

NOVEMBER 2006



## WHAT **EXACTLY** DO THE SANTA ANA WINDS MEAN FOR US?

**H**ELLO DIVERS,

November brings hot Santa Ana's and elections. Both seem full of hot air and after all the blowing the diving gets great and the politics calm down. First, let's explore Santa Ana winds and diving. Santa Ana winds have a controversial nomenclature. Historians first thought they were named after the local Indian name for wind: Santana (not the musician). Then there was the famous Mexican General who took the Alamo: Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna. Too bad they were named before he was born. The winds are named after the Santa Ana Canyon where they were thought to originate. Here is the story of where they really come from.

Way up north, in Eastern Oregon and Northern Nevada, high pressure systems form in front of those pesky Alaskan low pressure systems. These are COLD but powerful. They push down on the ground air and squeeze it. The only place for it to go is south since the north is surrounded by mountains. Also the ground air is warm and wants to go where it is cool, i.e. the Ocean. As it travels faster and faster, it picks up heat from the surface air over the Mojave Desert from the Owens Valley, Death Valley, Victorville and the Colorado River Valley. They are forced through tiny (in geological terms) chutes: Palm Springs, Tejon and Cajon passes. These funnels act as venturis and speed the winds up 100 times. When they hit us, they reduce humidity to 10% and kill those with allergies.

What happens next is amazing. The

**PRESIDENT'S  
CORNER**

BY  
*Konrad Fry*



cool surface water of the Pacific draws the hot air like flies on a hot wet turd. This pushes the icky shore water out to Catalina and causes water 5 – 10 degrees cooler from deep, deep depths to the surface. Ala-Kazoo, Ala-Kazam you get 50 foot visibility! Hosam at Beach Cities put it correctly when he spoke at our meeting: "Winter diving is the best diving in Southern California. Ignore the cold and experience the visibility."

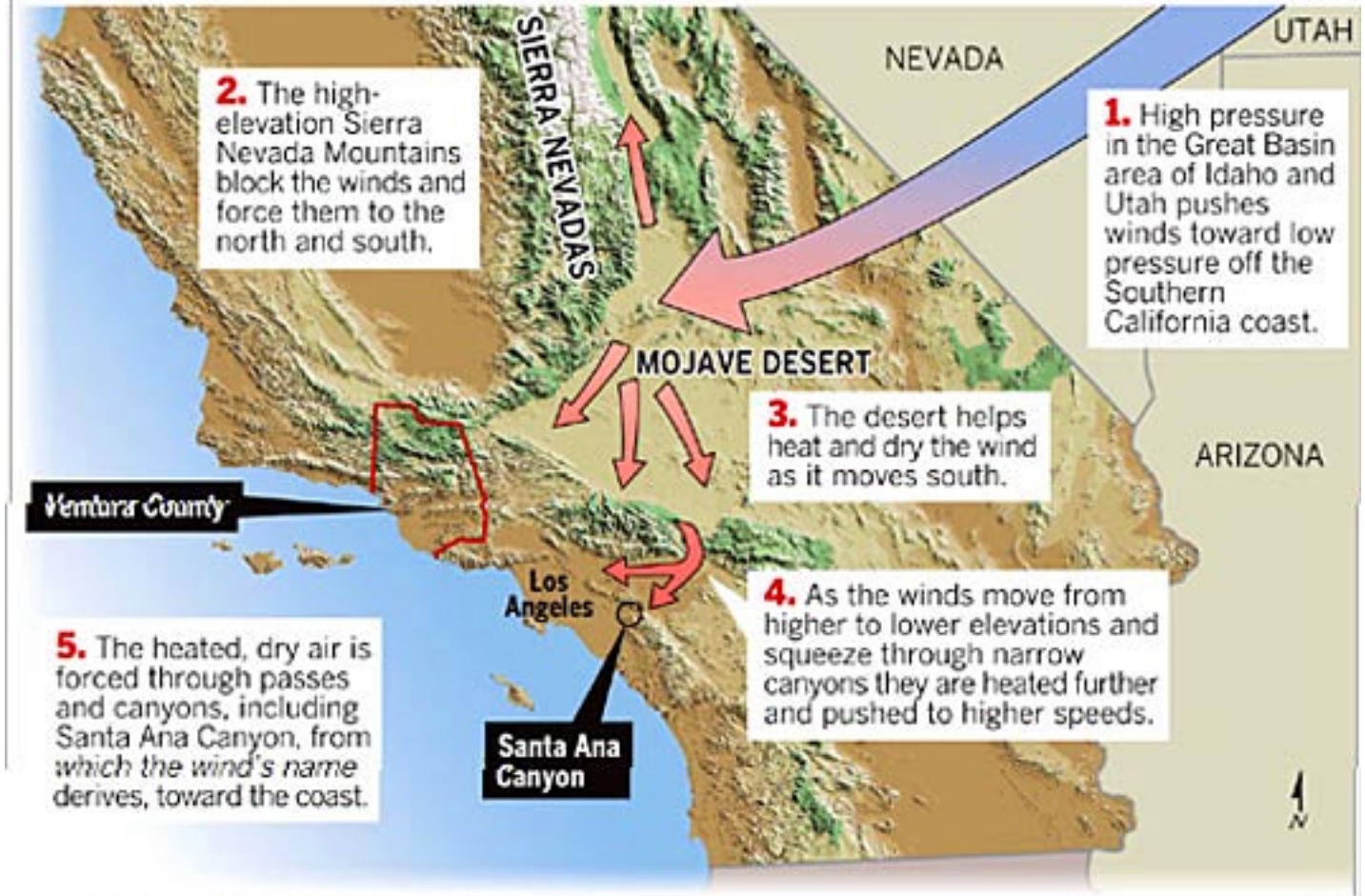
I had a personal encounter with Santa Ana visibility that was unbelievable. The now departed Alan Gerstein and I did a sunset dive at Cleo Street. My UK 1200 dive light stopped working as I geared up. We went anyway. We were astounded to see the bottom snorkeling 50 feet above it! We submerged with what little light was still available and looked for the barge wreck. In the distance, I thought I saw a great white shark heading right for us. Alan refused to turn around since he was looking at his compass and trying to see the barge. I had to yank him in front of me to witness the FORTY FOOT GRAY WHALE that was swimming 10 feet from us. The eye was huge and staring right at us. It was the size of a public bus.

