



Tip:
Photographing Models
Underwater

*The best part about
composing an image
underwater is taking
advantage of buoyancy.*

Underwaterphotoguide.com

June Presentation: From the Heat of Africa to the Cold of the Arctic

Join us on June 3rd at Bayland Community Center as we leave our dive gear in the closet and take a topside trip with 3 amazing photographers: Jim and Kandace Heimer and Monica Losey. The first adventure will be with the Heimers. Kandace and Jim Heimer will wander a little bit

away from the underwater world to discuss their December 2012 photographic safari to Botswana.

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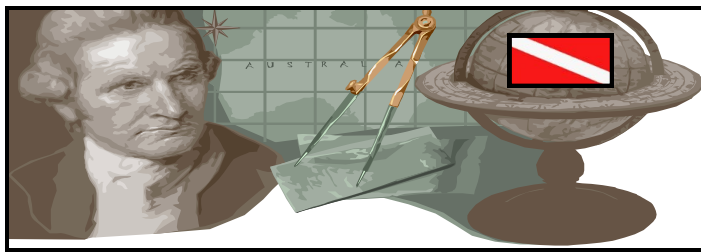
They traveled with Houston-based professional photographer Andy Biggs and joined an international group of a dozen other photographers for nine days at two safari camps in the Okavango Delta, before they took an add-on trip to the Okavango Panhandle. There, Kandace continued her photographic adventure with some exotic birds and reptiles posing for her camera. Jim was stalking (and catching) the elusive Tiger Fish. The discussion will include getting there, what to take, the routine in camp (it is pretty exhausting), and a slide show of some of Kandace's favorite images from the trip.

For the second part of the presentation, we will be entertained by Monica Losey as she takes us on an adventure of a lifetime to the Arctic Circle. In Monica's own words, "I'll be taking everyone on a voyage to the Arctic Circle where we'll see polar bears, whales, walrus, and birds. No underwater diving action, but there will be water – crystal clear, frozen, 28 degree F water!! You might want to bring a jacket as the scenery will be a bit on the chilly side."



This should be a great presentation and one that should not be missed. As always visitors are welcome and if you are interested in a bit of dinner afterwards, several HUPS members meet [at Don Carlos](#) for a bite. Join them if possible.





Photographing Models Underwater Workshop

Submitted by Greg Grimes

Space is filling up for the underwater model photo shoot and it got me thinking about a few years back when HUPS member James Wiseman had also arranged an underwater photo shoot, (similar to the one that Terry Moore is setting up) at the club house of another member John Anderson. Since most of us had never had this experience before, I was not sure what I was in for. When I arrived James was already working like a ringmaster in a circus. He was setting up black sheets in the water for backgrounds, coordinating the models with fantastic outfits and makeup and making sure that everyone that was there was going to have an amazing time, which we did.

We all got in the water along with a few of the models to do some over/under shots that came out beautifully. Then the real action began when all of the models got in the water in some over the top outfits and makeup and we took turns photographing these amazing ladies. In between, there was plenty of time for us to share stories and techniques with our fellow HUPS members. A great time was had by all. Both the HUPS members and the models benefited by adding to their portfolio. I guess you can say this was a symbiotic relationship.

As I look on this day I remember getting home and not being able to sleep for the adrenaline pumping through my veins. This time Terry has spent a lot of time and effort to perfect the experience and I cannot tell you how excited I am to get the opportunity to do this again. I hope you are too. For those of you who were not at the last photo shoot, here is a link to the [YouTube](#) video from that day to get you ready. It is still the most popular video on the HUPS channel. I hope you join us!

Clint Moore's Diving with Manta's in Yap

For those of you who attended our last meeting and were treated to some fantastic footage from presenter Clint Moore and his trip to Yap to dive with the manta's you remember how wonderful it was. Clint and Terry Moore have spent some additional time working on this footage and it can be viewed at the following [link](#). Clint and Terry hope you enjoy it!

HUPS 2013 Club Trip—Bonaire

Submitted by Jim Mensay

Join HUPS in a return trip to Captain Don's Habitat, Bonaire in October 2013

(<http://www.habitatbonaire.com/>). We would depart on Friday, October 11 on the United overnight flight, arriving in Bonaire early morning Saturday, October 12, 2013. We would return to Houston on

Saturday, October 19. Airfare is NOT included, but is currently available from United for around \$600 per person.

The package includes: 7 nights accommodations, daily breakfast, 12 boat dives, free Nitrox, 6 days unlimited shore diving, airport transfers, and taxes.

