

# June 2011

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Fishing in Panama with Dr. Tulloch
- Archive Article Reef Etiquette
- Great HUPS Giveaway — Part 2
- Lifetime Member Betty Lundquist

# Underwater Images

Join us on June 13<sup>th</sup> at the Baylor Community Center at 7:00 p.m. for the HUPS June meeting. This month's presentation is entitled: Bali – Monkeys, Massages and Mandarin Fish and will be brought to you by Jan Baughman and Jim Heimer. These experienced presenters & divers will transport you to this exotic land with their stories, slideshow and even videos where they and several other HUPsters traveled last November.



Jan Baughman—Novice

Their presentation will showcase Tulamben, a small dive village located on the east coast of Bali, Ubud for some R&R and shopping, and then ending at the world famous muck diving location of Lembeh. If you were not able to travel with this happy rag-tag group or with the HUPS group that is currently at this far away land, this presentation will make you want to put this destination on your bucket list. Join Us!

*Visitors are always welcome!*



Mary Mc Donald—Intermediate



Bess Bright—Novice



Mary Lou Reid—Advance

## Underwater Video Techniques - Rescheduled

Still trying to put this together: If you have a specific interest in videography, or those of you wishing to get into video, Join Jim Heimer ( date to be announced) who will have a discussion and seminar of video equipment, including the selection of camera, housing, and lighting systems. He will also have a demonstration of different video equipment and how it should be set-up.

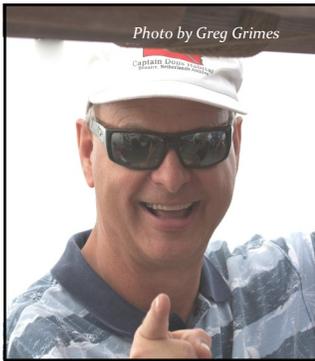
The seminar portion of this event will cover some topics like:

- Shooting Techniques
- White Balance
- Focus Lock
- Using zoom and macro
- Composing the Video Shot

At the end of the seminar, it is planned to have a round table among still photographers who have shot video to share experiences, techniques, problems encountered, and solutions. This will be the first of two seminars / workshops on video. It will be followed by one on post production processing later in the year.

Any other questions please let me know. [greg@theworldinaflash.com](mailto:greg@theworldinaflash.com)





by Jim Mensay

Packing for a HUPS dive vacation is a full time job. Now the first thing you have to remember is that we are doing this for fun.

The packing job starts about a year before. You sign up for the trip and put your deposit down. That's probably the only thing you do on time. The rest usually gets put off to the very end. Then you scramble to beat the clock.

**Let's see how you did. Did you:**

1. Book your flight reservations well enough ahead of time to get some good rates, good itinerary, and good seats.
2. Check your passport and get pages added, or realize it was about to expire and get a new one.
3. Pay a bit extra for the convenience of becoming an elite traveler, so you can just check yourself back through immigration at the kiosk instead of standing in line.
4. Make all other arrangements for hotels, personal tours, and anything else not part of the package tour.
5. Start putting your gear together (scuba gear, camera gear, and clothes) about a month ahead of departure so that you can make sure everything works and you have everything you need.
6. Buy what you are missing, replace the things that don't work, and test everything out again when the new stuff you bought comes in.
7. Review the upcoming HUPS photo contest topics and pack the appropriate lens to help capture the images.
8. Register with the State Department as an American leaving the county.
9. Arrange for the pet sitter or house sitter, and yard guy and pool guy to take care of everything while you are gone.
10. Notify the local police department/sheriff department to put your house on "vacation watch" so they will do extra drive-bys and keep an eye on your place if it won't be occupied during the trip.
11. Send a copy of your itinerary to someone who cares, and who will take care of things in case of an emergency.
12. Review your travel plans and have alternatives already chosen in case of delayed or cancelled flights.
13. Get enough local currency to cover the majority of the expected costs at your destination, including gratuities. Or, confirm that your ATM card works in the country you will be visiting. Get familiar with the exchange rates and the cost of living so you know how much of the local currency you need. Does it take 1, 10, 100, 1000, 10,000 or even 100,000 "things" to buy a cup of coffee?
14. Make color copies of your passport to hand out at the hotels when they ask for your passport.
15. Make copies of your travel itinerary to put in each piece of luggage so that it can get to where you are going to be.
16. Call your credit card company and let them know where you will be, so that they will accept the charges and not think that your card has been stolen.
17. Stop the mail delivery and paper delivery. (Well, a few people still have a newspaper delivered).
18. Pack a change of clothes in your carry on just in case everything else comes in late.
19. Have an extra week's worth of your daily meds, along with the prescription. Update your immunizations for travel to your particular destination. Check your DAN card and your personal insurance card for the emergency numbers and carry that with you.
20. Weigh your luggage and keep it a few pounds under the maximum limit.
21. Confirm with your office that you will be out on vacation. Oops, you forgot to request vacation!
22. Activate the "out of office" feature on your office email system, and let them know someone else will handle emergencies for the next couple of weeks.
23. Learn something about the local culture so that you can respect their traditions and enjoy their differences.
24. Get a good nights sleep the night before. Leave for the airport in plenty of time and in a good mood.

