



September Newsletter

www.hups.org

September 2019

Solomon Islands - Hard Fought Beauty



Eric Keibler has been a stalwart in the Houston dive community for 30 years or more. He and his wife Ann have run some memorable trips with HUPS members including the epic Forgotten Islands trip on the Arenui a few years ago. Their new dive building has about anything you might need and it's always a pleasure to visit their shop. Some of Eric's many skills involve Technical Diving and Rebreather Training. His program on the Solomon Islands should be terrific. Plan to attend Sept 9th at 7 pm and stay late to eat with the group at Jax afterward. In Eric's own words:

For many the Solomon Islands remain a mystery and an unknown. Many people don't even realize that they learned about the Solomon Islands in their WWII

history class when they learned about the battles in the Pacific and more specifically the battles at Guadalcanal. What most don't realize is that Guadalcanal is the largest of over 900 smaller islands making up the archipelago. An independent country since 1978, the Solomon Islands are "off the beaten path" and have a special allure for the fortunate few divers that visit the islands each year. The underwater topography allows for large pelagics to the smallest of creatures to thrive. You may even hear a volcano erupting... Join Eric Keibler as he takes you on a journey to this distant destination.

Eric is a Platinum Pro 5000 Instructor with SSI and an Instructor Trainer, Trainer with IANTD, NASDS and SSI. He is a native Texan and received his Bachelors in Business Administration in Accounting from Texas Tech University. He has been involved in Scuba instruction since 1988. His diving experience has taken him from the Caribbean to the far reaches of the earth including Bikini Atoll, Truk Lagoon and Thailand. Eric is a published author, professional photographer, serves as a member of the International Board of Advisers for IANTD, and is a founding board member of the United States Deep Diving team and the Oceanic Ventures Foundation.



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President's Corner

Wake me up when September Ends. Hurricane season has been devastating already this year. The Bahamas. Dorian brutalized the Bahamas and then the North Carolina coast.

Dive boat safety. The Concepcion will forever change how I think about live-aboards. We do not know the causes of this tragedy, but possible causes are something we can certainly consider as we try to have a greater understanding of the risks on a live-aboard. So, I have done a bit of thinking about what I can do to decrease the risk of a fire as an underwater photographer and naturally I think about charging batteries. So, I googled: "Can battery chargers cause a fire?" and I got a lot of hits. I decided to go to batteryuniversity.com to learn more about Lithium-ion batteries since that is the type of battery I have the most of right now.

I learned that heat build-up / short circuiting / water can be potential causes of fires in lithium-ion batteries. The following are excerpts from the site:

Sony, the maker of the lithium-ion cells that were causing fires in 2006 stated "that on rare occasions microscopic metal particles may come into contact with other parts of the battery cell, leading to a short circuit within the cell."

There are two basic types of battery failures. One occurs at a predictable ... and is connected with a design flaw and often involve a recall to correct a discovered flaw. The more difficult failures are random events that do not point to a design flaw. It may be a stress event like charging at sub-freezing temperature, vibration, or a fluke incident that is comparable to being hit by a meteor.

Quality lithium-ion batteries are safe if used as intended. However, a high number of heat and fire failures have been reported in consumer products that use non-certified batteries. Incorrect uses of all batteries are excessive vibration, elevated heat and charging Li-ion below freezing. Li-ion batteries cannot be fully discharged and must be stored with a remaining charge. , Li-ion must not dip below 2V/cell for any length of time. Copper shunts form inside the cells that can lead to elevated self-discharge or a partial electrical short. If recharged, the cells might become unstable, causing excessive heat or showing other anomalies.

Heat combined with a full charge is said to induce more stress to Li-ion than regular cycling. Keep the battery and a device away from sun exposure and store in a cool place at a partial charge. Exceeding the recommended charge current by ultra-fast charging also harms Li-ion. Li-ion batteries that have been exposed to stresses may function normally but they become more sensitive to mechanical abuse.

Treat the battery as if it were a living organism by preventing excess stress.

Other news: I have the unique opportunity to move to Trinidad, this is going to be awesome for my career and for diving opportunities. Obviously, I will not be able to continue being the HUPS President, but don't worry, your Board of Directors is working to find folk that are excited to step up. If you would like to get more involved, please connect with our Vice President, Dennis Deavenport.

