

December 6 7- 9 pm



Join us for Christmas Dinner and the Best in HUPS and Creative Contests

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Christmas Dinner

Bayland Community Center & Zoom Program – 7-9 pm November 6th

Link to the Zoom broadcast

Meeting ID: 899 2566 6545

Password: 478903

The annual HUPS Christmas Party will be December 6th at Bayland Community Center. Henry Ragland will be picking up the meat and bringing it. We will need sides to go with the meat and desserts. Usually there seems to be a good balance of sides. If possible, please send an email of what you're bringing.

maryameliadaniels@gmail.com

Marty and I will bring ice, sodas and all plastic ware. Anyone who has time to help set up and clean up after would be wonderful.

by Mary Daniels

Creative Contest

Please remember to send your photos for the **HUPS Creative Contest!** This will be the last contest of 2021 and will be judged by the attendees at the December meeting. Please send them before the meeting on December 6th.

Just email your photos directly to:

HUPS Photo Contest@googlegroups.com

Theme: Something Creative or Funny

Description: Keep it underwater or diving related. You can be creative with photoshopping different subjects, backgrounds, etc. The Creative category lets you enter anything you want as long as you do the photography and any special editing. Think outside the box and HAVE FUN!

Deadline: Monday December 6, 2021

Please let me know if you have any problems or questions.

Thanks!

Martin

martin.daniels3@gmail.com



January 3, 2022

by Tom Collier

January's 'Anything Goes' video program will be the 4th year of this series. We started this program back when our members were starting u/w video in earnest and this program was a vehicle that allowed those videographers to showcase video clips without creating intensive video productions. Fast forward 4 years and some of those same HUPS members are now award winning videographers! But hey, you have to start somewhere and the 'Anything Goes' program is an excellent platform. Now is your chance to see your videos displayed on the Big Screen and visited at any time, by the whole world, on the HUPS YouTube channel.

I know that it is going to slim pickings this year, but if you have short video clips that you would like to be included into the January 'Anything Goes' program, please send them to me, Tom Collier, within the 1st half of December. You can send them via email (tom@tpixs.com) or Dropbox or WeTransfer.com (preferred method). I am looking for interesting short underwater video clips. I will take the clips edited or not edited, as I will edit them for you. If you have short 3 min or less edited files with music, narration or special effects, I can take those also and include in the program just as you have processed. Dig deep in your computer and fish out some of those video files to share with the world and let's make a fun video program for January.

President's Message

by David Lenderman

recently had an ad for B&H photo/video show up in my email in box. I glanced at the sale items and the articles/videos included in the email. An article titled "30 Questions You Should Ask Before You Take a Photograph" caught my eye.

In this digital age we have the ability to snap hundreds or even thousands of photos a day. This tends to make us snap happy. We just go around snapping photo after photo without giving them much thought. The result is a bunch of similar, crappy, or at best, mediocre images.

This article spoke of a structured way to put more thought into every image you shoot. It will take a little more time, but by answering these questions before you shoot you will end up with more stand out images. Isn't that what we are after? I know I want more exceptional images and not just more images.

If you have had enough "so so" images read the article in the link below and try answering the questions before you shoot. If you force yourself to think through these questions when shooting, at some point it will become automatic. Just say no to more snap happy images and say yes to more well thought out works of art.

Link to article: Here

While writing this article I recalled a story I saw on television about a photographer that uses a utility trailer as a camera and darkroom. He spends hours for just one image. He is the opposite of being snap happy. I think it is a great story and we can all learn from his mindset. Here is a link to the segment: Click

2021 Photo Contest Categories

January	Flatfish (disk-shaped fish)	Flounder, angelfish, filefish, butterflyfish, sunfish, triggerfish, etc. It just needs to have a pronounced flat profile and be a FISH.
February	Fish Buddies (2 of the same)	2 Fish of the same species in the composition (Max number is 6)
March	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.
April 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. Elements within the picture (straight lines, curves, spirals, etc.) should be obvious to the eye. You can even use interesting negative space effects if you serve the job of attracting the eye of the subject. Look at your stuff and you'll find plenty of examples. Learn to see and create like the masters.
IVIAV I ond and thin (tigh of criftors)		Anything that is characterized by long, thin lines. Can be fish, invertebrates, or even non-living.
June Silhouettes		Silhouettes are interesting in that the outlines and shape of the subject are what is important. A good silhouette should have almost no detail observable in the primary subject. We're talking form and composition this month so see what you can come up with. I f you don't have good examples, you've got plenty of time to go try shooting some. It'll be good for you.
July	Single Color Focus (Blue, Red, Green, Yellow)	Subject must be a single color or shade of color. Examples: green moray eel, green parrotfish, soap fish, sharks, sponge, coral
August	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 2 or less, please. And, of course, we're talking fish herenot critters.
September Echinoderms (starfish of all kinds, urchins, sea cucumbers, etc.)		All Starfish are Echinoderms, but not all Echinoderms are Starfish. So there's the dilemma. But for this month's contest all Echinoderms are acceptable. Asteroidea (Sea Stars), Ophiuroidea (Brittle Stars and Basket Stars), crinoids, sea urchins, sand dollars, or sea cucumbers which are Echinoderms.
October	Composition Through A Hole	A hole is a hollow place in a solid body or surface. This theme is looking for a creative use of a hole in the composition. Examples: subject in a porthole of a wreck, goby or eel in a hole, fish swimming in front of a cave entrance - be creative.
November	Animals in the Sand	Fish & critters that live in sand or muck.
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.

