



The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals.

HUPS January 5th Presents: Journeys within Journeys Costa Rica by Land and by Sea – by Dennis Deavenport



Join us on Monday at Bayland Community Center as we Dennis takes us to Costa Rica. Here is a preview:

Here I am, trying to make sense out of my trip with the McDonalds to Costa Rica. It's all about a common problem I have when confronted with an overload of stuff that I want to share and how to do it with a modicum of grace, humor, and compassion. It started early last year when Paul asked if I would be interested in diving at Cocos Island south a ways off the coast of Costa Rica. Since diving with hammerheads and vast schools of fish found at the isolated islands in the Eastern Pacific was on my bucket list, I said "of course". Thus begins a journey that turned out to be many journeys in one. Paul and Mary have a friend that has a nice condo in the coastal city of Jaco and through their connections we ended up having a great place to base our operations. After a while, our entourage had grown to include Paul's son, Todd, his wife, Holly, and their tragically ill daughter, Cora.



So it's September and Costa Rica is in front of us waiting to be discovered. Side trips to rain forest sanctuaries filled with exotic flowers, insects, and animals give way to Paul's and my trip to Cocos Island on the Okeanos Aggressor.



Just before we leave for the Okeanos, we take what was one of the high points of the trip, Poás Volcano, just north of the capital, San Jose. Situated high above the central valley, Poás is frequently shrouded by clouds. The day of our visit was no exception and at over 8400 ft elevation, it was pretty cool for t-shirts and shorts. However, the gods of the clouds relented a bit and we were treated with spectacular views before all was swallowed up once more in swirling clouds and mist. On the way back, Paul and I are dropped off at the hotel in San Jose where we meet a number of fellow divers before heading down the next morning to Punta Arenas where we embark on our voyage.

After 30 hours on a boat crowded with 19 divers from Europe and the US, we arrive and start our dive adventure. We learn early on that Cocos Island has two seasons: wet and a lot wetter. We arrive somewhere in between seasons and only see the sun sporadically. However, that doesn't seem to matter to all of the pelagics in that part of the world. We found them in abundance... Schools of hammerheads, whale sharks, dolphins, massive night-hunting parties of white-tip sharks, endless schools of jacks, and giant rays spiced up our diving. Visibility was a bit limited due to runoff and all of the food in the water but with patience and luck, we're able to experience it all.



From a photo/video production basis, it wasn't what I was used to. Deep diving, current, and other factors limited our bottom time and macro was mostly an after-thought. However, when the diving was good, it was very good. We made new friends and thanks to the 30 to 34 hour sea-legs, we saw almost 4 years of "Breaking Bad" episodes before the trip was over.



Back on the mainland, the rest of the McDonalds have been busy exploring the countryside. Luckily, when we arrive back with the group, there is still plenty of adventure waiting for us. One day, we drive down south along the coast to take in Manuel Antonio National Park where we are introduced to the local denizens including monkeys, sloths, raccoons, lizards, and bugs or all kinds. On another, we walk on the beach in, in the town, and up in the hills to view possible building sites.

After 17 days exploring Costa Rica by land and by sea, we turned for home and Houston, changed forever by our experiences.



HUPS' PRESIDENT'S PAGE- LOOKING FORWARD IN 2015

By Russell Ramsey



Beata Lerman—Novice

I want to encourage you to attend our January 2015 meeting as the program is entitled **COSTA RICA AND COCOS ISLAND** on the live aboard, the **Okeanos Aggressor**, presented by Dennis Deavenport. The topic of the Photo Contest this month is: **Two or More of a Kind**, meaning two or more corresponding critters or fish, similar in form, matched or associated with one another.

Looking back, 2014 was a transitional year for HUPS. While it was a trying year as HUPS lost three of its prominent members, it was also an exciting year as we had 12 great meetings, 11 wonderful programs and the Christmas party showing the Best of HUPS and presentation of the winners of the Photo Contest. HUPS staged a work shop regarding the GO PRO system which was well attended by 25 plus HUPSTERS. Two trips were arranged— one to Anilao, Philippines led by Jesse Cancelmo on behalf of Island Dreams, and the second trip, in what is turning into an annual trip, to Bonaire led by Jim and Debbie Mensay.

Looking forward, what does HUPS have planned for 2015?

Coming up shortly will be the Moody Gardens wall hanging of photos if Moody Gardens does not start their renovations. We will be calling on some of you to assist in removal and rehangng of photos at Moody Gardens in the next month or so.