Enjoy the meeting and supper at JAX's. Enjoy the meeting and supper at JAX's.

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

I want to thank Russell Ramsey for stepping up this month with both Dennis and I out of town. I will be in Houma, LA for more Flange Joint training. Right now I do anticipate being at the October meeting.

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.

---Lorna Carpenter

"Underwater photos through Education, Participation and Entertainment"

DAN's Article: Emergency Planning

RESEARCH, EDUCATION & MEDICINE
RISK MITIGATION

EMERGENCY PLANNING: WHAT MAKES A GOOD PLAN?

By Francois Burman, Pr. Eng, MSc.

How can you compile a realistic, practical and effective emergency action plan (EAP) that addresses real concerns rather than theoretical hazards? Bare-minimum compliance to specified requirements, haste, inexperience or unrealistic expectations can lead to an ineffective EAP. So how do you get it right?

While each emergency situation will differ to some extent, the following elements are essential to include in all EAPs.



1. Hazard identification

Hazards vary depending on the location, environment, activity and process. When identifying a hazard, consider which

category of harm it could cause: injury, illness or loss. Group hazards according to their nature, such as the following:

- *Physical:* noise, temperature, sun exposure, pressure, electricity, heavy loads
- *Chemical:* gas contamination, asphyxiants, irritants, toxic substances
- *Biological:* macro (rodents, maggots), micro (bacteria, viruses, fungi)
- *Ergonomic:* ventilation, exhaustion, strains, limb injuries
- *Psychosocial:* stress, burnout, violence, substance abuse
- *Mechanical:* machinery, slips, gas cylinders, heavy objects

2. Risk assessment

Focus on the major risks — those that will have the biggest impact on the operation and that may cause injuries, fatalities or major loss to property.

3. Required emergency responses

Responses depend on each situation, but the following are some examples:

- *Search and rescue:* missing divers or persons
- *Injury management:* stabilization, resuscitation, medical treatment
- *Fire management:* fire extinguishment, evacuation
- *Rapid communication:* quick response to obtain fast assistance
- *Recovery:* preserve the scene, cleanup



4. Available assistance

Carefully examine all possible resources that can be used in an emergency, including evacuation services, search and rescue, medical services and security.

5. Required equipment

Appropriate equipment is needed to address most situations. You may need fire-protection equipment, communication devices, medical equipment and supplies, and recovery equipment (e.g., stretchers and hoisting devices).

6. Training and preparedness

The following steps will ensure both appropriate and rapid responses in an emergency:

- Assign each task to the right person who will not panic and will keep a cool head.
- Use straightforward and short checklists that contain no more than five or six immediate actions.
- Provide training on how to respond as per the EAP and on the rapid use of emergency equipment.



7. Competence and confidence

- *Review:* The team who will be involved in mitigating and containing the situation needs to review all EAPs.
- *Verify:* Carry out EAPs while paying attention to all the details to ensure they achieve the desired aim. Always have alternative plans in case the primary plan is rendered ineffective.
- *Competence:* Training in the use of resources and equipment along with practice and regularly planned and unplanned drills will ensure that emergency personnel know exactly what to do.
- *Confidence:* The whole team of operational staff will have confidence if they have a proven, effective plan and competent colleagues. **AD**

HUPS Announcements

REEF Fest 2019

[REEF Fest 2019](#) registration is now available! Book diving and snorkeling, register for events, and purchase your ticket to 'For the Love of the Sea' banquet online today! REEF Fest is an annual, four-day celebration to acknowledge the success of marine conservation and education initiatives in the Florida Keys. Events include educational seminars, social gatherings, diving and eco-adventures alongside some of the most prestigious names in diving and marine conservation. All REEF Fest events are open to the public, but pre-registration is requested.

Live from the Gulf of Mexico!

Starting August 14th, you can join live broadcasts with researchers as they explore areas around Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, as well as [other reefs and banks](#) under consideration for [sanctuary expansion](#).

This summer, Global Foundation for Ocean Exploration (GFOE) is working aboard the [Research Vessel \(R/V\) Manta](#) to make these broadcasts possible. Scientists will study low-light (mesophotic) reef communities, investigate how corals and sponges from different areas are connected by ocean currents, observe coral reproduction, and sample mesophotic corals using GFOE's custom built [ROV Yogi](#).