Animals in the Sand



Sage Holt - Novice 1st



Sage Holt - Novice 2nd



Jody Cline - Novice 3rd



Jody Cline - Novice 3rd



Justin Wallace - Intermediate 2nd



Russell Ramsey - Intermediate 3rd



Steven Anderson - Advanced 2nd



Catrin Pichler - Advanced 3rd



Justin Wallace - Intermediate 1st



Catrin Pichler - Advanced 1st

2021 POTY STANDINGS

Novice							
1ST	712						
2ND	Sage Holt	668					
	Intermediate						
1ST	Justin Wallace	828					
2ND	775						
3RD	711						
Advanced							
1ST	Catrin Pichler	835					
2ND	Steven Anderson	800					
3RD	3RD John Van Atta						
4TH	Betsy Beasley	657					

Click here to view the

November 2021 Photo Contest Slide Show on HUPSdotORG.

New Photo Contest Rules

Beginning in Jan 2022, the Photo Contest rules have changed.

We will no longer give bonus points for winners, and we now allow precise local editing

(Dodge & Burn).

No content can be added, removed, or moved, except for cropping the photo and backscatter removal, which are allowed.

Adding & removing content is only allowed in the Creative Contest in December.

Follow this link to see the full Photo Contest Rules and Categories for 2022:

Click here

For more detail, please watch the Photo Contest Rules Workshop video:

Click here

Please let me know if you still have any questions.

Martin Daniels -- martin.daniels 3@gmail.com

2022 Photo Contest Categories

January	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.	
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	Angelfish & Butterflyfish	Pomacanthidae & Chaetodontidae are platter-flat, colorful, and pretty. If you aren't sure, look it up in your fish ID book.	
May	Eels (morays, garden, etc.)	There are lots of eels out there. They are pretty easy to spot. Think "snakes with gills".	
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	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.	
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 fish	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: Elasmobranch (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 lets you enter anything you want as long as you do the photography and any special editing.	

2023 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.	
April Gobies, Blennies, Jaw fish, Triple fins May Fish with Spots or Polka Dots June Silver fish with scales		A diagonal composition is employed to arrange elements in an image based on a diagonal line.	
		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.	
		A small round or roundish mark, differing in color or texture from the surface around it, such as boxfishes, coffer fishes, cowfishes and trunkfishes.	
		Any kind of predominantly silvery fish with scales, such as: Barracuda, Tarpon, Silversides, etc.	
July	Big eyes, Tangs, Triggerfish, Boxfish	This theme gives you up to 4 possible choices of fish families. So come on and submit a photograph or two.	
August	Mollusks (Shells, Nudibranchs, Chitons)	Any mollusks that are not cephalopods, such as: snails, slugs, clams, nudibranchs. (Not squid, cuttlefish, octopi, or nautilus.)	
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.	

Non-Destructive Dodge and Burn in Photoshop

Reprinted from photoshopessentials.com. Written by Steve Patterson

Photoshop's tools and features have their roots in traditional film development.

Two great examples of this are Photoshop's Dodge and Burn tools, both of which are found in the Tools palette. The terms "dodge" and "burn" refer to techniques that were used to either lighten (dodge) or darken (burn) specific areas of a photo by increasing or limiting the exposure in those areas. The Dodge and Burn tools in Photoshop are the digital versions of these techniques and are often used to either lighten underexposed areas of a photo or darken overexposed areas.

As useful as the Dodge and Burn tools are, however, they both suffer from a serious problem. Both of them cause permanent damage to your image, and this is never a good thing.

The best way to work in Photoshop is to keep your original pixel information intact so you always have the original photo to fall back on. This is often referred to as working "non-destructively" in Photoshop, and it's the way you should be working whenever and wherever possible. Fortunately, Adobe has given us numerous ways to work non-destructively on our images, and in this photo editing tutorial, we're going to look at one of them. We'll look at a great technique for selectively controlling the exposure in a photo by lightening and darkening specific areas, giving us results very similar to what we could achieve with the Dodge and Burn tools but without harming a single pixel in the image.

Here we have a photo suffering from a very common problem. The wedding couple should be the main focal point of the image, but thanks to the direction of sunlight and an apparent lack of fill flash, the couple appears too dark in the photo while the background appears too bright:



The original photo



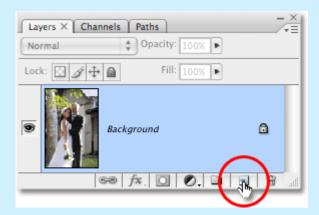
The photo after lightening and darkening specific areas

Using nothing more than Photoshop's Brush Tool and a layer blend mode, as we'll see in a moment, we can easily fix things by lightening the couple and darkening the background:

Let's get started!

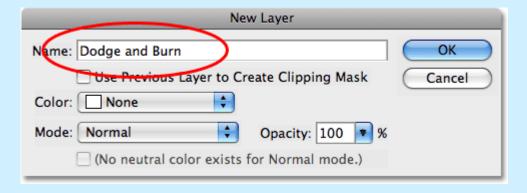
Step 1: Add A New Layer

Open the image you need to work on in Photoshop, then hold down your Alt (Win) / Option (Mac) key and click on the New Layer icon at the bottom of the Layers palette:



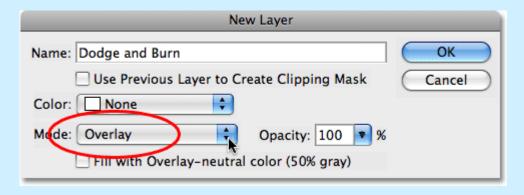
Hold down "Alt" (Win) / "Option" (Mac) and click on the New Layer icon.

Normally, this adds a new blank layer above the currently selected layer, but by holding down the Alt/Option key as we click on the New Layer icon, we tell Photoshop to pop open the New Layer dialog box for us before the layer is added. This gives us a chance to name the layer, and it also allows us to change a couple of important options. First, since I'll be using this layer to dodge and burn different areas of the photo, I'm going to name the layer "Dodge and Burn". You don't have to name the layer if you don't want to, but naming layers is a very good habit to get into:



Name the new layer "Dodge and Burn" (optional).

