



# October BOOsletter

[www.hups.org](http://www.hups.org)

October 2020

## Challenges & Solutions for Underwater Video Using Natural Lighting

Craig Beasley has been very active in HUPS for the last several years, much to our benefit. He and his wife, Betsy, are co-chairs for the Houston Underwater Film Festival (HUFF), which will be shown next April. In addition, Craig has been a champion for underwater video and has created a number of very interesting and successful short films. One of his films placed first place for the year in the Scubaverse Video Competition. He has also given or assisted in giving presentations and workshops for HUPS. He is a multitasking individual in his professional and private life. To make things even more interesting, he used to play piano in a rock band and can tickle the ivories with some of the best. I have always enjoyed sharing trips with Craig and Betsy and his willingness to share any information he might have is a big bonus. Craig has written the following summary of his presentation.



Among all the challenges of underwater photography, perhaps the most difficult is lighting. Lighting is one of the major challenges of all types of photography but the well-known lack of the red portion of the available light spectrum underwater is the most daunting as fundamental physics works against any general solution. Often, we hear that the "reds disappear with depth", which is true, but the situation is more complex: absorption of all visible light is proportional to the length of the travel path of the light and the lower frequencies (reds, oranges and yellows) lose intensity faster than higher frequencies (greens and blues). So, the entire spectrum is affected, not just the reds. Objects near the camera can be illuminated with artificial lighting such as strobes or LED lights because of the short travel path for the light but within just a few meters distance, even artificial lighting is ineffective.



A well-known solution is to attempt to balance the spectrum of light recorded by the camera by adjusting camera settings, which adjusts the way the signal is recorded. Another approach is using a filter, which adjusts the light spectrum before it enters the camera. This latter approach can be effective but offers its own set of challenges.

# Challenges & Solutions for Underwater Video

## Using Natural Lighting, continued

Video has even more challenges and restrictions for these techniques when compared with still photography. For example, video puts restrictions on the shutter speed that can be used. Another issue is that most videographers don't shoot in raw due to the cost of the equipment, data load, and post processing requirements.

In this talk, I discuss these issues in more detail and focus on a promising advance in the use of red filters for available-light videography. I will look in detail at a new variable-strength red filter that eliminates at least a small part of the concerns of shooting with red filters and simplifies the process. I will show results from tests I did last year in Indonesia and the Bahamas using this filter. While far from a perfect solution, I feel that it offers advantages over conventional use of red filters, particularly in the practical, operational aspects of shooting with red filters.

An added potential bonus is that it is a polarizing filter that may offer other benefits in terms of clarity and contrast. This is not claimed by the manufacturer, and while promising, this requires further study and verification.

Martin Daniels will host the meeting.

Here is the Zoom broadcast link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89925666545?pwd=Zk5kM1VaQTE5cDNkVzZFRDg2NmRHZz09>

Meeting ID: 899 2566 6545  
Passcode: 478903

## President's Potion

The end is near, we only have three months left! I am talking about the year 2020. It has been a year full of challenges. I don't know about you but I am really looking forward to 2021.

Next year I am hoping to make up for the diving I missed in 2020. I have already booked a trip to SE Asia for mid 2021 and I am starting to work on additional travel plans. We all need something to look forward to. Planning a dive trip is a great way get your mind thinking about something positive.

Now is the time to start making plans. There are many bargains on airfare well into next year. From a quick search of United.com I found airfare to Singapore for \$799 for August 2021. Singapore is a great hub to reach many dive destinations in SE Asia and beyond. If you prefer the Philippines, I found air to Manila pretty much any day in January through early May and select dates in July and August for \$750. I am sure there are many other deals out there

but these jumped out at me while I was calendar shopping on United's website. If for any reason you need to change your travel plans many airlines are not charging change fees. Per United.com - "We're permanently getting rid of change fees for most Economy and premium cabin tickets for travel within the U.S., or between the U.S. and Mexico or the Caribbean. For all other destinations, change fees are waived through December 31, 2020."

Booking dive trips will be good for our mindset and will also be good for all the people working in the tourism/travel/dive industry. The airlines, resorts and dive operators all need us to book some trips.

Many of our favorite places are really struggling and they need our tourist dollars.

Whether you prefer the Caribbean or Pacific just get shopping and book a trip!

---David Lenderman



# Announcements from the Afterlife

## Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Updates

Restrictions from COVID-19 are limiting the FGBNMS from personally assessing the damage from Hurricane Laura. However, reports from divers indicate no damage and mooring buoys still in place at each of the sanctuary's banks. The comments on the FGBNM's Expansion Plan were overall favorable. They appear to be continuing with the regulatory process and the next step is to issue the Final Rule and take comments again. The SAC formed a Fishing Gear Working Group that will review and gather data on the impacts of fishing gear on the marine environment. NOAA has released the FGBNMS's 2019 Research and Monitoring Report. It contains information and data about the sanctuary's work in 2019.

