

Shooting HD Video on a DSLR and Other Delusions of Grandeur May 10th Meeting with Tom Thurman

By Jim Mensay

Hey HUPSTERS. Have you recently been asked by a friend (or loved one) why you do what you do? That is, spend gobs of money on heavy, bulky camera gear, then spend hours and hours of time traveling to some far away place, not to mention spending an untold amount of money for the trip, just to take pictures?

Well, according to Tom Thurman (our next presenter at our May 10, 2010 meeting) it is because "He is visually wired. Growing up in the middle of America, he now travels, scuba dives, and plays with all things creative to get his fix."

Tom will help lead us to using the newest of DSLR's to capture both still images as well as video, since these new rigs are capable of both.

For a preview of his presentation, take a look at his website

<http://www.lifeimagery.net/sea-life/>

His website, "LifeImagery" is, in Tom's words, a combination of photography, video, music, and art sensually done to wretched excess. That sounds intriguing.... and his talk should be as well.

Let's all compare notes and find out how we are all driven to the same in our photography endeavors.

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.



Photo by Tom Thurman, © 2010

Recap of Magic & Art of Creative Editing

By Jim Mensay

Great Art might be in the EYE of the BEHOLDER, but in this case it is also in the CLICK of the MOUSE.

HUPS wants to give a big THANK YOU to Kandace Heimer and Dennis Deavenport for sharing their artistic insights to us this past month.

In their presentation on Creative Post Processing, Dennis pointed out that you just have to get creative and think outside

the box. As you use the various photo processing applications, you do them in layers, and that way you stay in control.

Kandace emphasized that you need time and patience to create a work of art. You'll need to open up your mind to the creative process and your imagination is your only limit. Just challenge yourself to get it all to work. And don't forget that you'll need a really good working knowledge of the software.

I'm not sure it sounds or looks easy, but Dennis and Kandace seem to know how to make it all work, and end up with some really beautiful and neat looking art and photography.

President's Message

Thinking & Planning

By Tom Collier

Today, I am thinking about the forth coming Philippine dive trip (which is probably over by the time you read this). That's right; I am at work, day dreaming. I may not be a real productive employee today but my u/w photography should benefit from my current thoughts. I am thinking about what kinds of photographs I want to take and how I am going to achieve the results that I want.

I don't know about the rest of you but I am a planner. I find that my best photographs were already envisioned well before I had the opportunity to snap the shutter. Granted these photos are not original in composition but the mechanics were already in place when I got the opportunity to take my desired photo. My photo gear was ready for the specific shot, the camera settings were already thought out and the lighting envisioned. I could see the desired photo in my mind and then went out and put the plan into action. The old saying "Luck is when preparation meets opportunity" is my motto.

I am still in that phase of my u/w photography where the mechanics of the shot are critical to my success. All the factors involved in a good photograph are not second nature to me; my actions do not come naturally but instead are thought out ahead of time. I believe that good - very good photographers have tuned their skills to the point that most of the details I dwell over come to them naturally. An analogy that comes to mind is a good dove hunter who spots a fast flying dove, swings up his gun sighting the bird and arcs past to achieve the proper lead and fires. I have to 'think about it' and by that time the bird is gone. I probably will never be an ace bird hunter but hopefully someday I will achieve harmony with my camera gear.

I am making progress; I already think less about f-stops, ISO settings, shutter speeds and my strobes when I am shooting my u/w camera. I am slowly finding my comfort zone and have found some things that work for me. I am familiar with my equipment and I know what can be accomplished when things go according to plan. I am still concerned about the right settings and I still pre-program the shot in my head before pulling the trigger but I don't fret over it like I used to.

My short coming is originality. Taking a great photo is more than mechanics, it involves an artistic talent that I don't know if I will ever obtain. I just don't know if one can learn that stuff. I am a pretty good copy-cat and do a lot of that. Today's scuba magazines and the internet are jammed pack with tons of WOW u/w photos and that is what I try to emulate. But, the original thought hasn't crept into my mind yet – someday maybe.