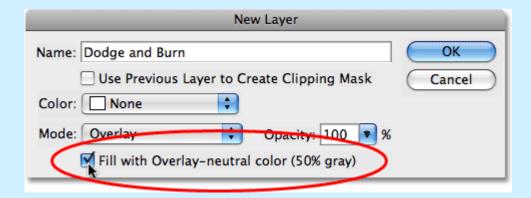
The real reason why we brought up the New Layer dialog box is for the option at the very bottom, Mode. "Mode" is short for Layer Blend Mode, and by default, it's set to Normal. Change the blend mode to Overlay:



Set the blend mode of the new layer to Overlay.

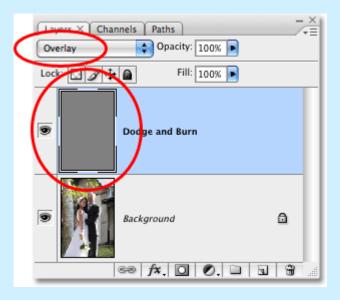
I cover the Overlay blend mode in much more detail in our <u>Five Essential Blend Modes For Photo Editing</u> tutorial, but briefly, the Overlay blend mode is part of the Contrast group of blend modes and is often used to quickly boost the overall contrast in an image. Any areas on the layer that are lighter than 50% gray (meaning the shade of gray directly between black and white) are used to lighten the image, while areas darker than 50% gray darken the image. Any areas that are exactly 50% gray are completely ignored by Photoshop, and when I say "ignored", I mean they actually become transparent. In fact, we're about to see this is action.

With the blend mode now set to Overlay in the dialog box, you'll see a new option directly below it, Fill with Overlay-neutral color (50% gray). Click inside the checkbox to select this option:



Click inside the checkbox to select the "Fill with Overlay-neutral color (50% gray) option.

This option tells Photoshop to fill our new layer with 50% gray. Click OK when you're done to exit out of the dialog box. If we look in our Layers palette now, we can see that we have a new layer named "Dodge and Burn" sitting above the photo on the Background layer. The layer is set to the Overlay blend mode for us, and if we look in the layer's preview thumbnail to the left of the layer's name, we can see that it has in fact been filled with gray:



The new "Dodge and Burn" layer appears in the Layers palette.

I said a moment ago that when a layer is set to the Overlay blend mode, any areas of the layer that are 50% gray become transparent, and if we look at our image in the document window, even though the "Dodge and Burn" layer is filled with solid gray, which would normally mean that our document window is filled with gray, all we see is our original photo. The gray on the "Dodge and Burn" layer is completely transparent:



The solid gray on the "Dodge and Burn" layer appears transparent in the document window.

Step 2: Select The Brush Tool

We're going to lighten and darken different areas of the image simply by painting over them with either black or white. Areas we paint over with white will be lightened, while areas we paint over with black will be darkened. Again, this is because we'll be painting on a layer that's set to the Overlay blend mode. Before we can paint over anything, though, we need to grab the Brush Tool, so either select the Brush Tool from the Tools palette or press the letter B on your keyboard to access it with the shortcut:



Select the Brush Tool.

Step 3: Set Your Foreground Color To White

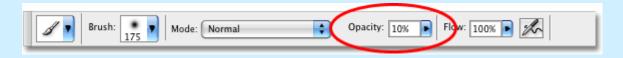
I'm going to begin by lightening the couple, which means I'll need to paint over them with white, which means I need to set my Foreground color to white, since the Brush Tool paints with whatever color the Foreground color is currently set to. If you're following along with your image, press the letter D on your keyboard which resets the Foreground and Background colors to their defaults. This makes black the Foreground color and white the Background color. To swap them so white becomes the Foreground color, press the letter X on your keyboard. If we look at the Foreground and Background color swatches near the bottom of the Tools palette, we can see that white is now the Foreground color (the left swatch):



The Foreground color swatch in the Tools palette.

Step 4: Lower The Opacity Of The Brush To Between 10 - 20%

The best way to work with this technique is to gradually build up the amount of lightening and darkening that's being applied, since even a subtle amount can sometimes be enough. To do that, we'll need to work with a low opacity brush. Make sure you have the Brush Tool selected, then go up to the Options Bar at the top of the screen and lower the Opacity option down to somewhere between 10-20%. I'm going to set mine to 10%. This way, each time I paint over the same area, I'll increase the amount of lightening or darkening in 10% increments, giving me lots of room to work with:



Lower the brush opacity in the Options Bar.

Step 5: Paint Over Areas That Need To Be Lightened

With your Brush Tool selected, white as your Foreground color and the opacity of your brush lowered, simply paint over any areas in your photo that need to be lightened. The effect will be subtle at first due to the low brush opacity, but if you need more lightening in certain areas, just paint over them a few times to build up the effect, making sure to release your mouse button in between paint strokes. You can change the size of your brush by pressing the left bracket key to make the brush smaller or the right bracket key to make it larger. You'll want to use a soft edge brush, and you can make the brush edges softer by holding down the Shift key and pressing the left bracket key a few times. Holding Shift and pressing the right bracket key will make the edges harder.

I want to brighten the couple in my photo, so I'm going to paint over them with a medium size, soft edge brush. Each time I paint over them, I'll increase the brightness by 10%. Painting over them 3 or 4 times should do it. The man's face is especially dark in the photo, so that area may need an extra click or two with the brush:



Step 6: Set Your Foreground Color To Black

When you're done with the areas that needed to be lightened, press the letter X on your keyboard to swap your Foreground and Background colors so black becomes your Foreground color:



The color swatches in the Tools palette showing black as the Foreground color.

