

September 2011

Underwater Images September Presentation

HIGHLIGHTS *By Greg Grimes*

- How to Pose Fish
- Is it your Photo or the Subject others enjoy!
- Battle of Bali
- OMG Moment
- Workshop recap and upcoming events!
- Lionfish at Flower Gardens!
- Moody Gardens Project Recap

An Evening of Bali Entertainment HUPS style...

Join us at the Bayland Community Center as we present Bali through the eyes of HUPS. The September 12th 2011 presentation will be a recap of the club trip that took place in May and June of this year with three different multi-faceted productions for your entertainment. In no particular order, we have a show that was put together by Mary Lou Reid with images and video from two new members, Kelly and John Casey along with Jackie and Mary Lou Reid. Their show will include images from the open market in Ubud, the Bali orchid, bird and butterfly parks and even a few images that were taken on the way to Tulamben. Their show will also have underwater images from this unforgettable location in Southeast Asia.

The next show was put together by Tom Collier with images from Tom & Kay Collier, Sandy Bryan, Dennis Deavenport, Debbie and Jim Mensay and Longview, TX member John Petty. Their collection of photos will include macro and wide angle shots as well as some video from this experienced group.

The third show which was put together by Greg and Alicia will consist of the younger members of HUPSters, Greg and Alicia Grimes, Monica Losey, Brett Kriegel, as well as our New Zealand members Ken and Misty Bean. With our presentation we hope to show off the talents of the next generation of HUPS and bring together still photos as well as videography choreographed with three different upbeat songs using the software ProShow Producer.

We'll even find some time to present a short show on the Bali countryside, so show up in droves and plan on being wowed! Rumor has it there may be popcorn for this movie night of HUPS and guests are always welcome.

"Still Raking In the Clams!"... A Moody Gardens Update

By Mary McDonald

In addition to the prestige and exposure of our photographic skills being on display at Moody Gardens, we're raking in the clams!...well, sort of. Our venture into for-profit waters has been both fun and profitable. Because we have many willing deck hands, it has not been too much work for any single person. Sandy Bryan, Kandace Heimer, Kay Collier, and I have had a great time packaging your photos for the gift shop. John Van Atta has graciously agreed to store the inventory at his house in Texas City, and he checks in with the gift shop routinely to restock when necessary. When I can't find a picture I need, Dennis Deavenport is always more than helpful in rescuing me by providing the needed photo. Also, Tom Collier does the very important part that would drive me nuts...he keeps up with billing MG and makes sure we collect those clams! Of course, none of this would be possible if you talented HUPS members weren't supplying us with those awesome photos! Which brings up another topic; if any of you have any photos you'd like to contribute to the cause, we'd love to have them! We have some in our inventory we can't use because they either won't crop successfully to 5x7 or 8 x 10, or they are fabulous photos of critters we HUPSters recognize, but the average shopper in the gift shop does not. Please keep in mind the majority of the purchases are made by children.

We've got it down to a science now. Our routine goes something like this: using an excel spread sheet we e-mail to each other, Kandace, Sandy, Kay and I decide how many of which pictures to print based partially on sales records and partially on what strikes our fancy at the moment. I download the pictures to a flash drive, and Sandy gets them printed at Costco (takes about an hour). While Sandy's doing the print job, I print the labels that go on the back. Once we have the prints and labels, we congregate in the conference room at my office (or at my kitchen counter) and label and package the photos. We found a source that sells us the mats, backs, and cello bags as a unit at a very reasonable price, so we just have to tape the pictures in place, apply the label, and slide them into the cello bags..."badda bing, badda boom" as Kay would say. The last time we assembled a batch, it took Sandy, Kay, and me (we had Kandace working on another project) about three hours...not bad for sea-soaked senioritas!

The clam collection for 2010 was \$1368.00, and so far 2011 has produced \$1300.00. To quote Tom, "It looks like 2011 will exceed 2010 by the end of the year". If there are any of you who would like to participate in any part of this venture, please let any of those mentioned above know, and we'll get you on board! Also, we are toying with the idea of adding other items; calendars, mugs, etc. If any of you have any suggestions for items/sources, we'd love to have them. Thanks for your participation!





As seasoned divers, we all know about Nitrogen Narcosis. We know what may cause it and how it presents itself in a fellow diver. But do you know what Surface Interval Narcosis is?

Well, I feel like I'm currently suffering from it now. Here are some of the symptoms:

1. You open the closet and stare at your dive gear.
2. You pull out your camera underwater housing and start pushing the buttons.
3. You start looking at all your various scuba magazines and actually start reading the articles.