Just remember, we are doing this for FUN. So, take a deep breath and relax. Good luck to ALL that are taking dive vacations this year. We hope that each trip turns out to be the best and that you come back with many award winning images and stories to share with our group. Consider giving a future presentation at our HUPS meeting about your adventures.

Hope to see you all under the boat.

Scuba Jim



# New Membership Roster Now Available



By now you should have received the new 2011 membership HUPS log in your email. Please review the information and if for some reason there is an error or omission please let me know. [alicia@theworldinaflash.com](mailto:alicia@theworldinaflash.com) If you are not on the log and would like to be included in all that HUPS has to offer, you can renew online at our website by clicking [HERE](#). The cost per individual is \$35.00 or just \$45.00 for a family. You can always renew or join at the monthly meetings.

## Tip of the month:

If your underwater photos don't look sharp, check to see which shutter speed was used, it needs to be 1/30th for still objects, 1/60th for slow moving objects, and 1/125th for faster moving fish.

Source:

[uwphotographyguide.com](http://uwphotographyguide.com)

# MAY PHOTO CONTEST RESULTS

NOVICE	
1st	Lance Glowacki
2nd	Lance Glowacki
2nd	Greg Grimes
3rd	Bess Bright

INTERMEDIATE	
1st	Jim Mensay
1st	Mary Mc Donald
2nd	Kandace Heimer
2nd	Paul Mc Donald
3rd	Debbie Mensay

ADVANCED	
1st	Mary Lou Reid
2nd	Mary Lou Reid
2nd	Tom Collier
3rd	Dennis Deavenport
3rd	Jackie Reid



Kay Collier—Advanced

Contest results through May 2011		
NOVICE		
1st	Monica Losey	308
2nd	Lance Glowacki	285
3rd	Bess Bright	274
4th	Greg Grimes	261
5th	John VanAtta	227
INTERMEDIATE		
1st	Kandace Heimer	336
2nd	Mike Greuter	308
3rd	Debbie Mensay	298
4th	Jim Mensay	294
5th	Paul McDonald	255
ADVANCED		
1st	Mary Lou Reid	346
2nd	Jackie Reid	335
3rd	Tom Collier	325
4th	Dennis Deavenport	297
5th	Kay Collier	268



Ken Knezick—Advanced

The June topic, "IT'S ONLY CORAL" is surprisingly difficult to pin down. So here is what Dennis wants to get out to everyone since it requires a bit of attention to do it right.

CORALS are in Phylum Cnidaria which contain:

- **Hydroids**
- **Jellyfish**
- **Corals (soft and hard)**
- **Black Corals** • Sea Anemones (not eligible - we already had a contest for Anemones)

Dennis will accept any pictures with the main focus being the critters in **RED**.

Sponges are completely different and do not qualify.

