



Here Be Dragons

February 1st Presentation with Tom Collier

By Jim Mensay

At many dive resorts, there is a requirement to check dive logs. The next time our President, Tom Collier, hands his over for one of these checks, there will probably be some tattered old page in that log book with a map on it, and at the far corner of that map, in a big blank space beyond the boundaries of the known world, will be the following words, "HERE BE DRAGONS!"

Last year Tom & Kay Collier ventured far from home to the shores of Australia. After a few day of serious business negotiations, they put the work-a-day world aside and, rather than the known world of the Great Barrier Reef, they ventured into the unknown to go out to look for those dragons, the Leafy and Woody Sea Dragons that is. And find them they did. The proof is in the pudding, I mean pictures.

Let's give our President, and last years Advanced Photographer of the Year winner a warm welcome as he shows us what mysterious creatures live at the edge of the world. As usual our meeting will

begin at 7 PM- Bayland Community Center - 6400 Bissonnet. A map can be found on the back of this newsletter.



Photo by Tom Collier, © 2010

Everybody is Somebody's Lunch

By Jim Mensay

Last month, Ken Knezick amazed us all with his stories of adventure while diving the Great Sardine Run off the coast of South Africa. With air temps in the 50's, water temps in the 60's, viz sometimes less than your arm's length, and waves taller than your height, Ken reminded us that "When something good enough happens, you forget about how rough the rest of the time has been while you were waiting." Some of Ken's travels, like some of yours, take you to some primitive places. And when you go to South Africa, as one of Ken's guides described it, "You've got 15 minutes to toughen up".

While witnessing one of the largest migrations of marine life anywhere, Ken reminded us that down there, in the middle of that bait ball of sardines, birds, dolphins, whales, sharks, fishes, and divers....."Everybody is Somebody's Lunch".

Well, Ken was nobody's lunch or desert, and he came back with the photos to prove it. If you missed it, log onto Ken's website to see it for yourself:

http://www.divetrip.com/southafrica/sardine_run_photo_gallery.htm

Thanks again Ken for another exciting story, and we look forward to hearing from you again in the near future.

President's Message

New Normal

By Tom Collier

'New Normal' – you hear that phrase a lot recently regarding the current economy. But what does it mean and how does it affect us? I believe that the phrase was coined last year by Bill Gross, the managing director of PIMCO, the world's largest bond fund. He is forecasting a 'New Normal' U.S. GDP growth rate of 1% - 2% per year for the foreseeable future versus a historical 3+% average growth rate. Thus, his idea of a 'New Normal' is that we will all have to do with less than we have in the past. (Of course, there are other economists who disagree with Mr. Gross and forecast a rosier picture.)

Regardless of which economic model you buy, the 'New Normal' is going to be a pain in the rear for HUPSters. NN (New Normal) already means that I can take fewer bags and less weight on airline flights to my diving destination without additional charges. NN means that there are fewer scheduled flights to those same destinations. NN means that I am going to get less for more.

I am going to get less for more, meaning more US dollars. NN means that the US dollar is worth less versus many other currencies – now my overseas dive trip cost is going to cost me more because my dollar is not worth as much. Great, so now when a beer cost \$ 9.00 AUD (Australian dollar) it does not equate to \$ 4.50 USD like it used to; it means it cost almost \$ 9.00 USD – Ouch! I like beer but \$ 9.00? NN means the price of oil is high, regardless of the fact that the world is in a recession, because crude oil is priced in USD. And, that same correlation is also relative to my hotel cost, food and everything in between. My dive trips are going to cost me more – period.

So, what can I do to better cope with the NN? (For one thing, go on HUPS dive trips – they cost less [shameless plug]). Seriously, since I must do with less, I have started down sizing the camera equipment I carry on each trip. I have a backpack that will hold a lot of stuff but it can weigh quite a bit. If the airlines are not going to allow me to carry that backpack or restrict the weight of my carry-on, I need to stop carrying every lens I own and focus on a few lenses / ports that give me good results. I will also need to pack some items into my checked bags that I used to hand carry.