**Check out SANTA ANA Wind  
Illustration on next page...**

WWW.SOCDC.COM

## The Santa Ana winds

Santa Anas are dry, sometimes hot winds in Southern California that blow westward through canyons toward coastal regions. They typically occur from October through March, tending to peak in December, but often spread wildfires in the fall across areas that have gone for months without rain.



Sources: UCLA and UC San Diego research studies

Steve Greenberg / Star staff

# MORE HOT AIR: SOCDC ELECTIONS

We have official elections at the November SOCDC meeting. The slate of candidates is:

Konrad Fry	President & Head Chef
Don Spencer	Treasurer
Leslie Holtman	Secretary & Membership
Tina Duarte	Vice President

people who belong to several, is different. We have more social activities and more interaction between members. Our board of directors is responsible for all the heavy lifting that makes the South Orange County Dive Club something you want to be a part of. Please join me in thanking all of our board members for all the hard work they do.

We will have nominations and then ballots at the beginning of the meeting. Our dive club, according to

# NOVEMBER MEETING

Our main speaker had to postpone so we are going to do something we have not done in a couple years: **MEMBER PHOTOS**. Please bring your best images on CD-ROM or DVD and we will give you 15 minutes to **SHOW YOUR STUFF**. Dan Brick will start with our 75 sea lion encounter and the oil rig trip. This should be a blast since we have some incredible photographers.

## SOCDC CALENDAR

Friday November 3rd - Sunday November 5<sup>th</sup>: Tina's Wine & Dive Weekend – DONE!