David Lenderman is hosting a HUPS workshop in September – "Stop Taking Pictures and Start Creating Images". This sounds like what I need. Maybe David can impart some of his creativity to me.

Tom Collier

Dive Trip News

Two Trips in the Works!

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

BITUNG - HALMAHERA - AMBON, INDONESIA

May 2011

Trip leader – Tom Collier

Live-aboard island trek with Diving-4-Images

Fly into Manado. Fly home from Bali.

Details and dates are still being worked out. Boat pick up at port of Bitung. Travel by sea, island hopping and diving through Halmahera to Ambon. Fly to Bali, where the trip ends.

More info on both of these trips coming soon.

May 9th HUPS Macro Session

The next workshop will take place at Enchanted Forest in Richmond Texas on May 9th at 8:00 a.m. The address is 10611 FM 2759 Richmond, TX. It is more of a shooting opportunity than a workshop. Come out and shoot the insects and flowers at this lovely garden center.

If you have already signed up, thank you. If you would still like to sign up please do so on the forum or for further information please follow the link below. We hope to see everyone there.

<http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/2010-SmellTheFlowers.htm>

In addition to a tripod some other items that may come in handy include: a white poster board to use as a reflector, a hot shoe mounted flash, black or green construction paper or fabric to use as a colored background. What a wonderful way to spend Mothers day morning.

Any questions please email Greg Grimes at Greg@theworldinaflash.com

Oil Spill Information

No telling where the oil is headed. If you have interest in volunteering or just want additional information on the spill and clean up here is a good site: <http://deepwaterhorizon.noaa.gov/> or try this one: <http://www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com/go/site/2931/>

Member Spotlight- Jack Allyn

By Alicia Grimes

I knew when I started this project, spotlighting our lifetime members, that there was a treasure trove of knowledge and stories in this group we call HUPS. I get the privilege each month to present a set of questions to each member and I get to take their answers to these questions and present them in an article that I hope you all enjoy reading and present questions in your mind to start a conversation with those we are spotlighted.

My article this month takes us into the home of Jack and Tammy Allyn. Tammy will be spotlighted next month but it is now time to learn more about her husband Jack. Jack a Chicago native began his diving career in 1966 when he decided that diving would be something he would like to try after a vacation to the beautiful island of Grand Cayman. He noticed divers in the water and wanted to get a chance to take a look at this whole other world. Once certified Jack added photography to his underwater experience with a Kodak 110 housed in a plexi-glass housing compete with a M3B bulb flash. Jack has had many photographic experiences but the creature that has avoided his lens, thus far is a whale Jack stated that his favorite places to dive and photograph is Mosquito Caye aka Drake's Anchorage in the British Virgin Islands. This beautiful location was used in the movie "The Deep" for its scenes of the wrecks and reefs. Jack seems to be a fan of wreck diving because he had an experience that we all can envy during a dive in the Florida Keys with treasure hunter Bobby Klein, they found a cannon ball from a 1715 vessel. What a story to tell your friends and family when you are sitting around the dinner table after the dive.

Topside travel as also been a love for both of the Allyns and Jack as well as Tammy both recommend taking a trip to the beautiful country of Kenya for its people, game parks as well as exotic animals. Chasing animal's topside is always great practice for all photographers who are looking to improve their skills when they get below the surface.

Jack Allyn gave many reasons for novice photographers to join and stay with HUPS. "You will learn how to master your camera" you can learn so much from their outstanding members and directors as well attending the seminars and workshops. You can always pick up photo tips from the members as well as exchange information with all levels of underwater photographers.

In closing I would like to thank Jack for his time as well as give some advice that I believe relates. This advice was given to me by our current president. That advice is you are never going to get underwater right, you just keep trying. To add to this I suggest to

learn from those who have been chasing the creatures below much longer and learn from their advice as well as benefit from their experiences.