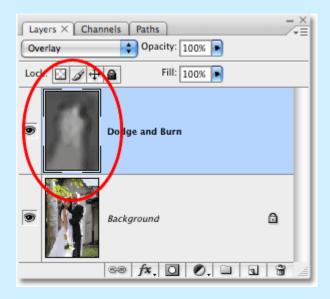
Step 7: Paint Over Areas That Need To Be Darkened

With your Foreground color now set to black, paint over any areas in the photo that need to be darkened. Again, each time you paint over the same area, you'll increase the amount of darkening that's applied. In my case, I want to make everything behind the couple darker, so I'm going to use a larger brush and paint around the couple a few times to darken the background:



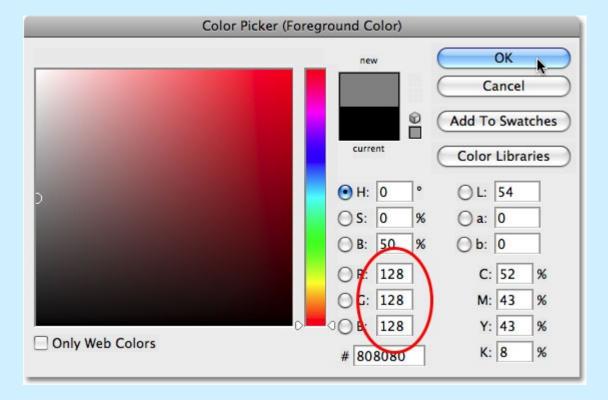
darken it

If we look at the preview thumbnail for the "Dodge and Burn" layer in the Layers palette, we can see all the areas where we painted with white or black:



The preview thumbnail shows where we painted on the layer.

If you accidentally paint over areas you didn't mean to and want to set those areas back to 50% gray, simply click on the Foreground color swatch in the Tools palette, which will bring up Photoshop's Color Picker. Enter a value of 128 for the R, G and B options in the Color Picker, which gives you the 50% gray color:



Enter a value of 128 for the R, G and B values in the Color Picker to select the 50% gray color.

Click OK to exit out of the Color Picker, then simply paint over those areas in the image to set them back to the original 50% gray.

And with that, we're done! We've successfully adjusted the exposure levels in different areas of the photo by manually painting over them with black or white, giving us results very similar to what we could have achieved with Photoshop's Dodge and Burn tools, without touching a single pixel in our original image! To see the difference, here is my original photo on the left and the corrected image on the right:





The original photo (left) and the corrected version (right)

And there we have it! That's how to dodge and burn images non-destructively using the Overlay blend mode in Photoshop!

Resources for Dodging and Burning in Lightroom:

https://thelenslounge.com/dodge-and-burn-in-lightroom-classic/#:~:text=The%20most%20local%20way%20to% 20use%20dodge%20and,brush%2C%20it%E2%80%99s%20really%20versatile.%202.%20Lightroom%20radial%

https://digital-photography-school.com/dodging-and-burning-in-lightroom/

https://contrastly.com/dodging-burning-lightroom-tutorial/

https://www.goaskerin.com/category/tutorials/

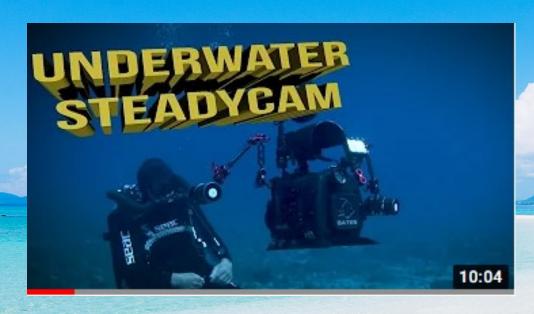
How to Achieve Better Underwater Camera Stability

Submitted by David Lenderman

A fellow named Guy Chaumette of Liquid Motion has submitted several films for HUFF 2022. (www.liquidmotionacademy.com)

While viewing his YouTube channel I noticed a couple of videos on getting more stable underwater video. He has a lot of great tips and has also developed a gadget that you can make yourself to improve the stability of your shots.

Stability is a struggle for many underwater video shooters. Click on these videos and see if you can adapt the gadget to your underwater rig.





Did You Know This About... Sorrell Warren

- I am 67 and a native Houstonian and University of Houston alum.
- I love to play golf even though I am not very good.
- I retired in 2016 after 14 years in the travel business and 35 total in sales.
- I have been diving for 10 years. My week long drive trips have all been in the Caribbean with Houston groups. Since I don't have a dive partner most of my diving has been a day or two per trip while on a "regular" vacation at some exotic place around the world.
- I have been to 91 countries and all 50 states.

Member of the Year Nomination Letters

#1 - I enthusiastically nominate Betsy Beasley as our 2021 Member of the Year. Betsy was already handling duties with the video contest, then added a huge workload of getting HUFF up and running. She saw it through all the problems with the pandemic and it resulted in a very successful event. During all this, she took on the HUPS newsletter and produces a wonderful issue each month.

In her own quiet way, Betsy gives great strength to HUPS. Everything she tackles (and it is a lot) is done very well. She does outstanding work as a photographer and videographer, is a great organizer and a real asset to HUPS. The only way we can thank her is to recognize her as Member of the Year.

#2 - HUPS Members of the Year – 2022 Craig and Betsy Beasley

My letter of nomination this year will be short and sweet. Basically, there's really no other members to consider and everyone already knows that.

Betsy and Craig or Craig and Betsy... take your pick, have taken HUPS to a new level by proposing that we hold an international film festival. It was accepted as a project and they took it on as co-chairpersons. The amount and quality of the work they produced to get HUFF up and running was absolutely amazing. Their complementary skills for organizing, coercing, and just keeping after everyone to get it done was impressive. Yes, a lot of people contributed to HUFF and HUPS last year but they stand head and shoulders above the rest.

Both have been very active in HUPS for the past 5-7 years. They enter our photo and video contests and win. They give presentations and workshops and they have led a trip to Lembeh. They are a team in just about all things and we are richer for that fact.

#3 - Mr. President, we would like to recommend that Betsy and Craig Beasley be recognized as the HUPS Members of the Year for 2021.

This dynamic husband and wife team have significantly contributed to HUPS and its members for many years.

