



*Photo Tip:*

For quickest focus, use spot focus mode. Learn how to focus on an area without taking a photo (pressing the shutter button halfway) and recomposing.

Source: Underwater Photography

**FEBRUARY PROGRAM**

Bonaire, HUPS, Captain Don's, Lots of Nitrox – What's Not to Like?

*Submitted by Dennis Deavenport*



Photo by Monica Losey

The Old Dutch colony of Bonaire is no longer fully a part of The Netherlands but it is still charming in its old-world way. This last October HUPS showed up at Captain Don's Habitat for a week of diving, sight-seeing, and relaxing in the beautiful "good air" that Bonaire is known for.

Lance Glowacki has put together a great presentation for our February 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. I know what I'm talking about because I've already seen the shows that he has created using top-side and underwater pictures and video taken during our trip by our members. Another presentation has been prepared by Dennis Deavenport to give a different perspective of the underwater

vistas out in the calm waters surrounding the two islands of Bonaire and Kline Bonaire. All-in-all, almost everyone has their work on display.



Photo by Dennis Deavenport

One thing that will be very apparent is how far HUPS has moved recently into video. With the advent of inexpensive but really good underwater cameras like the GoPro, a high percentage of our divers are concentrating on the underwater "action" that can't be caught with still photography. Whether it's capturing the dynamic ballet of squadrons of squid or watching juvenile spotted drums wiggle away in front of the camera, video rules. But don't be fooled, we have lots of great iconic still images to remind us of just how much fun it is to dive in Bonaire.

Come to next Monday's meeting and see for yourself. You won't regret it one bit.



## HUP's President's Random Thoughts

*Submitted by Russell Ramsey*

I want to encourage you to attend our February Meeting. As your new president I would like to share a few thoughts with you regarding volunteerism especially as it pertains to HUPS. As our website proclaims, we are "a not for profit organization formed to encourage interest and participation in underwater photography and videography." We provide a monthly educational program which is entertaining, a lively photo contest for different skill levels and at these meetings we share our interest in photography and many other things. Our membership consists of people of all ages and professions. Many of us have been divers a long time and others are newcomers to the sport of diving and also photography.

I have been diving since 1978 and have watched with delight as my wife began diving in 1980, our daughter 1982 and our oldest grandson in 2012. As Hank Williams, Jr. so eloquently put it, we were just keeping up the "Old Family Tradition". During that period of time I have seen dive shops, dive clubs and other organizations directly related to diving activities come and go.

The theme and core of the organizations that have been successful are the volunteers who gave their time, skill and expertise in keeping those clubs afloat. In conjunction with this newsletter and pursuant to a decision by your Board of Directors, several of us were asked to come up with a Member Survey to assist us in how to be a better club, how best to serve you, and to learn a little more about each of you.

HUPS is always in need of volunteers to keep it a viable club.

Volunteerism is a vital component of the fabric of any club especially HUPS. It is also ingrained in the operation of our churches, schools, civic organizations, neighborhood activities, and clubs of all sorts. Volunteerism is renowned for skill development, socialization and just plain fun.

Studies show 1 in 4 American volunteer for something or some activity. Skill based volunteerism is leveraging the specialized skills each of us may possess to strengthen the very being of HUPS

Most clubs and non-profit organizations rely heavily on volunteers and HUPS is no exception. HUPS relies on all of us to contribute in some manner to its operation to maintain its vibrancy and meaningfulness to all of us who are interested in photography and particularly underwater photography.

You ask, why volunteer? It is a perfect way to connect to the other members, and the Club as a whole. By offering your skills, time and enthusiasm, you will impact other members and also yourself. By volunteering the club will benefit from your unique perspective, will foster interaction with other members and will keep the club meetings lively and interesting.

Everyone has a talent, often untapped, and HUPS wants to tap into your skills, knowledge and expertise that we may not be presently aware of.

As Bess Bright said when we were discussing the Member Survey to be given out at this meeting, HUPS is an All Volunteer Army. Many of you may not be aware of your organization skills but all of you at one time or another has organized various types of parties such as showers, office welcoming and going away parties, birthday parties, etc. Many of you have skills to make the VCR stop blinking, program the remote, the new smart phones and TV's, the new BluRay, and other things some of us cannot manage to do. If you can do that, can you assist in helping with the slide shows, photos contests, etc.?

