

November Newsletter

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November 2017

Cuba Arriba

by Dennis Deavenport

What a night. The Astros just won the World Series and I just finished my Cuba Arriba presentation. I call that a total win! GO STROS!

For most of you that haven't managed to get to Cuba to see what this wonderful nation has become, maybe now is the time to book a trip. I've been to a lot of dive destinations in this part of the world but for my money, this is the best there is. Cuba topside is this magnificent surreal trip back into the 50s and 60s when



Detroit was truly king and everyone wanted lots of horsepower and four white-walled tires on the pavement. Havana of old was the playground for the rich and famous but Castro's revolution and subsequent sanctions on the world stage caused time to pause. Old Havana still has most of the remnants of past glory but lack of investment money and years of benign neglect have taken a mighty toll of this once-proud city. That is apparent but what people may not

realize is how vibrant and alive the city still is with people that enjoy life to the fullest. It was a true privilege to go on this trip of exploration led by Jesse Cancelmo to the land time seems to have forgotten.



Our program is in 3 sections with Jesse taking time to tell us about his experiences in Cuba from his several trips



there to visit the country and breathe Nitrox in Fidel Castro's favorite dive location, the fabled waters of Jardine de la Reina. Tom Collier will follow with his own all-video show, and I will finish the evening with a longer program celebrating the topside and underwater treasures we experienced using pictures and video from multiple contributors. Along the way, you'll see an amazing assortment of experiences we had... Havana in all its faded glory, our happy group of twelve, sharks and more sharks, pristine reefs with schools of tarpon, salt-water crocodiles, enormous friendly groupers, and so much more.

Show up early on November 6th to get a front row seat. I don't think you'll be disappointed.

President's Page

I want to thank David Lenderman for last month's 2-part program entitled, "Look, Listen and Learn". The first part consisted of a slide show containing some of David's favorite images from trips taken to the Philippines, Bali and the Socorro Islands. The second part was a "How To" presentation on utilizing negative space. It was, as is always the case with David's programs, a very delightful and educational presentation.

I encourage you to attend our November Meeting entitled "Cuba Arriba" presented by Jesse Cancelmo, Dennis Deavenport, and Tom Collier concerning their travels to Cuba. The presentation will include photographs of the sights within Old Havana, the Cuban countryside and the underwater delights that await you if you are planning a trip to Cuba.

Our last workshop of 2017 is scheduled to take place November 18th and will pertain to Lightroom's Sharing and Saving Your Photos as well as the continuation of The Development Module, Part II which was not completed at the September Workshop. This workshop will conclude the Photoshop Lightroom video series which Lance has so graciously recorded and allowed us to benefit from the many tips afforded by the narrator, Matt Klowkowski. These workshops, in my opinion, have been very helpful for those using Lightroom for editing and managing our photographs. The feedback from the participants greatly benefitted those who attended this most informative series of tutorials and I hate to see them end.

The contest topic this month deals with Hawkfish, Drums and Trigger fish and is more fully explained in the topic information found in the Newsletter, HUPS Webpage or Facebook page.

What to do if you are caught in a Down Current?

This month's President's Page concerns a life threatening situation any of us may find ourselves in at some time in our diving career. It has happened to me twice. The danger is down wellings, vertical currents or down currents or whatever you care to label this dangerous diving issue. I know the first time it happened to me, I was caught completely unaware as was the rest of the group. The dive master had not forewarned any of us until after the fact with the comment, "Oh I forgot to mention that sometimes there are very strong vertical currents off the end of Barracuda Point!"

We all know that diving can be a dangerous and hazardous sport. The ocean is pretty unforgiving. Many times you can see the surface currents and judge which way they are running. You may not be aware of a current that can take you downwards very quickly or sometimes so slowly you may not even notice until you glance at your dive computer and realize you are now at 150 feet or deeper. One of the most beautiful wall dives in Cozumel is Santa Rosa Wall, which has been known to have severe down wellings. Most of the time dive masters warn you of same but when I first started diving Cozumel many years ago such warnings were very infrequent.

Let's say you are diving on a wall with the current running along and you are enjoying your dive until you notice that your bubbles are not going up but are going down. You look at your depth gauge or computer and realize you are not diving in a level plane but are going downward. What do you do? Most of the literature suggests the following:

- (1) Do not panic;
- (2) Realize what is happening and react quickly;
- (3) Swim away from the wall and across the current upward at a 45degree angle much as you would do with a rip current on the surface as eventually you will swim out of this type of current;
- (4) Add air to your BC to attempt to counter act the downward force of the current;
- (5) If you are still descending and cannot get out of the down current, as a last resort, dump your weights but be ready to dump all air in your BC during your ascent;
- (6) Upon ascending and surfacing inflate your safety sausage immediately or call on your signaling device to have the boat locate you.

