



March Newsletter

Photographing Sea Lions How to Make Better Wide-Angle Images



When Ken offered to do a program for us this year, I understandably jumped at the opportunity. For those of you that have seen him perform on stage in any venue or on any subject, you will know just how entertaining his presentations are. The man is a true showman with an arsenal of lethal armament backing him up. When you look up "Renaissance Man" in the dictionary, it says, "... for reference, see



Ken Knezick". Thus is the man and the legend. You never quite know what to expect from Ken but whatever he delivers will be beautifully presented, informative, and knee-slapping hilarious all at the same time. He might start his

Ken Knezick's program is designed to improve your wide-angle photography. Framed in the context of a dive trip to swim with and photograph sea lions in the Sea of Cortez, this presentation shares tips and techniques to increase the quality, sharpness, composition, and appeal of your wide-angle photos. It will offer suggestions on how to carefully approach and interact with marine life and examine how to create underwater images that have a story to tell.

Make sure you arrive early for the 7 pm meeting at Bayland to get a good seat and talk with everyone.

Remember, anyone that wants to can head out to Jax Grill after the meeting for burgers and adult beverages. Another fun thing to do on a Monday night.



President's Message

I had a great trip to the Philippines last month. During the trip I did 37 dives. This count includes fourteen blackwater dives that were an exciting new experience for me. For my first blackwater dives, I managed to get some nice images. You will hear and see more about the blackwater dives when Tom, Dennis and I present at the July HUPS meeting. For this article I want to discuss my "regular" day time dives during that trip.

On every trip I take I strive to get better images than I did on my previous trip. To do this I look at the images from my previous trip with a critical eye. I review the bad images as well as the good images. I analyze my bad images to determine the most common faults. I know if I can correct my common faults I can up my "keeper" rate. Increasing my number of keepers will increase my odds of getting winners.

My previous trip was an August trip to Cozumel. That trip resulted in way too many images with poor focus. I knew by concentrating on getting properly focused images I would increase my number of keeper shots. Prior to the

Philippines trip I made sure to re-adjust the diopter on my camera viewfinder to match my aging vision. I also planned to use my focus light more, especially on tiny subjects or when the subject was in the shadows. Using a focus light helps me ensure my subject's eyes are in focus. I decided to put extra effort into being sure my subject was in focus in my viewfinder before I took the shot. I knew I had a bad habit of moving my housing as I squeeze the shutter lever. This very slight movement is enough to shift the focal plane of the image. I concentrated on not moving my camera as I squeezed the shutter lever. These efforts did help. I managed

to get more properly focused shots. A couple of my favorite images from the trip were of tiny subjects where sharp focus was critical.

So, trying to reduce my bad shots did result in more keepers. I also had a plan to make more of these keepers true winners. Earlier I mentioned that prior to a trip I would review both good and bad images from my previous trip. When I reviewed the good images I tried to determine what I could do to make the good images even better. After reviewing images from my last few trips I noticed a couple things. It seemed that I needed to make more eye contact with my subjects. During my recent dives I kept reminding myself to get in front of my subjects and get down on their eye level. My review of older images also showed that many of my good shots were slightly underexposed. Very rarely did I have an

overexposed image. That meant I had room to crank my exposures up a bit, so I did. Making these changes resulted in some images that I love.



The whole point of this article is to encourage you to learn from your old images. Review past

images before a trip to determine what you did poorly, what you did well and what you can do better in the future. If you need help determining what can be done to improve your images just ask! I, and many other experienced HUPS members, would be happy to help review your images. Make your next trip your most photo productive trip ever!

See you Monday March 9th.