### November 10th - 12<sup>th</sup>: Two Harbors Weekend Camp & Dive

Catalina Express from San Pedro 10:5 AM Friday, R/T 2:30 Sunday Cost Includes: 2 Nights / Heated Ocean View Cabin, Dinner 2 nights, Breakfast Sat, Sun, 2 TANK BOAT DIVE! R/T Catalina Express Ticket. Only \$182 divers, \$110 non-divers. Snorkel, dive, hike, kayak, swim, sun your self on the beach or hang out at the cafe! There are 21 cabins that sleep 2 people each, 7 have double beds, 1st come first serve to those who book and pay early. Contact: Lora Cross [lcross13@cox.net](mailto:lcross13@cox.net)

*Hey girls—let's go diving! See you all Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at Montage. Email Dr. Debbie at [Debra@divein.tv](mailto:Debra@divein.tv) by Friday afternoon so that if we need to change the location I will know to contact you.*

**Wednesday, December 13, 2006 at 6 pm: December Meeting & Holiday Party @ Dragon Buffet (Thanks to Don & Bruce!) (See important details in Don's attached memo)**

### Sunday December 17th SOCDC 2006 Xmas Boat Dive Peace to Anacapa Island

\$90 members, \$100 non-members includes food, and air.

Need to bring your own tanks on this trip.

\$40 for non-divers includes food and a great day out on the water

Signup by sending an email to [socdcdivboat@hotmail.com](mailto:socdcdivboat@hotmail.com)

Boat bunks are assigned on a first signup and pay, first choose basis.

Spots are secured by sending checks to SOCDC, PO Box 3687,

Mission Viejo, CA 92690

Boat leaves at 7AM sharp and returns 5-6PM.

Check [www.peaceboat.com/](http://www.peaceboat.com/) for directions to its new

Can board the night before, after 9:00PM

Finally, I caught a 2 pound lobster on the Santa Barbara Island Trip!  
See, it was delicious ;-)

-Konrad



# HOLIDAY PARTY INFO

Well it's coming up to that time of the year again. The "BIG YEAR END BASH" for the SOCDC membership. **Pay special attention to the "ALERT" below as it pertains on how to get your dinner paid for by the SOCDC.**

This year the Holiday Party will be held on December the 13th at the Dragon Buffet in Lake Forest as it has been for the last 2 years. Food, drink, dessert is all included for one low price of \$10.99 + tax. (See ALERT BELOW FOR SPECIAL OFFER) A large assortment of dishes including many from the sea such as sushi, crab, shrimp, frog legs, salmon, scallops, roast beef, soups, salads and all your Chinese favorites. You can bring outside alcoholic beverages but as in the past; if it comes into the room it stays in the room the entire time and never leaves.. Even at the end of the night it better have been consumed on premises or it's not leaving. They don't serve alcoholic beverages and we need to abide by the rules. Violators will be asked to leave immediately.

The party will start at 6pm for those wanting to arrive early. If you would like to come earlier and help set up the party we could gladly use HELP from the masses with decorations and table arrangements and getting prizes in the the raffle and door drawing. Just send an email off to Bruce at [diverbud@cox.net](mailto:diverbud@cox.net): or to myself at [tangible4me@yahoo.com](mailto:tangible4me@yahoo.com):

We ask that everyone take into account the "wait staff" and tip accordingly. \$1 per person would work great. Thanks in advance on this...

Yes, we will be having a raffle and I am slowly working on the door prizes. Im sure it won't be as big as last year but then again, who really knows as I'm already finding some great deals... I have a Thomas Kinkadee print all mounted up in a framed piece of art. So what will be there is basically who knows..... I'm really working on a 42" plasma TV but the cost is high but the deal is even better... Like I said... WHO KNOWS! Oops! Just got a high end regulator at such a deal I can't even mention it.

## **ALERT! ALERT! ALERT!**

As stated at previous meetings earlier this year everyone will need to pay at the door for dinner at Dragon Buffet. (\$10.99 plus tax). Want your dinner bill picked up by the SOCDC then read on.

**FREE DINNER:** There is one exception and one exception only. If you attend the next meeting on November the 8th and present to me a "CURRENT" SOCDC membership card I will give those in attendance a pass good for dinner and into a special door prize drawing at the holiday party. There will be other door prizes and everyone will have a chance to win those. The SOCDC will not mail or pass out dinner coupons to anyone not at the meeting and presenting a valid membership card that does not expire before 12/13/06. **SORRY, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

This is a benefit only to those that attend this next meeting and show there membership card. This includes BOARD MEMBERS and other FAMILY members. Also SOCDC elections are this month and we need you there to VOTE as well. (I know some of you will show up and then leave early but no voting system is perfect). Hopefully this perk will get you to show up as I know everyone is getting busy this time of year.