Can you organize your kitchen recipes, alphabetize your CD's, photo catalogues, old slides, and family pictures and albums? If so, HUPS could use your help in putting together, with Alicia and others, the Newsletter or assist Dennis in the monthly photo contest.

Have you been on a trip where very few have gone before- if so, volunteer to put on a program or assist in putting together a program of that memorable trip.

HUPS feels we have a pool of untapped resources among our members whose abilities we are unaware of. As President John F. Kennedy once said, "Every person can make a difference and every person should try."

I am not suggesting it will be easy but I am suggesting it will be worth it.

Remember volunteers are a precious resource who we cannot afford to lose. Volunteers do not just do the work, they make it work

Help yourself and volunteer for HUPS.



## TGCC Banquet Recap

*Submitted by Debbie Mensay*

HUPS made its presentation of awards to Photographers of the Year (Ken Kenneth Knezick – Advanced, Mike Greuter – Intermediate, Jan Baughman – Novice), Member of the Year (Debbie Mensay) and Lifetime Achievement Awards Greg Grimes / Alicia Stafford Grimes–2014, Tom Collier/Kay Collier–2013) at the annual TGCC banquet held 1/24/14. In addition, HUPS member Jesse Cancelmo received the TGCC Member of the Year Award. Here are a few photos from the event.



## News from the Reef

*Submitted by Jesse Cancelmo*

- Check out the awesome new gear, upcoming trips, exciting articles and more in January's Bluewater Photo Newsletter especially the new camera gear guide!
- The 2014 Seaside Chat speaker series hosted by Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary will begin on Wednesday, February 5th at 6:30 p.m. and continue each Wednesday evening through February 26th. All presentations will take place in the Aquarium at Moody Gardens, One Hope Boulevard, Galveston, TX.

February 5, 2014 – What are National Marine Sanctuaries? Everyone has heard of National Parks, but most are a little puzzled by the idea of National Marine Sanctuaries. Join us to unravel the mystery and catch a glimpse of each of these 14 ocean treasures. The complete series list can be found on the NOAA website.



# High Quality Slide Copying – Cheap, Fast, Easy

*Submitted by Dennis Deavenport*

A lot of us have lots and lots of slides we've taken over the years before we had digital cameras. And, a lot of these slides were taken on dive trips or other vacations that have memories that we never want to forget.

Up until now, converting slides to digital files that could be edited, saved, looked at, and printed for our walls has almost always been expensive, labor intensive, and (usually) not all that good. Over the years, I've purchased 3 slide scanners. They work but decent quality has always been achieved with lots of effort and time. You can spend hundreds or thousands of dollars for good slide scanners but even the best take a lot of effort to set up and scans can take anywhere from several minutes to 20 minutes or more per slide.

What if I were to tell you that most of us already have what we need to do the job for almost no money and that you can get very high quality results about as quickly as it takes to brush dust off the slides and put them on a simple holder?

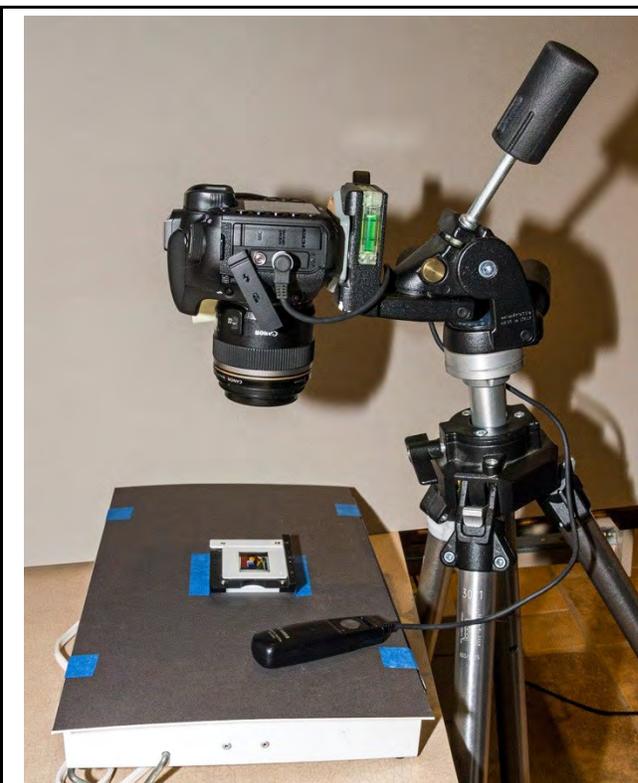
My latest cathartic episode of trying to get slides copied involved buying a new slide scanner that came with software used to set up the scanning process and send them to my hard disk. I spent days trying to get it all figured out and even then, my best results always took way too long. Furthermore, the results were really not as good as I was expecting. Maybe it was me or maybe it was just the equipment and the "kludgy" software that came with the scanner. Whatever the cause, I was really frustrated.

