

HUPS Newsletter

January 5, 7- 9 pm



Join of us for the annual
Anything Goes Video Night

Inside this issue:

Details of Anything Goes Video Night	2-6
President's Message	7
In Memory of Gary Long	8
TGCC Clubs Awards Luncheon	9
Photo Contests, POTY Standings, Contest Categories	10-15
Fin Facts	16
Message from Membership Chairman	17
Stop Using the Power Switch	18
Photographing Spawning Mandarinfish	19-22
Trips and Announcements	23-36



ANYTHING GOES VIDEO NIGHT

PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY
JUSTIN WALLACE DENNIS DEAVENPORT
HOUSTON UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY MEMBERS

JANUARY 5 • 7 PM
BAYLAND COMMUNITY CENTER
AND ZOOM

Anything Goes Video Night

January 5

**Hosted by
Justin Wallace & Dennis Deavenport**

**It's that time of year again—
Anything Goes Video Night is coming up!**

**This show is a compilation of video clips submitted by
HUPS members.**

Thank you to all of this year's contributors....

Betsy Beasley
Craig Beasley
Aaron Crumbley
Tiffany Crumbley
Mike Fernandez
Joe Holden
David Lenderman
Sue Lenderman
Eileen Singleton
Scott Singleton
Justin Wallace
Dennis Deavenport









President's Message



**Happy
New
Year!**

In Memory of Gary Long



**Gary was a long time HUPS member.
He passed away 12/22/2025 at age 84.
A great spotter with a critical eye.**

**Full obituary will be on
[Earthman's on Bissonett website.](#)
Service will be held 1/22/26 at 11:00.**

**Lewy Body Dementia and Parkinson's took a kind,
loving man who enjoyed a great life and knew the
Lord.**

TGCC Clubs Award Luncheon

Saturday February 7, 2026

\$ 30



The "Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs" (TGCC) and its member clubs - CHUM, HUPS and Lunarfins are holding their annual awards luncheon. The clubs participate together in reviewing their accomplishments, presentation of their club awards, outlining their programs and objective for 2026.

The Awards Luncheon is at Bayland Community Center, Saturday February 7, 2026. Social starts @ 11AM, Lunch about 11:45 AM with Club Awards for 2025 following.

Tickets are available from each club's representatives to the TGCC. The meal will be catered by Todd Rushing. It will be barbecue.

Best of HUPS 2025 Contest



Andy Lewis - Novice 1st



Sage Holt - Intermediate 1st



John VanAtta - Advanced 1st

Creative Contest



Dennis Deavenport - 1st

2025 POTY STANDINGS

Novice		
1ST	Tiffanie Crumbley	610
2ND	Aaron Crumbley	522
3RD	Andy Lewis	243
Intermediate		
1ST	Scott Singleton	735
2ND	Alex Kendig	665
3RD	Sage Holt	457
Advanced		
1ST	Justin Wallace	766
2ND	John Van Atta	756
3RD	Barry Cline	738

Click [here](#) to view the
HUPS Photo Contests
on [**HUPSdotORG**](https://HUPSdotORG).

2026 Photo Contest Categories

January	Banded/Stripes	A fish or critter that has bands or stripes on their body. Detail: A pattern of parallel bands or lines on a contrasting background.
February	Crustaceans (Shrimp, Lobsters, Crabs, etc.)	Just like it says - look it up in the book (crabs, shrimp, lobsters, barnacles, etc.). When in doubt, Wikipedia can help you out.
March	Diagonal Composition	A diagonal composition is employed to arrange elements in an image based on a diagonal line.
April	Gobies, Blennies, Jaw fish, Triple fins	Tiny guys that like to hug the reef, hide out in holes, or build their nests in the sand. If you aren't sure, look it up in your fish ID book.
May	Fish with Spots or Polka Dots	A small round or roundish mark, differing in color or texture from the surface around it, such as boxfishes, coffer fishes, cowfishes and trunkfishes.
June	Eels (morays, garden, etc.)	There are lots of eels out there. They are pretty easy to spot. Think "snakes with gills".
July	Natural light	Use the sun for light (vs strobes), so lighting will be more even. Ideal for large subjects: large reefs, schools of fish, silhouettes, or large wrecks.
August	Odd-shaped bottom dwellers	If it's a bit odd looking and spends most of its life on or in the sand or reef, it probably qualifies. Infrequent-swimmers. Frogfish, crabs, flounder, scorpionfish, toadfish, batfish, lizardfish, crocodile fish...
September	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.
October	Large swimmers (> 4 feet) - not people	A fish or critter that is "swimming" with a length > 4 feet, such as: grouper, tarpon, shark, sting ray, manta ray, dolphin, moray eel
November	Hawkfish, Drums, Triggerfish	This theme gives you up to 3 possible choices of fish families. If not sure, check your fish ID book.
December	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.