If you don't have your membership card then renew at the meeting and extend your date out a year (and get our newly designed membership card) and then come see me for your dinner/door pass. I need to see your membership card and that you are not expired. Again, no exceptions as we have time constraints at the meeting. I will have helpers assisting me.

Anyone wanting to purchase an additional dinner pass may do so at the reduced rate of \$10 and that person additionally will be in the special door prize drawing. (sorry, no refunds for unused dinner passes).

In ending..... I hope everyone is at this next meeting and the holiday meeting as well. Oh, and wear a Santa Hat at the holiday party and be entered into another special drawing... and the FUN doesn't stop.... Who's going to the Catalina cleanup? Details at the next meeting.

Take care and safe diving....

*Don*



# Scuba Scuttlebutt

*By Debbie Karimoto*

## OK, first the diving!!

I have not done enough of it lately but I did enjoy 2 nice days out on boats recently, one on the Magician (San Pedro) for a mid-week escape to Catalina and the other to San Diego's Wreck Alley aboard the DnDII out of Mission Bay. I wish I could share images of the Catalina dives but my strobe decided to take a holiday. Personally, I think my strobe knew there were some very talented photographers aboard the boat and it had performance anxiety.

**Eric Hanauer** is an outstanding video/photographer who has roots here in Orange County. He was a professor at CSUF a couple of decades ago and even had actor Kevin Costner as a student. I enjoyed learning that Eric is a fellow Chicagoan and die-hard Cubs fan so I could share with him that I used to cut school and take the train down to Wrigley Field for Opening Day when I was a kid. You have probably seen Eric's images in many dive magazines. This month he has an image of a humpback whale and her calf in **ScubaDiving Magazine**.

**Mary Lynn Price** was also on the boat and I found her to be a vivacious and engaging woman. Mary Lynn is an accomplished videographer but also promotes others' works via her podcasting service. Go to [www.divefilm.com](http://www.divefilm.com) to see some great underwater streaming video! It is free! Mary Lynn also contributes to **OCRegister's DiscoverOC** and has there a wonderful video in partnership with Marty Snyderman about the importance and beauty of kelp forests.

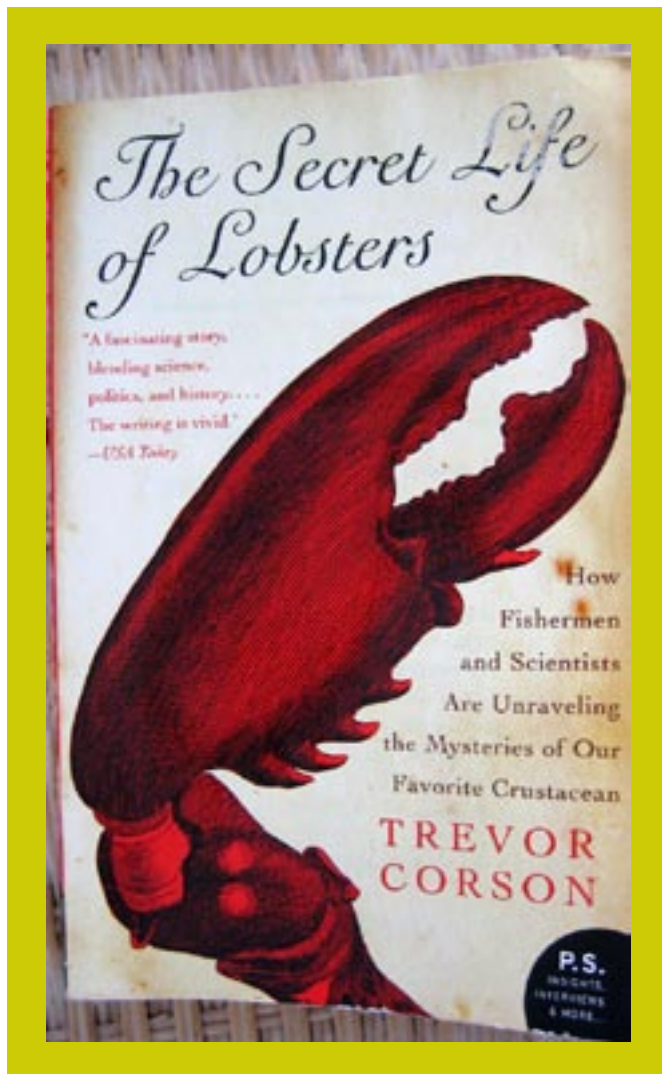
We found the diving that day to be pretty good. The visiting videographers were hoping to see giant sea bass and didn't, but the conditions were good, otherwise. It was my first trip on the Magician and I really enjoyed it. The boat is roomy with a huge open back deck. I could give a long list of what I liked about this boat and its crew! No negatives except that they're in San Pedro. Don't forget they have Wednesday trips to Catalina in addition to their weekend dive schedule. That's a big plus! [www.magicianscuba.com](http://www.magicianscuba.com) for more info.