Members for 16 years, they have gradually increased their involvement. Currently they serve our members as:

- Members of our Board of Directors
- Newsletter Editor
- Workshop Coordinator
- The Houston Underwater Film Festival Coordinator

Video Contest Coordinator

HUPS is a much better club because Betsy and Craig has been active in its leadership and educational processes. Please join us in recognizing them as HUPS Members of the Year.

- **#4** I would like to nominate Betsy and Craig Beasley for Members of the Year for 2021. Over the last several years they have made tremendous contributions to HUPS. I will try to hit on some of the highlights:
- Betsy and Craig were co-chairs for HUFF 2020/2021. They spent countless hours behind the scenes to make sure the event came off a success. Being able to put on a fabulous festival during a pandemic was no small feat. It simply would not have happened without Craig and Betsy's leadership and drive.
- Betsy took over the role of newsletter editor for 2021. She has done a great job and the newsletter has never looked better
- Betsy runs the HUPS semi-annual video contest. She receives the entries and set up on-line voting so that all HUPS members can vote for their favorite entries.
- Craig volunteered to be the Workshop Coordinator and scheduled several workshops for 2021.
- Both Betsy and Craig are both accomplished photographer/filmmakers and enjoy competing in the HUPS contests.

HUPS is certainly a better organization due to Craig and Betsy's involvement. Let's recognize them with the 2021 Member of the Year Award.

#5 - I would like to nominate Betsy Beasley as HUPS member of the Year for 2021 due to her work in organizing 2020 HUFF and for her work as the Editor of the HUPS Newsletter. In planning, organizing and finally pulling off a very successful HUFF in April of this year, even with all the roadblocks she had to dodge created by the pandemic, HUFF was a wonderful experience for all who attended. This film festival gave HUPS a greater recognition than we have previously experienced and was a wonderful benefit for the club.

In addition, the Newsletter is not only a wonderful source of news for club members but also something that can be read by others by way of the internet who are interested in the underwater experiences this club has to offer.

I heartily endorse Betsy as HUPS 2021 Member of the year.



Current Worldwide Openings

Countries Open to U.S. Travelers With No Quarantine:

Europe

Mediterranean: Croatia, France, Greece, Italy, Malta, Montenegro, Portugal, Spain,

Turkey

Northern and Scandinavia: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, the

Netherlands, Sweden, United Kingdom

Central: Austria, Belgium, Czech

Republic, Germany, Hungary, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland

Eastern: Bosnia, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Russia, Ser

<u>bia</u>

Atlantic Islands

Bahamas, Bermuda

Caribbean Islands

The Americas (North, Central, South)

Argentina, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands, Mexico, Peru, Uruguay

Pacific and Asia

Bora Bora and Tahiti (French Polynesia), <u>Cambodia</u> (expected partial reopening November 30), <u>Fiji</u> (expected reopening December 1), <u>India</u> (expected reopening November 15), <u>the Maldives</u>, <u>Nepal</u>, <u>Singapore</u>, <u>Sri</u> <u>Lanka</u>, <u>Thailand</u>, <u>Vietnam</u> (expected partial reopening in November)

Africa: Safaris and Islands

Botswana, Kenya, Mozambique, Mauritius, Namibia, Rwanda, the Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Cradle of Civilization, Ancient Lands, Arabian Peninsula

Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Oman, Republic of Georgia, Qatar, United Arab Emirates (Dubai, Abu Dhabi), Uzbekistan (Silk Road)

More Details

Countries Open to American Tourists

<u>European Union (27-nation bloc)</u> – European Union (27-nation bloc) – Some countries have closed or reintroduced restrictions again.

Russia - Negative COVID-19 test and proof of vaccination for some regions

Belize - Negative COVID-19 test

Thailand - Negative COVID-19 test and proof of vaccination

Chile - Negative COVID-19 test and proof of vaccination

Argentina - Negative COVID-19 test and proof of vaccination

Grenada - Negative COVID-19 test and proof of vaccination

Jordan - Negative COVID-19 test and proof of vaccination

<u>Guadeloupe</u>

<u>Albania</u> – No test, No quarantine (restrictions apply)

Anguilla - Reopened for vaccinated tourists from May 25

<u>Antigua and Barbuda</u> – 2 Negative COVID-19 tests and a 48-hour quarantine for fully vaccinated travelers

Aruba - Negative COVID-19 test, No quarantine

<u>Bahamas</u> – Negative COVID-19 test, No quarantine but mandatory health insurance

<u>Barbados</u> – Negative COVID-19 test. Fully vaccinated visitors can now bypass quarantine

<u>Bermuda</u> – Negative COVID-19 test. Fully vaccinated visitors can now bypass quarantine

Brazil - Negative COVID-19 test, No quarantine

<u>Colombia</u> – All restrictions were lifted

<u>Costa Rica</u> – Negative COVID-19 test, No quarantine but mandatory health insurance

Cuba - 2 Negative COVID-19 tests and a 7-day quarantine from June 5

Curacao – Negative COVID-19 test, No quarantine

<u>Dominican Republic</u> – Negative COVID-19 test, No quarantine

<u>Dominica</u> – 2 Negative COVID-19 tests and (possibly) quarantine

<u>Dubai</u> – Negative COVID-19 test and (possibly) quarantine

<u>Ecuador</u> – Negative COVID-19 test result OR vaccination certificate and (possibly 10-day quarantine.)

Egypt - Negative COVID-19 test, No quarantine

<u>Guatemala</u> – Negative COVID-19 test, No quarantine, and no restrictions for vaccinated travelers. (Conditions apply).

<u>Jamaica</u> – Negative COVID-19 test, a 14-day quarantine, and travel authorization

Maldives - Negative COVID-19 test and -possibly- No quarantine.

Mexico - No test, No quarantine

Morocco - Negative COVID-19 test, No quarantine

Nicaragua - Negative COVID-19 test, No quarantine

<u>Pakistan</u> – Negative COVID-19 test, 10-day quarantine.