2027 Photo Contest Categories

January	Angelfish & Butterflyfish	Pomacanthidae & Chaetodontidae are platter-flat, colorful, and pretty. If you aren't sure, look it up in your fish ID book.
February	Man-Made/Wrecks	Any large object (larger than a basketball) made by man that is on the bottom, such as: ships, planes, vehicles, etc. Avoid trash and debris.
March	Turtles	Sea Turtles, any variety – one or more. Your choice. Our air-breathing aquatic reptile buddies with the ancient pedigree.
April	Black & White (monochrome)	Mono-color images (black & white, sepia, blue-tone, etc.). Only shades of one color are allowed. Can be taken as a mono-color image straight out of the camera or edited down from full color.
May	Flat fish	It needs to have a pronounced flat profile and be a FISH: flounder, angelfish, filefish, butterflyfish, sunfish, triggerfish, etc.
June	Macro - Smaller than an orange	The 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 over-crop.
July	Damsel fish, 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.
August	Cephalopods (octopi, squid, cuttlefish)	Cephalopods are a sub-group of the phylum Mollusca (i. e., mollusks). Limit your entries to: squid, cuttlefish, octopi, and nautilus. (Not snails, slugs, clams, nudibranchs.)
September	Hogfish, Wrasses, Parrotfish, Razor	This theme gives you up to 4 possible choices of fish families. If not sure, check your fish ID book.
October	Sharks & Rays	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).
November	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.
December	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: Enter anything you want as long as you do the photography and any special editing.

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...

Dennis Deavenport



Fin-tastic Image

Wonderpuss at Surface, Anilao, Philippines.



UNDERWATER RIG

Many different Canon, Nikonos, and GoPro rigs over the years but now I'm shooting an OM-1 MKII in a Nauticam housing. I no longer use strobes so all lighting is using two 15,000 lumen BigBlue, and 4300 lumen Backscatter video lights. I also have an external Anglerfish monitor to be able to see if things are in focus. I also mount a GoPro on the top of the monitor which I'll use for wide angle and fish action shots.

1

DIVING

Certified PADI OW 1990, Advanced OW in 1991. A diver friend with a new husband wanted us to all get certified together. So we did. It stuck.

2

PROFESSION

Research and Development chemist. PhD from TCU in 1974, BS Midwestern University in 1968. Worked in Vicksburg, MS, West Memphis, AR, and LaPorte, TX. Retired since 2006.

3

HUPS

I joined in 1998 when I saw the HUPS booth at Seaspaces. I was always interested in UW photography but sucked at it. Needed help.



RECENT PURCHASE

I bought a dive light to spot critters in crevices and on night dives. Looking to maybe buy an Insta 360 and a long pole for Raja Ampat 2026.

Making HUPS a Vibrant Club

Dennis Deavenport – Membership Chair

ddeavenport@comcast.net

HUPSdotORG@gmail.com

This is the year that my objective is to breathe new energy into HUPS starting in 2026. We have a long and impressive history as one of the leading dive clubs in the South Texas area and in Underwater Photographic Societies, in general. We are moving into a younger and more interesting landscape with Justin Wallace agreeing to take over as Vice President. It's a position I've held for over a decade and while I've done what I could to continue our tradition and be creative in the process, it's past time to step down and let younger talent take us to the next level.

Justin and I have had several substantive discussions on how to improve HUPS as a place that everyone will want to be a part of. Some of this involves learning what is working and what isn't working for you, our members.

BUT BEFORE WE GET TOO FAR AHEAD OF OURSELVES

We need your 2026 membership dues !

Pay online at www.HUPS.ORG or send a check to Debbie Mensay or me.

2515 Blossom Bay Ct, Houston, TX 77059

\$35 individual or \$45 family

OK, now we've got that out of the way, please come to our meetings either in person or on Zoom. Justin is already well on the way to establishing a dynamite list of presentations for 2026. It will only get better as he learns the ropes and starts to mold the position into what he envisions. Craig and the rest of us will be there to help.

In the meantime, we encourage anyone to send us ideas on what you'd like to see HUPS do as we move forward.

Look forward to new ideas and new opportunities to have fun and get better.

