HUPS

Houston Underwater Photographic Society

December Newsletter

www.hups.org December 2020

Wakatobi - Plus

Mathis Weatherall is a Houston diver with a wide variety of diving around the world. His film on a trip made with the Marlin Dive Team Scuba Club to Wakatobi will be the major part of his December presentation. Along the way, he'll give us some of his history on early diving and what it was like to create VCR films on VCR back in the late 80s. He has been a HUPS member in the past and is always welcome to visit and share his experiences. It is a real treat to have him as (maybe) our first ever December presenter.

My wife, Shannon, is my dive buddy. We have been married for 7 years now. She is a tremendous spotter and great "director" for video edits. We really enjoy our dive trips. When we aren't diving, we enjoy birding! I started birding to have something to photograph and video when not diving. It's been fun. I have been President of Marlin Dive Team Scuba Club (part of Gigglin' Marlin Dive & Swim) for the past several years. I'm good friends with Bill and Tonya Merritt, who own the dive shop. Bill and I went through the same instructor training in San Marcos back in 1984ish. For the past several years I have been teaching UW photo and video classes for Gigglin' Marlin.

I took off a semester and the summer to go work in the Florida Keys as a dive instructor and dive master for Ocean Divers. There I met Steve Frink and he was kind enough to provide UW photo tips and photo critiques. Steve shared building space with Ocean Divers so I got to spend some time at his studio.

When I taught UW Photo at the university (SWT, now Texas State University) the textbook for the class was Howard Hall's Successful Underwater Photography. I still like to reference things from that book!

Something else that I rarely get to share is that my photos were published in Skin Diver Magazine for a whale shark article written by Mandy Wagner at Anthony's Key Resort. We had these amazing encounters several miles off the coast of Roatan in the late 80's. The fishermen would come in on their small dory boats and tell us where they saw the huge (terrifying) sharks, and we'd head out to find them. Robert Jordan, a news anchor from Chicago, was with me that day. He went back to Chicago and shared a short video from the adventure.

When I lived in Roatan (1987-1989) I lived in a small house over the water at Anthony's Key Resort. I ran the photo shop there where I processed E6 film and shot/edited custom videos for guests using Sony Handcam, 8mm tape, and 2 VCRs to edit.

Several of my photos were also published in a Travel & Leisure Book, called Favorite Places.

President's Message

Some time ago one of my wife's co-workers asked me to tell her about my most exciting diving experience. Being put on the spot I struggled with a quick answer. It is difficult to narrow down 30 years of diving into one highlight. I think I said something about manta rays or whale sharks. That evening I really thought about the answer to what has been the highlight of my diving. I had a hard time selecting just one experience, but I can get it down to four that hold great memories for me. Since I have not been out diving lately I thought I would share some of these memories with you.

New World of Macro - My third trip to dive in the Western Pacific was in 1999 when I visited Sipadan, Malaysia. One particular night dive on that trip was the first time I really discovered the world of macro critters. I was diving on the wall and started examining the corals and noticed a plethora of creatures I had never seen before. It seemed everywhere I looked I saw tiny crabs, shrimps and fish. I also realized that the corals, particularly fan corals, made wonderful backgrounds for my photos. That dive really changed the way I would look for photo subjects on future dives.

Starry Night - Back in 2001 on a visit to Little Cayman I was doing my safety stop at the end of a night dive. It was a beautiful evening with clear skies and absolutely no wind. While hanging ten feet underwater I looked up and, through the water's surface, I saw the most amazing collection of stars up in the sky. The stars were perfectly visible, though slightly distorted by the surface. I don't remember much about that dive, but I sure remember relaxing in the warm water while staring at the stars on the safety stop.

Proud Dad - A trip to Bonaire in 2014 was the first trip on which all three of our kids were certified divers. Our youngest daughter had just been certified at age 10 ½. For our first dive of the trip we did a beach dive. I recall looking back during that dive and seeing all three of our kids swimming horizontally and neutrally buoyant. I was just so proud of them for learning to dive and being comfortable in the water.

Sights and Sounds - In 2017 I visited Mexico's Revillagigedos Archipelago to dive with mantas, sharks and other big stuff. Most people refer to the area as Socorro because it is easier to pronounce. During an afternoon dive drifting off Roca Partida I had a memorable experience. The water was filled with schools of jacks, sharks and manta rays. The sight of all these big fish swirling around in the current was accompanied by a soundtrack of humpback whales singing in the distance. I never saw the humpbacks during that dive, but by the sound of it they must have been close. It was a hypnotizing encounter.

The experiences above are just a few that keep me diving for more. I hope you can all take some time to reflect on your past dive experiences and let memories lead your planning for future trips.