<u>Puerto Rico</u> – Negative COVID-19 test, No quarantine and No test to return home

<u>Rwanda</u> – Negative COVID-19 test, and a 24-hour quarantine.

Serbia - Negative COVID-19 test or Vaccine Certificate, No quarantine

<u>Seychelles</u> – Two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine or a negative COVID-19 test and quarantine

St. Lucia - Negative COVID-19 test and quarantine

St. Maarten - Negative COVID-19 test and No quarantine

Tanzania - No test, No quarantine

<u>Turkey</u> – Negative COVID-19 test, No quarantine (conditions apply)

<u>Turks and Caicos</u> – Negative COVID-19 test, No quarantine

The US Virgin Islands – No test, No quarantine

Sri Lanka - Negative COVID-19 and no quarantine for vaccinated travelers





BVI Trip May 14-21, 2022

Come and enjoy the beautiful BVI's with HUPS in May 2022. Only 6 spaces left on this HUPS 4th trip to the BVI's.

See Price Sheet below

If interested, please contact Russell Ramsey, HUPS trip coordinator @: Phone: (713) 899-4726
email: rjrdived@gmail.com

Price Quote: June 2021 for HUPS Group Trip – May 2022

□ 7 Nights accommodation (Single or 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 □ Farewell beach sunset BBQ □ 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 & lunches at restaurants include 1 soft drink per person; any additional drinks are not included. Welcome dinner, breakfasts & lunches include gratuity.

Package includes:

Divers: Non-Divers**: \$2,100 per Diver (Double Occupancy) \$1,100 per Non-Diver (Double Occupancy) \$2,700 per Diver (Single Occupancy) \$1,700 per Non-Diver (Single Occupancy) Rooms are shared (double occupancy) or private (single occupancy) in a 2-Bedroom cottage with a shared kitchen/living/patio space. **Non-divers are included in breakfast, transport, lunches and welcome/farewell meals.

Requirement for these rates: Minimum 10 divers, Maximum 24 divers/snorkelers. 1 complementary snorkeler space if 10 divers 1 complementary diver space is 12 divers For further assistance or questions, please contact Dive BVI coordinator aj@divebvi.com

Widaman's Reef Naming

The most important thing that has happened in our community, is an announcement by Texas Parks & Wildlife. They renamed their rigs-to-reefs artificial reef (HI-A-389A), in the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, as "Widaman's Reef". This is in memory of Captain Randy Widaman, a past HUPS member. His impact upon the dive community and the many lives he touched. The following is an extraction of information about Randy from a letter

Randy's information: From Frank Burek and Ja Van Pruett

that Ja Van put out:

Texas Gulf Coast Council (TGCC) - Member of the Year - 2008

TGCC Neptune Award - 2011

TGCC Lifetime Achievement Award – 2009 (1 of 9 original recipients)

TGCC Trashfest - Randy worked overseeing the Weigh-In for many years.

Bay Area Diver Rep to the TGCC – 2010 to 2015.

TGCC 1st Vice President – 2011 to 2016.

TGCC 2nd Vice President – 2017 to 2021.

Bay Area Diver President – 2002, 2003, 2007

Bay Area Diver Vice President (BAD)

BAD Board of Director member 2009, -- 2004-2006, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2013

Houston Underwater Photographic Society - Member 2008 to 2015.

Houston Underwater Club - Member 1980 to 1993.

NASA Lunarfins Dive Club – President 2007, 2008, 2013

NASA Lunarfins Dive Club - Vice President 2009-2011, 2014, 2015

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS), Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC)

Dive Operations Representative 2015 to 2018.

Member of the SAC's Boundary Expansion Working Group.

Randy worked as a Boat Caption for Rinn Boats 1989-2002 taking people out to the Flower Gardens National Marine Sanctuary.

Randy went on to become a Level II Electronics Technician at Cyberonics, League City, Texas.





Cozumel Field Survey Trip

Cozumel is known for its many unique fish finds including the Cozumel-endemic Splendid Toadfish as well as high concentrations of other interesting species like Cherubfish, Blackcap Basslets, and Sargassum Triggerfish. When not diving, you will enjoy all the wonderful food and culture that Mexico has to offer, as well as daily seminars by Cozumel local and fish id expert Tracey Griffin. Reserve your spot today because this popular trip is sure to sell out quickly.

Project Focus: This purpose of this trip is to conduct fish surveys to support REEF's Volunteer Fish Survey Project. Click here to learn more about participating in fish surveys on a REEF Field Survey Trip!

Best Suited For: Divers or non-divers. This trip is not recommended for snorkelers because most boat dives will be drift dives, however Cozumel is a popular tourist destination with plenty of land-based activities for non-divers to enjoy.

Accommodations: Two accommodation options are available on this trip. Safari Inn is a small, locally owned hotel located on the waterfront. All rooms have air-conditioning and private bathrooms with showers. King beds or twin beds are available. Casa Mexicana's rooms are air-conditioned with free Wi-Fi and have private bathrooms with showers. The Casa Mexicana package includes a breakfast buffet. Both hotels are located across the street from Aqua Safari pier, where the dive boat will pick up divers each morning.

Diving: The dive operator for this trip is Chili Charters, a longtime REEF partner. The trip package includes 5 days of 2-tank morning dives, starting on Sunday, Dec. 5 and ending on Thursday, Dec. 9. Average water temperature is 78-80 degrees Fahrenheit. A 3mm wetsuit is recommended. Visibility is usually excellent, ranging from 75-125 ft. at most dive sites. Most diving in Cozumel is drift diving, so it is recommended to carry a surface marker buoy.

Trip Leader: A full-time resident of Cozumel, REEF volunteer Tracey Griffin has led the annual Cozumel Field Survey Trip for many years. She has completed more than 1,000 REEF surveys, is a REEF Fishinar instructor and an Expert surveyor for the Tropical Western Atlantic region, and has actively participated in all of REEF's programs including the Volunteer Fish Survey Project, Invasive Species Program, and Grouper Moon Project.

