HUPS Newsletter

November 2026

HUPS Monthly Meeting is

November 9,

7-9 pm

at Bayland Community Center

and on Zoom

Link to the Zoom broadcast

Meeting ID: 822 2562 5836

Password: 079944

HOUSTON UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

PRESENTS

THE OCCIDENTAL TOURIST

GALAXIES COLLIDE IN JAPAN AND MEXICO

A PAUL CATER DEATON FILM



Splitting time between his two favorite worlds, **SCUBA diving** and **Star Wars**, documentary producer **Paul Cater Deaton** makes the most of expeditions to **Japan** and **Mexico**. He dives the frigid muck of Osezaki before attending Star Wars Celebration in Tokyo, then explores the mysterious cenotes of the Yucatan and joins 300 costumed members of the famed 501st Legion for a grand parade through the streets of Merida, Mexico.

From exotic sites and marine life here on Earth to denizens of a galaxy far, far away, one need not be a SCUBA diver or Star Wars nerd to enjoy this film.

PRESENTED BY

PAUL CATER DEATON

WRITER • PRODUCER • DIRECTOR • CAMERA

MONDAY
NOVEMBER 9, 2026

BAYLAND COMMUNITY CENTER & ZOOM

7:00 PM



Paul Cater Deaton
Writer Producer Director Camera
1807 Ball Street, Downstairs
Galveston, Texas 77550
409-789-1016
Paul@PaulCaterDeaton.com

Paul Cater Deaton is an award-winning writer, producer, director and cinematographer. Based in Galveston, he works all over the world on film, TV, music video and documentary projects. He is also a popular speaker and master of ceremonies, appearing frequently at international events.

Paul engages in productions ranging from commercials, corporate content, music videos and documentaries to TV programs and full-length motion pictures. Credits include The Travel Channel, Discovery Channel, HBO Documentaries and principal underwater cinematographer on the Emmy Award-nominated cinematography team of The Amazing Race.

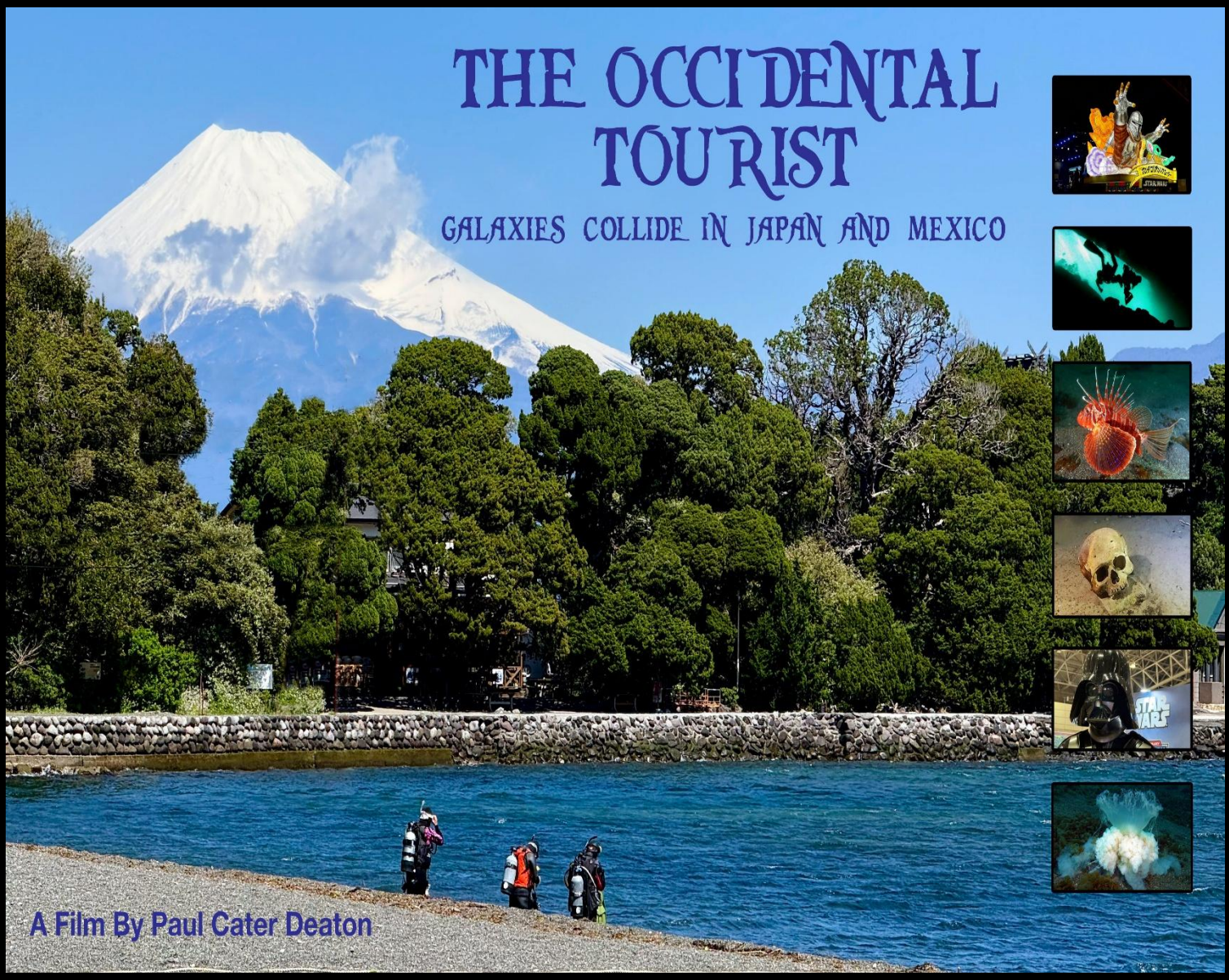
He is a member of the Television Academy, The Explorers Club, American Advertising Federation, Boston Sea Rovers and the Historical Diving Society.