Live broadcasts and details of the trip are available from the [GFOE website](#). We hope you'll tune in!

HUPS BOD Meeting

HUPS September BOD meeting will be held on Saturday, September 28th at Bayland Community Center. This will be the last BOD meeting of the year so if you have any topics that you would like the BOD to discuss this year, please ensure to let a BOD member know so it can be submitted to the agenda.

HUFF Update

The January 10, 2020 deadline for the Houston Underwater Film Festival will be here before you know it! The categories are Novice, Fixed Lens, Short Video (all 3 of these are up to 2 minutes long) and Feature Length (up to 5 minutes). There will be a special award for a "Made in Texas" Film. Any novice filmmaker who seeks assistance in post processing their video clips, please contact the HUFF Committee at huff@hups.org.



Updates from Sanctuary Advisory Council Sept 4 Meeting

- 1) The California, Channel Island Dive Boat accident occurred in a National Marine Sanctuary. The sanctuary staff was part of the response efforts. More to follow as the investigation ramps up.
- 2) The Expansion Plan for the FGBNMS is significantly moving forward. Coming soon is the next major mile stone for us divers - another proposed ruling and comment phase. They expect responses on the Expansion and spearfishing issues.
- 3) The SAC has added Dale Shively, Texas Parks & Wildlife, Artificial Reef Program to the FGBNMS SAC in a governmental non-voting seat. Mr. Shively has also become a member of the SAC's Artificial Reef Working Group.
- 4) The FGBNMS is in the selection stage of filling 4 SAC seats - Research, Conservation Recreational Fishing and Education. The current members have reapplied for the last 3 listed seats.
- 5) The Florida Key's NMS has initiated a "Restoration Blueprint" plan. Comment period is underway.
- 6) Mooring Buoy maintenance has been a problem lately. Efforts are supposedly underway to keep them operational.
- 7) A new Ocean Acidification Buoy has been installed on the EFGB.
- 8) On 8-4-19 the SAC fishermen conducted a Vet into Your Sanctuary program. The Vets used fly-fishing gear and had an incredible time.

2019 POTY Standings through August

Novice		
1	Betsy Beasley	671
2	Justin Wallace	228
3	Lorna Carpenter	227
4	Jim Babcock	72
Intermediate		
1	Bess Bright	594
2	John Van Atta	533
3	Russell Ramsey	514
Advanced		
1	David Lenderman	635
2	Dennis Deavenport	612
3	Craig Beasley	583
4	Steven Anderson	402
5	Joseph Holden	184
Video		
1	Craig Beasley	162.38
2	Dennis Deavenport	140.93
3	Betsy Beasley	139.13
4	Tom Collier	122.33
5	J Van Pruett	50.10



John Van Atta Intermediate 1st



Betsy Beasley Novice 2nd



David Lenderman Advanced 1st



Jim Babcock Novice 2nd



Betsy Beasley Novice 3rd



Craig Beasley Advanced 3rd

2019 Meeting Topics

	Presentation	Presenter
January	Short Video Clips – Audience Participation	Tom Collier
February	Regulator Use, Care, & Maintenance	Dave Bullard
March	DSLR, Mirrorless, MFT, IBIS, Full Frame, etc.: what does it all mean for underwater photography and video?	Craig Beasley
April	Houston Police Department Dive and Rescue Unit	Sgt. Edward Godwin, HPD Dive Team
May	Lembeh – Video & Tech discussion	PJ Campagna
June	Flower Gardens National Marine Sanctuary: Diving, Photographing, & Facts	Jesse Cancelmo
July	Diving the Red Sea	Morad Hassan
August	St. Eustacius	Mike Greuter
September	Solomon Islands	Eric Keibler
October	Philippines – Cabillao & Dumaguette	Craig & Betsy Beasley, Tom Collier, Dennis Deavenport
November	BVI – After the Hurricane	Jim & Sudi Babcock
December	Best of HUPS	Martin Daniels

2019 Contest Topics

Month	Themes	Description
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.

Video Contest Update

Entries for our third and final video contest of 2019 are due no later than midnight October 1st. Please send a note to tom@tpixs.com if you want to submit an entry and you will receive a link to the upload page on Dropbox. Do not send your entries via email. The contest rules can be found on the HUPS website: www.hups.org.

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



www.facebook.com/groups/174168478778/

2019 HUPS Board of Directors

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