



May Newsletter

www.hups.org



2018

Rebreathers and Underwater Photography

Rebreathers have been an asset for military and technical divers for years because of their stealth and extended bottom times. But in recent years their accessibility to recreational diver's market has expanded drastically. Several models now have been designed specifically for recreational divers with the design and price tag that makes it affordable.

A bit about me, I discovered my passion for diving when I was 8 years old. Since then becoming a scuba instructor became my primary goal. At the age 16 I became a Divemaster with World



Confederation of Underwater Activities or CMAS, and on my 18th birthday I got my instructional rating. Since the age 18, I have been actively diving several rebreathers and other technical gear. Closed Circuit Rebreathers are a true passion of mine. I love to share some of my ideas and my experiences diving CCRs.

In my program I will cover a brief history of the rebreathers, how they came about, and the state of the technology now. I will talk about how they work, why use the rebreather, why not use a rebreather, and who can benefit most from using it. Are you ready for rebreather diving?

Are rebreathers ready for you?



President's Corner

I am getting ready to go diving! Therefore, I will miss our meeting this month. So, I'm doing what we all love to do - I'm bringing out all the dive gear and all the photo gear to make sure all the batteries are charged and that everything is in working order. I LOVE GEAR. So, I'm a bit sad to miss the presentation this month on rebreathers - a photographers dream is to have no bubbles to scare the fish and the ability to be under longer. So, don't miss this **educational** program. Plus, there will be a test when I get back - I will need ya'll to tell me all about it. Make sure to give Aiar Ghelber with Gulfcoast Scuba a warm welcome and a big thank you.

Are you are asking yourself how you can **participate** in your club? May I suggest entering the photo contest and staying for the **entertaining** presentation that our amazing photo contest coordinator, Lance Glowacki creates every month. The photo contest is a great way to get feedback on your photography and extend the fun you have after the dive is over. I have learned more about underwater photography by entering the contests and seeing the great work done by our own members. Because I participate I now look at a lot of underwater photos to learn and understand more about composition, technique and our unique gear. I am looking forward to seeing how Leading Lines are used in underwater photos this month. And in preparation of next month's contest, it is time to start reviewing your photo library for macro photos of either hard or soft coral. Remember we are not looking for reef scenes, but macro shots of polyps. If you are not sure if the photo meets the theme, please contact Lance or Marty.

Lorna Carpenter
Novice 3rd



I have also learned more about fish and critter identification since becoming a photographer. Being an underwater photographer is **educational**. I can still remember when I first learned to dive when I was not a photographer and I couldn't remember what I had seen long enough to find it in a book. It is one of the reasons I wanted to do photography. I now know that shrimp are not fish (they are crustaceans), dolphins are mammals (not fish) and that sharks are fish.

We have now touched on every aspect of our CORE MISSION:

Underwater photos through Education, Participation and Entertainment

You may be wondering what your Board of Directors, BOD, are working on to keep the club running smoothly and to improve it. The entire team is engaged in making the club an enjoyable and rewarding experience. As videography has become more accessible and utilized, we have decided to have more guidance for our videography contest. In addition to the monthly workshops that Tom Collier is hosting on learning videography editing, Tom has volunteered to be the Video Contest Coordinator. In this additional role, he is working on creating the contest rules and the format that will be used for sharing this media. Like the photo contest the coordinator will be working with both the folks entering the contest and the judges. Let's give a big thanks to Tom for this volunteer work. Nineteen people comprise the BOD and next month I will highlight the work being done to keep our hardware in good working order.

I sincerely believe that our photography brings the oceans to life for the public. And through our website, social media and Moody Gardens our work is being shared more widely than ever before.



Green Fins International Year of the Reef

Divided into four parts, the campaign aims to start cultivating a positive behavior change within the diving community with one main objective: **MAKING SUSTAINABLE DIVING THE SOCIAL NORM**. The first part of the campaign is **Redefine the Dive**. This action point identifies all the threats diving can have and provides the tips and tricks guides can use to "redefine" how their guests dive. To the right is just an excerpt from their infographic. Follow this [link](#) to see the full the infographic and learn more!

HUPS Workshops

There will not be a HUPS Video Workshop in May. The facilitator will have gone fishin (diving)! The next workshop will be June 30th.