PCD is a NAUI SCUBA Instructor, and TDI Nitrox and Rebreather diver. He was certified in Global Shark Biology, Biodiversity and Conservation by Cornell University and the University of Queensland, Australia. His TEDx Talk on Shark Conservation was made into the documentary, *The Only Good Shark*. He is certified by he Philippines Department of Tourism as a Philippines Specialist.


Monica Gephart




GALVESTON
COLLEGE
PAUL CATER DEATON
Writer. Producer. Director. Camera


THE OCCIDENTAL TOURIST
GALAXIES COLLIDE IN JAPAN AND MEXICO
A Film By Paul Cater Deaton

President's Message

By Craig Beasley

Do you remember that famous line from Hotel California: "This could be heaven or this could be hell." I had the occasion to recall this twice in the last few weeks. Fortunately, the first was the hell scenario and the last was not quite heaven, but it was a long way from the first.

Three other worthy HUPS members and I were off on a unique adventure. Dennis, David, Betsy and I were joining a group in Jakarta for an unusual "Forgotten Islands" trip in Eastern Indonesia slated to cruise from Ambon though parts of the Banda Sea and the Forgotten Islands, finishing up in Alor. Everything started well as some of us went a day early for a tour of the old town of Jakarta that included the most unbelievable private collection of Asian art including primitive wood carving, various mythical and religious pieces. We were glowing from the night before when we arrived at the Jakarta airport for our flight to Ambon. I had some trepidation when I learned that the previous day's flight was still listed but they checked us in and I figured that there must have been a mechanical problem. Time went by as we chatted waiting to depart, but the departure time passed and nothing happened. It's time now for the hell part to start. After sitting around for 3-4 hours, there was a murmur around the gate and somehow, we learned that we were not going and we had to go pick up our luggage and stay overnight.

Fortunately, Betsy and I had just checked out of a great hotel near the airport, and our group leader knew it, so we all managed to find rooms there and check in. The rooms were great, the restaurant was OK, it had a spa and pools – where's the hell in that? I'll leave out the grisly details, but here's the outline:

The flight the next day was either full or didn't go – not sure which.

It wasn't going the day after either. We learned that the problem was major fires all over Indonesia and many airports were shut down because of the smoke. So, we booked a flight to Alor instead while the boat relocated from Ambon to meet us.

The flight had a connection in Kupang and that is where the true hell began.

We got to Kupang but then our short connecting flight to Alor didn't go, again because of the smoke.

There we sat in baggage claim trying to get hotel rooms for 17 people in a small city just north of Timor, exhausted from our 3:00 AM wake up call, long flight, jetlag, no real food and hours of waiting around for another flight that didn't go.

Luckily, (really?) Betsy and I had been stuck there before, so I knew the best hotel in town. No rooms – there was a special Olympics going on. I found one room in the 2nd best place; the rest of the group stayed wherever they could find – some were in a $14 per night room, or something like that. They moved upscale the next day to a $28/night room which was much better. That's good because there were no flights that day either.