\$904.00 per diver double occupancy Deluxe Oceanview Room (these are the rooms around the pool where most of us stayed during the last HUPS trip to the resort, with two queen beds)

\$988.00 per diver double occupancy Deluxe Junior Suite (these are the newest rooms that were under construction during our last HUPS trip to the resort, with one king bed)

Additional costs not included: other meals, vehicle rental (can be arranged individually for pick-up at the airport or you can rent at the resort after we arrive). Optional travel insurance is available for \$59 per person. To confirm your space, a \$200.00 deposit is due at this time. The final payment will be due by the end of July.

Remember, passports with minimum six months validity past your return date are required for international travel. C-Cards are required for diving.



HUPS UNDERWATER MODEL PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP

Date: Sunday 9th June 2013

Location: Vice – President – Terry Moore's private residence

6404 E. Bending Oaks Lane, Pearland, TX 77584

Phone: 979-319-1844

Time: Anytime between 10:00AM and 6:00PM for those allocated photo slots. Feel free to arrive earlier or stay later!

What to Bring:

Swimming attire/ towels

Mask & Snorkel

U/W Camera gear

Sunscreen

Laptop



Refreshments: Some refreshments will be provided. I would recommend that you please bring a plate of something to share with everyone. The out door grill will be on so feel free to bring anything you want to throw on it.

Important Information:

Appointment times have been scheduled to allow each shooter around 15-18 minutes per model. You will get to shoot 3 different models. Please arrive 60 minutes early if you need to set up your gear at the pool, 30 minutes early if you bring your camera all ready to go.

Please do not be late. I would love to see you arrive very early than to arrive 5 minutes late and miss your scheduled shoot timings.

Transfer of images to Models:

Please bring your Compact flash or SSD card reader with you. At the end of your session you will be required to dump all your images onto a hard drive before you leave. All models have been promised the best 5 images per photographer. I will select those images, edit them and provide them to each model for download on my website.

Model Releases:

Each model will sign a release before entering the water. These will be kept on file and one will be provided to you for every model you shot.

Social Club Event:

Though this event is for underwater photography it is also a club event. This means everyone can attend. So if you are not shooting come along, hang out, it's a perfect time to enjoy more relaxing conversations with fellow members. Bring your swimming attire; there will be a small area for you to get in the water to cool off.

Cost

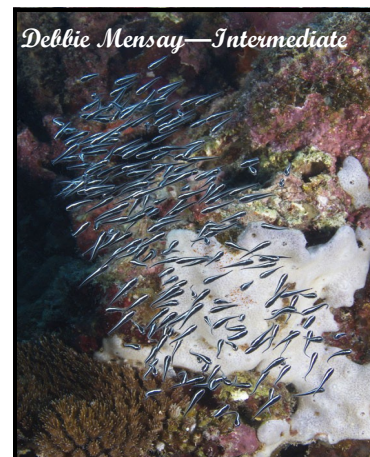
\$10 per allocated 15 minute block of time

\$25 if 3 x15min blocks of time are purchased.

May Photo Contest Results



| Contest results through May 2013 | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-----|
| NOVICE | | |
| 1st | Jan Baughman | 355 |
| 2nd | Craig Beasley | 133 |
| 3rd | John Scheldt | 117 |
| 4th | Joe Holden | 105 |
| 5th | David McCracken | 75 |
| INTERMEDIATE | | |
| 1st | Mike Greuter | 323 |
| 2nd | Greg Grimes | 306 |
| 3rd | Lance Glowacki | 305 |
| 4th | Bess Bright | 241 |
| 5th | Debbie Mensay | 241 |
| ADVANCED | | |
| 1st | Ken Knezick | 372 |
| 2nd | Dennis Deavenport | 371 |
| 3rd | Ken Bean | 265 |
| 4th | Jim Mensay | 253 |
| 5th | Terry Moore | 144 |



Offshore Platforms

Submitted by Jesse Cancelmo article by Melissa Gaskill

I clearly remember the first time I dived an offshore platform. The structure towered above our dive boat like an enormous factory, sitting atop huge, weather-beaten legs that disappeared into the blue Gulf of Mexico. From the surface, it wasn't terribly attractive. But within the maze-like structure underwater, I discovered a marine wonderland. There were corals, sea fans, sponges, large schools of jacks and snapper, four- and five-foot barracudas, sharks, tiny reef fish, crustaceans and even sea turtles. The marine life ranged from splash to 100 feet and beyond, where blue faded to deep purple. It was a natural aquarium with no bottom in sight.