On a slightly different tack: Any pictures submitted should have "Corals" as major and prominent features in the picture. The image may contain other species such as fish, sponges, divers, crustaceans, etc. but these "other elements" should not dominate the composition. It's OK if they share top billing but let's be fair about this and give the poor corals their "15 minutes of glory".





Please enjoy this section of the newsletter which will be devoted to articles from the HUPS newsletters of the past. These articles are still full of great information that holds up to the test of time. This will be a continuing series brought to you from past and current members of

# Treasures from the HUPS Archives

## Reef Etiquette

By Sheryl Maruca

For the last 30 years, steadily increasing numbers of divers have enjoyed the spectacular formations and colors of our coral reefs. The reefs have silently (well almost silently) endured the impact of our visits. We have sat on brain corals, kicked the star corals, routed for lobster under the coral ledges, and generally disturbed all the 50 or so coral species that grow in the Florida Keys area extending out to the Honduran area. There are many of us diving the reefs and we cannot ignore the degradation that we cause by touching the fragile coral polyps that build up reefs. These tiny animals are very susceptible to damage from our hands, knees, fins and tanks. We all know that breaking or removing a piece of coral causes to the reef. Few of us seem to be aware, however, of the subtle but significant damage that we cause by even lightly touching live coral.

A diver hanging onto a coral colony damages polyps and removed tissues in a small area, probably unnoticed by the diver at the time. But one hundred thousand (or more) divers visit the Florida Keys reef and Caribbean reefs each year, contacting the coral about 10 times per day. Look closely at your favorite reef, and see if the small damages aren't adding up and becoming quite noticeable. As photographers, we have to be especially careful – each shot is important but try to rest your fins & knees on the sand instead of across the gigantic piece of brain coral.

Photographers most definitely are not the only reef abusers – new divers with uncontrolled buoyancy crash down on top of coral heads and reefs. If your buoyancy isn't what you'd like it be – try to stay off the reef about 10 feet (gives you some room to bounce). Also, try to streamline yourself. How many times have you seen a diver dragging an octopus regulator or pressure gauge through the coral? New divers don't know and some experienced divers many not either – perhaps you can suggest that they streamline. For example, tuck the octopus regulator in a pocket or through the armhole of the BC so it doesn't drag. The same can be done with a pressure gauge. I like to slide the gauge between the tank and my back while I'm diving – that way it doesn't drag along the reef.

Divers heading for coral reefs need instruction, not only on safe diving, but proper diving practices that protect the reefs. The less luxuriant condition of many reefs should be our warning that it is time to change our ways. Many areas, i.e. Cozumel (although not strictly enforced yet) have put rules and regulation in effect to not dive within 1 meter of the reef. Let's all think about it – and help watch for reef abusers – after all we want something to take pictures of 10 years from now.



Debbie Mensay—Intermediate



Dennis Deavenport—Advanced



John Van Atta—Novice

## Dive News

by Tom Collier

**BALI, INDONESIA CLOSED With 18 participants**

May 27 – June 5, 2011

- 2 nights in Ubud
- 7 nights and 6 days of diving at the all inclusive at Scuba Seraya Resort.
- More information available on the HUPS forum \$1,250.00 per person (dbl occp),
- Airfare not included

**FLORES – ALOR, INDONESIA**

June 5 – 15, 2011

- Komodo Dancer live-aboard
- 9 days of adventure diving in the Indonesian archipelago

More information available on the HUPS forum \$3,355 per person (dbl occp), Airfare not included



Mary Lou Reid—Advanced





Betty Lundquist

# Lifetime Member - Betty Lundquist



Jackie Reid—Advanced

By Alicia Grimes

## Keep training and your confidence will grow!

If you are a follower of this column you will remember that last month we took time to honor our fellow diver/lifetime HUPS member, Charlie Lundquist. As promised, we will continue to shine the light on the Lundquist home by visiting with his lovely wife Betty and how her love of diving began.