A couple days later my sister and I met down in San Diego to dive the Yukon and the Ruby E. There is a huge difference between the two boats. While I like that the DnDII ([www.gottadive.com](http://www.gottadive.com)) has plenty of midweek trips available, the quality of the boat is vastly different than the Magician. I have been on the DnD a couple times and it is just OK... I joked that I was wearing my old swimsuit in honor of the DnD... Delapidated and Decrepit. It isn't really a joke. DM Greg seemed to have his act together though!

DJ and I learned some good lessons on this trip. The other divers seemed to be in a big rush to get back into the water after dive #1. One guy from Italy wanted in after only a 20 minute surface interval! This came after a deep air dive (not Nitrox) on the Yukon, no less. I talked him into relaxing a bit longer but his restlessness seemed contagious and DJ and I soon found ourselves that last ones still on deck. Well, we should have rejected the peer pressure because we ended up having to do some lengthy deco time. We now know that 15

extra minutes on deck would have been better. They all still needed to wait for us but we were hanging out at 15 feet for 15 minutes while they worked on their sun tans. We also learned that DJ's dive computer is ridiculously conservative! She and I had essentially the same dive profiles but she had to serve 15 minutes to my 5. That is a significant difference!

The critters we saw were typical for San Diego wreck dives. It was nice to have good viz of 40 feet or so. The fun part for us was swimming through the wheelhouse of the Ruby E. It was so open and bright! I peered down into a lower deck and it gave me the creeps, though. I don't anticipate many wreck penetrations in my future!



## BOOK REVIEW: *The Secret Life of Lobsters*

Based upon a recommendation from **Captain Ray Arntz** (Sundiver) at our August SOCDC meeting, I picked up a copy of *The Secret Life of Lobsters* by Trevor Corson. What a fascinating read! Although I am not quite finished with it I look forward to the next chance I get to immerse myself in the life of the Maine lobster and the science, history, and politics that surround this amazing crustacean.

This book is a page-turner, mostly due to the compelling way the author has made this non-fiction piece read like a novel. It offers vignettes of a Maine lobster community, the researchers and their work, and especially the lobsters that flow with interesting and curious information. I wonder how much of the science transfers to our spiny lobster here in California. Obviously not the claw-lock but what else?

### Did you know that [American] lobsters . . .

- Live in neighborhoods -- and love to remodel their homes?
- Fight constantly -- and play a deadly game of chicken called "claw lock"?
- Grow by ripping off their own skeletons -- including the lining of their stomachs?
- Employ 20,000 eyes for detecting light -- but still have terrible vision?
- Flirt with each other -- by urinating in each other's faces?
- Dance during courtship -- and make love in the missionary position?
- Hatch babies called "Superlobsters" -- because they can fly underwater?
- Were once despised by humans as junk food?

This book reveals all that and more... including the fact that male lobsters have *two* sexual organs... and they're always hard! One of the elements I really enjoyed about this book was learning about the conservation techniques used by these lobstermen and women. They were way ahead of the policymakers

and it seems to have gone a long way to keep the lobster fishery in Maine a sustainable one. Another element I liked was all the lobster sex!!

*The Secret Life of Lobsters* is available online and at local bookstores. (ISBN 0-06-055559-9) Thanks for the recommendation, Captain Ray!

