition are underwater photographers. I thought about this article after I began reading news articles and hearing TV commentators mention that new drivers in Texas who were applying for driver's licenses having to now take a "Distracted Driving Course". The course highlights the dangers of texting and phoning while driving. Divers may be distracted either by the subject being photographed or fiddling with their photographic equipment

It has been said that as we gain diving experience, we begin to specialize in things we prefer to do underwater. When we begin developing these specialized interests, it seems the buddy system also goes out the window. If you are serious with your underwater photography or video, you may lose track of your dive buddy. Many times we get so absorbed in what we are doing that our buddies, especially if they are not photographers, feel they have become solo divers.

Have you ever found yourself low on air because you were so enamored with the fish or critter you were trying to take a picture or video of, you forgot to check your pressure gauge? Almost 1 in 10 incidents reported to DAN Incident Reporting System involve running out of air. In 2016 DAN recommended improved gas management for scuba divers to cut down on out of air incidents.

Have you ever realized that you were at a much greater depth than you thought you were because you did not monitor your depth gauge? Have you ever looked around and wondered where the rest of the dive group is or where the dive boat is? Underwater photography can be deceptively demanding because you are constantly framing, checking your lighting and focusing on the subject at hand.

As we learned in the Basic Dive Course, PLAN YOUR

DIVE AND DIVE YOUR PLAN! Pay attention to where you are during the dive and be aware of the location of your dive group. In a **divein.com** article entitled **Safer Diving- Situational Awareness**, Thomas Gronfeld Senger, stated that developing a sense of "situational awareness" can prevent you from getting lost, running out of air or finding yourself in a lost buddy situation. Always, before you start your dive, have a backup plan in the event something goes wrong. Have a plan to support your buddy. Practice self-rescue skills. Know the maximum time and depth of your dive and know what your air consumption is. Never do a dive you are uncomfortable with or never do a dive just because everyone else is doing it. If you are not comfortable doing the dive, do not do it! Never leave your commonsense at home.

All of us who are underwater photographers or videographers from time to time get distracted carrying out our underwater hobby. Just do not forget the skills you learned very early in your scuba diving career. Some of the new dive computers that are available have alarms you can set for low air, depth, oxygen and nitrogen exposure. Many divers carry a pony bottle for added insurance that you will have air in the event air is needed at the end of the dive.

As one commentator said there is nothing like experience to help keep you focused not only in taking your photographs but also diving safely. If you do not take anything else away from reading this article, remember your safety is more important than any photograph or video you could take as you can always return for another shot.

Summer is now drawing to a close, but I am sure due to the numerous dive trips HUPSTERS have taken this summer, there will be many of you who can share stories of your adventures with everyone at our September meeting.

Please dive safely and as often as you can.

President's Page, continued

I want to thank Mike Greuter for last month's program pertaining to the Wrecks of Coron or Little Truk and how he dealt with downsizing to the world's smallest DSLR. The program was very informative and raised many questions as to the right camera to use if thinking about downsizing camera gear.

I encourage you to attend our September meeting as the program will be presented by Frank and Joyce Burek, long time members, officers and presenters. It will cover a variety of topics including a How-To on improving your images and a few different Audio Visual programs: Indonesian Odyssey I, diving, Marine Mammals from around the world, and Penguin Parade showcasing multiple penguin species.

Our eighth workshop of 2017 is scheduled to take place September 16th which is once again the 3rd Saturday of this month and will pertain to The Develop Module – Part 2. This video workshop will continue our video Photoshop Lightroom series to assist in processing photographs.

The contest topic this month deals with Vertical Composition or photographs where the subject is shown in the vertical plane so the eye is drawn up and down when viewing the subject of the composition
--Russell Ramsey



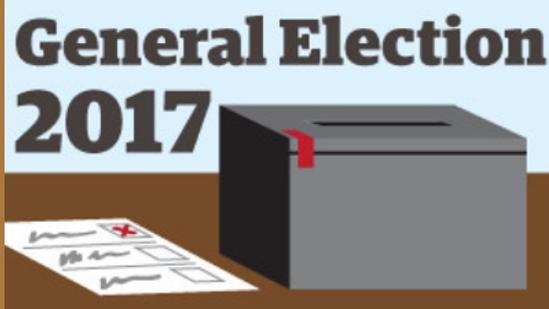
Kevin Crofoot

Novice 2nd



John Van Atta

Novice 2nd



HUPS Elections

Elections will take place in November! At the October BOD meeting, a Nominating Committee will begin selection of proposed officers and directors for 2018. If you are interested in serving on the BOD or as an officer of the club, please contact any officer or director to express your interest in any office you wish to be considered as a nominee