To begin with Betty stated, "I have always loved the water – swimming, waterskiing and fishing. In 1979 Charlie and I went to Hawaii and snorkeled for the first time. What a beautiful world it was under the water". So like most of us, that was all it took and off they went to the YMCA for certification. Their dive instructor was Mike Holt. Mike took them to Lake Travis for their check out and then Cozumel for their first ocean experience. While purchasing their dive gear at Ken Lee's Dive Shop Betty said, "We heard about a new dive club being formed, HUPS". Betty continued, "It was a club for divers interested in photography. We thought it would be a great place for information and to meet some other people interested in our "new" sport". This is what Betty and Charlie found and more, they made friends with fellow lifetime members the Goolsby's. For the next 30 year Betty watched their children grow up to become divers and even some of her grandchildren. The Lundquist's and the Goolsby's traveled together for dive trips as well as exploring the world topside.

While traveling together, Betty took up underwater photography in 1986. As she stated, "I knew nothing about f-stops, depth of field or any other camera lingo but I needed something to do while Charlie (who had already taken up underwater photography) was taking photos. Charlie set me up with a Nikonos III with extension tubes and framer. I got pretty good at sneaking up on critters". When digital came along, Betty switched to a small Olympus which is compact and easy to pack. Betty is still proud of the fact that she is still pretty good at sneaking up on the critters.

Since I am a true believer that our lifetime members are full of great advice, I asked Betty to give us something we all can use to improve our skills. Betty said and I quote, "I know everyone talks about buoyancy control which is really important. But what I have found equally important is training. In 1985 we took a Dive Master course. We were not really interested in becoming Dive Masters but the training boosted my confidence more than I thought it would". Betty continued, "I feel the more training you get, the more comfortable you are in the water. The more comfortable you are, the better diver you are, this will lead to better buoyancy and air consumption".

In conclusion, I asked Betty where her favorite dive spot is and without hesitation Betty chose Palau. Betty stated, "Experiencing the Blue Corner was something I will never forget". For a location closer to home Betty chose Utila for the phenomenal experience of seeing a pod of Orcas swimming along the side of boat. "Of course we didn't dive with them but seeing them was something we still talk about".

Although both Betty and Charlie are both retired and have taken up golf, their first love will always be diving.

Thank you to both Betty and Charlie for their time and years spent being members of HUPS.

By Dennis Deavenport

## Mark Fleming: Generosity Beyond the Call of Duty



Mark Fleming

Last month when I got a call from Mark that he had some UW camera gear to donate to HUPS, I figured that it might be some nice items plus a lot of stuff that people might not want or need. But when I picked up boxes and boxes of gear he no longer needed, I was amazed. Sure there were obsolete items like Nikonos cameras and lenses and an old film SLR housing but overall, the equipment was really superb and very useful to a lot of members.

For the really "hot items" like Ikelite strobes, a full Nexus housing + ports for a D100 digital SLR, Ultralight arms, Nikon land strobes, and a nice lens, we put out signup sheets. At the end of the meeting, names were drawn to see who got the gear. Well, it might not have been exactly like "feeding time at the zoo" but the interest was high and a lot of people got really nice equipment that will be put to good use.

By the end of the evening, everything (yes EVERYTHING) was gone. I took my one Ultralight arm and clamp and went home with a big smile on my face. To show HUPS' appreciation, a nice thank you card was sent to Mark.

### Mark Fleming: Generosity Part II

Much to my surprise, Mark called again on May 9th apologizing (?) that he had overlooked a box when I was over picking up the gear. Well, it turns out that the "box" is full of Nikon Lenses. Wow, this just gets better and more surreal every time I think about it. This amazing display of generosity is just overwhelming. We won't be able to get "Giveaway, Part II" organized for the June meeting since we'll either just be getting back from Indonesia or for some of us, still there diving. So we'll do it at the July meeting. Put this on your calendar: HUPS July meeting – don't miss it. We'll be setting up the tables again for drawings for the lenses. There will also be a lot of other stuff from Mark that I didn't have time to sort through and organize for the May meeting. Once again, if you have some equipment or other gear that is still in good condition but you won't be using, bring it to the meeting.

