



#### *Quotes:*

The impossible missions  
are the only ones which  
succeed.

- Jacques Cousteau



## November 4th - Education Presentation

Join us on November 4<sup>th</sup> at Bayland Community Center at 7:00 p.m. as we will be presented by two of the most accomplished divers/photographers, Jesse Cancelmo and Dennis Deavenport. This month's presentation will be an education program with Dennis giving a small program on how to properly edited RAW images when you begin your post processing.

On second presenters is Jesse Cancelmo who will be speaking about the expansions that are taking place at the wonderful Flowers Gardens. Jesse currently represents the dive community at this special local location and is a great resource at diving on the Gardens.

For those of you expecting the Bonaire recap, this presentation will take place later next year. Please plan to arrive early for socializing and for those of you who want to continue the conversation, join HUPS members at Don Carlos after the meeting for adult beverages or a meal. As always visitors are always welcome.

### HUPS Workshop – November 9<sup>th</sup> Lightroom 5 Round Table

Join us on November 9<sup>th</sup> at Bayland Community Center from 8:00 a.m. – 12: 30 p.m. as we review and discuss some of the new features of the photo processing Lightroom software and its latest release, Version 5. The discussion will be an open forum with plenty of time for questions and answers. As I mentioned in my article a few months back, there are some wonderful new features in Lightroom 5 that should be very helpful if not time saving for working on your images.

Some of the new features include:

You can now add video right in Lightroom 5.

Spot removal has been enhanced... great for backscatter.

The radiance filter has also been enhanced to add or decrease exposure on your images.

Lens correction has been upgraded to correct lens distortion.

These are just a few of the new features that will be discussed. Come to the workshop, bring you coffee and we will review these and more..





## Learn from Others on a Club Trip!

*Submitted by Greg Grimes*

Although this past year I have had to stay out of the pool, I do have enough logged bottom time to offer some of our new members some advice... learn from others in the club while on a trip! Recently as many of you know, HUPS had a group 16 members who made their way down to the island of Bonaire and I am sure there were many lesson learned. Since I have attended more than one of these clubs trips, I can tell you I have learned much from them and here are several examples of those lessons.

1. Arrival at the airport. Look around at your fellow travelers; see how they are transporting their underwater photo gear. Most of us carry it on board since this is our most important asset on the trip. If our dive gear gets lost while in transit, in most cases you can get a rental until it arrives, but most of the time you cannot get good quality rental photo gear. Who after spending so much money and time wants to arrive at a dive destination to get into the water without your camera while the other members are having a great time take images. This I learned from other members. If need be, buy clothing at your destination. You can always find underwear.
2. Watch your fellow club members and see how they prepare the photo gear before diving and how they transport it to the boat. Take the time to watch how they prepare their o rings to avoid leakage. Keep an eye open to see how many times they change their batteries, off load their images, etc. Several members have come up with a great way to transport their housing by adding a rope with tubing on either end so it can be handed off to the boat crew both getting in and off the boat and for ease when taking the housing back to your home. Both Alicia and I have incorporated this idea and use it every time. Great idea.
3. While underwater, watch the advanced group and observe how they position their strobes to better light their subject and to avoid undue backscatter. Watch how they approach their subject and watch how they leave the area to avoid disturbing the area for the next photographer. This again was learned from my fellow members.
4. My final example is how they work the post processing procedure on their beloved images. What programs they use, how they handle cropping to best enhance their images. How they eliminate backscatter. What enhancements they use to get the best results from the images while on a dive trip.

These lessons and so much more I have learned from attending club dive trips. My advice again is to keep your eyes open, watch what is going on around you and pick up a few things. This will give you better results and in turn next time you are on a trip a new member may learn something from you.