Years ago, we used to copy slides using a special optical tube and a slide holder behind a glass diffuser. This replaced the lens and you put the slide in the holder and snapped the picture. Mostly, this worked OK but the optics in the slide copier were pretty average at best and the results were just OK, not great.

While looking at the old slide copier that I had, I already knew it wouldn't work on my crop-sensor camera but the concept was interesting. I got to thinking, "Why do we need a special slide copier? We already have macro lenses that focus to 1:1." My reasoning was that (1) if you could light the slide uniformly and (2) focus on the image, you should be able to generate excellent results.

So, I started taking things apart and building my own slide copier. My expense = \$0.

**Here is what I came up with:**



SLR Camera with 60 mm macro lens mounted on a tripod

A light box to provide uniform illumination

A home-built slide holder to position slides quickly and uniformly

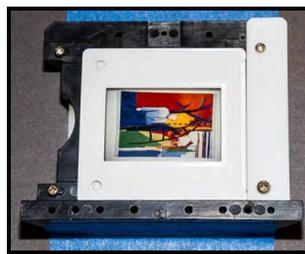
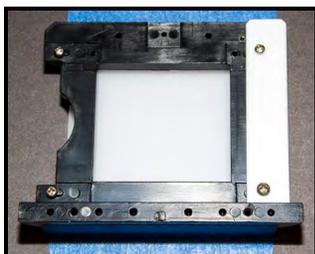
A remote switch to snap the picture

You will also want to inspect and clean your slides before you mount them. I have a 2<sup>nd</sup> light box for that.



- Light box
- Gloves for handling slides
- Loupe for inspecting slides
- Soft brush to clean slide surfaces

The slide holder that I made was taken from my old slide copier. I added the white plastic bar on the right to help position the slide over the hole in the same exact position each time. I also covered the top of the light box with a matte board which had a hole cut to let light through to the holder. This helps eliminate lens flare when taking the image.



My camera settings to get best results:

- \*ISO = 100
- \*Aperture = f/8.0
- \*File type = RAW
- \*Auto exposure set for TV (aperture is constant at f/8 but shutter speed is chosen automatically by the camera to give proper exposure)
- \*Self-timer set for 2-second delay
- \*Autofocus set for 19-point autofocus

Workflow:

After I have the camera set up on the tripod and adjusted so I am taking a picture just slightly larger than the 35 mm slide area, I make sure the my settings are as above.

Next I select my slides and clean both sides with my soft camel-hair brush. Once I have about 20 cleaned, I inspect them with my loupe to make sure that no dust is on the surface.

Then I place the slide on the slide holder and press the remote shutter release.

After the picture is taken, I look at the image on the back of the camera. If it looks OK, I move on. If it isn't right, I adjust my settings and do it again until the results are good. Usually the first shot is perfectly good.

Take the slide off and replace it with another slide. Snap another picture.

When I'm done copying the slides, I transfer them to my computer where they are edited.

- \*Crop picture
- \*Adjust color, contrast, saturation, etc.
- \*Apply a small amount of sharpening
- \*Save the picture at high resolution
- \*Resize to a smaller version and save the picture (I like 1620 H x 1080 V which is the same vertical resolution that high definition televisions use)

From what I can see, the limiting factor in all of this is the quality of the image on the original slide. My camera and lens does an exceptional job of capturing what is on the slide. What you see is what you get with this setup. I can even see the grain on the emulsion.

When I'm set up and running, I can easily clean and copy as many as 20-40 slides in less than 15 minutes. If you have someone cleaning slides, you can probably do 80-120 every 15 minutes.

I really don't know why this isn't common knowledge. Equipment manufacturers aren't going to advertise this since there's no money in it. But I was surprised that I couldn't find anything like this on the internet. Maybe I just didn't look hard enough.

# Moody Gardens Exhibit Update

## *Submitted by Debbie Mensay*

Hopefully by the time HUPS has its February meeting, we have chosen the 32 photos that will hang on the walls at Moody Gardens for 2014. If not, I hope we are at least close! Many thanks to those who took the time to send in photos for consideration. We had 55 photos of rays and 198 general photos from 20 members to choose from – so needless to say, the judges have been very busy.