Cool Video of Unusual Fish

This link has a video of an oarfish. The oarfish is a deepwater species that is rarely seen alive. They are the largest bony fish in the seas and can grow to lengths of 50 feet. Check it out here: <http://news.discovery.com/videos/earth-bizarre-giant-fish-filmed.html>

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> .



Advanced 1st Place - Ken Bean, © 2010

Important Dates

Put them on your calendar

May 9

HUPS Photo Session - Topside Macro Practice session at Enchanted Forest see [link](#)

May 10

HUPS Meeting -Tom Thurman & Maria Chapman - Shooting HD Video on a DSLR

June 7

HUPS Meeting - UW Video by Greg Grimes & Jim Heimer

June 12

HUPS Workshop - Judging Photos with Kandace Heimer and Dennis Deavenport [Link](#)

July 12

HUPS Meeting - Frank & Joyce Burek - topic TBA

August 2

HUPS Meeting - Solomon Islands - Jan Baughman



Intermediate 3rd place - Jim Mensay, © 2010

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Seeks Advisory Council Applicants

NOAA'S Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary is seeking applicants for one seat on its advisory council, which ensures public participation in sanctuary management and provides advice to the sanctuary superintendent.

The sanctuary is accepting applications for the conservation seat. Candidates are selected based on their expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying, community and professional affiliations, and knowledge regarding the protection and management of marine resources. Council members serve three-year terms.

"Sanctuary advisory councils have proven to be an invaluable source of advice and input by members of the community regarding the management of our national marine sanctuaries, America's ocean treasures," said George P. Schmahl, sanctuary superintendent. "We are excited about the role our advisory council has played in the management of the sanctuary, especially during the management plan review process, and we look forward to working with new members."

The Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 2005. The volunteer council's 16 voting members and 5 non-voting members represent a variety of local user groups, the general public, and state and federal governmental jurisdictions.

Applications are due May 28, 2010. To receive an application or for further information please contact Jennifer Morgan by email at HYPERLINK "<mailto:Jennifer.Morgan@noaa.gov>" Jennifer.Morgan@noaa.gov, or by phone at 409-621-5151 ext.103, or by mail at NOAA – Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, 4700 Avenue U, Bldg. 216, Galveston, TX 77551. Application materials may also be downloaded from the sanctuary's web site, HYPERLINK "<http://flowergarden.noaa.gov/>" <http://flowergarden.noaa.gov/>.

Located 115 miles off the Texas/Louisiana coast, Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary includes the northernmost coral reefs in the continental United States, sponge communities and other essential habitats for a variety of species.

NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and

conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.

On the Web:

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary:
<http://flowergarden.noaa.gov/>

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries:
<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/>

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. 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!