Pricing, Inclusions, and Other Fees

Safari Inn: \$662 per diver based on double occupancy; \$845 per diver based on single occupancy.

Casa Mexicana: \$854 per diver based on double occupancy; \$1,218 per diver based on single occupancy.

Please inquire for non-diver pricing.

Your Package Includes: The trip package includes 7 nights of accommodation, 5 days of 2-tank boat dives, deluxe breakfast buffet included in Casa Mexicana package, daily gear storage, tanks and weights.

REEF Program Fee: A REEF Program Fee of \$300 will be added to each package to cover the cost of the group leader, seminar, and REEF survey materials. The REEF Program Fee applies to all divers and any attendee age 18 or older.

Additional Fees - Not Included: All flights, transfers to and from the airport, all meals on trip (breakfast is included if staying at Casa Mexicana.) Optional Nitrox or extra dives available for an additional cost, paid directly to Chili Charters. A \$5 US per person per day (cash only) marine park access fee will be collected onsite. As of February 2019, a Sanitation Tax of \$25 MX (approximately \$1.50 USD) per night per room (cash only) will be collected by the hotel. \$2-3 daily dock fee per person will be collected onsite by Chili Charters. Taxes and fees are subject to change. Gratuities are not included and are at each individual's discretion.

Registration

To reserve your space, email trips@REEF.org or call 305-588-5869. A \$250 per person deposit will be due to confirm your reservation. Visit our Trip Policies page for more information on deposit and payment schedules.

Cozumel Travel Info

Insurance: Travel insurance is not included. REEF strongly recommends that each participant purchase adequate dive travel insurance to protect you from unforeseen circumstances. REEF partners with both DiveAssure and DAN to offer travel insurance packages specifically for divers. REEF will receive a portion of the proceeds from travel insurance purchases when you click on the following affiliate links for DiveAssure or DAN.

How to Get There: Participants should make arrangements to fly into Cozumel International Airport (airport code CZM), arriving on Saturday, Dec.4, and departing on the following Saturday, Dec. 11. Participants are responsible for booking their own air travel. REEF is not able to book airfare.

Transfers: Transfers to and from the airport are not included in the trip package, however taxis are readily available at the Cozumel airport. The fare for a ride from the airport to Safari Inn or Casa Mexicana is approximately \$8 one way.

Passports, Documentation and Visas: Visitors to Mexico are required to have a current passport with at least one blank page. U.S. citizens visiting Mexico for less than 180 days do not require a visa. Please refer to the appropriate consulate for requirements to enter Mexico.

TGCC NEWS

Plans for the TGCC Annual Club Awards Luncheon are as follows:

Saturday, Jan. 29, 2022

At Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet, near Hillcroft.

Social -11:00 AM Lunch - 11:45 AM, Awards and Presentations - 12:15 PM.

Tickets will be \$20.

Each club, and the TGCC will present their awards. TGCC plans to present:

Its 2020 Member-of-the-Year award to Martin Daniels.

Its 2021 Member-of-the-Year award to Roger Veteto.

Its 2021 Neptune Awards to Craig Beasley and Tom Collier.

The Texas Parks & Wildlife (Dr. Brooke Shipley) will re-present the plaque honoring Randy Widaman by renaming their Rigs-to-Reef (HI-A-389-A) platform in his name.

Each club will be given an opportunity to honor those members lost to COVID.

Plans to offer one \$500 college support scholarship in 2022. Applications for consideration will be made available in January.

Council Officers for 2022 were announced as:

President - Frank Burek

1st Vice President - Pee Wee Dwire

Acting 2nd Vice President – Frank Burek

Treasurer - Mark Leiserowitz

Secretary – Ja Van Pruett

Webmaster - Polly Swerdlin

Results on TGCC's Neptune Award program were reviewed:

Final report reflects a tie for 1st Place:

Craig Beasley and Tom Collier

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS) and Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) NEWS

The SAC continues to meet using a webinar media.

The following topics have been covered recently or are actions in progress:

4 SAC Constituent Seats openings have been announced in the Federal Register - one seat for Recreational Diving, 2 seats for Dive Operations and one seat for Commercial Fishing). One of the Dive Operation seats available was previously filled by Frank Burek, and the Recreational Diving vacancy was Jesse Cancelmo's previous seat.

The SAC's 2 year terms for its officers (Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson) are up and voting will be done at the November SAC meeting to fill those positions.

The SAC's September webinar was cancelled due to rains and flooding in the Galveston area.

The SAC is in the process of updating its Charter, post "Expansion". They are updating the following sections:

The SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL POLICY STATEMENT.

OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES Description.

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Description.

Adding a section for - Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) Voting Members - Duties and Responsibilities.

The Sanctuary system continues to be very concerned over the Stony coral tissue loss disease (SCTLD). It is a troubling disease that is spreading rapidly across the greater Caribbean region.

The Sanctuary System is celebrating 50 years of conservation. The following is a quote on that effort:

"Almost 50 years ago, the U.S. ushered in a new era of ocean conservation by creating the National Marine Sanctuary System. Since then, we've grown into a nationwide network of 15 national marine sanctuaries and two marine national monuments that conserve more than 620,000 square miles of spectacular ocean and Great Lakes waters, an area nearly the size of Alaska.

Your national marine sanctuaries and monuments support coastal communities and drive local economies by providing jobs and opportunities for people to discover, recreate, and form life-long connections with these spectacular places. Sanctuaries connect people and communities through science, education, and stewardship. We rely on these networks to inspire community-based solutions that help us understand and protect our nation's most spectacular habitats, marine life, archaeological wonders, and cultural seascapes."