Speaking of future trips... our December meeting will feature Mathis Weatherall sharing some video he shot in Bali and Wakatobi. Both are certainly destinations to have on your wish list. I hope to see you on Zoom December 7th!

---David Lenderman

Martin Daniels will host the meeting.

Here is the Zoom broadcast link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89925666545?pwd=Zk5kM1VaQTE5cDNkVzZFRDg2NmRHZz09
Meeting ID: 899 2566 6545
Passcode: 478903

HUPS Member of the Year Nominations

I am honored to nominate Martin Daniels as the 2020 HUPS member of I am honored to nominate Martin Daniels as the 2020 HUPS member of the year. Martin has been a key member of HUPS for many years and has volunteered his time for numerous club projects. 2020 has been a crazy year of cancellations and lost opportunities where many functions have been indefinitely postponed. However, Martin has allowed us to continue to function by orchestrating the HUPS zoom meetings. And even though we can't meet in person he has continued to do the exhaustive monthly work of the photo contest coordinator, which we all enjoy. Martin also serves the club by participating as a board director, helping with the HUFF project and volunteering whenever there is a need.

His many creative contributions to the club this past year warrant Martin Daniels be chosen as the 2020 HUPS MEMBER OF THE YEAR.

The end of 2020 is here and it's time to consider contributions made to HUPS. This year is unusual since I can honestly make good arguments for three individuals who, in a normal year, would have stood head and shoulders above the rest, all of whom deserve to be HUPS' Member of the Year. After much internal debate and discussions with others, my nominee is Martin Daniels for several reasons, one of which has to do with his solid contributions over multiple years. Simply stated, HUPS doesn't function nearly as smoothly without his attention to detail and rock-solid dependability. An organization like HUPS can't have too many such individuals. Martin has served as our Photo Contest Coordinator for two years and this has been done smoothly and with class. He obviously cares about doing a good job. Presentations at normal meetings run seamlessly due to his capability to handle and maintain our projection needs.

Martin has also been a board member for several years and served as a team member for our ground breaking and impressive HUFF project. His thoughtful contributions in all areas are highly valued. Finally of note in this year of disruption due to the pandemic, Martin has stepped into the void to provide the technical lead necessary for us to have monthly meetings and online workshops via Zoom. He has acted proactively during this time to communicate with speakers and arrange for trial runs to ensure that their presentations run smoothly. He has also volunteered his Zoom expertise to Lunarfins to ensure that their monthly meetings happen and that they run smoothly.

I would like to nominate Mary and Martin Daniels for Members of the Year. The Daniels have been active members since they joined HUPS in 2011.

Mary has served on the board for the last three years. She served as Special Events Coordinator 2018-2020 and was our Holiday Party Chairperson for 2018 and 2019.

Martin has served on the HUPS board of directors since 2013. He has been the Photo Contest Chairman for 2018, 2019 and 2020. Martin has also contributed to several monthly programs. During this crazy year Martin has really stepped up to help HUPS conduct our meetings via Zoom. He has spent many hours behind the scenes researching Zoom capabilities and doing practice runs with presenters. I am not sure how we would have conducted our meeting this year without Martin.

Now, more than ever, HUPS is fortunate to have Mary and Martin as members. I think they have earned being recognized as Members of the Year for 2020.the year. Martin has been a key member of HUPS for many years and has volunteered his time for numerous club projects. 2020 has been a crazy year of cancellations and lost opportunities where many functions have been indefinitely postponed. However, Martin has allowed us to continue to function by orchestrating the HUPS zoom meetings. And even though we can't meet in person he has continued to do the exhaustive monthly work of the photo contest coordinator, which we all enjoy. Martin also serves the club by participating as a board director, helping with the HUFF project and volunteering whenever there is a need.

Announcements

January Meeting: Anything Goes

It will soon be that time again - time for the January ANYTHING GOES video night. So, if you want to see your underwater video on the big screen – send some clips to Tom Collier. Just short little snippets, nothing long, 30 secs or less, the more the merrier. He will string them together and make a presentation for the January program. Your clips do not need to be post processed or super-duper quality as he will attempt to enhance (if necessary). You do not need to add a sound track but you can if you want (not saying he will use it, but you can if you want). Previous ANYTHING GOES programs have turned out great and everyone has enjoyed seeing all the video. This year will be harder as practically no one has been diving but dig down deep and try to find some jewels that we have not seen too many times. Please send your clips to Tom Collier via: www.WeTransfer.com. Just address your files to tom@tpixs.com and he will get them.

TGCC 2020 Member of the Year

Congratulations to Martin Daniels for his selection as the Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs (TGCC)'s 2020 Member of the Year. He earned this award by his:

--Years of dedication and leadership that he's provided to HUPS
--Audio/Visual programming support of the TGCC at its Annual Club Awards Luncheons
--Support of the Lunarfins Scuba Club
--Support as Zoom Program Director for both HUPS and Lunarfins in this year of COVID-19

He has been mailed a plaque in recognition of his significant contributions and positive effects he's had on our dive community.