Lance Glowacki
Intermediate 3rd

HUPS Announcements

HUPS at Moody Gardens

As you are hopefully aware, The Moody Gardens recently underwent renovations, which ultimately resulted in the HUPS photo display being redesigned and moved. While my Dad & stepmom were visiting me last month, I took them there to see our new display and captured these photos with my cell phone. The prints are much larger than our last ones and look very nice, thanks to Dennis! Although I couldn't find any signage at the exhibit itself, HUPS is mentioned on their map that they provide everyone. The upgrade to the overall aquarium is very nice. HUPS is trying to arrange a group visit, but until then, if you are in the area, stop by and check it out.



The Ten Commandments of Underwater Photography Etiquette

I thought I'd include this again this year after introducing it last year. Never hurts to read and think about these periodically. Last year Joe Haws was kind enough to put together this list of Ten Commandments and the BOD agreed that they are something for which we should all be mindful. We are usually diving with other folks, often non-photographers, and should keep in mind how our actions reflect upon not only underwater photographers but divers as well. I'd like to personally add that we should muster up the courage to speak to an individual personally and respectfully if we see a behavior we are uncomfortable with while diving with someone. Do not just complain without giving the person the opportunity to improve. We aren't always aware of our impact to others and our environment, and I have to believe that we don't maliciously want to violate the ideas portrayed in these Ten Commandments. Conversely, if you are approached by someone with some constructive feedback, please keep an open mind and try not to get defensive. It is often hard to approach people with this type of critique so keep in mind the courage it took for them to approach you and remember that it is most likely being discussed with you to help improve a situation.

After all, I do believe that we all just want to have fun, stay safe, leave the least imprint as possible on our environment, and attempt to discredit (or at least not substantiate) the sometimes "bad reputation" that non-photographer divers have of us underwater photographers.

- I. Thou shalt be Safe, including yourself, your buddy and your group. Do not charge off on your own, stay with your buddy or team. Watch your gas consumption.
- II. Thou shalt respect marine life and other divers – no harassing, no touching, be mindful of lights and strobe use; watch where you point your lights. Shining them on a subject without invitation is an intrusion. Be especially aware of non-photographers.
- III. Thou shalt be aware of the marine life and other divers when departing from a shot; avoid a quick exit or kicking up sand.
- IV. Thou shalt share the subject; especially with non-photographers. Take a few shots, then point out the subject to others and move on. If you want more shots, wait for the others to finish.
- V. Thou shalt be respectful of other equipment whether larger or smaller, especially on the camera table and rinse tank; do not monopolize either. Try to minimize your area on the camera table. Do not leave any equipment in any of the rinse tanks, as they are intended for rinse and remove. Your gear should not leave your control, whether a camera, mask, or wetsuit, etc.
- VI. Thou shalt not move in front of another person's shot line or crowd yourself into a shot. This includes your equipment. Be aware of your surroundings, not just what is in front of you.
- VII. Thou shalt be aware of your bubbles, especially along a wall. Try not to swim under another diver. It can ruin a shot or put bubbles on their lens.
- VIII. Thou shalt be respectful when waiting for a subject. If another person is shooting a subject; do not get too close, as it can scare away the subject or disrupt the shot. Stay back a fair distance until the other person is through with their shots.
- IX. Thou shalt be cognizant of your buoyancy and trim and adjust during the dive, as needed. They are not constant.
- X. Thou shalt not take possession of a scene. Just because you have a camera in your hand, it does not give you any special rights. A strobe going off will often attract many others too.