*Scubafish*

## October Photo Contest Results



Contest results through October 2013		
NOVICE		
1st	Jan Baughman	595
2nd	Joe Holden	404
3rd	John Scheldt	282
4th	Craig Beasley	181
5th	Martin Daniels	130
INTERMEDIATE		
1st	Mike Greuter	652
2nd	Lance Glowacki	619
3rd	Greg Grimes	601
4th	Debbie Mensay	445
5th	Bess Bright	241
ADVANCED		
1st	Ken Knezick	799
2nd	Dennis Deavenport	711
3rd	Ken Bean	429
4th	Jim Mensay	368
5th	Terry Moore	144



# HUPS Trip Report from Captain Don's in Bonaire October 2013

*Submitted by Jim Mensay*

Captain Don's Habitat in Bonaire truly is the "Home of Diver Freedom". HUPS had a group of 16 divers that spent a week there in October 2013. Along with many, many great images, we divers also added somewhere between 20 to 30 hours of bottom time to our log books.

All of our rooms were ready upon our 6:00 A.M. arrival, and by 10:30 most of us were already blowing bubbles. The food was very good and it has been reported that a few wine glasses were lifted in toasts to the good times that were had by all.

Our Dive Masters took excellent care of us and there were no serious gear malfunctions. All dive cameras came back on board dry and most had full memory flash cards to download. Captain Don's sponsors their own weekly photo contest and HUPS had quite a few entries. The winner of this weekly photo contest was our very own, DEBBIE MENSAY. Congrats to Debbie, and you can see her winning photo of a Secretary Blenny on the HUPS facebook page.

We wish you could have all been there with us. Until the next time,

See you under the boat.

*Scuba Jim*

## Diving Stories and then some by Old Salt (John Anderson)

**Editor Note:** Enclosed please find some wonderful stories from Lifetime member John Anderson about his diving in California and his commercial diving business. I hope you enjoy them as much as I do! If you have some stories to share please email them to me to share with the group at [Alicia@theworldinaflash.com](mailto:Alicia@theworldinaflash.com)

### **Memory One:**

This Old Salt would like to tell you a story about a lifelong friend and a commercial diving business partner, George Birrer. We had a commercial diving permit and a great boat that allowed us to start a commercial diving business anywhere in the Los Angeles Harbor District. Our boat has big commercial numbers printed bow so we really looked official. We only could do our diving on weekends or holidays because we both had full time positions working for Shell Development in its research section. In the summer months with lots of lights we are able to squeeze a pier job late in the afternoon. The pier work was underwater in repairing sections of the pier that had big problems that in some cases were looking like they might sink but we usually were able to correct. When we are working on the piers we were never more than 20 feet apart because from time to time we needed help. We also did light salvage in trying to raise heavy items that has fallen overboard from a boat or the pier or to recovery some lost items such as a wallet with a lottery ticket which I did find but the list goes on and on.

### **Memory Two:**

We heard about an opportunity to sell sea urchins & starfish to a dealer in the area for us this was the frosting on the cake because we both loved just being underwater and we knew where there was lately an over population of them. We approached the State of California Fish & Game Authority about harvesting sea urchins and star fish marine animals. At the time California was having a period of decline with its giant kelp forest that had been so prevalent for so long along the California coast. Remember, kelp has a commercial value because it was actually being harvested at that time by vessels that have a open bow with a cutter that like an old time lawn mower but very big that lowered into the water. The kelp is used in many different ways such as food, food additives, medicine and agriculture. It was thought that sea urchins and starfish disrupts the giant kelp holdfast which is the part of the kelp that cling to the oceans bottom and it is the only way for the kelp to survive and grow because if not for its holdfast it would wash away onto the shore and die. We received an agreement with the state of California Fish and Game Authority imprinted with the name then of Governor Ronald Reagan. I must say we did this for the money but to be able to be just underwater was the biggest part. In this underwater adventure we might find other things like anchors, fishing rods, reels, and a variety of other worthwhile items that we could also sell, which we did.