The northern Gulf of Mexico contains the vast majority of the nation's platforms (almost 3,000), and there are another 23 off southern California. Although the terms are often used interchangeably, a rig is a derrick that drills a well, and a platform is the structure that's built once a well is completed. The number of platforms began to climb rapidly in the 1960s, and they quickly became de facto artificial reefs. Government scientists estimate that a typical four-legged platform is equivalent to two to three acres of marine habitat.

"We've done quite a bit of research, and these structures are even more important than we first imagined," said Greg Stuntz, Ph.D., chair of Ocean and Fisheries Health at Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies at Texas A&M University, Corpus Christi. "We see elevated abundance of fish and high diversity. We're confident at this point saying platforms do increase productivity in the Gulf."

According to marine biologist and filmmaker Soames Summerhayes, estimates of fish populations around individual platforms range from 12,000 to 30,000. "Extrapolate that number using the number of existing rigs, and you could hazard a guess of between 40 and 100 million additional fish as a result of these platforms in the northern Gulf."

Despite that potential value to the marine ecosystem, U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) rules require companies to remove nonproducing structures within one to five years, depending on location and drilling lease status. More than 4,000 platforms have already been removed from the Gulf, and the pace accelerated after a September 2010 notice from the DOI reminding offshore operators of the rules. At least 359 platforms are scheduled for removal in 2013.

Legitimate reasons for removing nonproducing platforms include the possible hazard to shipping and the potential for spills or leaks from aging structures — risks that increase if platforms are damaged or toppled by storms. Some environmental groups also support removal as a way to return the Gulf to a more natural state. But many divers, fishermen and scientists want to keep these oases of life right where they are. It's possible to preserve these structures by officially converting the platforms to artificial reefs. The process requires approval by the DOI's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, environmental review by the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and permits from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Federally endorsed, state-run rigs-to-reefs programs exist in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida and California. These programs are funded by donations from platform owners of an amount equivalent to half of what removal would cost. To date, approximately 420 platforms (10 percent of those removed) have been converted in the Gulf. Most were moved to a designated reef site and dropped on the sea floor, although some were cut off below the surface and left in place. In Texas, of 133 platforms converted to reefs to date, only 34 were reefed in place, and all of those were cut off at 85 feet or deeper.

Rigs to reefs isn't a perfect solution. Offshore companies say the lengthy process can be more trouble than it's worth. Many of the reefs are too deep for divers, while others lie on silty bottom with poor visibility. Efforts are afoot to solve these problems: these include two bills currently before congress (see info box) and official requests by various elected officials and interest groups to DOI Secretary Ken Salazar requesting a moratorium on platform removal. Standing platforms make the best dive sites because of their vertical profiles. A prime example is High Island 389A, a platform erected in 1989 that fell inside the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS) when the sanctuary was designated in 1992. In January 2012, 389A went on the government list for removal.

Jesse Cancelmo, who first dived at the Flower Gardens in 1977, calls 389A a world-class artificial-reef dive. Cancelmo chairs the FGBNMS sanctuary advisory council's artificial-reef working group, which is investigating alternatives to full removal of platforms in the sanctuary. Proposed expansion of the sanctuary could put several more platforms within its boundaries. The working group recommended partial removal of 389A: cutting the platform off 60 feet below the surface — the depth at which natural reef in the sanctuary begins. This would allow an additional 25 vertical feet of structure compared to the depth (85 feet) at which rigs subject to cutting are usually cut off. The sanctuary advisory council endorsed that recommendation.

There are still negatives to leaving platforms in place, however. "Platforms aren't actually good habitat for coral, and most of what is on them is invasive," Schmahl said. "Platforms are essentially vectors for invasive species." While other scientists agree that is true, some also say invasions would happen with or without platforms.

A larger issue is that platforms will eventually corrode and collapse. "We don't know if that's a problem," Schmahl said, "but from a management point of view, it's an important question. We also should be looking at the bigger picture of marine spatial planning. How many platforms should we save? Is it better to place them in aggregations in designated locations? Those are some of the questions we need to answer." Cancelmo would like to see each individual platform assessed for its value as marine habitat before removal. "We don't have a one-size-fits-all solution," he said. "There are platforms out there that probably don't merit being left in place, but there are many that do. As long as the structure poses no hazard and liability can be adequately addressed, there's no reason whatsoever to not leave the platforms in place." And, from a diver's perspective, there are plenty of reasons to do so

.Let your federal (and, if applicable, state) representatives know these structures are important to divers. Two bills before Congress would make decommissioning rules more favorable to artificial reefing: S1555, the Rigs to Reefs Habitat Protection Act, and S3525, the Sportsmen's Act of 2012.





