



July Newsletter

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July 2019

Outside the Asylum presents: Red Sea Diving, it's more than just one trip



Morad and Jeanne are newly minted HUPS members and as such, they're fair game for stalking them for a program at our monthly meeting. Luckily, they are totally qualified to give us a great program about diving the Red Sea and traveling within Egypt, one of the cradles of civilization.

Morad's family was born in Old Cairo but he was born and grew up in a tiny rural farm town New Jersey. The oldest in his immediate family he is definitely "a little bit county and a little bit Rock 'n Roll".

Yeah, that's a strange combination (they nicknamed him The Barking Cat in Egypt) but it seems to work great. From my short experience talking with Morad and Jeanne, I've been totally charmed by their enthusiastic approach to life and diving. They own and run the dive shop, Outside the Asylum, over on the west side of Houston.

Getting Outside the Asylum is Morad's passion in life and diving. He loves to be underwater, whether it's in a swimming pool or a tropical reef he's most at home beneath the surface. He started his diving career in the crystal clear springs of Florida and is headed back there to start his cave diving courses. Morad spent several years teaching scuba diving in Houston, Texas before moving to his favorite dive destination: the Red Sea. He spent several more years in Egypt guiding, teaching and perfecting his diving skills with continuing education. He trained with some of the biggest names in the International technical diving world and now brings his experience, passion for diving, and zest for fun back to Houston.

Jeanne's passion is underwater photography and videography. She's traveled the world with her camera and enjoys telling the story of a place through her lens. She's also a PADI IDC Staff Instructor and enjoys introducing new divers to the wonders of the underwater world. Jeanne spent three years as an instructor, guide and professional underwater photographer and filmmaker in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt and now brings her experience and expertise to Houston. If we can get Jeanne to enter some HUFF videos for next year's film festival, that will be fantastic.

You can expect to have a great time at this meeting. Afterward, we will all adjourn over to JAX for burgers, beer, and lots of lies about our diving exploits.

Outside The Asylum Diving & Travel
15015 Westheimer Rd. Ste. H
Houston, TX 77082
funtimes@otadiving.com



Prevent the Spread of Coral Disease

The coral reefs of Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary have thus far been free of coral disease. However, Florida's coral reefs are currently experiencing a multi-year outbreak of a stony coral tissue loss disease that has now spread over 200 miles across the Florida reef tract. This outbreak is unique due to its large geographic range, extended duration, rapid progression, high rate of coral mortality, and the number of species affected.

The disease appears to be caused by bacteria, and may be transmitted to other corals through direct contact and water circulation, meaning that divers and their gear may potentially spread this disease between sites. Just like handwashing is a common practice to prevent the spread of disease among humans, disinfecting dive gear and following other best practices is recommended to prevent the accidental transmission of coral disease between reefs.

Neoprene gear, such as wetsuits, booties, and gloves, and the internal bladder of buoyancy compensation devices (BCDs) can harbor bacteria and other microorganisms by remaining damp and trapping water. These pathogens can also adhere to other dive and snorkel gear.

Since July 25, 2018, divers visiting Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary aboard the M/V Fling have been asked to disinfect their gear at the dock using prepared tubs of Chlorohexadine disinfectant. This disinfectant is regularly used to decontaminate dive gear at the local aquarium.

General reef etiquette will also help protect the reefs from harm.

Information copied from June 3, 2019 [FGBNMS article](#).

General Guidelines for Disinfection



DO

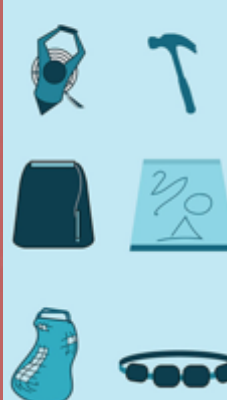
- ✓ Inspect dive gear and equipment and remove debris
- ✓ Move from "cleanest" site first to "dirtiest" last
- ✓ Decontaminate dive gear at end of day
- ✓ Decontaminate dive gear between sites, countries, & sensitive areas
- ✓ Properly dispose of disinfectant & rinse waste into sink, tub, or shower

- ✗ Don't leave debris on dive gear
- ✗ Don't move from a diseased to a healthy site
- ✗ Don't forget to disinfect gear between sites, countries, sensitive areas, & end of day

