



Diving Pioneers and Innovators

Bret Gilliam

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The book manages to combine humor, adventure, tragedy, triumph, heroism, and even some forays into the risqué... while chronicling the careers of 20 enduring personalities that helped make diving what it is today. Some of those interviewed are retired now, one (author Peter Benchley of *Jaws* fame) recently passed away, and many are still making history through their ongoing work. It's quite a group.

Featured Interviews are with: Bob Ballard, Peter Benchley, Dick Bonin, Ernie Brooks, John Chatterton, Mike deGruy, Al Giddings, Bret Gilliam, Howard and Michele Hall, Bob Hollis, Paul Humann, Greg MacGillivray, Bev Morgan, Chuck Nicklin, Ron and Val Taylor, Zale Parry, Wes Skiles and Stan Waterman. Consider that the lineup includes actress and Sea Hunt star Zale Parry who also set the depth record for women divers back in 1954. Stan Waterman provides both the book's Foreword and a revealing insider look at his seven decades in diving. Living legend Bev Morgan pioneered the first dive training programs along with revolutionizing commercial diving equipment. His image in full hardhat dress also graces the book's cover. Morgan's candor and humor set the pace for the lively montage of dialogues to follow with Australian couple Ron and Valerie Taylor who rose to fame in the iconic shark documentary film *Blue Water, White Death*. They are joined by others from diving's first generation including filmmaker Al Giddings (*The Deep, Abyss, Titanic*, etc.), retail pioneer and cameraman Chuck Nicklin (*The Diving Locker*), manufacturers Dick Bonin (Scubapro) and Bob Hollis (Oceanic), photography masters Ernie Brooks and Paul Humann, as well as deep ocean explorer Dr. Bob Ballard who discovered the wrecks of the Titanic, Bismarck, and PT-109. Diving's second generation of innovators includes cave explorer Wes Skiles, filmmaker Mike deGruy, wreck explorer John Chatterton (of *Shadow Divers* fame), IMAX film producer Greg MacGillivray, and the dynamic husband/wife team of Howard and Michele Hall who seem to dominate the realm of documentary underwater films now (*Island of the Sharks, Coral Reef Adventure, Deep Sea 3D*). Last but not least, Stan Waterman talked Gilliam into sitting for an interview about his own amazing career and, typically, he shares a wicked sense of humor along with some biting perspective about what it was like to champion new technologies and daring approaches to diving business when the sport's ultra-conservatives wanted to suppress nitrox, liveaboards, technical diving, diving computers, training methods, and honest journalism. Each chapter is a slice of human interest that lets the reader briefly pull back the curtain on the personal lives of diving's heroes and feel like they are part of the conversation. The full color book is lavishly illustrated with great photographs that capture each interviewee throughout their diving careers. It's a very personal journey and the reader will feel like they pulled up a chair and shared a cup of coffee around a table with each person.

Gilliam enlisted help from other leading writers for some interviews he couldn't conduct himself and Fred Garth, Lina Hitchcock, Eric Hanauer, Douglas Seifert and Michel Gilbert & Danielle Alary all make significant contributions to round out the book.

It's a massive volume, 8x11 inches in size, 496 pages, hard bound, and weighing in at a whopping eight pounds per copy.

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Ruth Haakenson:

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Bob Bartlett:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to do! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Would you like to something different to fill your own free time/ holiday? Might be reading a book could be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing you will ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to test look for book, may be the book untitled Diving Pioneers and Innovators can be excellent book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Maryellen Tilley:

The reason why? Because this Diving Pioneers and Innovators is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will distress you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who write the book in such remarkable way makes the content on the inside easier to understand, entertaining means but still convey the meaning completely. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of rewards than the other book get such as help improving your ability and your critical thinking way. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the guide store hurriedly.

Dennis Carson:

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