The process of judging is different than for a monthly photo contest, although we start off the same way. Each photo is rated individually, then the points totaled. The photos with the highest scores are the ones most likely to make it to the walls; however, we do look at some different criteria as well. For example, we have to take into consideration that our audience at Moody Gardens are typically non-divers. Sometimes we actually have to pass up subjects that we, as underwater photographers drool over, because the general non-diving public would not appreciate them, let alone even have a clue what they were even looking at! We also have to ensure that we have the theme (selected by Moody) adequately covered, and that we balance out the range of subjects on the general wall. Finally, we also try to showcase as many of our members as possible by limiting each person to no more than two photos. And did I mention that a couple of the photos HAVE to be verticals?

To achieve all this is a bit of a balancing act and takes many, many iterations. Once our final selection is made and the photos printed, we'll be asking for your help in switching the exhibit over. It's always been a fun day, taking a few hours of work at most since everyone pitches in to help. The aquarium typically gives us a "behind the scenes" tour then we all head out to lunch. Please look for the invitation to join us in late February or early March.



**Time to Renew Your Membership!**

## *Submitted by Alicia Grimes*

Well it is that time again to keep our club in the financial black by paying your annual dues. This year like in years past the dues will be \$35.00 for individuals and \$45.00 for your entire family.

This is quite a deal when that includes 12 monthly presentations as well as specialized workshops, website, forum and a monthly newsletter.

We have three ways to renew your membership:

- Pay at the next few HUPS meetings in person.
- You can renew using this link on the hups.org website using (PayPal is safe, fast & secure.)
- Print and fill out and mail from the website your completed form and check to: P.O. Box 270056 Houston, TX 77277

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [alicia@theworldinaflash.com](mailto:alicia@theworldinaflash.com)



# Programs and More Programs

## There's Still Time to Get Involved

Being in charge of pulling together a year's worth of good programs can be a bit frustrating at times but it can also be very rewarding. For 2014, we have a good start on what we will be seeing this year. At the current time, I have lots of programs lined up or in the discussion stages but not a lot of them have been given firm dates. So, here is what in on the lineup:

- January: Bears, Salmon, Whales, and Heart-Stopping Scenery from Alaska – Jim & Kandace Heimer / Jim & Debbie Mensay
- February: Bonaire Club Trip Extravaganza – Lance Glowacki (organizer)
- March (I hope): Exploring the Wrecks in Truk Lagoon & Bikini Atoll – 70 Years in the Making – Tom Collier, Mike Greuter, Dennis Deavenport
- No date yet: Anilao, The Philippines Club Trip – Trip participants
- No date yet: At Night at the Movies – Short subjects from our new and experienced videographers – (organizer to be named)
- No date yet: Saba & Dominica on the Half-Shell – Mike Greuter

I will be looking to add another 5 programs in the next several months. If at all possible, I want to target as many of our new members that are showing major progress in their UW photography skills. We may even try to get some special outside speakers. Time will tell.

If you would like to get involved, talk to me. We have lots of members that can help you over the rough spots in preparing a program. It is also possible that we can put together several people in a single program to make it less intimidating as you learn the ropes. Get involved and you'll never regret it... promise.

Dennis Deavenport – VP of Programs

## January Photo Contest

Contest results through January 2014 NOVICE		
1st	Joe Holden	70
2nd	Martin Daniels	48
3rd	David McCracken	48
4th	John Scheldt	40
5th	0	0
INTERMEDIATE		
1st	Jan Baughman	80
2nd	Lance Glowacki	57
3rd	Bess Bright	54
4th	Debbie Mensay	53
5th	0	0
ADVANCED		
1st	Dennis Deavenport	78
2nd	Ken Bean	66
3rd	Jim Mensay	60
4th	Mike Greuter	52
5th	0	0