Recently, I have found that I can achieve good photos with less camera gear. I have settled on two lenses and one port that cover most of my u/w photographic needs. Currently, I use a 10-17 mm wide angle lens and a 17-70 mm macro lens, along with a single 6" dome port that accommodates either lens. This reduction in the number of lenses and ports that I carry does not reduce my overall weight by much but it is part of a philosophy of making do with less.

Carrying that same philosophy over to my scuba gear, I have started thinking in terms of layering. I can't afford to pack multiple wetsuits, so now I pack a core warmer (similar to a shorty); put that on under a 3 mil and you have a 6/3 wetsuit. Next I am going to look for a new dive bag as my old bag is just about worn out. Maybe I can save some weight by getting a duffel bag instead of a big heavy dive bag. Let's see, where else can I reduce weight? Clothes – don't need many clothes on a dive trip. Laptop – got to have my laptop; however, there may be a replacement for that also as tablet computers are on the horizon and that would be nifty.

In any event, I have to stop packing the kitchen sink and start thinking about traveling light. The current economic environment is going to force me to carry less or pay more. Well, I did say that my dive trips are going to cost me more; I guess that will be just a fact of life in the NN world.

Tom Collier

TGCC Banquet Jan 30th

By Frank Burek

Last chance to get tickets for the 2010 TGCC Banquet. Call Frank Burek or John Ringrose (telephone numbers and e-mail addresses in the HUPS directory) and get your tickets e-mailed in time for this Saturday's event. The TGCC Banquet is Jan. 30, 2010 at Bayland Community Center. Social starts at 11:00 AM, lunch at 11:45 AM. Price is \$10.

This should be on every HUPS members place to be list – good food, good camaraderie and a chance to honor the 10 HUPS members (Greg Grimes, Joe & Lynn Nicklo, John & Kathy Ringrose, James Wiseman & Sarah Bernhardt, Tom & Kay Collier and Paul McDonald) receiving their HUPS awards. Also Ken Knezick, Dennis Deavenport and Frank Burek will be receiving TGCC awards. Ken joins an elite group with the TGCC Lifetime Achievement Award for his years of service and leadership with numerous dive clubs, with SeaSpace and the dive industry. Dennis will receive the TGCC Neptune Award for his educational work with the HUPS workshops and support of the HUPS Trashfest 09 team. Frank is the TGCC Member of the Year - in recognition of over 20 years as a HUPS Representative and 17 years as its Donation Chairman. He has also served 2 terms as the TGCC Secretary and 3 terms as its President.

Advanced Lightroom Workshop - Feb. 6th

By Greg Grimes, Director of Educational Activities (DEA)

As a follow up to Tom's beginner class back last May and back by popular demand is an Advanced workshop using Adobe Lightroom 2.5. Our very own James Wiseman plans on showing everyone some tricks he's picked up while using this software over the last few years its been out. He will step you into more of the technical techniques of the software. Be prepared to download the trial version of the software and bring along your photos for a hands on demo. As with the beginner's workshop in May, he will touch on the important reasons you should always shoot in RAW while still understanding the database structures of the software through its entire workflow process. As we get closer to the date there will be more information to share.

The workshop will be February 6 from 1 - 4 p.m. at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church. All the details can be found here: http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/10Feb06_AdvLightRoom.htm The workshop sign up sheet is on the forum here: <http://www.hups.org/forum/index.php?topic=190.0>

Any other questions please let me know.
greg@theworldinaflash.com

These Workshops are for you and I would really like to hear from anyone with any future Workshop ideas by [Clicking Here](#)

HUPS Membership Renewal

By Alicia Grimes

Time is closing out on this year's membership drive. If you have intended to renew but have not done it as yet, please take a moment to do so at the February meeting, mail a check or go online. This year's membership will be \$35.00 for individuals and \$45.00 for your entire family, which are quite a deal when that includes monthly meeting and presentations as well as specialized workshops, website forum and monthly newsletter. As stated, this year you have three ways to renew your membership; the first is at the next HUPS meeting the second is by paying online with the membership renewal form from the HUPS website at <http://hups.org/> and lastly mail your check to P.O. Box 270056 Houston, TX 77277.