Is there any way to anticipate a down current? Be aware of the dive site briefings as the Dive master or dive guide should alert you to the fact that down wellings are sometimes present at the site. During the dive, do soft corals and fans appear to be blown downward as are your bubbles? Are small fish swimming erratically or swimming upwards but going downwards? If so, you are probably in a down current. Downward type currents are unpredictable so the best advice I would offer is be prepared to deal with a vertical current if you are ever faced with one

I hope to see everyone at the November meeting. Try to continue to dive safely and as often as possible.

Russell Ramsey

Announcements

HUPS Member of the Year

In 1991 the Executive Committee established the Member of the Year Award (MOTY) to recognize those HUPS members who tirelessly work to provide services and utility to HUPS' members. Nomination for this award must be in writing including emails and must be sent to the President before the November General Meeting. Please forward your nominations to rjrdived@gmail.com to allow us to vote on your choice of nominees. The details pertaining to the award and the nominating process are outlined in Attachment 1- Member of the Year Award - of the HUPS By-Laws found on the HUPS Website.



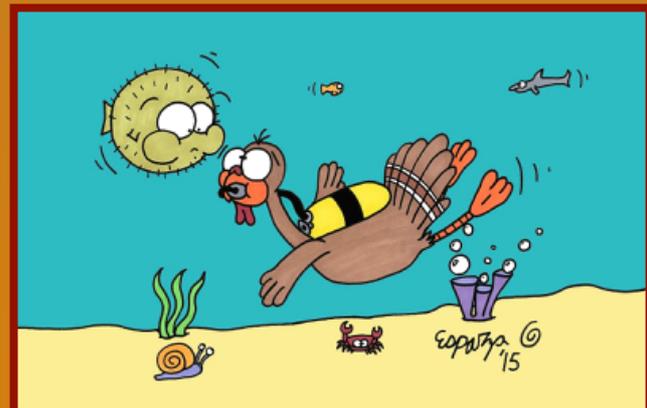
Monica Losey
Creative 2016 Winner

December Creative

Put your creative thinking caps on now and get a head start on submitting a creative photo for December's meeting. Even if you haven't been submitting throughout the year, give it shot. Anything is allowed so long as you took the photo and do the post processing. The more we have the more we are entertained during our meal as they are usually quite comical or interesting!

TGCC Banquet

The Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs will hold its annual banquet on Saturday, January 27, 2018. Instead of being held at Bayland as in recent years, it will instead be held at Clear Lake Park Meeting Room 5001 NASA Parkway where Lunarfins meets. Please consider attending so HUPS has good representation.



Jackie Reid
Advanced 2nd

HUPS Apparel

HUPS shirts are for sale again. Order forms and prepayment are required. Order forms are available from the HUPS webpage or HUPS Facebook page. A variety of styles and colors are available for \$20 each. And for a first, bucket hats and rain coats are also available!

2017 POTY Standings thru October

Novice

1 st	Russell Ramsey	621
2 nd	John VanAtta	517
3 rd	Kathy Long	377
4 th	Kevin Crofoot	370
5 th	Lorna Carpenter	250
6 th	Steven Anderson	87
7 th	Betsy Beasley	69

Intermediate

1 st	Beata Lerman	828
2 nd	Bess Bright	760
3 rd	Lance Glowacki	622
4 th	Paul McDonald	388
5 th	Joe Holden	172
6 th	Jack Allyn	38
7 th	Tammy Allyn	33

Advance

1 st	Jackie Reid	888
2 nd	Craig Beasley	818
3 rd	David Lenderman	773
4 th	Martin Daniels	207

Video

1 st	Tom Collier	63
2 nd	Dennis Deavenport	55
3 rd	Craig Beasley	55
4 th	Betsy Beasley	41



Russell Ramsey
Novice 1st



Bess Bright
Intermediate 3rd



David Lenderman
Advanced 1st



Lance Glowacki
Intermediate 1st

2017 Presentation and Contest Topics

	Presentation	Presenter	Contest Topic
November 6	Cuba Arriba	Jesse Cancelmo, Tom Collier, Dennis Deavenport	Hogfish, wrasse, parrotfish, razorfish
December 5	Best of HUPS	Lance Glowacki	Creative

Month	Themes	Description
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.

2018 Presentation Topics

	Presentation	Presenter
January	HUPS 2017 Bonaire Trip	Lorna Carpenter
February	Technique/educational	STILL NEEDED
March	Maldives	Kathy Long
April	Interesting facts about Dolphins	Beata Lerman
May	Rebreathers & Photography	Aiar Ghelber
June	Philippines	Tom Collier, Craig & Betsy Beasley, Dennis Deavenport
July	Marine animals	STILL NEEDED
August	Video III	Tom Collier
September	Destination	STILL NEEDED
October	Marine animals	STILL NEEDED
November	Technique/educational	STILL NEEDED
December	Best of HUPS	Lance Glowacki

Craig Beasley
Advanced 1st



Steven Anderson
Novice 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:
 www.facebook.com/groups/174168478778/

2017 HUPS Board of Directors

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Dennis Deavenport

Lorna Carpenter

Craig Beasley