## Texas Gulf Coast Council Updates

Lunarfins Scuba Club has made a donation to FGBNMS. The TGCC continues to sanction HUFF (recommend to their member clubs and their members, add participation credits toward the TGCC Neptune Award), with its date move

Fall Video Contest Voting Reminder to April 17 & 18 2021. They encourage the members of the TGCC member clubs to support this event and not schedule conflicting activities.

On October 2, the entries for the Fall contest will be posted on the HUPS Facebook page with a link. All HUPS members are invited to view the films and vote. If you aren't already a member of this closed group and would like to vote, please contact Betsy Beasley at [betsybeasley@swbell.net](mailto:betsybeasley@swbell.net). Everyone who decides to vote, please do the entrants the courtesy of watching every film in entirety before you vote for your favorite.

## 2020/2021 Presentation Topics

Presentation		Presenter
October	Challenges & Solutions for Underwater Video Using Natural Lighting	Craig Beasley
November	Sharks I've Known HUPS Video Contest	Steven Anderson Betsy Beasley
December	Wakatobi & Bali Best of HUPS	Mathis Weatherall Martin Daniels
January	Anything Goes - Short Video Clips from everyone	Tom Collier
February	Macro Photography	Barry Cline or Mike Bartick
March	Diving in Indonesia	Marty Snyderman
April	TBD	Barry Cline or Mike Bartick
May	HUFF Winners	Betsy Beasley

## Update on Texas Driver's License Plates

### Seeking HUPS 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](mailto:monica_losey@yahoo.com).

According to the Texas Dive Plates Facebook page, things are moving along with the Texas Diver License Plates. Here is the latest post: "Good news, y'all! Thanks to all of your wonderful support and your strong response, we are moving forward with a plate application. Please stay tuned as this part of the process begins because there are several steps where you, our supporters, will be needed in order to help get the plate launched." To keep updated, follow the Facebook page here:

<https://www.facebook.com/Texas-Dive-Plates-100506298464247>

The first annual Houston Underwater Film Festival has been rescheduled

to April 17/18, 2021. Tickets bought for the 2020 shows will be shifted to the same shows and times in 2021. The venue is still the 14 Pews Theater.





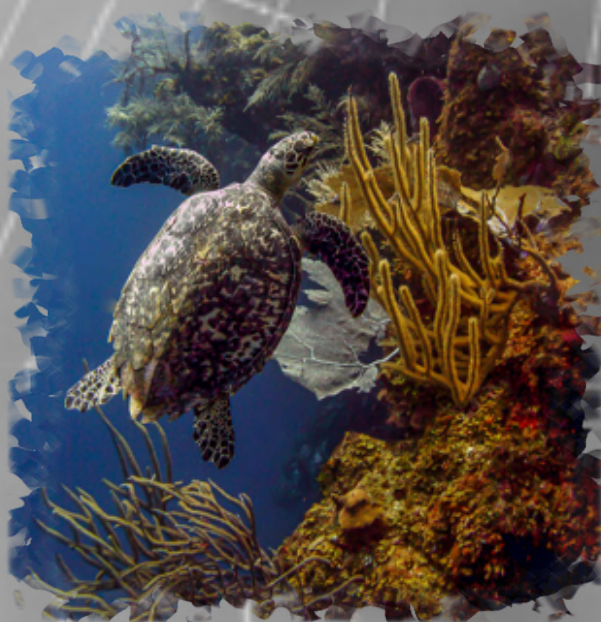
# 2020 POTY Standings thru Spooktember



Steven Anderson  
Advanced 1st



Russell Ramsey  
Intermediate 1st



Barry Cline  
Intermediate 2nd

Novice		
1	Justin Wallace	523
2	Kathy Long	514
Intermediate		
1	Betsy Beasley	664
2	Russell Ramsey	622
Advanced		
1	Dennis Deavenport	720
2	Steven Anderson	645
3	John Van Atta	505
4	Catrin Pichler	483



Dennis Deavenport  
Advanced 2nd



John Van Atta  
Advanced 3rd



# Supernatural Wizardry

CNN Selects "In the Sheepy Realm" – by Catrin Pichler

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n8JI9CJEEvY>

Catrin Pichler is an Austrian underwater photographer/videographer who is also a HUPS member. None of us have met Catrin but we see her photos in the photo contest and have seen some of her video entries in HUFF and in other video contests like Scubaverse. I've been exchanging emails with her for a couple of months and recently she mentioned that one of her short films, "In the Sheepy Realm" had been selected by CNN and was rapidly going viral. I pushed and prodded her to provide me with a writeup about her film and the circumstances surrounding it. As of today, it has had 48,738 hits. Her writeup to me is below.

I still remember vividly the stunning moment when I saw a picture from the Costasiella seaslug for the first time. I kind of immediately fell in love with this odd and funny looking cartoon-like creature.

And I knew I had to go to Tulamben (Bali) to get a chance to meet it and shoot some pics and footage from Shaun the Sheep, as I often think of it myself.