As an incentive to renew quickly, if you renew at the HUPS meeting you will receive a 2009 Edition of Undercurrent's Traveling Diver's Chapbook which is a book that provides reviews of dive resorts, dive operators as well as liveaboards worldwide. Join now and take advantage of this limited opportunity! If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at Alicia@theworldinaflash.com.

Dive Deep in Texas Parks & Wildlife Magazine

The January issue is the magazine's first ever Photography issue. Included is an underwater section called "Dive Deep" celebrating the wonders found offshore Texas. HUPS member Jesse Cancelmo was honored to provide images for this special issue. Check it out at news stands or see some of the images here: http://www.tpwmagazine.com/archive/2010/jan/ed_3/

Smart Dolphins

Submitted by Joe Nicklo

A pod of bottle-nose dolphins off the coast of Florida use an unusual hunting strategy. One female in the pod creates a ring of silt clouds around a school of fish and then all of the dolphins enjoy the feast. They are smarter than a lot of humans. Check out the video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQ50PYMXDCQ>

HUPS Invited to Participate in George W. Glennie Nature Interclub Exhibition

By Jim Heimer

HUPS has received an invitation to participate in the George W. Glennie Nature Interclub Exhibition conducted by the Merrimack Valley Camera Club of North Andover, Massachusetts. Last year, our first year of participation, HUPS placed 5th out of 95 participating clubs from across the United States and several foreign countries. Two members, Tom Collier and Dennis Deavenport, won individual awards: Tom was best in the Marine Category and Dennis won a Merit Award in that category. Last year, entries were selected from those displayed at the Texas Dive Show at the Reliant Center. This year, we will use those photos submitted for the Moody Gardens display, but we will also solicit additional

photos from those who may not have sent a photo in for that event.

The Exhibition is open to all camera clubs and similar organizations world-wide; all are most welcome to join in as a means of sharing some of the seldom seen or observed scenes of the world that we inhabit with the broadest audience possible. It provides all clubs with the opportunity to participate to give a broad spectrum of Nature specimens submitted for the information and enjoyment of all. This is also one of the few opportunities that photographers may gain well-deserved recognition for their efforts, regardless of subject. This is due to the fact that individual, as well as club awards are presented in a very wide range of categories.

Details of the exhibition can be read at

<http://www.glennie-exhibition.com/2010%20description.html>.

The criteria that an image must meet to be considered nature photography are those of the Photographic Society of America (PSA) for Nature Photography at

<http://www.glennie-exhibition.com/nature%20def.html>. This

document also defines what adjustments may be made to an image. Also of interest is that the judges will weigh the story telling value of a photograph more than the pictorial quality. For examples, the photos from 2009 can be viewed at <http://www.glennie-exhibition.com/>. You will see that the winning photos generally featured animal behavior, rather than just being a wildlife portrait (although they are of generally high pictorial quality as well).

Of special interest this year is a new category - close up photography of specimens that are typically small, (insects and their larvae as well as fungi, flower blossoms, seed pods and microbes - and I would add marine creatures like nudibranchs, anemone shrimp, pygmy seahorses, etc). In general these photos were not submitted or selected for Moody Gardens, and we would like to have two or three of our 10 submissions meet this criteria.

Images should be submitted as 1024 x 768 pixel (maximum dimensions) JPG's at 72 dpi or higher resolution not to exceed 1 MB file size. This will also be adequate for final submission for the exhibition. Images should be sent to Jan Baughman at jbaughman@juno.com in January. Jan will organize a selection committee, and final selections will be made in February and submitted in March. Contact Jim Heimer at hupsweb@earthlink.net if you have any questions.