One sure cure for this malady is to take another Dive Trip. So, for next year, HUPS is working on a couple of trips. One will be in the Caribbean, one will be a day's trip away, maybe Indonesia, Southeast Asia, Deep Pacific, etc.

In no particular order, here are some of the important considerations we look for in a HUPS trip:

1. Convenient diving, 4 possible dives a day, with some of those hopefully shore dives from the land based resort, or as many as 5 dives a day from a Live a Board
2. Dives that allow for plenty of bottom time (say 1 hour) which means an area with a good combination of shallow dives, as well as the deeper ones
3. A destination with either a direct flight, or at least the possibility of getting there all in 1 travel day
4. An air carrier with a generous luggage policy (probably is not one around anymore)
5. A dive destination that is willing to provide good service to U/W photographers and be willing and able to handle all the camera gear
6. A dive destination with interesting critters to take pictures of
7. A dive destination that is a good place to share some serious down time with our HUPS friends
8. A low cost \$ destination (air, land, diving, food) for various budgets of \$1,500, \$2,000, \$2,500 \$3,000
9. Maybe one of the locations that will have Photo Shootouts next year, and HUPS could be a part of that event

Some familiar land based Caribbean destinations we are looking at are : Grand Cayman, Little Cayman, Dominica, Curacao, Bonaire. There are also some Caribbean Live a Boards - one that does the BVI's and another that does Saba. Outside of the Caribbean, we are looking at YAP in Micronesia. Also, Thailand for a Live a Board, and Manado for a Live a Board (around the northern shore of Sulawesi and over to Lembeh. At the next meeting let us know what some of your preference are, and we can work on a group trip to get us all there. We probably need to get all of this done within the next couple of months so that we can have a couple of trips on the books for next March through September.

See you under the boat when we get there.

Scuba Jim

Lion Fish Invasion

Submitted by Dr. Brian Julloch

The lionfish invasion has now reached Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary. We expected the arrival of this invasive species this summer, and here they are. Recreational divers on board the M/V FLING reported one at West Flower Garden Bank the week of July 20, and then another at Stetson Bank on July 27. Thanks to the crew and passengers of the M/V FLING for reporting these and providing this photo. These invaders are voracious indiscriminate feeders, and prolific breeders. They are a real threat to our natural resources throughout the Gulf of Mexico. We encourage all divers in the area to notify us of any lionfish sightings. This will help us estimate the number of lionfish present at the banks and perhaps how quickly they are spreading. We have also issued permits to divemasters on board the M/V FLING to remove lionfish as they are encountered, since they are the people visiting the sanctuary most often.

We realize this isn't all encompassing since diving only occurs in certain sections of the sanctuary and lionfish often inhabit areas beyond recreational dive limits. But, we are working closely with several other organizations and sites to develop lionfish management protocols. Unfortunately, they will never be eliminated completely. They are here to stay.

For more information on the lionfish invasion, please visit the USGS web page at <http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/factsheet.aspx?speciesid=963> and the REEF Environmental Education Foundation page at <http://www.reef.org/programs/exotic/lionfish>. USGS and REEF are two of the leaders in this effort.

Additional information is available at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/gr/lionfish> and in an article available in the Winter 2011 issue of Sanctuary Watch, on the web at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/sw/>

To report lionfish sightings, please email us at flowergarden@noaa.gov or send us a post on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FGBNMS.



Workshop Info

By Greg Grimes

Recap

Travel in the 21st Century

On Aug. 6th one of our most dynamic presenters, Ken Knezick owner of [Island Dreams](#) took us through the trials and tribulations of traveling in the 21st century and how to avoid those most common potholes that arise as we travel around the world. Ken taught us how to pack, what to carry on us at all times and what to do if something unforeseen happens, which as we all know usually does. If you attended the workshop then you received a copy of his important travel checklist that was put together by Ken. Additionally there is a letter for your luggage for the TSA when they take a closer look at your gear. An electronic version of these documents is available on the HUPS website by downloading them at :

http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Downloads/21Travel/Travel_Letters.zip The collection of files are zipped up so you will need to unzip them before you can use and customize them for your name and address.

Upcoming

Post Processing using LightRoom and Photoshop

Workshop presenter: James Wiseman

"So, you've just gotten home from your 2 week dive trip to Bonaire or Bali. You took your fellow club members' advice and shot using the RAW format on your camera. You have 1500 photos on your hard drive! Now what to do with them? This is where my workshop focuses.