David Lenderman

2020 POTY Standings through February



Dennis Deavenport
Advanced 1st



Betsy Beasley
Intermediate 2nd



Steven Anderson
Advanced 3rd

Novice		
1	Justin Wallace	83
2	Cheryl White	51
3	Jim Babcock	48

Intermediate		
1	Russell Ramsey	147
2	Betsy Beasley	137

Advanced		
1	Dennis Deavenport	149
2	Steven Anderson	147
3	Catrin Pichler	142
4	John Van Atta	115
5	Craig Beasley	59



Russell Ramsey
Intermediate 1st



Cheryl White
Novice 1st



Catrin Pichler
Advanced 2nd

2020 Meeting Presentations

	Presentation	Presenter
January	Anything Goes – Short Film Clips	Tom Collier
February	Volunteer Diver Program at Moody Gardens	Jake Emmert
March	Wide Angle Photography & Photographing Sea Lions in Baja	Ken Knezick
April	BVI after the Hurricanes Taking Sharper UW Photos	Jim & Sudi Babcock David Lenderman
May	HUFF Winners & Festival Report	Betsy Beasley
June	Finding Nemo's Garden & Wine Diving in Croatia	Paul Cater Deaton
July	Black Water Diving HUPS Video Contest	Tom Collier, David Lenderman, Dennis Deavenport Betsy Beasley
August	Dive Heart for Disadvantaged Divers	Joe Haws
September	Lens of Adventure	Jennifer Idol
October	Shooting in Natural Light	Craig Beasley
November	So You Want to Make Films feat. Wakatobi HUPS Video Contest	Mathis Weatherall Betsy Beasley
December	Best of HUPS & Holiday Party	Martin Daniels

HUFF Update

Tickets are on sale at 14pews.com under "Upcoming Events" in April. Click on "more info" to buy tickets for the show(s) you plan to attend. Tickets are \$11. The shows are Saturday, April 18 at 3 pm and 7 pm, and Sunday, April 19 at 3 pm. The Sunday, April 19th show is sold out!! The Saturday 3 pm show will feature films from the Respect and Protect the Oceans and Art House Flicks categories. The other two shows will be identical and feature films from the Novice, Fixed Lens, Short Video, and Feature Length categories. There will be a 45 minute Pre-Show featuring HUPS Photo Contest winners throughout the years, **so come early**. At intermission we'll be showing longer non-contest films by Emmy Award winning videographers, Howard and Michelle Hall and Dustin Adamson. There will be an After Party in the back garden following the Sunday, April 19 show. There will be a food truck that takes credit cards and beer and wine will be available for **cash donations** by HUPS volunteers.

We've received several offers of sponsorship which we have accepted. These items/services will be raffled off at each of the 3 shows. 3 tickets for \$5. **Cash only**. They include, but may not be limited to:

- \$500 gift certificate from Ikelite
- \$500 gift certificate from Crystal Blue Resort, Anilao, Philippines
- Kraken Hydra 3500 underwater camera light (\$500 value)
- 3 Try Scuba courses from Oceanic Ventures (\$100 value each)
- 3 books by Cathryn and Gui Garcia - Ocean Metaphor: Unexpected Life Lessons from the Sea (\$46 value each)
- Jesse Cancelmo's book - Glorious Gulf of Mexico: Life below the Blue (\$28 value)

Voting will be done by audience cell phone texting following the presentation of films from each category. **Please bring your cell phone**. Address any questions to Betsy Beasley at huff@hups.org. See you there!

HUPS Annual Membership Dues

March is the final month to pay 2020 HUPS membership dues.
 \$35 Single membership
 \$45 Family membership
 Payable Cash or Check
 at the March meeting or
 Paypal via HUPS webpage
www.hups.org



Seeking Newsletter Editor

HUPS is looking for a member to volunteer as the HUPS Newsletter Editor starting in January 2021. No prior experience is necessary, just good English grammar skills, the ability to learn, and adept on a computer. The incumbent will help transition the role as soon as a candidate is identified and approved by the HUPS BOD. If you have questions or may be interested, feel free to reach out to the current Newsletter Editor, Monica Losey, at monica_losey@yahoo.com.