Advice from the Pros... Stop Using the Power Switch Underwater



Watch Video on YouTube [Here](#)



Photographing Spawning Mandarinfish in Lembeh



With their vivid colours and peculiar shape, mandarinfish are amongst of the most elegant critters in the ocean, no wonder they're also called the psychedelic fish! You're unlikely to stumble upon them randomly though, as they spend a lot of their time in between branches of staghorn corals. Your best chance to see and photograph these elusive animals is towards dusk, when female and male mandarinfish gather up on near the top of branching corals, to engage into courtship and eventually spawn.



First, you will notice the small females popping out across a patch of corals, and a larger male going from one female to the other, possibly chasing a rival male here and then. They are not mating just yet, but seeing where the fish are located gives you an idea of your subject distance, so that you can start adjusting your lighting and camera settings.

Care must be taken not to spook the fish and interrupt the courtship process; if you feel the need to switch-on a light to see what is happening, use a red focus light, as these are much less disruptive to fish life, than a regular white light can be.

Soon enough, the “show” will begin: a male mandarin fish will go to one of the females, and they will slowly start swimming upwards together, cheek-against-cheek, in a rotating motion. Don’t rush-in taking photos: this can interrupt the “dance” and the fish will separate without spawning. Instead, let the love-birds swim up for a couple of seconds, to a point where their excitement will be so high that they will continue swimming up and spawn no matter what, and from that point you can start taking photos with flash. In any case, follow the guidance from your dive operator.



The fish will typically swim up a little more, to a maximum of 3 ft (1m) above the corals, and in a split second it will all happen. The female will release a string of clear eggs, instantly fertilized by the male, and the fish will separate, both dashing down, back to the safety of the coral reef.

The male will then repeat the same process with every female in the vicinity, I have typically seen spawning 5-6 times in a dive, when going for Mandarinfish.

A few months ago, I did two mandarin dives while staying at Lembeh Resort (North Sulawesi, Indonesia), with a goal to capture the peak of the action, where the eggs are visible near the two Mandarin fish.



This is one of the few situations where you really need high-speed bursts underwater, so I picked my trusty Ikelite DS230. I know the DS230 can comfortably handle half-second bursts at 10 frames-per-second at 12% power (-3 setting). During these dives, you can't always be close to the action and I had to crop up to 50% off the frame, despite using a 105mm macro lens. To make sure I could keep the strobe power low (which is also nicer to the mandarin fish!). I would set my ISO value between ISO 500 and ISO 1250, which really is a no-brainer given the image quality of recent full frame cameras. One final tip if you're looking to capture the eggs release: use one strobe rather than two. This will result in a more contrasted photo, with the translucent eggs being easier to tell apart.

By Nicholas Remy

Gadget of the Month



**Anti-fog film for scuba masks.
Apply once and you're fog free forever.**

Go to fogxsolutions to order.

Will be presented
by

Betsy Beasley

At the January
meeting

Gadget of the Month



Bring your
favorite
gadget to the
next meeting
to share.



Price Quote

August 2025

HUPS Group Trip – May 2026

Package includes:

- 7 Nights accommodation (Double Occupancy in a room with A/C)
- 5 Days diving up to 3 times daily (includes 2 night dives)
- Scuba gear clean & complimentary storage
- Breakfast daily
- Lunch on dive days – served onboard or at an outer-island beach restaurant*
- Nitrox at house mix (32%)
- Welcome cocktail party & dinner
- Welcome gift bag
- Taxes, national park fees, cruising permits fees & fuel surcharges
- Taxi transport from ferry dock/airport upon arrival and departure
- Taxi transportation on schedule to/from marina for breakfast and diving days

Package does not include:

- Gratuity for dive staff
- *Breakfast includes 1 drink per person; any additional drinks are not included. Lunches at out island restaurants will be paid by each guest on day of trip.

Divers:

\$2,300 per Diver (Double Occupancy)

\$700 for Single Person Supplement

Non-Divers**:

\$1,200 per Non-Diver (Double Occupancy)

Rooms are shared (double occupancy) in a 2-Bedroom or 3-Bedroom cottage with a shared kitchen/living/patio space.

**Non-divers are included in breakfast, transport, lunches and welcome meals.

Requirement for these rates:

Minimum 10 divers, Maximum 24 divers/snorkelers.