The following information involves the federal initiative on Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful. As directed by President Biden's Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, the report provides recommendations on how the United States should achieve the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030:

The report recommends broad principles for engaging stakeholders in an inclusive and locally led effort to conserve and restore U.S. lands and waters. Its release represents a first step in what the Administration envisions as an ongoing dialogue, engagement, and collaboration with local, state, and tribal governments, as well as a range of diverse stakeholders.

NOAA will also host two public listening sessions, details below. For additional information, visit https://www.noaa.gov/america-the-beautiful.

Public Listening Sessions:

Monday, November 8 | 2:00-4:00 PM ET. Dial in (REQUIRED for audio): 888-324-2609, Passcode: 727-5932. Webinar (optional to view slides): Join Here on the day of the meeting--no advanced registration. (Conference number: PWXW2474478, Audience Passcode: 727-5932).

Tuesday, November 16 | 4:00-6:00 PM ET. Dial in (REQUIRED for audio): 888-324-2609, Passcode: 727-5932. Webinar (optional to view slides): Join Here on the day of the meeting--no advanced registration. (Conference number: PWXW2474479, Audience Passcode: 727-5932).

Click here to view the Fall 2021 Video Contest Winners Show

spring 2022 VIDEO CONTEST

Entries are due by midnight May 1. Limit of 5 minutes and 2 GB. 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 at hups.org.

Address questions to betsybeasley@swbell.net.

Please transfer files to Betsy Beasley via the free service - 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 since we are still meeting virtually and unable to collect payments in person during our monthly meetings. https://www.hups.org/join
- Contact Monica Losey at monica losey@yahoo.com

Click <u>here</u> to view the **November 1, 2021 HUPS Meeting**

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 Dennis Deavenport

at ddeavenport@comcast.net

Send workshop ideas to Craig Beasley

at cb as@hotmail.com

Send newsletter entries to Betsy Beasley

at betsybeasley@swbell.net

2021 Meeting Presentations

Who	When	Topic	Expanded Topic
Tom Collier & Others	January 4	"Anything Goes Night" - Video clips	Discussion during presentation - what, where,
Mike Bartick	February 1	"Macro Photography"	Sidebar into Black Water diving at Anilao
Marty Snyderman	March 1	"Diving in Indonesia"	Focus on Atlantis Resorts
Jody and Barry Cline	April 5	"Diving Puerto Galera and Dumaguete in the Time of Volcanoes"	Diving the Atlantis Resorts in Puerto Galera & Dumaguete
Dr. Bob Sanders	May 3	"Diving in Antarctica"	Exploring below 12 ft. of solid ice
Mike Greuter, Catrin Pichler, Craig/Betsy Beasley, Paul Cater Deaton, Scott Bauer	June 7	Short Shows: "Off the Beaten Track"	Video and Photo Contest Winners, HUFF stuff, announcements, and drawing for HUFF tickets
Betsy Beasley	July 12	HUFF Winners	1st, 2nd and 3rd Place films from each category
Jennifer Idol	August 2	"Lens of Adventure"	Book Giveaway - "The Underwater Designer"
Scott Bauer	September 13	"Diving Inland Texas"	A tour through the inland lakes and waterways of Texas
Justin Wallace	October 4	Somewhere in the Caribbean Islands	Experience the Caribbean Islands from an expert
Burt Jones & Maureen Shimlock	November 1	"Bird's Head Seascape"	Conservation programs in the Bird's Head region
Martin and Mary Daniels	December 6	Christmas Dinner/ Best of HUPS and Creative Contests	Pot Luck Dinner/ Best of HUPS in Novice, Intermediate and Advanced Categories/ Creative Contest

2022 Meeting Presentations

Who	When	Topic	Expanded Topic
Tom Collier & Others	January 3	"Anything Goes Night" - Video clips from everyone	Discussion during presentation - what, where, how
Hubert Bitner	February 7	"What you can do with a drone"	Plus short film with drone footage from members
Dennis Deavenport, Monica Losey, Jim and Debbie Mensay	March 7	"Diving Above the Deep"	HUPS 2016 Palau & Yap trip & 1996 Palau trip
	April 4		
Craig and Betsy Beasley	May 2	HUFF 2022	Winners Show
	June 6		
Sage Holt	July 11	"Diving Florida"	
	August 1		
	September 12		
	October 3		
	November 7		
Martin and Mary Daniels	December 5	Christmas Dinner/ Best of HUPS and Creative Contests	Pot Luck Dinner/ Best of HUPS in Novice, Intermediate and Advanced Categories/ Creative Contest

DECEMBER 2021							
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
			1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	Menny &	

JANUARY 2022								
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat Happy New Year		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
16	MARTIN KING JE DAY	18	19	20	21	22		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		
30	31							

FEBRUARY 2022								
		1	2	3	4	5		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
13	Happy Valentine's Day	15	16	17	18	19		
20	Happy Presidents Day!	22	23	24	25	26		
27	28							



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!

2021 HUPS Officers

President: David Lenderman

Vice President: Dennis Deavenport

Secretary: Tammy Allyn

Treasurer: Tom Collier

Membership: Monica Losey

Photo Contest: Martin Daniels

Video Contest/ HUFF Coordinator/ Newsletter: Betsy Beasley

Workshop Coordinator: Craig Beasley

TGCC Reps: Frank Burek, JaVan Pruett and Mark Leiserowitz

Webmaster: Joe Holden

Trip Coordinator: Joe Haws

Historian: Frank Burek

Special Events: Mary Daniels

Merchandizing Coordinator: Sandy Bryan

Moody Gardens Coordinator: David Lenderman

2021 HUPS Board of Directors

Frank Burek **Henry Ragland** Craig Beasley **Mary Daniels Debbie Mensay Betsy Beasley Martin Daniels** Mike Greuter Jim Mensay Joe Haws Monica Losey **Russell Ramsey**



hups.org



youtube/user/HUPSdotORG



facebook.com/ groups/174166478778



https://www.instagram.com/