2020 Photo Contest Themes

Month	Themes	Description
Jan	Diagonal Composition	A diagonal composition is employed to arrange elements in an image based on a diagonal line.
Feb	Eels	There are lots of eels out there. They are pretty easy to spot; think, "snakes with gills".
Mar	Blue water	Any primary subject as long as the background has a nice blue color.
Apr	Large swimmers (> 4 feet) - not people	A fish or critter that is swimming with a length > 4 feet. Examples: grouper, tarpon, sharks, stingray, manta ray, dolphin, moray eel, and big subjects are what you are shooting for.
May	Odd-shaped bottom dwellers	Infrequent-swimmers. Frogfish, crabs, flounder, scorpionfish, toadfish, batfish, lizardfish, crocodile fish. If it is a bit odd looking and spends most of its life on or in the sand or reef, it probably qualifies.
Jun	Nudibranchs & Worms	Again, this is pretty specific but you may need to check your critter ID book if you're not sure. Worms can fool you sometimes. Who would think that something that looks like a colorful Christmas tree ornament could be a worm?
Jul	Hawk fish, Drums, Triggerfish	A 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. If not sure, check your fish id sources or ask the PC.
Aug	Crustacean	Just like it says... look it up in the book (crabs, shrimp, lobsters, barnacles, etc.). When in doubt... Wikipedia can help you out.
Sep	Natural light	Shooting ambient light means you are using the sun as your light source. Shooting with ambient light means less camera drag, as strobes can be left on the surface. The lighting of the photo will be more even, which is ideal for large subjects such as large reefs or schools of fish, silhouettes, or large wrecks.
Oct	Blennies and Gobies	Some of our favorite tiny guys. The ones that like to hug the reef, hide out in holes, or build their nests in the sand. If you aren't sure if your little guy (or guys) qualify, look it up in your critter ID book or ask the opinion of one of our ID experts.
Nov	Polka Dots/Fish with Spots	A spot, a small round or roundish mark differing in color or texture from the surface around it. The most common subjects underwater are known variously as boxfishes, coffer fishes, cowfishes and trunkfishes.
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.

HUPS Spring Video Contest - Call for

Entries are due no later than May 1. Films must be no more than 5 minutes long. Files must be no more than 2 GB. Detailed rules are on the HUPS website under Member Contests/Video Contest. Please send your file via the free [WeTransfer.com](https://www.wetransfer.com) to betsybeasley@swbell.net. Address any questions to Betsy Beasley at the same email address.

This month all HUPS members in good standing will receive an email inviting you to join the HUPS Video Contest Facebook group. The films will be posted there, anonymously, and HUPS members will be asked to vote for their favorite film in the Spring contest. Only one vote per member is allowed. You may leave comments about the films on this group Facebook page. Voting will start on May 2 and end on May 31. Winners will be announced at the July HUPS meeting.

TGCC Memorial Scholarship

Once again the Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs will be offering college scholarships in memory of Jack Allyn, Greg Grimes, Jean Himes, Anne Millioud, Clint (Dwight) Moore, John Petty, Michael Szewczyk, and Dick Zingula. This year one scholarship in the amount of \$500 will be awarded. Please see eligibility rules, guidelines, and the application at the end of this newsletter. Completed applications must be received by the TGCC Donations Committee prior to June 30, 2020.



Join Us for the HUPS Almost Annual Trip to Captain Don's Habitat, Bonaire October 10 – 18, 2020

Depart Saturday, October 10 and return on Sunday, October 18.
Airfare is NOT included.

The package includes: 8 nights accommodations, daily breakfast,
12 boat dives, 6 days unlimited shore diving, airport transfers, and taxes.

With at least 8 divers, we get 18 boat dives + a night boat dive & free Nitrox for boat dives
plus at least an additional 10% off the prices below.

**** \$1205 per diver double occupancy (\$1560 single occupancy) - Deluxe Oceanview Room ****

**** \$1320 per diver double occupancy - Ocean Front Deluxe Junior Suite ****

Additional costs not included: marine park fee (\$45), other meals, vehicle rental (can be
arranged individually for pick-up at the airport, or you can rent at the resort after we arrive)

**A \$100 deposit pp is due now. The final payment will
be due no later than the August meeting 8/3/2020.
No refunds after 8/3. Make check payable to HUPS.
Specify your room preference. ***The DAN or
equivalent Trip or Dive insurance is required for each
participant.**



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/

2020 HUPS Board of Directors

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

2020 HUPS Officers

President:

David Lenderman

Vice President:

Dennis Deavenport

Secretary:

Tammy Allyn

Treasurer:

Tom Collier

Membership/Newsletter:

Monica Losey

Photo Contest:

Martin Daniels

Video Contest/HUFF

Coordinator:

Betsy Beasley

Workshop Coordinator:

Tom Collier

TGCC Reps:

Frank Burek

Ja Van Pruett

Mark Leiserowitz

WebMaster:

Joe Holden

Trip Coordinator:

Joe Haws

Historian:

Frank Burek

Special Events:

Mary Daniels

Social Media Coordinator:

Laura Veariel

Merchandising

Coordinator:

Sandy Bryan

Moody Gardens

Coordinator:

David Lenderman



2020 TGCC MEMORIAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

(In memory of Jack Allyn, Greg Grimes, Jean Himes, Anne Millioud, Clint (Dwight) Moore, John Petty, Michael Szewczyk and Dick Zingula)



The Texas Gulf Coast Council of Diving Clubs (TGCC) plans to award one College scholarships (1 @ \$500) during 2020. This scholarship is given in memory of Jack Allyn, Greg Grimes, Jean Himes, Anne Millioud, Clint (Dwight) Moore, John Petty, Michael Szewczyk and Dick Zingula; deceased members of our dive community. It is also awarded in recognition for support of the TGCC Scholarship Program by Alicia Grimes, the Houston Underwater Club, the Houston Underwater Photographic Society and Linda Petty. The purpose of this award is to support the members who support the dive clubs in the Texas Gulf Coast area. The award will be paid by TGCC directly to the college towards tuition.

Eligibility Rules:

1. Scholarship applicant must be a college undergraduate or graduate student attending college in 2020, or a high school senior that has been accepted to college in 2020.
2. The applicant, the parent(s) (biological or through formal adoption), or the grandparent(s) of the applicant, must be an individual member of TGCC or a member of a TGCC member club with dues current in 2020.
3. Application (see other side) must be received by the TGCC Donations Committee prior to **June 30, 2020**. TGCC will review all completed applications on July 2, 2020.
4. Applicant shall have the high school/college furnish a transcript of grades, courses and class standing.

Scholarship General Guidelines:

1. Scholarship decisions of TGCC are final.
2. Scholarship winner is expected to keep TGCC abreast with his/her progress in college.
3. TGCC reserves the right to not award a prize depending upon the number of entries and qualifications of the applicants.
4. A personal interview with members of the TGCC Scholarship Committee may be required prior to awarding this scholarship.
5. Confirmation will be by e-mail. Make sure phone and e-mail data provided is current.
6. TGCC is offering this scholarship as a reward to TGCC members, TGCC member and associate clubs or the children of these members to thank them for supporting TGCC's efforts in promoting safe sport diving. The committee will take into consideration the applicant or applicant's parents involvement in TGCC and member clubs and/or the diving community in general throughout the year.

Applications may be mailed or e-mailed to:

TGCC Donations Committee
c/o Frank Burek
8448 Grand Lake Estates Drive
Montgomery, TX 77316
jfburek@consolidated.net

2020 TGCC MEMORIAL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

(In memory of Jack Allyn, Greg Grimes, Jean Himes, Anne Millioud,
Clint (Dwight) Moore, John Petty, Michael Szewczyk, and Dick
Zingula)



Applicant's First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

High School: _____ Year Graduated: _____

Name of college to be attended in 2020: _____

(Please enclose a copy of the acceptance letter, or current college transcript):

Comments and information about the applicant's grades and academic performance:

Comments and information about the applicant's sports and/or other extracurricular achievements:

**Description of why the applicant feels he/she should be selected for this scholarship.
(Use a separate page)**

TGCC Affiliation (member of TGCC or TGCC member club)

Applicant Parent Grandparent (please circle one)

Affiliate First Name(s): _____ Last Name: _____

Affiliate Clubs (TGCC, CHUM, HUPS, Lunarfans, ROC, etc.): _____

Number of Years as member of the above named club(s): _____

List any positions of leadership held by Affiliate: _____

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____