## ACT NOW for ABALONE CONSERVATION

The Fish & Game Commission is very close to allowing revival of a commercial abalone fishery at San Miguel Island. In my opinion and many others' this is ludicrous as the red abalone population is still in recovery. Would it not be better to use the existing population to assist in restoration efforts of the regional abalone population instead of sending the few we have to China? There is a petition that requires your brief attention, please. It is at: <http://actionstudio.org/?go=2511>

If you are interested in getting involved or finding out more about how you can help please contact **Steve Benavides** at the email below and if there is enough interest there will be a meeting for interested parties on Saturday, November 18 - 10am, at the offices of:

**Suite F Associates,  
1910 E Warner Ave, Suite 2-F  
Santa Ana, CA 92705**

It is about a mile from John Wayne Airport and you will have to RSVP to:

**steve@sgbcpa.com  
949-474-7427**

Please also let me know if you plan to attend. And if you want all the up-to-the-minute info about this topic and others, subscribe to the News list. Info for your free subscription is at [www.OCdiving.com](http://www.OCdiving.com).

## RECENT REPORT ON OVERFISHING

Last week a new scientific paper was released that has created enormous media attention. It said, "All of the world's fishing stocks will collapse before mid-century, devastating food supplies, if overfishing and other human impacts continue at their current pace, according to a global study to be published Friday by

a team of scientists from 12 academic institutions in five countries."

The Reuters version of the article that was printed in the OCRegister had an interesting analogy. When discussing how species and habitat depletion can weaken an entire ecosystem, lead author Boris Worm of renowned marine institute Dalhousie University (Halifax) compared a healthy marine habitat to a diversified investment portfolio.

With lots of different species in the oceans, just as with lots of different kinds of investments, "You spread the risk around," Worm said. "In the ocean ecosystem, we're losing a lot of the species in our stock portfolio, and by that we're losing productivity and stability. By losing stability, we're losing the ability of the system to self-repair."

Every species has an important ecological niche and so I hope we can all contribute to helping our local species remain or become sustainable. Please sign that petition to fight the commercial abalone fishery and consider attending Steve's meeting on the 18th.

**Have a great time out there...  
plan well and dive safe!**

*Debbie*

[www.OCdiving.com](http://www.OCdiving.com)



## Ask Dr. Debbie...

### Zale Parry, A pioneer for women divers:

*By Debra A. Hill, MD*

Our recent successful “Girl’s Gone Diving” dive reminded me of how grateful I am to be able to enjoy the underwater world and that in many ways this is due to some of the amazing women pioneers of diving that came before us.

Last year at DEMA (The annual Dive Equipment and Marketing Association Meeting), I had the honor of interviewing Zale Parry. Although our interview was brief, I discovered an amazing woman. Zale is now in her 70’s and still going strong. We generally know her for her role as the stunt girl in the underwater western, Sea Hunt, who doubled for many famous actresses as the damsel in distress. What I hadn’t known until I interviewed her, was that she is a true champion for women accomplishing their dreams in what are often male dominated arenas. She is definitely not about fame but is about letting her little light shine. She was and is, a capable swimmer and diver and saw no need for that not to be appreciated by others in a way that she hoped would inspire others to follow their dreams and live up to their full capabilities. She clearly showed the world that women can be competent divers—especially when she set a women’s depth record on scuba of 209 feet in August 1954.

This accomplishment was not so much about record setting for Zale, it was part of a days work as she was testing the Hope Page non return mouthpiece, a new innovation designed to eliminate flooding of the double hose regulators.

Last year’s October Issue of Diver magazine was given out at DEMA and featured several articles on Zale Parry. The cover photo was of Zale when she

was featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated wearing a swimsuit and dive gear. She was described as the “Girl Skin Diver”. Zale finds this amusing as it was the very first swimsuit edition. Despite the error in which she was described as the “Girl Skin Diver” and not scuba diver, that issue received a lot of attention. Zale was signing copies of 2005 issues of Diver magazine as part of a promotion of her new scholarship program for divers who show an interest in developing themselves in the areas of expertise related to the underwater world. I was delighted that she commented to me, “Maybe you, Dr. Hill, could be a recipient of this award.”