Intermediate 3rd Place - Debbie Mensay, © 2010

Workshop Question

At the end of last year Greg asked the members to come up with workshop ideas for the 2010 calendar.

One of these workshop requested was titled: Photoshop 101 for Beginners. This event had a large number of people interested. While trying to put this together some of the group is questioning whether or not everyone really means the Photoshop CS series or Photoshop Elements?

In most aspects Photoshop for beginners really means Elements not the CS series of softwares. So Greg is asking that if you voted for this workshop late last year or plan on attending to send him an email stating what it is that you are looking for so that he can tailor the workshop for those specific needs.

We will talk about this subject at the February meeting and greg@theworldinaflash.com is the email to send over your response. He is looking forward to hearing your input to this subject.



Novice 1st Place - Jan Baughman, © 2010

HUPS Member Galleries

By James Heimer - Webmaster

The gallery page on the website has been revised to link to individual photographer's websites. As a starting point, those member sites identified on the news and links page have been used to populate the gallery page. If you have an individual gallery of your underwater photographic images (or a general photographic website that contains your underwater images), let the webmaster know what the link is, and he will add you to the gallery links. Here is the current gallery page: <http://www.hups.org/Gallery%20Pages/Photographer%20Gallery%20Pages.html> .

HUPS Now on Facebook and YouTube

By Alicia Grimes

I would like to let everyone know that we recently set up a HUPS Group on Facebook that all HUPS members should be able to join and keep up with your diving and underwater photo needs. We hope to see everyone there. If you are on Facebook you can access this group using the following link: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=174168478778>

We started a HUPS YouTube Channel as well. We thought it would be a nice avenue to showcase some of our talented member's work. If you have some slideshows that you want to post please let Jim Heimer or Greg Grimes know and they will get your slideshow published on the HUPS YouTube channel. You can access this HUPS channel by clicking the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/HUPSdotORG>

Dive Trip News

By Tom Collier

The Philippines in 2010 April 17-30, 2010. El Galleon Resort – Philippines Islands. These dates are smack in the middle of prime time weather conditions. The trip consists of 10 nights at the El Galleon Resort featuring all meals and up to 4 boat dives per day. Costs start at \$1,520.00 per person (does not include airfare to Manila). Download a trip brochure from the HUPS Forum / Dive Trips board for more information. Trip leader is Tom Collier -tom@tpixs.com - Trip full, wait list started.

Important Dates

Put them on your calendar

February 1

HUPS Meeting -Tom Collier - Dragon Quest

March 1

HUPS Meeting -Kay Collier & Mary McDonald - Little Cameras, Major Results

April 5

HUPS Meeting -Dennis Deavenport & Kandace Heimer - Creative Editing

February 6

HUPS Workshop - Advanced Lightroom with James Wiseman

April 3

HUPS Workshop - Underwater Photography 101 with Dennis Deavenport & Tom Collier [Link](#)

May 10

HUPS Meeting -TBA

Upcoming Monthly Photo Contests

Each month we will have Advanced, Novice and Compact Digital Contests. For complete contest rules checkout: <http://www.hups.org>

February - Juveniles

May - Long & Narrow

March - Flatfish (disk-shaped fish)

June - Nudibranchs & Worms

April - Crustacea

July - Anemones and Things That Live in Them

February Contest

The February contest topic is “Juveniles”. The HUPS website defines that as - “youngster of any species... fish, invertebrates, air-breathers, etc.” You can’t win if you don’t enter!

Descriptions of all 2010 & 2011 contest topics and rules can be found on hups.org.