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# Diving Stories and then some by Old Salt (John Anderson) Continued

## Memory Three:



George and I had a lot of odd items that we had to wear to keep warm and to help protect us from the scrapes from being banged on the bottom or against the spines of the sea urchins in very close spaces that we sometimes we had to work in. Our diving usually was from 20 to 40 feet but we tried to work in the 20 foot range in order to conserve air and prolong our diving time. We usually used 2 tanks each during the day and we were able to dive for long periods of time on a single tank because of the depth. I don't like to refer to skip breathing but I was young and fearless at that time so I need to let that issue rest. An example of where we collected was on the giant boulders and in small caves that have been created when they built the breakwater with gigantic granite boulders and many times, that was was the "honey pot" of starfish & sea urchins were. In trying to keep warm I had a custom made  $\frac{1}{4}$ " wet suit with the hood attached to the jacket so no cold water, ever wet could not get down

the back of my neck but George did not have the great innovation so he had to suffer with the cold water down his neck. Under our wet suits we wore complete long underwear top and bottom plus cotton socks under our booties. We did this because we were in the ocean for about 5 to 6 hours straight with the water temperature running as low as 55 degrees in the winter to 70 degrees in the summer, if we were lucky. We wore cotton gloves under our heavy duty rubber work gloves for warmth and to protect ourselves from the sea urchins spines. We wore a section of automobile tires inner tubes cut in pieces that fit around our knees and also round our elbows. Those inner tubes worked quite well in protection those areas. Our collecting gear was very simple with the use of a small garden trowel you could collect the specimens and place them in a large laundry basket that you carried around underwater that had a weight in it so it would be stationary when setting on the bottom. Many times we would collect around the basket area until it was full and then would bring the basket up to a giant truck inner that was on the surface and attach the full basket to the tube. We had room for 3 large laundry baskets attached to the tube but we also had connections that we could attach 3 more baskets attached to the 3 hanging baskets. We did this because we were trying to collect for as long as we could because when the baskets were full we had to surface and many times get into our boat placing the marine animals in 4 giant 500 gallon plastic tubs which was in the center of our boat and this took time. Sometimes one of our family members would go with us and stay in the boat and helped us in our loading into our boat of the marine animals. Needless to say we saw each other usually when we would bring our full baskets back to the staging area with the giant inner tube that was anchored to the bottom. Usually that would be less than 60 feet from where our boat was anchored. Oh by the way the kelp forest started to flourish after a few years after we stopped our operation but it was probably due to El Nino and the water temperature, but who can say.

## Memory Four:

If you are a betting person you can figure out the chances that this could ever happen. George and I were doing our collecting one day along the Federal Breakwater which is 7 miles long and collected about 40 feet out to about 80 feet. This gives us 40 feet wide and we could have on both sides of the breakwater. The formula would be something like this: There are 5,280 feet in a mile x 7 miles long = 36,960 x 40 feet wide collecting area = 2,217,600 x 2 both sides of the breakwater = 4,435,200 square feet. George and I were collecting dropped my weight from my big floating device, that is how we keep a stability position for our giant inner tube with empty and full laundry baskets. I dropped the weight and it went into a small cave like hole with a Danforth Anchors in the hole. I promptly entered the hole and retreated 3 of the anchors but the visibility became so bad due to my wrestling the anchors out so I gave up and said maybe another day. About a week later we were doing our collecting and it could have been anywhere within the 4,435,200 feet that I mentioned above when I dropped my bottom weight from my giant truck tube to position my work area like normal and it went into the very same hole. I now retrieved the anchors plus a few other items like a grappling hook, which I wanted to retrieve the last time. I could have won the lottery 100 times with this statistics like that because if you would take the 3,335.200 and randomly pick the spot you wanted, it be would impossible to find that exact spot again.

## Memory Five:

George and I were doing our normal collecting one day when I spotted the main Federal Breakwater beacon setting upright but in 40 feet of water. I could not believe my good fortune. The beacon had glass panels with appropriate colors marking the main entrance to the Los Angeles harbor entrance. We could never know how it got there but maybe when they were trying to replace the existing beacon they lost control and it fell into where I found it.