DON'T

- ✗ Don't dispose of disinfectant & rinse waste into ocean or storm drain

Gear - Specific Guidelines for Disinfection



Non-Sensitive Equipment & Tools



Soak non-sensitive gear for 10 min in a 10% bleach solution

USE IMMEDIATELY AFTER MIXING

1 quart of bleach (1/4 gal; 4 cups)
2 gallons of fresh water
(e.g., in a 5 gallon bucket)



Rinse non-sensitive gear in fresh water

(e.g., in a 5 gallon bucket)

Properly dispose of disinfectant solutions and rinse waste into sink, tub, or shower



Allow gear to air dry thoroughly

Gear - Specific Guidelines for Disinfection



Soak sensitive gear for 10 min in quaternary ammonium disinfectant

0.5% RelyOn (8 tablets 5g ea. / 2 gallons of water)
1% Virkon (1.3 oz / 2 gallons of water)
6.6% Lysol (64 oz / 2 gallons of water)
(e.g., in a 5 gallon bucket)



Rinse sensitive dive gear in fresh water by soaking for 10 min

(e.g., in a 5 gallon bucket)

Properly dispose of disinfectant solutions and rinse waste into sink, tub, or shower

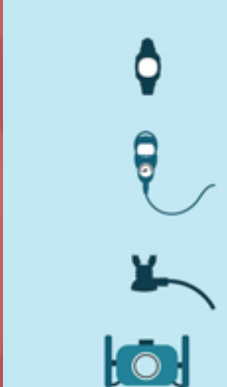


Allow gear to air dry thoroughly

BC internal bladders: Pour ~ 1 quart of ammonium disinfectant solution into mouthpiece of BC's exhaust hose while depressing exhaust button, inflate BC, & gently rotate BCD in all directions (cover all internal parts). Soak for 10 min & then dump waste into a container for proper disposal. Pay attention to wetsuit crevices and folds.

Sensitive Dive Gear

Gear - Specific Guidelines for Disinfection



Sensitive Equipment



Soak sensitive equipment for 20 min in antibacterial dish soap

OdoBan (5 oz per gallon of warm water)
(e.g., in a 5 gallon bucket)

OR clean with an isopropyl alcohol wipe



Rinse sensitive equipment in fresh water thoroughly

(e.g., in a 5 gallon bucket)

Properly dispose of disinfectant solutions and rinse waste into sink, tub, or shower



Allow gear to air dry thoroughly

2019 POTY Standings through June

Novice

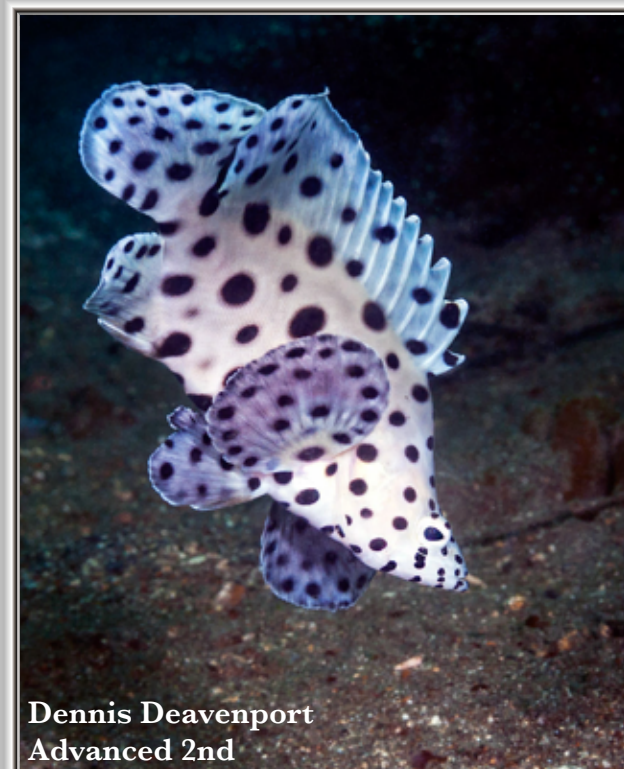
1	Betsy Beasley	510
2	Lorna Carpenter	193
3	Justin Wallace	183