2018 POTY Standings through April

Novice

1	John VanAtta	266
2	Betsy Beasley	235
3	Kathy Long	217
4	Lorna Carpenter	195
5	Steven Anderson	159
6	Caffery Joseph	123

Intermediate

1	Bess Bright	299
2	Joseph Holden	260
3	Russell Ramsey	237

Advanced

1	Dennis Deavenport	327
2	Craig Beasley	296
3	Beata Lerman	269

Video

1	Craig Beasley	36
2	Betsy Beasley	33
3	Tom Collier	27

John VanAtta
Novice 3rd



Steven Anderson
Novice 3rd



Betsy Beasley
Novice 2nd



Russell Ramsey
Intermediate 3rd



Bess Bright
Intermediate 3rd





2018 Photo Contest Themes

Month	Themes	Description
Jan	Anemones & things that live in them	Just like it says. To qualify, an anemone must be in the shot. The "things" (clownfish, crabs, etc.) are optional.
Feb	Blennies and Gobies	Some of our favorite tiny guys. The ones that like to hug the reef, hide out in holes, or build their nests in the sand.
Mar	Eels	They are pretty easy to spot. Think "snakes with gills". Detail - Morays, snake, garden, etc.
Mar Video	General	1 to 3.59 minutes
Apr	Fish Buddies (two of the same)	Two fish of the same species in the composition (Max number is 6)
May	Leading lines (natural lines that lead the eye)	An interesting topic and something that true artists use to point the viewer's eye to the primary "focus" of their work.
Jun	Corals-Macro (hard or soft)	Coral: a tiny soft-bodied animal that typically lives within a stony skeleton grouped in large colonies. Not a reef composition theme but individual polys is more of the goal.
Jun Video	General	1 to 3.59 minutes
Jul	Butterflyfish	The common name references the brightly colored and strikingly patterned bodies of many species, bearing shades of black, white, blue, red, orange, and yellow. See the Critter Identification section in the April 2016 HUPS Newsletter edition for examples.
Aug	Large swimmers (>4 ft) - not people	A fish or critter that is swimming with a length > 4 feet. Examples: grouper, tarpon, sharks, stingray, manta ray, dolphin, and moray eel. Big subjects are what you are shooting for.
Sep	Fish Portraits	Side on, angled views, or face-to-the-camera shots are what we're looking for. You can have more than one fish in the shot but be reasonable, keep it to two or less, please. And, of course, we're talking fish here... not critters.
Oct	Polka Dots/Fish with spots	Fish that have noticeable spots. Spot: small round or roundish mark, differing in color or texture from the surface around it.
Oct Video	General	1 to 3.59 minutes
Nov	Nudibranchs & Worms	Again, this is pretty specific but you may need to check your critter ID book if you're not sure.
Dec	Best of HUPS	NOVICE, INTERMEDIATE, ADVANCED, and CREATIVE contests: First place winners from each month's Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced categories will be entered automatically for judging. The Creative category lets you enter anything you want as long as you do the photography and any special editing.



Dennis Deavenport
Advanced 2nd



2019 Photo Contest Themes

Month	Themes	Description
Jan	Grouper	Groupers are teleost, typically having a stout body and a large mouth. They are not built for long-distance, fast swimming. They can be quite large
Feb	Seahorses & pipefish	Just like it says. Anything in the subfamily "Syngnathinae". Look it up and learn something.
Mar	Sharks & Rays	Not that you have to read all of this but it might be interesting: Chondrichthyes or cartilaginous fishes are jawed fish with paired fins, paired nares, scales, two-chambered hearts, and skeletons made of cartilage rather than bone. The class is divided into two subclasses: Elasmobranchii (sharks, rays and skates) and Holocephali (chimaeras, sometimes called ghost sharks, which are sometimes separated into their own class).
Mar Video	General	1 to 3.59 minutes
Apr	Schools of Fish	We're talking beaucoup Pisces this month. Lots fish... not critters, just fish. What is a school? Good question. Let's see if we can take a stab at it. How about 12 or more of the same fish.
May	Eyes	Any sea life that has an eye. Can be fish, invertebrates or mammal.
Jun	Juveniles	This seems simple but it's not always easy to know when you have a juvenile of a species. I'm really not sure I can offer you any good advice other than look it up or ask someone that probably knows. Anything that's not a mature adult is an operational definition. In reality, we're probably looking for fish or critters that are obviously still maturing. Good examples might be juvenile angelfish that have distinct markings or juvenile spotted drums that still need a while to grow into their fins. You get the picture (I hope).
Jun Video	General	1 to 3.59 minutes
Jul	Camouflage	Underwater camouflage is the set of methods of achieving crypsis—avoidance of observation—that allows otherwise visible aquatic organisms to remain unnoticed by other organisms such as predators or prey.
Aug	Macro subjects	The main subject is smaller than an orange. Can be a portion of a larger subject (eyes, fins, etc.). Should be taken with a macro lens or one that focuses close. Don't just crop the heck out of a picture.
Sep	Scorpionfish, Gunards, Lionfish	Another theme that gives you multiple choices of fish. This theme gives you up to 3 possible choices of fish families. So come on and submit a photograph or two to the contest.
Oct	Single color focus	Subject must be a single color or shade of color. Examples green moray eel, green parrotfish, soap fish, sharks, sponge, coral.
Oct Video	General	1 to 3.59 minutes
Nov	Damselfish, Chromis, Hamlets, Basslets	A group of small fish generally 3 to 6 inches in length that have a perch like or oval profile. If you are not sure look in your fish id book.
Dec	Best of HUPS	NOVICE, INTERMEDIATE, ADVANCED, and CREATIVE contests: First place winners from each month's Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced categories will be entered automatically for judging. The Creative category lets you enter anything you want as long as you do the photography and any special editing.