The goal of the workshop is to teach you how to quickly import your photos, rate and sort them, then develop the RAW files into great looking JPEGs that you can print, put in your web gallery, or enter into a HUPS contest.

The tool of choice for this is Adobe Lightroom - an invaluable piece of software that does not REPLACE Photoshop, but rather compliments Photoshop, or can be used to do 90% of what Photoshop can do, but at 1/3 the price. What the program is really good at is helping manage your large volume of photos, so that you can store and later FIND the ones you want easily.

For the workshop, I'd like everyone to bring their laptop if they have one - and either an extension cord or powers trip. Everyone should have either bought a copy of Adobe Lightroom (3.4.1 is the most recent version) or else downloaded the free trial version from Adobe.

As the title states, the workshop will focus on post processing basics using Adobe Lightroom. When it comes to post-processing your photos Lightroom is good at making "global" changes to a photo - as an example, that means correcting everything in the photo all at once, not "tweaking" a specific part of an image to make it lighter or darker, etc. This is what I consider "basic" post processing and what I'll make sure everyone in the workshop understands and can master. If you want to learn how to "liquefy" your dive buddy to make his or her tummy look smaller - that would be an "advanced" technique - and something I'll talk about in a future advanced post-processing workshop :-)" If you would like to attend please sign up at the September meeting, on the [forum](#) at email Greg at greg@theworldinaflash.com. Please bring your laptop loaded with the latest version of either Lightroom or Photoshop at [Adobe.com](#). Both can be downloaded for a 30 day trial. We hope to see you there.

Upcoming Workshop: Shooting Underwater Video for Post Production

Workshop presenter: Greg Grimes

For those of you who have a still camera with video capabilities and are willing to give it a try, we also have an upcoming workshop for you. Join me on **November 5th** from **12:00 - 3:00 p.m.** at Bayland Community Center as I take you through some video capturing techniques that include different shooting types, using magic filter, white balancing with your hand, best settings for DSLR cameras to maximize quality, how to collect your underwater footage to tell a story with video and so much more. The workshop will conclude (time permitting) with a roundtable discussion with HUPSters who have shot video to discuss

what works for them and how we all can improve in video. Please join us even if you don't have video capabilities yet! You can sign up at the next meeting, on the [forum](#), or email me at greg@theworldinaflash.com.

These workshops are for you. As we move into 2012 I'm looking for workshop ideas so if you have any suggestions please feel free to email me at greg@theworldinaflash.com



August Photo Contest Results

Novice	
1st	Monica Losey
2nd	Monica Losey
2nd	Paul Marcellus
3rd	Paul Marcellus

Intermediate	
1st	Debbie Mensay
1st	Jim Mensay
2nd	Kandace Heimer
3rd	Debbie Mensay
3rd	Jim Mensay
3rd	Kandace Heimer
3rd	Mike Greuter

Advanced	
1st	Tom Collier
2nd	Jackie Reid
2nd	Ken Bean
2nd	Dennis Deavenport
3rd	Jackie Reid
3rd	Ken Bean
3rd	Kay Collier

Contest results through August 2011		
NOVICE		
1st	Monica Losey	505
2nd	Lance Glowacki	474
3rd	Greg Grimes	452
4th	Bess Bright	444
5th	John VanAtta	333
INTERMEDIATE		
1st	Kandace Heimer	527
2nd	Debbie Mensay	504
3rd	Jim Mensay	497
4th	Mike Greuter	451
5th	Paul McDonald	353
ADVANCED		
1st	Jackie Reid	558
2nd	Mary Lou Reid	527
3rd	Tom Collier	496
4th	Dennis Deavenport	493
5th	Ken Bean	437

HUPS - OMG Moments!

This month we again shine our spotlight on ourselves in the HUPS newsletter with those OMG (Oh my Gosh moments) while diving and taking photographs underwater. You know that things that happen that may or may not of been under your control. If you would like to add to the conversation please send your story to me at Agrimeshups@gmail.com. There will be a prize for the best one of the year at the Annual Christmas Party.

Bali Taxi Blues

By Dennis Deavenport

So, there I was with all my luggage and dive belongings safely stored in the trunk of the taxi. Since I had an 8 hour layover between the Flores/Alor flight to Denpasar and the flight back to Houston through Moscow, I hooked up with one of the other divers on the Komodo Dancer (Albert Schwarz – ex submarine captain) to spend some relaxation at a hotel down on the beach. Albert wasn't leaving until real early the next day so he had booked the room and offered to share it with me. This is what diving is all about... helping others when the need arises.