Intermediate

1	Bess Bright	474
2	Russell Ramsey	416
3	John Van Atta	393

Advanced

1	David Lenderman	495
2	Craig Beasley	479
3	Dennis Deavenport	446
4	Steven Anderson	420
5	Joseph Holden	184



Steven Anderson
Advanced 3rd



Craig Beasley
Advanced 3rd



John Van Atta
Intermediate 1st



Justin Wallace
Novice 2nd





2019 Meeting Topics

	Presentation	Presenter
July	Diving the Red Sea	Morad Hassan
August	St. Eustacius	Mike Greuter
September	Solomon Islands	Eric Kelbler
October	Philippines – Cabillao & Dumaguette	Craig & Betsy Beasley, Tom Collier, Dennis Deavenport
November	BVI – After the Hurricane	Jim & Sudi Babcock
December	Best of HUPS	Martin Daniels

HUFF Update

The HUFF Committee and volunteers are working to contact underwater filmmakers and invite them to submit their films. Many visits have been made to dive shops to hand out promotional materials and business cards are being handed out to potential entrants and festival attendees. We're going through submitted films to determine eligibility. Films must be at least 50% underwater in the wild. No aquarium or swimming pool videos. Also no bathtub, shower, fountain or puddle videos. Yes, we've received some. Most films have been submitted to the Feature Length and Short Video categories. We need films for the Novice and Fix Lens categories. If you have a short clip (up to 2 minutes) please contact someone on the HUFF Committee to discuss entering it. Of course, we'd love to have you enter your longer films (2-5 minutes) as well.

3rd
Novice
Betsy
Beasley



2019 Photo Contest Themes

Month	Themes	Description
Jul	Camouflage	Underwater camouflage is the set of methods of achieving crypsis—avoidance of observation—that allows otherwise visible aquatic organisms to remain unnoticed by other organisms such as predators or prey.
Aug	Macro subjects	The main subject is smaller than an orange. Can be a portion of a larger subject (eyes, fins, etc.). Should be taken with a macro lens or one that focuses close. Don't just crop the heck out of a picture.
Sep	Scorpionfish, Gunards, Lionfish	Another theme that gives you multiple choices of fish. This theme gives you up to 3 possible choices of fish families. So come on and submit a photograph or two to the contest.
Oct	Single color focus	Subject must be a single color or shade of color. Examples green moray eel, green parrotfish, soap fish, sharks, sponge, coral.
Oct Video	General	1 to 3.59 minutes
Nov	Damselfish, Chromis, Hamlets, Basslets	A group of small fish generally 3 to 6 inches in length that have a perch like or oval profile. If you are not sure look in your fish id book.
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.



2020 Photo Contest Themes

Month	Themes	Description
Jan	Diagonal Composition	A diagonal composition is employed to arrange elements in an image based on a diagonal line.
Feb	Eels	There are lots of eels out there. They are pretty easy to spot; think, "snakes with gills".
Mar	Blue water	Any primary subject as long as the background has a nice blue color.
Mar Video	General	1 to 3.59 minutes
Apr	Large swimmers (> 4 feet) - not people	A fish or critter that is swimming with a length > 4 feet. Examples: grouper, tarpon, sharks, sting ray, manta ray, dolphin, moray eel, and big subjects are what you are shooting for.
May	Odd-shaped bottom dwellers	Infrequent-swimmers. Frogfish, crabs, flounder, scorpionfish, toadfish, batfish, lizardfish, crocodile fish. If it is a bit odd looking and spends most of its life on or in the sand or reef, it probably qualifies.
Jun	Nudibranchs & Worms	Again, this is pretty specific but you may need to check your critter ID book if you're not sure. Worms can fool you sometimes. Who would think that something that looks like a colorful Christmas tree ornament could be a worm?
Jun Video	General	1 to 3.59 minutes
Jul	Hawk fish, Drums, Triggerfish	A theme that gives you multiple choices of fish. This theme gives you up to 3 possible choices of fish families. So come on and submit a photograph or two to the contest. If not sure, check your fish id sources or ask the PC.
Aug	Crustacean	Just like it says... look it up in the book (crabs, shrimp, lobsters, barnacles, etc.). When in doubt... Wikipedia can help you out.
Sep	Natural light	Shooting ambient light means you are using the sun as your light source. Shooting with ambient light means less camera drag, as strobes can be left on the surface. The lighting of the photo will be more even, which is ideal for large subjects such as large reefs or schools of fish, silhouettes, or large wrecks.
Oct	Blennies and Gobies	Some of our favorite tiny guys. The ones that like to hug the reef, hide out in holes, or build their nests in the sand. If you aren't sure if your little guy (or guys) qualify, look it up in your critter ID book or ask the opinion of one of our ID experts.
Oct Video	General	1 to 3.59 minutes
Nov	Polka Dots/Fish with Spots	A spot, a small round or roundish mark differing in color or texture from the surface around it. The most common subjects underwater are known variously as boxfishes, coffer fishes, cowfishes and trunkfishes.
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.