And for you Mark: Thanks from all of HUPS.



# Tropic Star Lodge - Panama

By Brian R. Tulloch M.D.



As any traveler to South America discovers, the whole of that continent lies East of Florida, and most of its eastward shift is brought about by the 600-odd miles of Panama's rectangular geographical location. West lies Costa Rica, East is Colombia from which the province declared its independence at the instigation of an early 20<sup>th</sup> Century United States of America bent on building the Inter-ocean Canal that had bankrupted France's Ferdinand De Lesseps. Hence the Panama Canal crosses NW to SE, most Panamanian development is towards Costa Rica, and its far West Darien Province remains an impenetrable jungle bereft of roads, towns or agriculture. However, as early as the 1930's, Sport Fishermen out of the Canal's Southern exit at Balboa reported catches of giant Pacific marlin, tuna and grouper at the Pearl Islands. By the mid 50's, competitions for these leviathons had extended the hunts further South and West to the deep blue waters off Darien Province. Here the Pacific continental shelf is narrowest and large ocean Pelagics roam barely a few sea miles from dense jungles populated by few Indian tribes.

An early pioneer of these quests for mega billfish was Dallas oilman Ray Smith. The 120 mile trek from Balboa was shortened when he built a small Lodge hewn out of impenetrable jungle at Pinas Bay. To accommodate fishing friends, soon there were other structures, serviced by an Oilman's ability to bring technical development where previously there was none. By 1963 the area offered comfortable lodging, safe anchorage, and stored diesel fuel. Tropic Star Lodge was born. With little fishing pressure from the scant native tribes, the area has continued to produce large mature examples of prized billfish species and the lodge is now holder of some 245 species World records



Our chartered jet prop headed S-West out of Panama City and 45 minutes later banked steeply just before a 6,000 ft mountain to drop onto a short concrete strip. Bead-covered Indian tribesmen directed the plane's nose to a small concrete hut, and minutes later we were on a multicolored bus to the panga that headed for the Lodge. Ray Smith's dream structure has weathered the years well, the gardens are lush with tropical flowers and 2 large red and green macaws squawk an excited welcome. The 31 ft Bertrams have many hours on their timesheets but purr obediently from careful maintenance, top grade reels are lovingly re-oiled after each outing, the chef responds well to the challenge of producing cordon bleu cuisine hundreds of miles from source gardens or markets.

A 5:45 am knock and hot tea starts the day, a brief breakfast and then by 7:30 the Bertrams are headed for the open sea loaded with live bait and lunches individually prepared. It is a *La Nina* year and the news is that trolling offshore would be unfruitful as the pelagics are elsewhere, but inshore trolling of a 15" live skipjack tuna soon produced the steady stream of the drag, and somewhat reluctantly a 5 ft roosterfish was gently lifted out for photographs. Like the pelagics these species are targeted for preservation so, after removal of a circle hook designed only to catch at the edge of the mouth, it was gently released to fight another day. Other roosters followed, then, out to sea, we spotted birds working- brown pelicans diving down like darts from 50 ft high, followed by stately frigate birds which gently plucked morsels dropped by others. Below, the surface boiled, as a bait ball of sardines clustering for protection was assaulted from below by fast moving yellow-fin tuna flashing silver & gold as they slid past the bait-ball to snatch a sardine off the edge before any others were engulfed by more pelicans dropping out of the sky. A fish-shaped lure tossed into the maelstrom was instantly snapped up by the next tuna and soon the reel would scream until the strong-swimming fish could be turned and after a prolonged struggle was dropped into the icebox. Preservation minded, we stopped keeping tuna after a dinner sized number were stored, and subsequent fish were released back to rejoin the sardine feast. One spinning rod showed scarred line and fortunately I had its replacement, a trolling Shimano 30 with plenty of line when the next fish struck live sardine bait. Many hundreds of feet of 30 lb line peeled off the rotating bail before the fish could be turned, only to take another few hundred in another direction. Speculation fanned on its identification. The fish did not jump, so it was not likely a billfish. Maybe a roosterfish, but we were miles offshore and they usually inhabit reefs. Perhaps a jackfish, but they usually inhabit cloudy water and we were in deep clear blue. It was a good 30 minutes before the line pointed to the surface and there flashed the silver, yellow and gold of a large yellowfin tuna that on landing bested 65 lbs.