I took my two big bags out of the taxi and turned around and saw them removing my smaller carry-on bag. So, all is well. The bags are ready to hand over to the concierge to keep until my 6 pm taxi back to the airport. Hmmm... as we went over to get checked in, I took a closer look at the pile and was shocked to see that my small blue laptop bag was missing. The taxi was already gone and I was about to hit the panic button. Luckily, Albert had booked the taxi at the airport taxi stand and still had the receipt showing the name of the taxi service and taxi's ID number.

Back to the concierge I went and after a minute of describing the situation, she called the taxi company to report the loss. Then it was just waiting to hear back from them. About 25 minutes later, they got a call from the taxi company. They had contacted the driver and the bag had been secured. Question: Did I want to pick the bag up at the taxi stand at the airport or pay for the fare to have it taxi-ed back to me at the hotel. At this point, money is not much of a relevant topic, especially at the low fares in that part of the world.

After a wait of another hour or so, another taxi showed up and my MIA laptop was back in my hands. The taxi driver left with my money. I went back to the room with my bag and an embarrassing story to retell. The moral here... check once, check twice. Then check again.

As a post script when I got back home, John Petty (my Bali roommate), mailed me a lens shade that I'd left in the room. Time for a brain transplant, I guess. Don't assume anything!



Sometimes People Love The Subject, Not Your Photo

By Peter West Carey

Submitted by Ken Bean with author's permission

I admit to feeling like a fraud sometimes.

A fraud because I have people “ohhhh”ing and “ahhhh”ing over a photo of mine and when I sit back and look at it, I realize it’s not my photo skills they are astounded by, it’s the subject of the shot.

Yes, I was there and composed the shot, picked the subject matter and made sure the exposure was solid. I probably made a minor adjustment or two in Lightroom back in the office. I did have an influence on the outcome that is for sure.

Yet, once in a while I honestly have to state, “It was Mother Nature (one of my favorite subjects) that really did all the work to make it that beautiful.” I do this because I feel like a fraud pawing off the sheer natural beauty of the scene as it was in front of me for something I created. Especially when I used no more skill than a well trained monkey would.

I bring this up to explain phenomena novices sometimes have towards their work and their newly acquired adoring fans. One student of mine showed me a shot of a geyser in Yellowstone. He asked me, a bit baffled, “People keep telling me they really like this shot, but it seems fairly normal to me. Why is that?” I did my best to explain my take on his shot, which was that it was well exposed and had good saturation and wasn’t astounding. Just not solid use of technique.

What was astounding to his viewers were the colors in the geyser mound; burnt reds and smeared alga filled oranges streaming down glistening, dirty white surfaces with a sky that could easily apply for a copyright on the color “sky blue”. A line of emerald evergreens divided the scene.

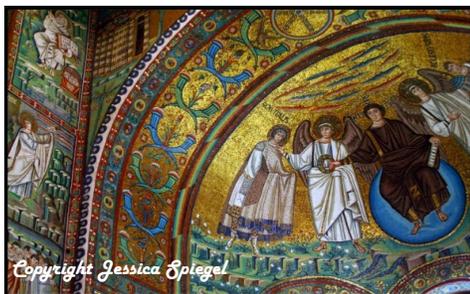
And I had stood in nearly that exact spot just 20 feet from the parking lot and taken the same shot (on a cloudy day).

I wasn’t trying to put him down and he took it constructively. I wanted him to understand what I’m hoping might help you, and it’s that sometimes it’s the subject that people are raving about and not your photographic ability.

This next point is very important to those starting out: That need not be a bad thing. Taking a photo of something beautiful in its own right and snapping a quality shot to share with others is a noble endeavor. But it is important to understand as a gauge to know if your skills are improving.



Another example is this image by Jessica Spiegel, who runs WhyGo Italy Travel Guide. The shot is taken in Ravenna, Italy.



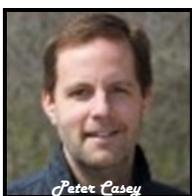
A comment on my blog post featuring her photo and a subsequent discussion on Twitter showed many people liking the photo, a lot. And Jessica will be one of the first to admit it’s not her skills, but the mosaic itself that draws people.

I can go on and on with examples and likely you know of some in your own catalogs. Photos that people love that is just “so-so” to you. Not a great photo, but a great subject. My own example is up top with a shot of Fes in Morocco that took no special talent or thought. Just a zoom lens.