We will have 12 great meetings for all of you to attend in 2015. Dennis is working on a possible March presentation by SUBA, a start-up company involved in the marketing of a new integrated dive computer and BCD system. It should be interesting and I am sure all of you will have a lot of questions as to how the system works and what this system does to assist the diver and in particular the underwater photographer. Other programs on the agenda are the February program concerning the trip taken by Tom and Kay Collier to Komodo and the March program presented by Mike Greuter on Mexico's two separate and distinct coasts.

We have 3 workshops on tap this year starting with **Underwater Lighting** in March, **Video Editing and Presentation** in June and **Pro Show Gold** in August.

There will be 11 Photo Contests and now due to popular demand a quarterly Video Contest.

HUPS has two trips scheduled for this year.

The first trip is scheduled to begin May 16th through May 23rd to the BVI. 12 HUPSTERS will be diving with Dive BVI in Virgin Gorda, BVI. An- add on trip is also scheduled for those who are interested beginning May 23rd through May 27th from Virgin Gorda BVI to St. Croix, USVI for wall diving and diving the Fredericksted Pier. This trip(s) will include two of the best dives in that part of the Caribbean with a dive or dives on the wreck HMS Rhone and a night dive on the Frederiksted pier.

The second trip is what one could categorize as an annual HUPS trip to Bonaire being planned by Jim and Debbie Mensay in October 2015. Bonaire is reputed to have the best shore diving in the Caribbean. If you have not been to Bonaire with Jim and Debbie, this is a must go trip for you.

Your HUPS Board will be meeting in February to plan additional 2015 events. If you have any ideas you would like your Board of Directors to consider, please let any Board member know by the February meeting.

Wishing all HUPSTERS a Happy 2015 and great diving this year,

Russell Ramsey



Mike Greuter—Advanced



New Year - New Contests for HUPS

All HUPS members...

It's a new year and that means that new contests are starting once again. The topics are as follows:

January	Two or More of a Kind
February	Toothy
March	Eels
April	Gobies, Blennies, Jaw Fish, Triple Fins
May	Long and Thin – Fish or Critters
June	Patterns
July	Reef Scenes with Diver or Divers
August	Natural Light
September	Unusual Shapes
October	Cephalopods
November	Night Life
December	Best of HUPS (monthly winners in Novice, Intermediate, & Advanced + Creative topics)

ALSO – DON'T FORGET ! We have a quarterly video contest now.

Abbreviated rules:

- 1) Video must be taken by the entrant (a few still images will be acceptable but they must be secondary to the video).
- 2) It needs to have an aquatic or dive-vacation theme (over and underwater will be OK).
- 3) You can use any editing software. (Suggestion: If you have ProShow Gold or Producer, it will do a good job for you. However, other editing packages will, get the job done, also.)
- 4) Titles, text, special effects, music, voice-over, and transitions are at your discretion. Use your imagination and creativity.
- 5) Segments need to be between 2 and 3 minutes long.
- 6) Any common video format should work but I'll be seeing how that goes as we move along.
- 7) Resolution should be HD if possible (that is, the common 16:9 TV size format of 1920 H x 1080 V). Other formats will be accepted but try to make them 1080 V for best viewing. If I have problems with anything, I'll be in touch.
- 8) Judging will be done by our normal Photo Contest Judges.
- 9) The annual winner will be named HUPS' Video Contest Winner for 2015 & presented with a plaque at the annual TGCC banquet.
- 10) Quarterly contests will be shown at meetings and winners announced.
- 11) I'm not sure we are ready for a BOH video contest just yet. I'm thinking about it though.

Any questions about the Photo or the Video contests should be sent directly to me (ddeavenport@comcast.net).



Renew your HUPS membership

Submitted by Alicia Grimes

Time is once again upon us to renew our annual membership to HUPS. This year as in years past you have options to perform your financial obligation.

1) Renew on line at the [HUPS website](#).

2) Renew at the next meeting by either check or cash.

3) Print out an application and mailing in your dues to the HUPS address of: P.O. Box 270056 Houston, TX 77277-0056

The membership fee is \$35.00 for individuals and \$45.00 for a family membership.