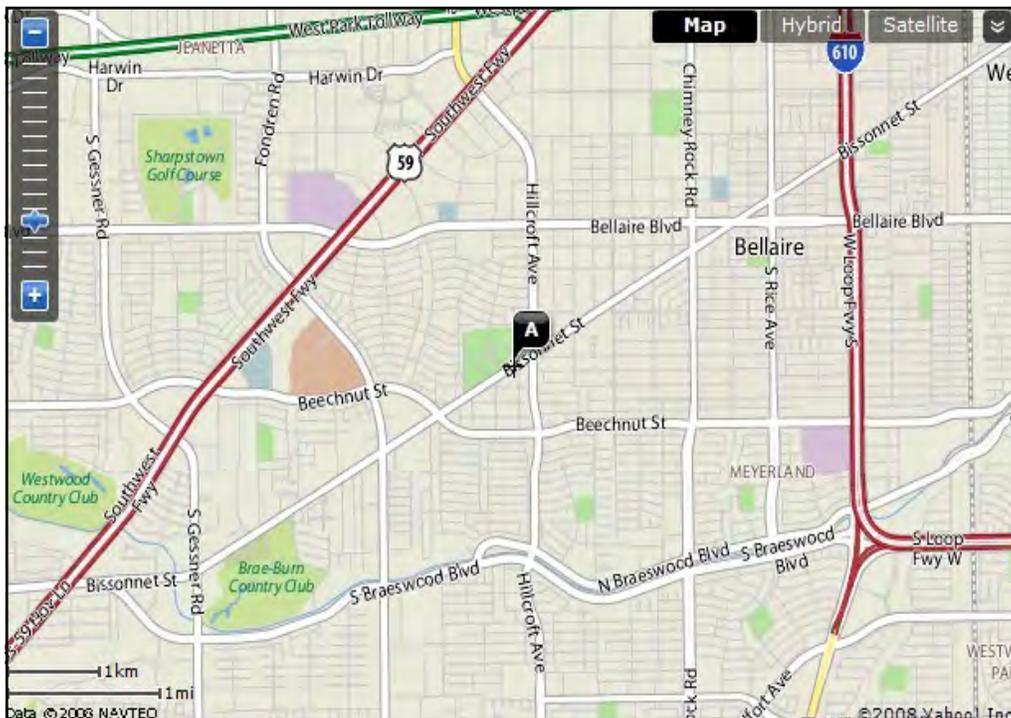
# 2014 Meetings

## Meetings & Presentations

Month	Date	Presenter	Show Title & Synopsis	Contest Topic
January	6th	Jim and Kandace Heimer & Jim and Debbie Mensay	A Night in Alaska	Something that has Spots
February	3rd	HUPS Members	Bonaire Club Trip Extravaganza	Shoot the Face
March	3rd	Tom Collier, Mike Greuter, Dennis Deavenport	Exploring the Wrecks of Truk Lagoon	Things in the sand
April	7th	Trip Participants	Anilao, The Philippines Club Trip	Large swimmers (> 4 feet) - not people
May	5th	HUPS Members	A Night at the Movies	Banded/Stripes
June	2nd	Mike Greuter	Saba & Dominica on the Half -Shell	Big eyes, Tangs, Triggerfish, Boxfish
July	7th			Reef scenes without diver
August	4th			Scorpion fish, Gurnards, Lionfish
September	1st			Pairs or buddies
October	6th			Anemones and relatives, Hydroids, Jellyfish
November	3rd			Single Color focus (Blue,Red,Green,Yellow)
December	1st			Best of HUPS and Creative

*The Houston Underwater Photographic Society meets at the Bayland Community Center starting at 7:00 PM.  
(Social time begins at 6:45)*

*(6400 Bissonnet, near the Hillcroft intersection)  
Visitors are always welcome.*



## 2014 HUPS Officers

### **President:**

Russell Ramsey

### **Vice President:**

Dennis Deavenport

### **Secretary:**

Tammy Allyn

### **Treasurer:**

Tom Collier

### **Membership/ Newsletter:**

Alicia Grimes

### **Photo Contest:**

Dennis Deavenport

### **TGCC Rep:**

Frank Burek /  
Debbie Mensay

### **Web Master:**

James Heimer

### **Workshops:**

Greg Grimes

### **Trip Coordinator:**

Jim Mensay

### **Historian:**

Frank Burek

### **Special Events:**

Jan Baughman

## *HUPS on the Web*



<http://www.hups.org/>



<http://www.youtube.com/user/HUPSdotORG>



<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?%23!group.php?gid=174168478778>

## **HUPS**

P.O. Box 270056  
Houston, TX 77277-0056

## Board of Directors

Jan Baughman

Bess Bright

Frank Burek

Martin Daniels

Dennis Deavenport

Lance Glowacki

Alicia Grimes

Mike Greuter

Gary Harris

Ken Knezick

Jim Mensay

Henry Ragland

Russell Ramsey