Be thankful people like the photo because it brought a bit of beauty or understanding or knowledge into their life and they are happy for that. On the quest to improve your technique, make sure you don’t get caught up in the accolades of beautiful subjects and start ignoring your technique and unique view of the world.

Read more from our [Composition Tips](#), [Photography Tips for Beginners](#) Category

[Peter West Carey](#) is a world traveling professional photographer absolutely loves helping others learn photography on his [blog](#), [Facebook](#) and [Google+](#). He also loves sharing his experiences and knowledge at [photography workshops](#) and [photo tours](#).





Treasures from the HUPS Archives

September

How to Pose Fish

Please enjoy this section of the newsletter which will be devoted to articles from the HUPS newsletters of the past. These articles are still full of great information that holds up to the test of time. This will be a continuing series brought to you from past and current members of HUPS.

By Jesse Cancelmo

The following tips for improving your underwater fish portraits are a synopsis of Carl Roessler's writings "Persuading Fish to Pose" from his book [Mastering Underwater Photography](#). I've also added a few points of my own.

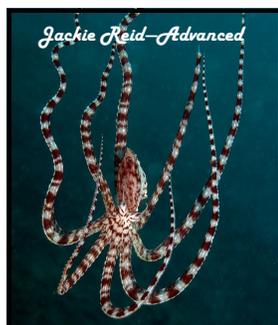
1. The masters of fish photography belong to the smallest most exclusive club of underwater photographers. Don't expect to get front cover publication quality photos right off the bat. Patience is a key factor in developing these skills.
2. Know your fish well. Read books on fish identification and habits. Know which fish are easy to approach; which are difficult. Know the common reef dwellers and the rare.
3. Learn to be a non-intrusive diver. A pre-requisite is to first develop your diving skills. The slow, quiet approach usually works best!
4. Know your camera and strobe setting at all times. Know exactly what distance and fish size for which you are pre-set. When you find the fish you've been looking for, you want to be able to react fast without the delays or making too many adjustments.
5. Study the reef community, the reef structure and the fish interactions. Be aware of the cleaning stations, the hiding places, feeding patterns, fish that tend to school and fish that tend to pair together. Study the fish's reaction to your approach. You may be able to correctly anticipate the fish's route. Fish commonly use the same escape route (to holes or crevices) repeatedly.
6. Pre-visualize your fish portraits. Are you simply after a biological type I.D. shot i.e. straight side view, or do you want a real-life fish portrait enhanced by a creative composition? With an easily approachable fish, the former may be achieved in 3 or 4 exposures. To achieve the latter may require a half or full roll of film! (Now digital) With an accommodating subject, try lots of variations and don't be shy about bracketing.
7. A single strobe is adequate for most fish photography. The advantages of filling in shadows with a second strobe must be weighed against the added hassle of two strobe rig. I agree with Roessler in his preference for simplification.
8. Be friendly with your fish. Get to know their moves and habits. One method is to pick a spot on the reef (discreetly) and remain absolutely still. Think low profile and be inconspicuous. Wait several minutes and simply observe. Watch the fish in the same way that bird watchers observe birds. Stalk them yes, but never chase a fish!

Tip of the month:

[Check out the following link on how to photograph the amazing Frog Fish](#) written By Hergen Spalink and Kerri Bingham submitted by Jesse Cancelmo

[CLICK HERE](#)

[Great tips on behavior!](#)



Meetings & Presentations



2011 Meetings

Month	Date	Presenter	Show Title & Synopsis	Contest Topic
January	10-Jan	Gary Harris	Still and video presentation of Whale Shark & Alaskan Eagles	Eyes and/or Teeth
February	7-Feb	Ken Knezick	Ten tips to improve your underwater photography	Seahorses & Pipefish
March	7-Mar	Tom & Kay Collier, Mike Greuter	HUPS Rivera Recap from HUPS trip in October 2010	Blue Water
April	4-Apr	Frank & Joyce Burek	3 mini presentation on Ecuador, Galapagos and a underwater recap of their HUPS trip to the Philippines in 2010.	Negative space
May	2-May	John Van Atta	Australia & the Coral Sea	Odd shaped Bottom Dwellers
June	13-Jun	Jan Baughman & Jim Heimer	Bali—Monkey, Massages and Mandarin Fish	It's only coral
July	11-Jul	Jesse Cancelmo	A Simple Approach to Viewing, Organizing, Post Capture Processing & Storage of Your Images	Macro Subjects
August	8-Aug	Jackie & Mary Lou Reid	Highlights from the Philippines & Cozumel	Sand & Muck Denizens
September	12-Sept	HUPS	Recap HUPS trip to Bali May 2011	Patterns
October	3-Oct	Dr. Brian Tulloch	Panama - Dive Adventures in Two Oceans	They come out after dark
November	7-Nov	Ken Bean	New Zealand Diving & Landscapes	Black & White (or Monocolor)
December	5-Dec	Best of HUPS	Christmas pot luck and Best of HUPS w/ creative photo contest	Best of HUPS & Creative