Remembering Cliff Segerstrom

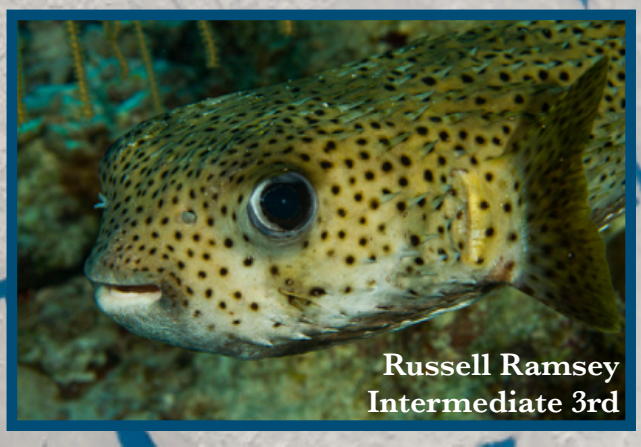
Former HUPS member, Cliff Segerstrom, passed away on July 25, 2020. He and his first wife (Jane, who passed away from cancer) were the dive team whose programs had the biggest influence on HUPS members in the early years of HUPS. Cliff had been ill for a number of years and his widow, Diane, is now in assisted living. The following were Cliff's contributions to dive club activities:

--HUPS Lifetime Achievement Award recipient
--Known mostly for his A/V slide presentations to both HUPS and the Houston Underwater Club
--Joined HUPS 1985
--HUPS Board member 1988, 1993, 1994 & 1995
--HUPS SeaSpace Film Festival Coordinator in 2000
--Presented numberous A/V programs to HUPS from 1986 to 1998
--Volunteered for HUPS special events such as manning the HUPS SeaSpace Booth and producing slide slows for our "topical" night programs (Red Sea Night, etc.)

Newsletter Editor

Our own Energizer Bunny, Betsy Beasley, has offered to step into the role of HUPS Newsletter Editor. Please join me in welcoming her into her new role. I'm sure she will do a great job.

We should also take a moment to thank Monica Losey for her years of service as Newsletter Editor. She has done a fantastic job producing colorful newsletters month after month. Monica, your efforts are appreciated! ---David Lenderman



Russell Ramsey
Intermediate 3rd

2020 POTY Standings thru Year End

Justin Wallace
Novice 3rd

Betsy Beasley
Intermediate 1st

Novice		
1st	Justin Wallace	681
2nd	Kathy Long	662
Intermediate		
1st	Betsy Beasley	799
2nd	Russell Ramsey	753
Advanced		
1st	Dennis Deavenport	887
2nd	Steven Anderson	752
3rd	Catrin Pichler	628
4th	John Van Atta	626

Catrin Pichler
Advanced 3rd

Kathy Long
Novice 1st

Barry Cline
Intermediate 2nd

Dennis Deavenport
Advanced 1st

2021 Presentation and Contest Topics

	Presentation	Presenter
December	Wakatobi & Bali Best of HUPS	Mathis Weatherall Martin Daniels
January	Anything Goes – Short Video Clips from everyone	Tom Collier
February	Macro Photography	Barry Cline or Mike Bartick
March	Diving in Indonesia	Marty Snyderman
April	TBD	Barry Cline or Mike Bartick
May	HUFF Winners	Betsy Beasley

2021 Meeting Schedule

Jan

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Catrin Pichler
Advanced 2nd

Kathy Long
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!

HUPS on the Internet

www.hups.org

www.youtube.com/user/HUPSdotORG

www.facebook.com/groups/174168478778/

2020 HUPS Board of Directors

Frank Burek
Mary Daniels
Martin Daniels
Mike Greuter
Monica Losey
Henry Ragland
Debbie Mensay
Jim Mensay
Joe Haws
Russell Ramsey
Craig Beasley
Betsy Beasley
Laura Veariel

2020 HUPS Officers

President:
David Lenderman

Vice President:
Dennis Deavenport

Secretary:
Tammy Allyn

Treasurer:
Tom Collier

Membership/Newsletter:
Monica Losey

Photo Contest:
Martin Daniels

Video Contest/HUFF Coordinator:
Betsy Beasley

Workshop Coordinator:
Tom Collier

TGCC Reps:
Frank Burek
Ja Van Pruett
Mark Leiserowitz

WebMaster:
Joe Holden

Trip Coordinator:
Joe Haws

Historian:
Frank Burek

Special Events:
Mary Daniels

Social Media Coordinator:
Laura Veariel

Merchandising Coordinator:
Sandy Bryan

Moody Gardens Coordinator:
David Lenderman

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