Zale is a fascinating individual. She grew up on and in the water as her family lived by a lake in Wisconsin. As a young teenager she was active as a precision synchronized swimmer and led her high school underwater ballet team. In 1951 she moved to Santa Monica, California. She worked as a stenographer at Douglas Aircraft Company and after hours she taught swimming to polio victims.

She met her husband, Parry Bivens, while working at Douglas. He was a structural engineer who loved diving and he eventually quit his job to go to med school as he had a particular interest in hyperbaric medicine. Zale took up diving because of Bivens. He had been diving – free diving and surface-supplied diving for years, but moved along quickly when Rene Bussoz’ first Aqualungs were becoming available in 1951.

Zale’s first lesson was with this Aqualung in a pool. It was a heavy fire



extinguisher tank with a regulator. Zale asked Bivens if there was anything she should know before she took it down and he replied, "Just don't hold your breath." Zale loved it and began tagging along on Bivens's dives. Most of the girlfriends of Bivens's dive buddies would wait on the beach, but Zale would go along and dive after the guys had finished. She would use whatever air was left in their tanks which often contained 500 psi or less. She never dived with a fresh bottle. She indicated that she probably made the most free ascents in the world and that they were just part of the sport as far as she was concerned. She had no fear and was very comfortable in the water. This later proved to be quite useful to her when she played the underwater damsels in distress roles for TV and film. I was surprised to discover from Zale that she was the one who actually taught Lloyd Bridges to scuba dive. She would also typically work out how a particular underwater scene should take place.

Zale's first husband, Parry Bivens died in 1963, and she is presently married to Bob Neuman. Bob was never a diver, but a commercial pilot who loved motorcycle riding—especially weekend rides on his Harley Davidson with Zale.

Zale now lives in Tillamook, Oregon. Tillamook means "the land of many waters." Zale says that it is known for its trees, cheese and ocean breeze. She is continuing an active life and love of the sea with occasional dives for fun and is continuing to work on a series of books with her long time friend and colleague, Albert Tillman, about the golden years of scuba diving called *Scuba America, the Human History of the Sport of Diving*. It is an extensive collection of over 1,100 recorded interviews, 10,000 photos, and research from over 3,600 books, documents, catalogs and magazines. Volume I was published in 2000. Most recently she completed a coming of age movie about a 14 year old girl who sets out to do something that others tell her can't be done, called Tillamook Treasure.

One of the paragraphs in the Zale Parry article in Diver magazine 01-2205 was particularly poignant and captures an essence of who she is:

"Reflecting on her past Parry says human tendency is to examine the extremes, the highs and lows of a life lived. 'For me the highlights always involve the ocean. Remembering those early days diving California's coastal waters,' she says, 'they seemed so full of

fascinating creatures, memorable for their beauty and in many cases, very considerable size. Over the years millions of others have come to know and love the underwater world. I remain passionate about the sea and I am grateful that it continues to free the spirit and calm my soul."

Zale's life has not been about fame, but about doing what she loves. She did not let the male dominated sport of scuba stop her from pursuing her dreams. Without our knowing it, she was one of a handful of female pioneers in diving that paved the way for us so that we girls can follow in her footsteps. We can be one of the free-spirited sisters of the sea. Like Zale, we can be one of the "Girls Gone Diving" who enter the sea and exit refreshed and rejuvenated, having been bathed by the magic of experiencing the underwater world!

Hey girls—let's go diving! See you all Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at Montage. Email me by Friday afternoon so that if we need to change the location I will know to contact you.

If you would like to view the interview of Zale, please visit our website, [www.divein.tv](http://www.divein.tv) and click on DEMA on location. The interview will be available on the website on Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup>.

For more info on the Zale Parry Scholarship go to: [www.auas-nogi.org/wst\\_page12.html](http://www.auas-nogi.org/wst_page12.html).

Happy Diving!

*Debbie Hill-Titus, MD*

*Meeting is November 8<sup>th</sup> 6:30*

***Please give your support to all  
of the people who support us...  
the dive shops, Fuddruckers and  
all of our diving friends!***



**Come join us Wednesday Night  
for Good Food and Good Friends!**