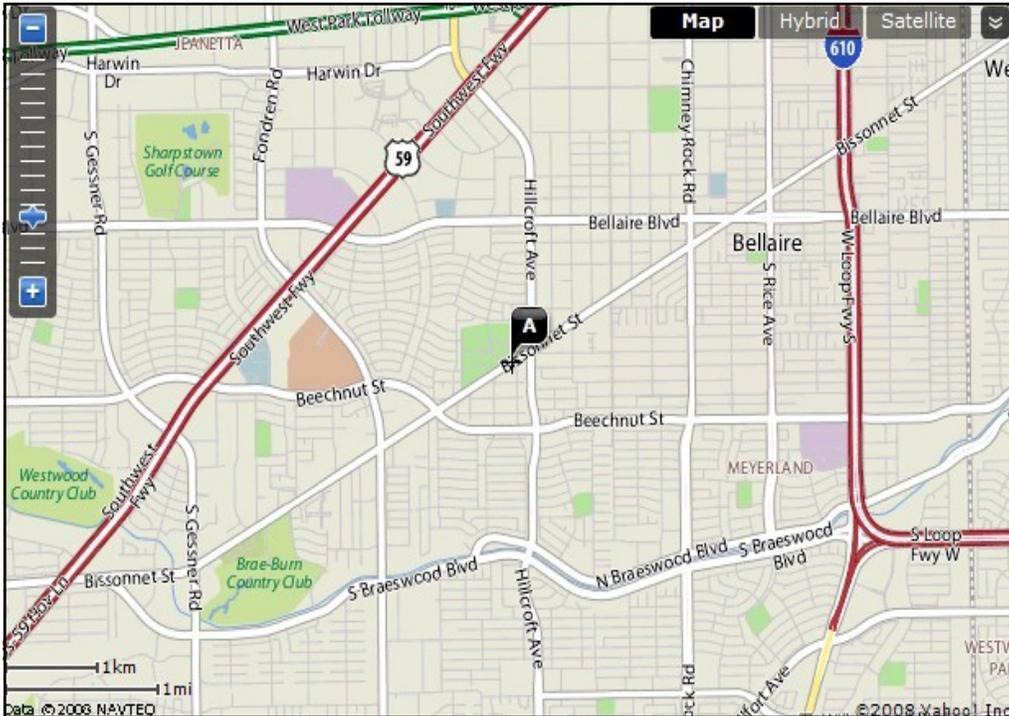
Workshops & Education

Event	Date	Instructor/Leader	Online Info
Dive Travel for the 21st Century	Aug. 6, 2011	Ken Knezick	http://hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/2011-21CenturyPacking.htm
Post Processing Basics: Photoshop & LightRoom	Sept. 24, 2011	James Wiseman	http://hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/2011-Post Processing Basics.htm
Shooting Underwater Video for Post Production	Nov. 5, 2011	Greg Grimes	http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops/2011-UWVideo.htm

Keep up to date with all workshops at <http://www.hups.org/Workshops/Workshops.htm> and on the forum at <http://www.hups.org/forum/index.php?board=5.0>



The Houston Underwater Photographic Society meets the first Monday of the month at 7:00 PM. (Social time begins at 6:45) The Bayland Community Center is located at 6400 Bissonnet, near the Hillcroft intersection. Visitors are always welcome.



2011 HUPS Officers

- President:** Jim Mensay
Vice President: Greg Grimes
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: Tom Collier
Historian: Frank Burek
Special Events: Jan Baughman

Board of Directors

- Jan Baughman
 Frank Burek
 Dennis Deavenport
 Henry Ragland
 Mike Greuter
 Kandace Heimer
 Ken Knezick
 Mary McDonald
 Russell Ramsey
 Sandy Bryan
 Wendy McSwain
 Mike Fernandez

HUPS Board Meeting Dates

7-Nov

Bayland at 6:00pm sharp

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>

HUPS

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