Beata Lerman
Advanced 3rd

Joe Holden
Intermediate 1st





Sunscreens and the Coral Reefs

By Monica Losey

A common ingredient found in sunscreen is toxic to coral and contributing to the decline of reefs around the world, according to research published in October 2015.

Oxybenzone, a UV-filtering chemical compound found in 3,500 brands of sunscreen worldwide, can be fatal to baby coral and damaging to adults in high concentrations, according to the study published in the Archives of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology. The international research team that conducted the study found the highest concentrations of oxybenzone around coral reefs popular with tourists, particularly those in Hawaii and the Caribbean. The study helped explain why scientists aren't seeing baby corals in many established reefs in resort areas. Oxybenzone alters coral DNA, makes coral more susceptible to potentially fatal bleaching and acts as an endocrine disruptor, causing baby coral to encase itself in its own skeleton and die, according to the findings.

Between 6,000 and 14,000 tons of sunscreen lotion winds up in coral reef areas each year, much of which containing oxybenzone. The damaging effects were seen in coral in concentrations of oxybenzone as low as 62 parts per trillion, which is equivalent to a drop of water in six and a half Olympic-sized swimming pools, according to the researchers. In Hawaii and the Caribbean, concentrations were 12 times higher, according to the seawater testing. Outside of coral toxins, the Environmental Working Group (EWG) had previously raised concerns about the chemical, saying that it may penetrate the skin and cause hormonal and cellular changes.

The American Academy of Dermatology, says there is no data showing oxybenzone is a health hazard and notes

alba Botanica products such as:

alba Botanica Hawaiian, Coconut Spray Sunscreen SPF 50

[Amazon.com ~\\$9 for 6 oz \(\\$1.50/oz\)](#)

alba Botanica Emollient Mineral Sunscreen Facial SPF 20

[Walmart.com ~\\$8 for 4 oz \(\\$2/oz\)](#)

Sunology Face Mineral Sunscreen Moisturizing SPF 50

[Amazon.com ~\\$15 for 2 oz \(\\$4.10/oz\)](#)

that it is one of the few ingredients in sunscreen that effectively protects skin from harmful UVA and UVB rays.

Sunscreen is a touchy subject, and there seems to be some major confusion when it comes to choosing sunscreens. For those who need a little clarification, there are two main types of sun blockers — the physical kind, like zinc and titanium dioxide, and the chemical kind, like oxybenzone and its many relatives. They work in different ways: the former blocking or "scattering" the sun's rays, and the latter causing a chemical reaction. Many sunscreens use chemical sun blockers, like oxybenzone, which trigger allergic skin reactions, may be hormone disruptors, and have been found to be toxic to sea corals.

Facialists will usually recommended zinc (a physical blocker), and agree that we should all avoid sunscreens that contain oxybenzone for personal health reasons. This is what the Environmental Working Group (EWG) has to say, "Commonly used in sunscreens, the chemical oxybenzone penetrates the skin, gets into the bloodstream and acts like estrogen in the body. It can trigger allergic reactions. Data are preliminary, but studies have found a link between higher concentrations of oxybenzone and health harms. One study has linked oxybenzone to endometriosis in older women; another found that women with higher levels of oxybenzone during pregnancy had lower birth weight daughters. More than 40 percent of all beach and sport sunscreens in this year's guide contain oxybenzone."