1 complimentary snorkeler space if 10 divers

1 complimentary diver space if 12 divers

Deposit of \$500 required upon booking; balance due 120 days before arrival

For further assistance or questions, please contact Jeff McNutt, jeff@divebvi.com

PO Box 1343, Virgin Gorda, British Virgin Islands

Phone (284) 541-9818

Email info@divebvi.com • Website www.divebvi.com

Questions? Or to sign up contact Russell Ramsey at rjrdived@gmail.com

The El Paso Texas Photography Club (PEEP) will host the 2026 Gulf States Camera Club Council Photography Convention.

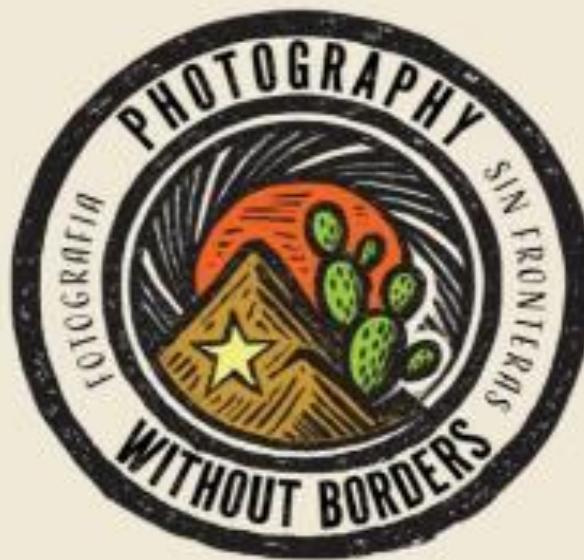
GSCCC 2026 CONVENTION

To stay updated on the list of workshop speakers and events, regularly check our website.

We will be updating with new information as it becomes available.



Keynote Speaker: Wayne Suggs



GSCCC '26 El Paso

May 28-30, 2026



28-30 May 2026 - Wyndham El Paso Airport Hotel



<http://tinyurl.com/gsccc26>





**M-V Fling has been carrying divers out to
the World-Class sites at the Flower Garden
Banks NMS and beyond! It's by far the best
diving in Texas. Come with us to dive in
BLUE-WATER and see coral reefs and all
the animals there!**

**726 West Brazos Boulevard, Freeport, TX,
United States, Texas**

(979) 233-4445

info@TexasCaribbean.com

Go view this video to get a small view of the Flower Garden Banks:

https://

www.facebook.com/100057303948082/videos/422927503937073

To book:

texascaribbean.com



Miss
any recent
HUPS
Meetings?

Click here
to view them
on our YouTube channel
HUPSdotORG

HUFF Virtual Tickets

**Available at the HUFF website
for all previous festivals
(2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)**

huff.hups.org/shop

**Continue to check the website for
upcoming HUFF 2026 news.**

**HUFF 2026 is Saturday and Sunday,
April 11-12, 2026.**

Enter HUFF 2026 at

<https://filmfreeway.com/HoustonUnderwaterFilmFestival>

Entries are now open!

American Charitable Watersport Activities Foundation



2026 Supporter Registration

\$20

The “American Charitable Watersport Activities Foundation” (ACWA) was established by SCUBA divers on March 31, 2023. ACWA is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)(3) public non-profit charity. Staffed by non-paid volunteers, all ACWA’s administrative expenses and some of its donation support, is provided annually by members of our community who chose to become “Supporters”.

Supporter Registration for the “American Charitable Watersport Activities Foundation” (ACWA) is open to Clubs and Individuals who reside in the United States of America.

“Supporters” on record for 2023, 2024 & 2025 are listed on a “Supporter Master List” and need not complete this form. They continue their charity efforts with their 2026 payment of \$20 to ACWA’s treasurer - Mark Leiserowitz (contact information listed below).

New “Supporters” need to complete this form to provide ACWA with contact and IRS reporting information. To join the others who believe in supporting the operations of a charity targeting our community. Please print legibly as e-mail addresses will be utilized to keep supporters abreast with the charity’s status and your name as identified below, used in any future donation reporting required by you or the IRS.

Make Checks Payable To: **ACWA, c/o Mark Leiserowitz, 5205 De Milo Dr., Houston, Texas 77092**

Name: _____ Phone / Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Click [here](#) to view the
Spring 2025 Video Contest

SPRING 2026 VIDEO CONTEST

Entries are due by midnight May 1. Short Video and Feature Length Video categories. Voting will take place on the HUPS Video Contest Facebook page through May and winners will be announced at the June HUPS meeting.

View the rules on hups.org.