Ever anticipating fresh tuna the Lodge had thoughtfully pre-packed a plastic container of wasabi/soy mix, so soon a smaller tuna was steaked and sliced to be enjoyed as fresh sashimi, rival to the delicious packed lunch added to the icebox before each morning departure. Not all trolling times were active, and when that occurred other options were tried--using the spinner rods and tossing live sardines into wave splashed cliff drop-offs would at times get one lucky with Cubera snapper weighing 5-15 lbs- these are great fun on light tackle. Popping lures in wave breakers near rocks sometimes yielded a selection of cera mackerel and Pacific jacks which gave good challenge to get free of the rocks before working towards the boat. Sometimes a sardine tossed near floating debris would yield a dorado. Several occasions one saw the tall sharp tail of a sailfish inspecting the live bait, but none were inclined to give it a sample. Several Cubera snapper that had to go 60 lbs tore up the 20" live bait without getting to the circle hook mounted at the nose. Each day the inshore boats held radio contact with those fishing the Offshore Banks and each day they reported no billfish. With no catch state regulations the mate was able to fillet each fish designated as tablefare and have it iced down soon after it was caught.



Promptly at 3 pm the lines came out of the water, and the sport fishing boats rose onto a full-throttle plane as weary fishermen made the 15-25 mile trek back to the Lodge. Kayaking, swimming, and snorkeling were options to fill the few hours before the lodge's excellent dinner.

Some Photos of perhaps one of the World's remotest yet beautifully sited fishing lodges are included, the rest will in due course be shared on the Picasa website.

**Please note: Brian Tulloch M.D. will be our presenter in October where he will be give us a presentation on diving & fishing in Panama.**

**Please mark your calendar!**



# Meetings & Presentations



# 2011

## Meetings

Month	Date	Presenter	Show Title & Synopsis	Contest Topic
January	10-Jan	Gary Harris	Still and video presentation of Whale Shark & Alaskan Eagles	Eyes and/or Teeth
February	7-Feb	Ken Knezick	Ten tips to improve your underwater photography	Seahorses & Pipefish
March	7-Mar	Tom & Kay Collier, Mike Greuter	HUPS Rivera Recap from HUPS trip in October 2010	Blue Water
April	4-Apr	Frank & Joyce Burek	3 mini presentation on Ecuador, Galapagos and a underwater recap of their HUPS trip to the Philippines in 2010.	Negative space
May	2-May	John Van Atta	Australia & the Coral Sea	Odd shaped Bottom Dwellers
June	13-Jun	Jan Baughman & Jim Heimer	Bali—Monkey, Massages and Mandarin Fish	It's only coral
July	11-Jul	Jesse Cancelmo	A Simple Approach to Viewing, Organizing, Post Capture Processing, and Storage of Your Images	Macro subjects
August	8-Aug	Jackie & Mary Lou Reid	Highlights from the Philippines & Cozumel	Sand & Muck denizens
September	12-Sept	HUPS	Recap HUPS trip to Bali May 2011	Patterns
October	3-Oct	Dr. Brian Tulloch	Panama - Dive Adventures in Two Oceans	They come out after dark
November	7-Nov	Ken Bean	New Zealand Diving & Landscapes	Black & White
December	5-Dec	Best of HUPS	Christmas pot luck and Best of HUPS w/ creative photo contest	Best of HUPS & Creative