Fortunately, there are some amazing and super chic brands out there that have created safe, non-toxic and chemical (oxybenzone) free sunscreens that actually work.

LaRoche-Posay Anthelios 60 Ultra Light Sunscreen Fluid
Extreme SPF 60

[Walgreens.com \\$30 for 1.7oz \(\\$17.65/oz\)](#)

tarte Tartguard 30 Sunscreen Lotion Broad Spectrum SPF30

[Sephora \\$32 for 1.7oz \(\\$18.82/oz\)](#)

MDSolarSciences Mineral Sunscreen Stick SPF40

[Nordstrom \\$18 for 0.6oz \(\\$30/oz\)](#)

	Presentation	Presenter
January	HUPS 2017 Bonaire Trip	Lorna Carpenter
February	UW VIDEO the Gear Show – Plus Some Thoughts on Challenges & Solutions	Betsy & Craig Beasley, Kathy Long, Martin Daniels, Tom Collier, Dennis Deavenport
March	The Maldives	Kathy Long- w/ photos from Ken Knezick
April	The Maldives	Kathy Long- w/ photos from Ken Knezick
May	Gulfcoast Scuba on Rebreathers & UW Photography	Aiar Ghelber
June	Snoot photography & Interesting facts about Dolphins	Beata Lerman
July	HUPS Sharing Favorite Critters	Beata Lerman + others
August	South-Central Philippines + Tech insights on Video	Tom Collier, Dennis Deavenport, Craig & Betsy Beasley
September	Diving Barbados	Henrietta Passos
October	Whales of Antarctica	Jim & Debbie Mensay
November	Oceanic Ventures presentation TBD	Ann & Eric Kiebler
December	Best of HUPS	Lance Glowacki



Join Us for the HUPS Almost Annual Trip to Captain Don's Habitat, Bonaire October 13 - 21, 2018

Depart Saturday, October 13 and return on Sunday, October 21.

Airfare is NOT included, but is currently available from United for around \$715 per person.

The package includes: 8 nights accommodations, daily breakfast,
3 boat dives per day (8:30am, 11am & 2pm) for 6 days, free Nitrox,
6 days unlimited shore diving, airport transfers, and taxes

- ** \$1078 per diver double occupancy (\$1395 single occupancy) - Deluxe Oceanview Room
(these are the rooms around the pool with two queen beds)
- ** \$1182 per diver double occupancy - Ocean Front Deluxe Junior Suite
(these are the rooms closest to the dive shop with one king bed)

Additional costs not included: marine park fee (\$25), other meals, vehicle rental (can be arranged individually for pick-up at the airport, or you can rent at the resort after we arrive)

A \$100 deposit pp is due now. The final payment will be due at the August meeting 8/6/18. No refunds after 8/6. Make check payable to HUPS. Mail to Jim Mensay at 1530 Goodnight Ct, Sugar Land, TX 77479. Specify your room preference.





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



Find us on:
facebook.

www.facebook.com/groups/174168478778/

2018 HUPS Board of Directors

Mary Daniels	Mike Greuter	Joe Haws
Bess Bright	Monica Losey	Jim Mensay
Frank Burek	Henry Ragland	Russell Ramsey
Martin Daniels	Tom Collier	Craig Beasley
Lance Glowacki	Dennis Deavenport	Joe Holden

2018 HUPS Officers

President:

Lorna Carpenter

Vice President:

Beata Lerman

asst: Dennis Deavenport

Secretary:

Tammy Allyn

Treasurer:

Debbie Mensay

Membership/Newsletter:

Monica Losey

Photo Contest

Coordinator:

Lance Glowacki

asst: Martin Daniels

Video Contest/Workshop

Coordinator:

Tom Collier

TGCC Reps:

Alicia Grimes

Frank Burek

Debbie Mensay

Randy Widaman

Mark Leiserwitz

WebMaster:

Joe Holden

Trip Coordinator:

Jim Mensay

Historian:

Frank Burek

Special Events:

Mary Daniels

Moody Gardens

Coordinator:

Bess Bright

Merchandising

Coordinator:

Sandy Bryan