Best of HUPS 2014 Winners



Novice	
1st	Beata Lerman
2nd	Beata Lerman
3rd	John Scheldt
Intermediate	
1st	Bess Bright
2nd	Debbie Mensay
3rd	Debbie Mensay
Advanced	
1st	Jim Mensay
2nd	Dennis Deavenport (tie)
2nd	Mike Greuter (tie)
Creative	
1st	Mike Greuter



2015

Meetings



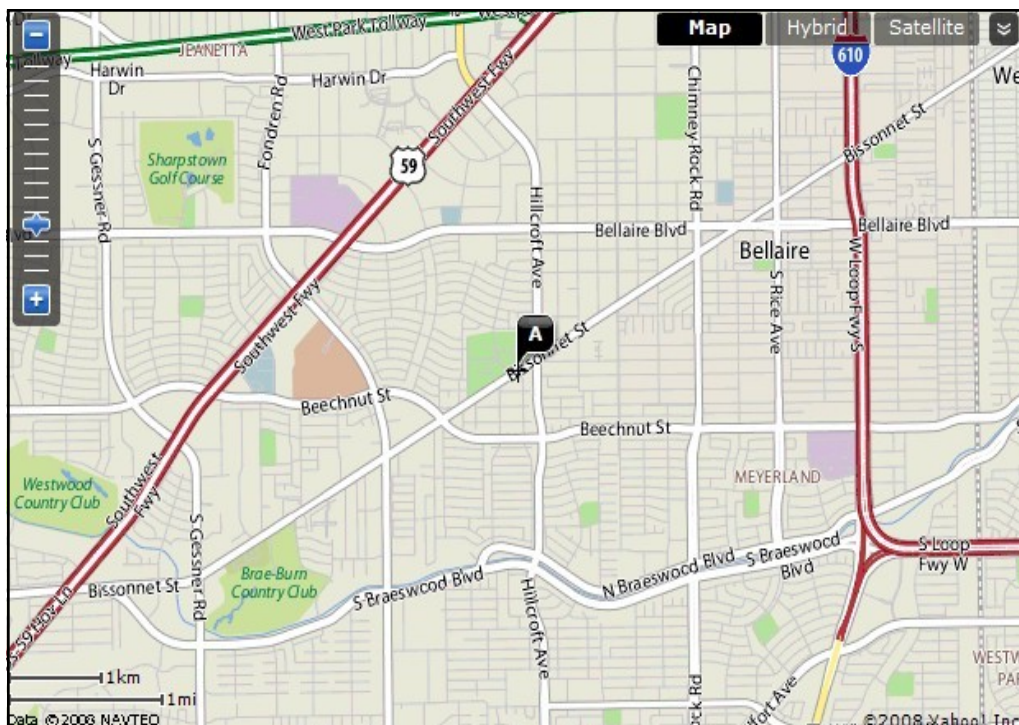
Meetings & Presentations

Month	Date	Presenter	Show Title & Synopsis	Contest Topic
January	5th	Dennis Deavenport	Costa Rica and Cocos Island (Okeanos Aggressor)	Two or More of a Kind
February	2nd	Tom & Kay Collier	Komodo	Toothy
March	2nd	Mike Greuter	Two Coasts of Mexico	Eels
April	6th			Gobies, Blennies, Jaw Fish, Triple Fins
May	4th			Long and Thin - Fish or Critters
June	1st			Patterns
July	6th			Reef Scenes with Diver or Divers
August	3rd			Natural Light
September	7th			Unusual Shapes
October	5th			Cephalopods
November	2nd			Night Life
December	7th			Best of HUPS (monthly winners in Novice, Intermediate, & Advanced + Creative topics)



*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.*



2015 HUPS Officers

President:

Russell Ramsey

Vice President:

Dennis Deavenport

Secretary:

Tammy Allyn

Treasurer:

Tom Collier

Membership/ Newsletter:

Alicia Grimes

Photo Contest:

Dennis Deavenport

TGCC Rep:

Frank Burek /

Debbie Mensay

Web Master:

James Heimer

Workshops:

Lance Glowacki

Trip Coordinator:

Jim Mensay

Historian:

Frank Burek

Special Events:

Jan Baughman

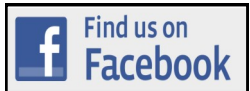
HUPS on the Web



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



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



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

Board of Directors

Jan Baughman

Bess Bright

Frank Burek

Martin Daniels

Lance Glowacki

Alicia Grimes

Mike Greuter

Gary Harris

Ken Knezick

Monica Losey

Jim Mensay

Henry Ragland

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