Entries for the monthly contest should be emailed to photocontest@hups.org at least **48 hours prior** to the meeting. This mailbox is reserved for entries only. If you have a question regarding the digital contest send your email to ddeavenport@comcast.net or underh2o@mac.com. Complete contest rules can be found at <http://www.hups.org>. **Please be sure to adhere to the file naming instructions.** If you do not follow all the rules for digital entries your images will not be judged.

Contest Results

January - Face the Camera

Novice

- 1st Tie - Jan Baughman & Kandace Heimer
- 2nd Lance Glowacki
- 3rd Tie - Kandace Heimer & Greg Grimes

Intermediate

- 1st Paul McDonald
- 2nd Tie - Mike Greuter & Jim Mensay
- 3rd Debbie Mensay

Advanced

- 1st Tie - Ken Kneiczik & Jackie Reid
- 2nd Mary Lou Reid
- 3rd Dennis Deavenport

HUPS 2010 Contest Page Now on HUPS.org

By Greg Grimes

Here is a link to the new 2010 Photo Contest Page:

<http://www.hups.org/Photo%20Contest/Photo%20Contest%20Current.htm>

At the top of the page you can download the 2010 and 2011 topics list to print and put on your refrigerator for quick reference.

The page has a new look and feel. Each month you will be able to watch the slideshows for all three categories as we had set up last year. However we will be keeping track of the POTY standings for all subsequent months as the year progresses in all categories. Also there is a button to keep up to date with the

discussions for each month here on the forum. Now you have no excuses to send in your images. Good Luck!

Announcing Upcoming HUPS Workshops

There are several exciting new HUPS workshop planned for 2010. Here is a quick look at two that are scheduled:

April 3rd - **Underwater Photography 101** by Dennis Deavenport & Tom Collier. The whole scoop can be found here: http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/2010-UWPhoto_101.htm The link for HUPS Forum discussions of this workshop can be found here: <http://www.hups.org/forum/index.php?topic=376.0>

September 11th - **Stop Taking Pictures and Start Creating Images** by David Lenderman. To read about this workshop check out this link: http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/2010-Start_Creating_Images.htm If you have questions or comments or want to sign up for this workshop you can do it on the HUPS Forum here: <http://www.hups.org/forum/index.php?topic=379.0>

Marty Snyderman Teaching Class in Houston

Editor note: the HUPS Newsletter normally does not promote or endorse commercial events or activities. I made an exception this time because Marty Snyderman is a great UW photography teacher and is teaching a class in Houston.

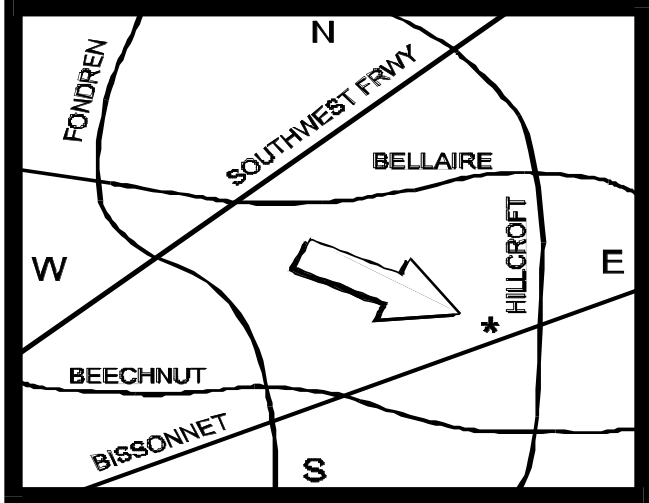
On February 6 & 7 local dive shop, Oceanic Ventures, is hosting a seminar with internationally known underwater photographer Marty Snyderman. The seminar is titled “Photography from the Bottom Up”. Read about the seminar here: <http://www.oceanicventures.com/snyderman.htm>.



Advanced 1st Place - Jackie Reid, © 2010

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

*** BAYLAND COMMUNITY CENTER**



<http://www.hups.org>

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