We learned very early the next morning that no flights were going that day, so we gave up on airplanes, rushed to the port and took an 8 hour ferry ride to Alor and found the boat waiting out in the channel under power – couldn't drop anchor. It was a little rough, but we made it!

I'm sure you will hear the gory details from all of us too many times over a beverage or on a dive expedition but that's enough for now. This was a disaster for everyone in so many ways. We were exhausted by it, it frazzled our group leader, we lost 4 days on the boat, It cost us money and has put us in the hell of trying to get a refund from Lion Air and the part of the cruise we missed was what some of us had mainly gone to see. And I'm sure it cost the boat owners to move the boat around to get us. But everyone did the best they could, and we did manage to whoop it up at a few dinners with lots of gallows humor.

So, what was heaven? Well, once we got on the boat, the diving was pristine and magnificent. But the main reference to the Eagles song comes from our last night when the crew gets to let down their hair a little. They had a guitar and other instruments, and they began to play Hotel California. Let's just say that some of us couldn't help but sing and dance with them. It was joyful until the evening was over, we paid the bill and then began to wonder "What is the trip home going to bring". I'll let everyone tell their own stories there, but for Betsy and me it was smooth although it involved 5 flights, an overnight stay in the Singapore airport transit hotel. And it took more than 50 hours to get home. Back to hell.

FIN FACTS

Welcome to Fin Facts, where we swim into the story behind a different HUPS member each month. Grab your mask and snorkel—we're exploring their favorite underwater adventure, creative inspirations, and the gear that keeps their fins kicking. Let's dive in with...

Alex Kendig



Fin-tastic Image

Snapper fish snack, Anthony's Key, Roatan.

UNDERWATER RIG

I currently have a Sony A7Rii in a Nauticam housing. I use a Tamron 16-30mm and a Sony 90mm macro. Sea to Sea strobes and Sola 3800 lumen video lights. I'm starting to use Backscatter mini for snoot shots.

1 DIVING

I got certified in 2000 but didn't start seriously until 2015.

2 PROFESSION

Emergency Room Physician

3 HUPS

I think 3 years. I love photography. Started with landscape on land then after I began diving, I felt I had to capture the underwater world. I started with a GoPro and gradually advance to my mirrorless rig.

RECENT PURCHASE

The Backscatter mini 3 plus snoot adapter. I find the images interesting and wanted to added a different style to my current picture repertoire. I also bought some new Fourth element thin wetsuits that are great.

More Fin Facts...

What is your favorite dive destination and what makes it special for you?

Cozumel is easy and always has great diving, but I truly enjoyed Curacao. I felt the coral and life was better than Bonaire. I really enjoy the shore diving and the freedom to spend as much or as little time in an area as you would like.

What underwater location is currently at the top of your wish list?

Southeast Asia, such as a liveaboard like Raja Ampat.

What critter are you currently obsessed with or hoping to shoot next?

Still love sea horses, but would love to capture Whales, specifically in Dominica.

What are your dive plans for 2026?

I was able to do Fiji and Cozumel. Likely all there is for me this year as we had a new baby boy this year in April.

Which do you prefer?



"Photography over videography. Mostly I don't have the proper lighting for video in general nor the editing software or experience. I still enjoy trying to get that right angle/moment to engrave in my memory and share with the world."



Alex, congrats on the Baby Boy...mine is my future sherpa and snoot holder - he doesn't know it yet.

Many Tanks! - Justin

WANT TO BE FEATURED ON FIN FACTS?

We'd be thrilled to hear your story, **scan** or **click** the code, fill out the form, and stay buoyant!

SCAN OR CLICK

October Photo Contest



Aaron Crumbley – Novice 3rd



Kurt Bollman – Novice 3rd



Cathy Strahan – Novice 1st



Kurt Bollman – Novice 2nd



Alex Kendig – Intermediate 3rd



Alex Kendig – Intermediate 2nd



Alex Kendig – Intermediate 1st



Scott Singleton – Advanced 3rd



John Van Atta – Advanced 2nd



John Van Atta – Advanced 1st

POTY October 2026

	Novice	POTY
1	Aaron Crumbley	622
2	Kurt Bollman	591
3	Cathy Strahan	114
	Intermediate	
1	Tiffanie Crumbley	641
2	Alex Kendig	456
3	Lynn Zechiedrich	443
	Advanced	
1	John Van Atta	734
2	Scott Singleton	681
3	Justin Wallace	663
4	Barry Cline	624