Address questions to betsytennis@gmail.com

Please transfer files to Betsy Beasley via the free service - [WeTransfer.com](https://wetransfer.com)

Membership

Info for Dues Payments

\$35 single person membership

\$45 family membership

Payable via PayPal on-line through HUPS webpage or cash/check. If choosing to pay via cash/check, please let us know so we can provide to you a mailing address. <https://www.hups.org/join>

Contact Dennis Deavenport at ddeavenport@comcast.net

SAVE THE HUFF 2026 DATE

April 11-12

at Midtown Arts & Theater Center Houston (MATCH)

Monthly Photo Contest

Photo contest entries are due on the Wednesday before the upcoming monthly meeting. Please send them to Martin Daniels at

HUPS_Photo_Contest@googlegroups.com

Address questions to Martin at

martin.daniels3@gmail.com

From the Editor.....

Send program ideas to Justin Wallace

at jwunderwater@gmail.com

Send workshop ideas to David Lenderman

at underh2o@mac.com

Send newsletter entries to Betsy Beasley

at betsytennis@gmail.com

2026 HUPS Dates

Bayland Community Center

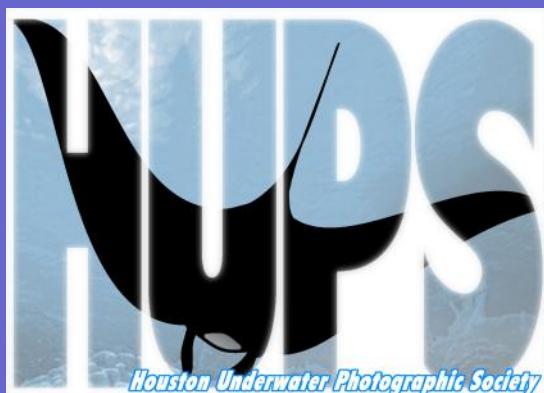
General meetings - Jan 5, Feb 2, March 2, April 6, May 4, June 1, July 7, August 3, Sep 14, Oct 5, Nov 9, Dec 7

BOD Meetings - TBD

Workshops - TBD

The BOD and Workshop dates are likely to change, as needed.

Stay Tuned!



2026 Meeting Presentations

Who	When	Topic	Expanded Topic
Justin Wallace & Dennis Deavenport	January 5	“Anything Goes Video Night”	Video clips and short films from HUPSters
Andy Lewis	February 2	“The Fling & The Flower Gardens”	History and behind the scenes look at The MV Fling
	March 2		
	April 6		
HUFF Crew	May 4	HUFF 2025 Retrospective	Overview of winning films and events of the weekend
	June 1		
	July 6		
	August 3		
	September 14		
Dennis Deavenport & others	October 5	Raja Ampat on the KLM Mari	
	November 9		
Martin and Mary Daniels	December 7	Christmas Dinner/Best of HUPS, and Creative Contests	Pot Luck Dinner/ Best of HUPS in Novice, Intermediate and Advanced Categories/ Creative Contest

JANUARY 2026

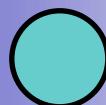
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	5	6	7	8	2	3
4				9	10	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18		20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FEBRUARY 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	
15		17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16		18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				



Monthly Meeting 7 pm at Bayland and on Zoom

**The Houston Underwater Photographic Society
meets at the Bayland Community Center from
7 pm - 9 pm, the first Monday of each month
(except Monday holidays).
6400 Bissonnet, Houston, Tx. 77074
Visitors are always welcome!**

2026 HUPS Officers

**President: Craig Beasley
Vice President: Justin Wallace
Secretary: Tammy Allyn
Treasurer: Debbie Mensay
Membership: Dennis Deavenport
Photo Contest: Martin Daniels
Video Contest/ HUFF Coordinator/ Newsletter: Betsy Beasley
Workshop Coordinator: David Lenderman
TGCC Reps: Frank Burek, JaVan Pruett and Mark Leiserowitz
Webmaster: Joe Holden
Trip Coordinator: Trish Ross
Historian: Frank Burek
Special Events: Mary Daniels
Merchandizing Coordinator: Sandy Bryan
Moody Gardens Coordinator: David Lenderman**

2026 HUPS Board of Directors

Frank Burek	Henry Ragland	David Lenderman
Mary Daniels	Monica Losey	Betsy Beasley
Martin Daniels	Mike Greuter	Russell Ramsey
Brion Saathoff		



hups.org



youtube/user/HUPSDotORG



facebook.com/groups/174166478778



<https://www.instagram.com/>