HUPS Video Contest

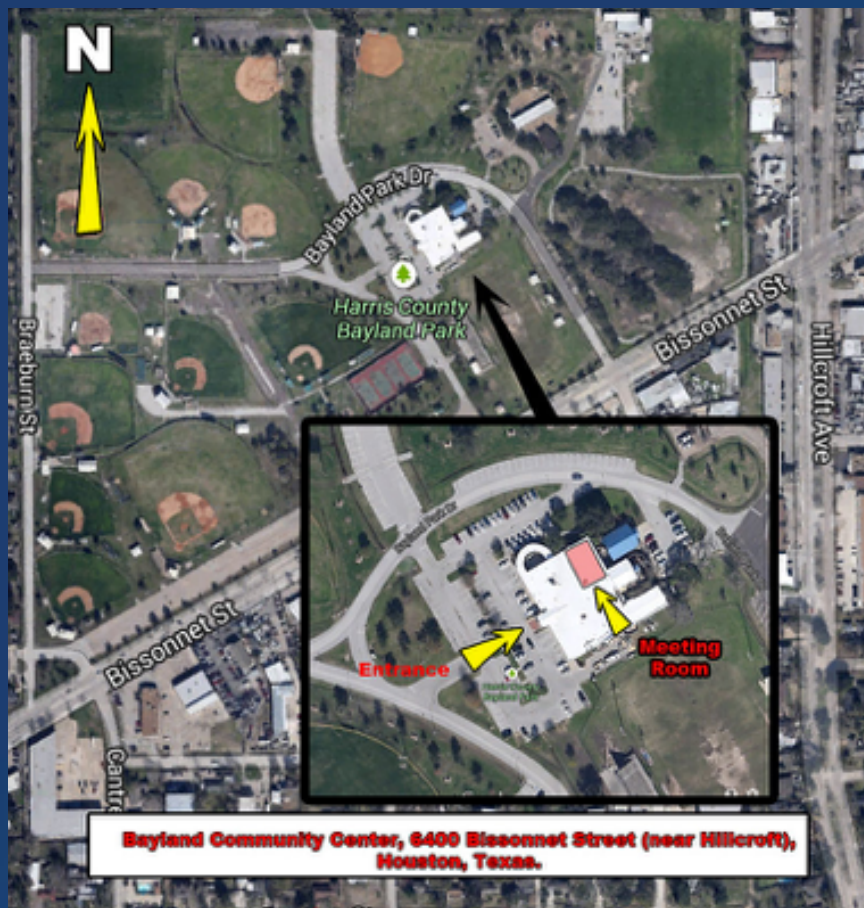
The June video contest is complete and the votes have been counted. The contest winners will be announced and all five entries will be shown at the July meeting.

2019 HUPS Bonaire Dive Trip

If you are planning to join HUPS members on the 2019 dive trip to Bonaire October 5-13 final payment is due by the August HUPS meeting. There are still Deloxe Ocean View rooms available. Contact the Mensays if you are interested in going and haven't signed up yet.



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!



Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet Street (near Hillcroft), Houston, Texas.

HUPS on the Internet



www.hups.org



www.youtube.com/user/HUPSdotORG



www.facebook.com/groups/174168478778/

2019 HUPS Board of Directors

Mary Daniels	Monica Losey	Jim Mensay
Frank Burek	Henry Ragland	Russell Ramsey
Martin Daniels	Tom Collier	Craig Beasley
Lance Glowacki	Joe Haws	Joe Holden
Mike Greuter	Bess Bright	



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