So we went to Tulamben sometime later and when I told the local dive guide about my plans he said "no problem, there are many around at the moment". I was so excited and filled with anticipation when we came to the dive site. The picture I've seen at a FB photography group was full frame and therefore the next stunning moment I remember was when the dive guide pointed out a small leaf to

me, which was sticking out of the desert-like sandy ground. I shrugged my shoulders and so did DD, my friend and buddy, and we realized how the guide smiled about our clueless gaze. And then he pointed at something on this leaf which for us just seemed like some particle. I screwed on my 5+ macro lens and tilted my camera into position. When I saw the picture on-screen, I realized that I was completely under-equipped. Almost mission impossible. The leaf sheep is so super tiny that one almost can't see it at all without a magnifying glass.

I watched the tiny cutie through my camera and made some pics which for the most part I found unsatisfying. But at least I had met Shaun the Sheep and I knew I had to come back for more, and I had to bring a better lens. Perseverance pays off and sometime later back in Bali I got what I had dreamed of. And this way my friend and buddy DD got the chance to watch the Sheepy too.

The movie "In the Sheepy Realm" is the result of several dives and encounters with these lovely little creatures. They are stunning little guys with amazing capabilities like living by ingesting the cellular contents of algae. But their greatest advantage for us humans is their unique look. Their color, the shape, their eyespots and rhinophores, and their movements make them very adorable.

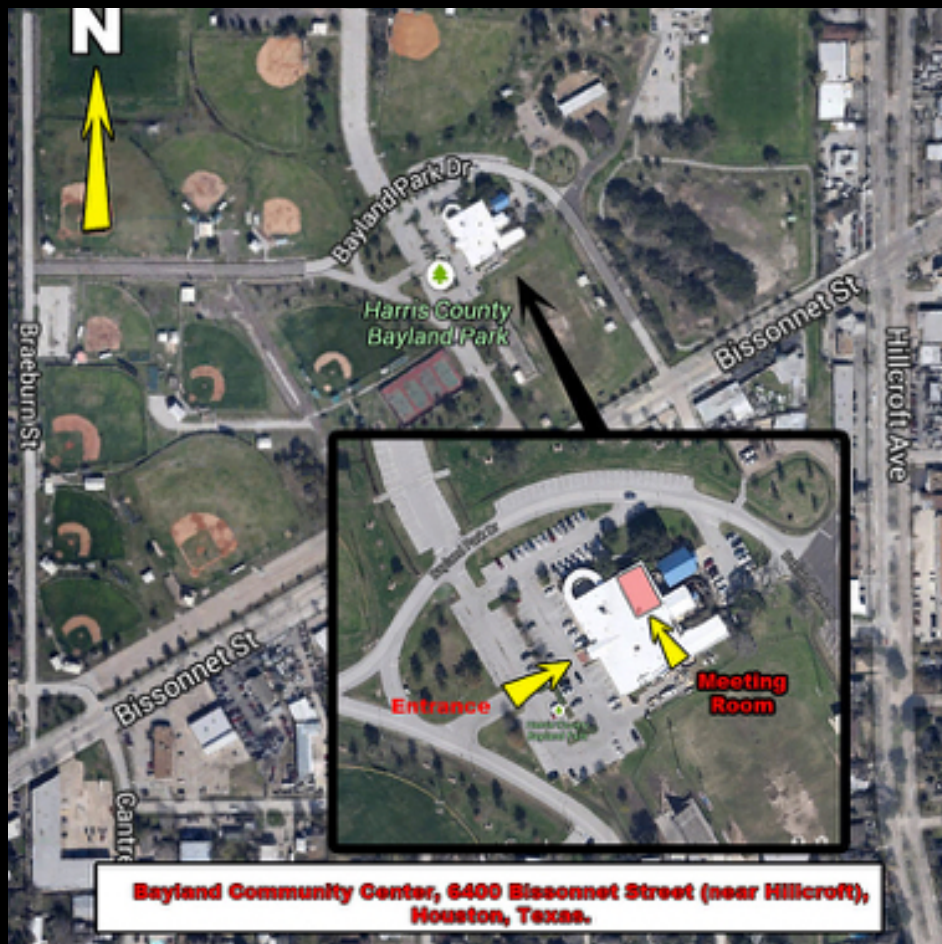
When I uploaded my film on YouTube it regularly got more and more views. On 9/11 this week the views suddenly and surprisingly increased by thousands. I was wondering what had happened and then there was this comment where someone said "Congratulations! You hit the big time. CNN used your cute video to brighten our day. Way to go!" Surprise!



Catrin Pichler  
Advanced 3rd



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](http://www.hups.org)

**You Tube**

[www.youtube.com/user/HUPSdotORG](https://www.youtube.com/user/HUPSdotORG)



Find us on:

**facebook.**

[www.facebook.com/groups/174168478778/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/174168478778/)

## 2020 HUPS Board of Directors

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Mary Daniels	Debbie Mensay	Betsy Beasley
Martin Daniels	Jim Mensay	Laura Veariel
Mike Greuter	Joe Haws	
Monica Losey	Russell Ramsey	



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