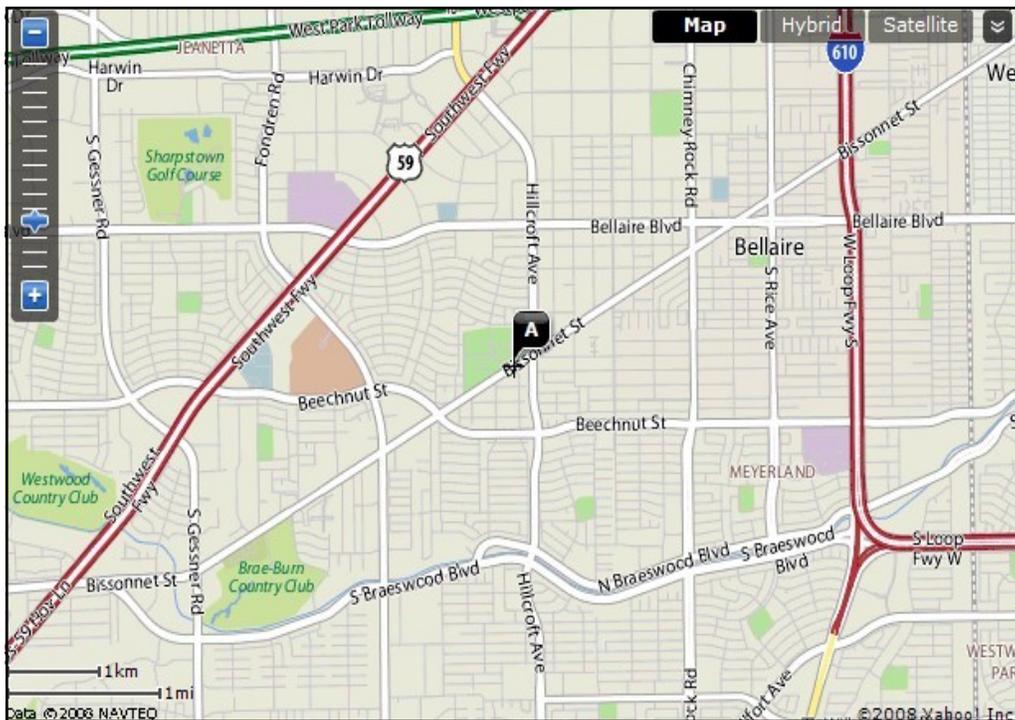
## Workshops & Education

Event	Date	Instructor/Leader	Online Info
Underwater Video Techniques <i>*RESCHEDULING*</i>	TBA	James Heimer	TBA
Dive Travel for the 21st Century	Aug. 6, 2011	Ken Knezick	<a href="http://hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/2011-21CenturyPacking.htm">http://hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/2011-21CenturyPacking.htm</a>
Post Processing Basics: Photoshop & LightRoom	Sept. 24, 2011	James Wiseman	<a href="http://hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/2011-Post_Processing_Basics.htm">http://hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/2011-Post_Processing_Basics.htm</a>
Shooting Underwater Video for Post Production	Nov. 5, 2011	Greg Grimes	TBA

Keep up to date with all workshops at <http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops.htm> and on the forum at <http://www.hups.org/forum/index.php?board=5.0>



*The Houston Underwater Photographic Society meets the first Monday of the month at 7:00 PM. (Social time begins at 6:45) The Bayland Community Center is located at 6400 Bissonnet, near the Hillcroft intersection. Visitors are always welcome.*



## 2011 HUPS Officers

**President:** Jim Mensay  
**Vice President:** Greg Grimes  
**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:** Tom Collier

**Historian:** Frank Burek

**Special Events:** Jan Baughman

## Board of Directors

Jan Baughman

Frank Burek

Dennis Deavenport

Henry Ragland

Mike Greuter

Kandace Heimer

Ken Knezick

Mary McDonald

Russell Ramsey

Sandy Bryan

Wendy McSwain

Mike Fernandez

## HUPS Board Meeting Dates

11-Jul

7-Nov

*Bayland at 6:00pm sharp*

## *HUPS on the Web*



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



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



<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?%623!/group.php?gid=174168478778>

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