## John Anderson ( The Old Salt cont.)

Another way was that when they were replacing the beacon they just dumped the old one. The beacon was very heavy because it was made out of brass or bronze that was round in its shape and was round 4 feet high or less. The center of the beacon had high intensity electrical lights which were magnified by the glass panels that were on its side. So how did we salvage a heavy item that was in the center of the opening of the Federal Breakwater with boats and ships coming through? We used 3 giant truck inner tubes with a heavy nylon rope attached to the beacon that when a wave crashed against the breakwater it created a slightly lifting effect which I cinched the rope tighter until the beacon finally rose off the bottom but with the help of George pulling upward with his feet firmly planted on the bottom. We had our dive flag out like normal and we had the big experimental vessels numbers plastered on our boats bow. Once the beacon was off the bottom we ran a line to our boat which was just around the opening entrance on the leeward side of the breakwater and managed to get the beacon to our boat. We had a small boom and with the help of George and I and a boy we had hired that day we were able to get the beacon into our boat. Needless to say that beacon was sold even before we reached home which was only five miles away.



### Memory Six:



My wife Mickey and I had some great diving friends and I still do, Harold and his wife Joan Lofton. We met them many years ago in a dive shop in Newport Beach California that is still in operation but under different ownership. Harold was contacted with an offer from someone that was willing to give him free of charge a forty foot cabin cruiser that was presently in 40 feet of water in the Santa Monica Bay Harbor. Harold tried to get the title of ownership papers for the boat but the owner said they would be available in just a few days. It appears that the boat had a leaking problem and the owners could not keep up with it and it sank right at its mooring buoy. Harold, Joan, Mickey and I talked about this salvage and decided to give it a try now and not wait another week. We made an inspection and thought we would be able to bring this salvage caper off with some steel drums or barrels. I was working for a mining company at that time and had many empty 50 gallon barrels so I

asked if I might use them for possible a week, my employer said sure. With a load of barrels in the back of my trailer I brought a load of 50 gallons steel barrels to the Santa Monica harbor. It was very difficult pushing the empty barrels on the surface for a hundred yards or more which we did but my Uncle Howard Spauling had a small boat that greatly helped in towing of the barrel to the buoy with the sunken vessel setting just below it. After we reached the buoy we opened the barrels underwater to let in some of the water so we would be able to move the barrels around underwater that way we could control the positioning of the barrels into place. We attached a heavy duty nylon rope to the barrels and to some extra heavy duty lifting rings that we used in picking the boat up on land. When we were all connected we purged the barrels of water with high pressure air from a connection from a diving tank that we brought along for just this purpose. The barrels created a lift that we could see, we would be able to lift the boat off the bottom and to the surface. It was getting late by this point so we decided to call it a day and come back the next day to finish the job. The next day we were back ready to raise the boat to the surface but when we arrived at our buoy and started to inflate our barrels again I noticed that there was a boat keel that was directly above from where I was inflating the barrels. I surfaced and found out that when the tide changes the boats that are attached to their buoys drifted around. If we, at that time, elected to raise our boat chances are we would do damage to the surrounding drifting boats hulls. We decided to set back and re-evaluate this situation and deflated the barrels again. Harold contacted the said owner about our problem but he could not get in touch with him. His partner said he did know that in order to try and lessen his financial loss that he gave the boat to the Boy Scouts of America as a complete write off on his income tax. With that knowledge we retrieved our barrels and called it a day for this was starting to look like it could get messy and we did not want to get involved. *John Anderson ( The Old Salt )*