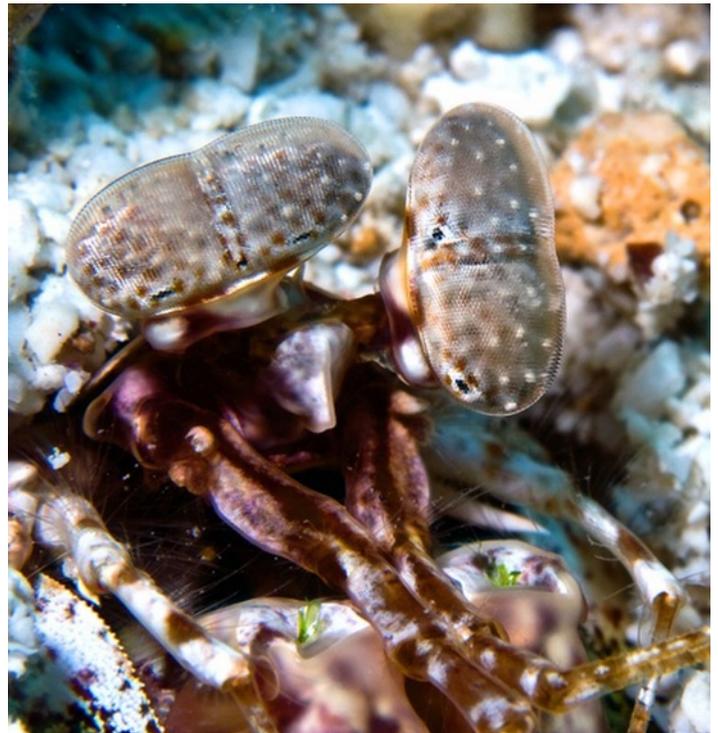
HUPS Now on Facebook and YouTube

By Alicia Grimes

If you are on Facebook you can access the HUPS 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 Heimer 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>



Novice 2nd Place - Lance Glowacki, © 2010

Upcoming Monthly Photo Contests

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

May - Long & Narrow

August - Seafan City

June - Nudibranchs & Worms

September - Anything with Lungs

July - Anemones and Things That Live in Them

October - Things Only a Mother Could Love

May Contest

The May contest topic is “long & narrow”. According to the HUPS website: “Anything that is characterized by long, thin lines. Can be fish, invertebrates, or even non-living.” 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://www.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>. **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

April - Crustacea

Advanced:

- 1st Tom Collier & Ken Bean (tie)
- 2nd Ken Knezick
- 3rd Tom Collier

Intermediate:

- 1st Kay Collier
- 2nd Paul McDonald
- 3rd Jim Mensay (2 tied)

Novice:

- 1st Kandace Heimer
- 2nd Lance Glowacki
- 3rd Lance Glowacki

Announcing Upcoming HUPS Workshops

There are several exciting new HUPS workshop planned for 2010. Here is a quick look at two that are scheduled:

May 9th - **Smell the Flowers with a Macro Lens** A great opportunity to practice you macro skills on flowers, butterflies and other insects at Enchanted Forest. Read all about it here: <http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/2010-SmellTheFlowers.htm> Sign up sheet and other info on the forum here: <http://www.hups.org/forum/index.php?topic=394.0>

June 12th - **HUPS Photo Contest Judging** In this workshop, Kandace Heimer and Dennis Deavenport will explore the 3

critical elements that separate mundane images from great ones. Helping them will be a select panel of HUPS best to share their views on what they like in a set of images and why they choose one over another. **This workshop was recently moved to the 12th and moved to Bayland Community Center.**

All the details can be found here:

Website: http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/2010-Photo_Judging.htm and here:

Forum: <http://www.hups.org/forum/index.php?topic=377.0>

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 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?

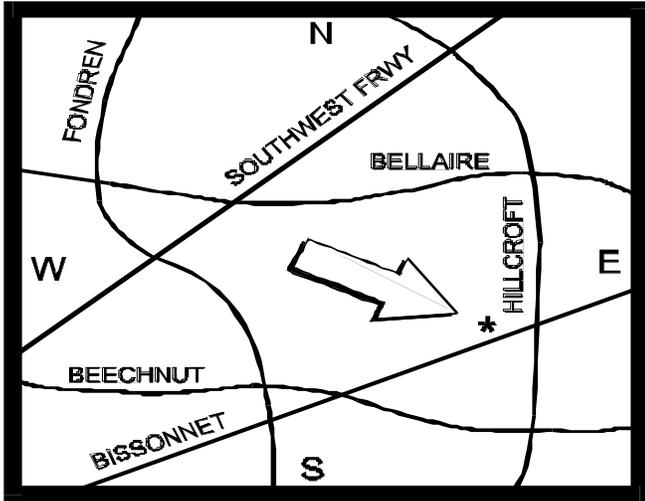
On Saturday October 16, 2010 HUPS will have a round table share and learn at the Bayland Community Center to discuss the software ProShow. This very dynamic and rich in content software is available in both Gold and the even more powerful version known as Producer.



Advanced 1st place - Tom Collier, © 2010

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>

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