2013

Meetings

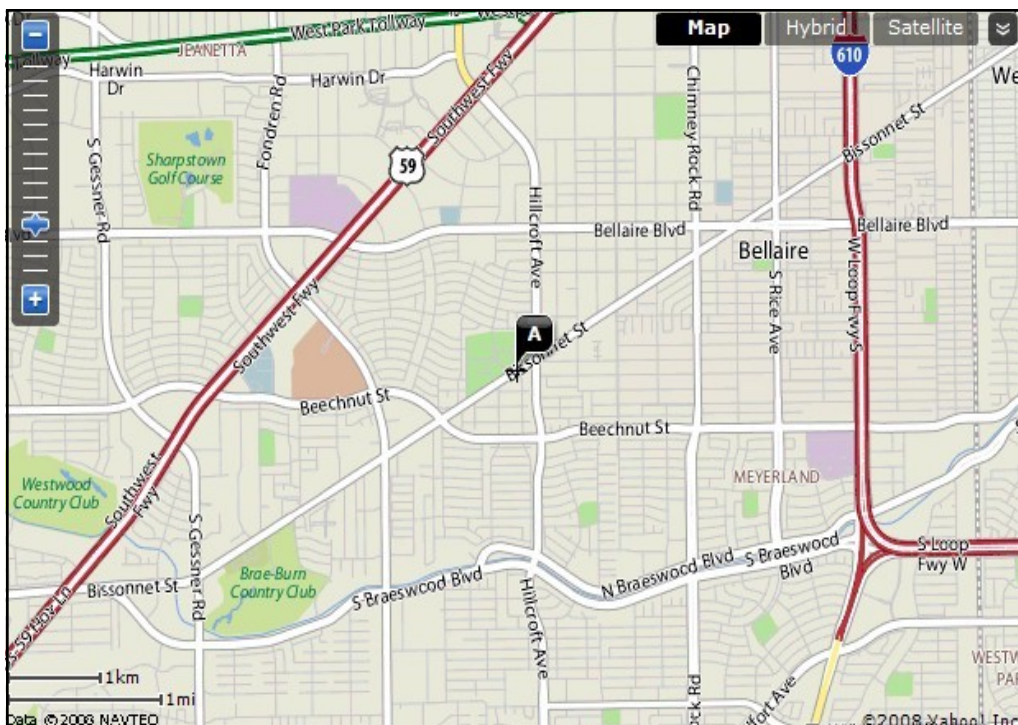
Meetings & Presentations

| Month | Date | Presenter | Show Title & Synopsis | Contest Topic |
|-----------|------|--|---|---|
| January | 7th | Variety | New Year New Ideas for HUPS | Eels |
| February | 4th | Terry Moore | Fiji - Bega Lagoon Dive Resort | Wide Angle Wrecks |
| March | 4th | Ken Knezick | Diving Successfully with Underwater Camera & Strategies to Prevent Flooding | Starfish |
| April | 1st | Jackie, Mary Lou Reid, Dennis Deavenport | Ambon | Cephalopods (octopi, squid, cuttlefish, nautilus) |
| May | 6th | Clint Moore | Yap Mantas | Schools of Fish |
| June | 3rd | Kandace and Jim Heimer, Monica Losey | Africa/Arctic-Polar Bears | Syngnathidae (pipefish & seahorses) |
| July | 8th | John Anderson | TBA | Silhouettes |
| August | 5th | Toby Presteghrd | Komodo | Sharks & Rays |
| September | 9th | Variety | Gear Night- Bring in your Camera Systems for Tips | Juveniles of Any Species |
| October | 7th | Mary Lou Reid/ Dennis Deavenport | Ambon | Ugly Critters |
| November | 5th | HUPS Members | Club Trip Review | Close-Focus/Wide Angle |
| December | 2nd | HUPS Members | HUPS Christmas Party | Best of HUPS & Creative |



*The Houston Underwater Photographic Society meets at
the Bayland Community Center starting at 7:00 PM.
(Social time begins at 6:45)*

*(6400 Bissonnet, near the Hillcroft intersection)
Visitors are always welcome.*



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Jan Baughman

HUPS on the Web



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



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



<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?%23!group.php?gid=174168478778>

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