2017 POTY Standings through August

Novice

1	Russell Ramsey	473
2	John VanAtta	434
3	Kevin Crofoot	370
4	Lorna Carpenter	318
5	Kathy Long	250
6	Betsy Beasley	69

Intermediate

1	Beata Lerman	693
2	Bess Bright	611
3	Lance Glowacki	484
4	Paul McDonald	388
5	Joe Holden	128
6	Jack Allyn	38
7	Tammy Allyn	33

Advanced

1	Jackie Reid	737
2	Craig Beasley	655
3	David Lenderman	620
4	Martin Daniels	207

Video

1	Tom Collier	30
2	Dennis Deavenport	26
3	Betsy Beasley	20
4	Craig Beasley	17



Beata Lerman
Intermediate 1st



Jack Allyn
Intermediate 1st



Jackie Reid
Advanced 1st



Kathy Long
Novice 1st

2017 Meeting Topics

	Presentation	Presenter	Contest Topic
January 9	Sabang and Puerto Galera	Beata Lerman	Angelfish, Butterflyfish, Surgeonfish
February 6	Wide Angle Photo Tips & Tricks	Ken Knezick	Black Background
March 6	Forgotten Islands	Dennis Deavenport	Sand & Muck denizens
April 3	Sharks of French Polynesia	Cecilia Clementi & Frank Noe	Something Yellow
May 1	Reviewing Tips for Better Photography	HUPS	Close Focus Wide-Angle
June 5	From Then To Now	Monica Losey	Damselfish, Chromis, Hamlets, Basslets
July 3	Video II	Tom Collier	Diagonal composition
August 7	Wrecks of Coron using Canon SL1	Mike Greuter	Mollusks
September 11	Shooting for Impact & AV on Indonesia & Penguin Parade	Frank & Joyce Burek	Vertical composition
October 2	Lenderman's Top 10 Tips + Indonesia, Philippines and Socorro	David Lenderman	Weird & Spooky
November 6	Hidden Features of the dSLR	Jesse Cancelmo	Hawkfish, Drums, Triggerfish
December 4	Best of HUPS	Lance Glowacki	Creative

2017 Contest Topics

Month	Themes	Description
Sep	Vertical Compositions	A photograph with a subject in the vertical plane so the eye is drawn up and down the when viewing the picture.
Oct	Weird & Spooky	A subject that appears especially in being eerie or disturbing. Or seems to be strikingly odd or unusual, especially in an unsettling way.
Oct Video	General	1 to 3 minutes
Nov	Hawkfish, Drums, Triggerfish	A group of fish that can be found in the odd-shaped swimmers. Note we are looking triggerfish not filefish subjects ask if you are not sure.
Dec	Best of HUPS	NOVICE, INTERMEDIATE, ADVANCED, and CREATIVE contests: First place winners from each month's Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced categories will be entered automatically for judging. The Creative category lets you enter anything you want as long as you do the photography and any special editing.

2017 Workshops

Date	Topic
Sep 16	Lightroom: The develop module part 2
Oct 21	Lightroom: Sharpening and noise reduction
Nov 18	Lightroom: Sharing and saving your photos

The October workshop is cancelled as the presenter will be in Bonaire.

Tammy Allyn
Intermediate 2nd



The **Houston Underwater Photographic Society** meets at the
Bayland Community Center from 7pm - 9pm,
the first Monday of each month (except for Monday holidays)

6400 Bissonnet (near Hillcroft), Houston, TX 77074

Visitors are always welcome!



2017 HUPS Officers

President:

Russell Ramsey

Vice President:

Beata Lerman

Secretary:

Tammy Allyn

Treasurer:

Debbie Mensay

Membership/Newsletter:

Monica Losey

Photo Contest:

Lance Glowacki

TGCC Reps:

Alicia Grimes

Frank Burek

Debbie Mensay

WebMaster:

Joe Holden

Workshops:

Lance Glowacki

Trip Coordinator:

Jim Mensay

Historian:

Frank Burek

Special Events:

Jan Baughman

Moody Gardens

Coordinator:

Bess Bright

HUPS on the Internet



www.hups.org



www.youtube.com/user/HUPSdotORG



Find us on:
facebook.

www.facebook.com/groups/174168478778/

2017 HUPS Board of Directors

Jan Baughman

Bess Bright

Frank Burek

Martin Daniels

Lance Glowacki

Mike Greuter

Monica Losey

Henry Ragland

Tom Collier

Joe Haws

Jim Mensay

Dennis Deavenport

Lorna Carpenter

Craig Beasley



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