# 2013

Meetings

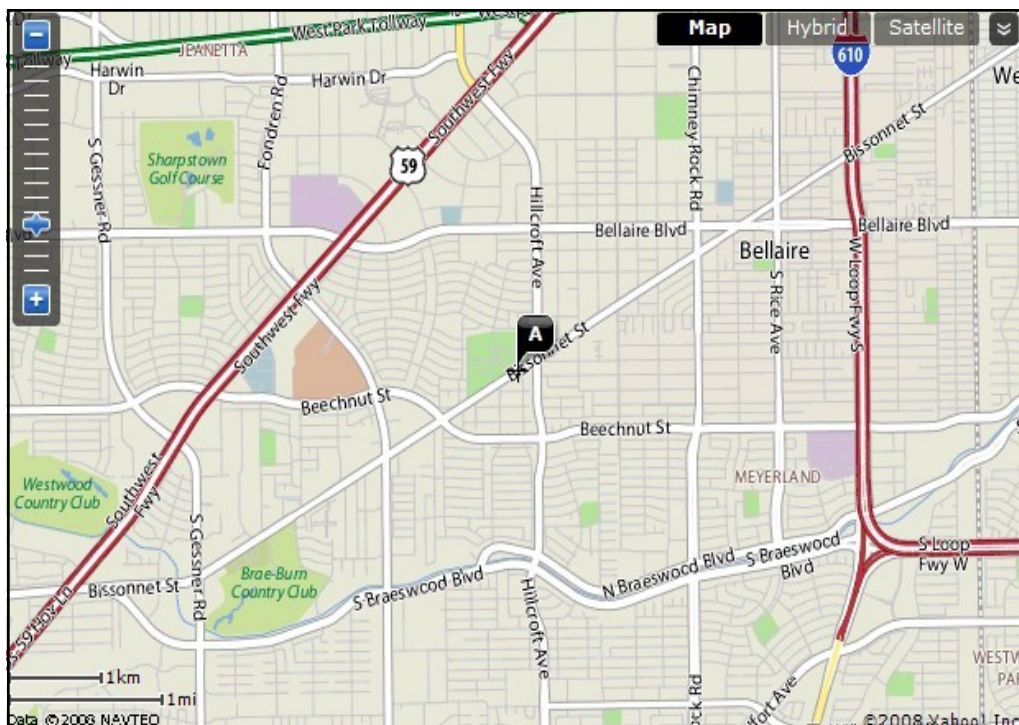
## Meetings & Presentations

Month	Date	Presenter	Show Title & Synopsis	Contest Topic
January	7th	Variety	New Year New Ideas for HUPS	Eels
February	4th	Terry Moore	Fiji - Bega Lagoon Dive Resort	Wide Angle Wrecks
March	4th	Ken Knezick	Diving Successfully with Underwater Camera & Strategies to Prevent Flooding	Starfish
April	1st	Jackie, Mary Lou Reid, Dennis Deavenport	Ambon	Cephalopods ( octopi, squid, cuttlefish, nautilus )
May	6th	Clint Moore	Yap Mantas	Schools of Fish
June	3rd	Kandace and Jim Heimer, Monica Losey	Africa/Arctic-Polar Bears	Syngnathidae ( pipefish & seahorses )
July	8th	Ken Knezick	Shifting Baselines on the Reef - Diving the Best of What is Left	Silhouettes
August	5th	Terry Moore and Dennis Deavenport	Florida Diving	Sharks & Rays
September	9th	Variety	Gear Night – Bring in your Camera Systems for Tips	Juveniles of Any Species
October	7th	Tom Collier	Raja Ampat	Ugly Critters
November	4th	Dennis Deavenport Jesse Cancelmo	Editing Raw Images/Flower Gardens Expansion	Close-Focus/Wide Angle
December	2nd	HUPS Members	HUPS Christmas Party	Best of HUPS & Creative



*The Houston Underwater Photographic Society meets at  
the Bayland Community Center starting at 7:00 PM.  
(Social time begins at 6:45)*

*(6400 Bissonnet, near the Hillcroft intersection)  
Visitors are always welcome.*



## **2013 HUPS Officers**

### **President:**

Greg Grimes

### **Vice President:**

Terry Moore

### **Secretary:**

Tammy Allyn

### **Treasurer:**

Tom Collier

### **Membership/ Newsletter:**

Alicia Grimes

### **Photo Contest:**

Dennis Deavenport

### **TGCC Rep:**

Frank Burek /  
Debbie Mensay

### **Web Master:**

James Heimer

### **Workshops:**

Greg Grimes

### **Trip Coordinator:**

Jim Mensay

### **Historian:**

Frank Burek

### **Special Events:**

Jan Baughman

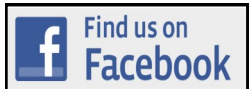
## ***HUPS on the Web***



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



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



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

## **Board of Directors**

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