

JAMES RONALD STEWART CHRONOLOGY

Scripps Institution of Oceanography Archives, 2005



- 1927 September 5: Born in National City, California, son of Pearl Harriet Alexander and Andrew Charles Stewart.
- 1941 Began diving with dive mask only.
- 1942 Lifeguard at San Diego beaches. Founded Manta Ray Dive Club with high school friends.

- 1945 Drafted into the United States Army. Attended Scout & Sniper School and Jungle Warfare School.
- 1946 Re-enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps. Stationed in Nome, Alaska.
- 1947 Discharged from military service. First dives with Bottom Scratchers dive club.
- 1948-1950 Attended San Diego Junior College – studied landscape architecture.
- 1950 Participant, first national spear fishing contest.
- 1950 First use of “aqualung” for underwater respiration.
- 1950-1951 Founding Member, California Council of Diving Clubs. Vice President for San Diego/Imperial Counties.
- 1951 Met Conrad Limbaugh, first diving officer at Scripps Institution.
- 1951 Member, San Diego Bottom Scratchers Dive Club, world’s oldest dive club.
- 1953 Received Bachelors Degree of Science, Pomona College, terrestrial plant ecology.
- 1953 September 19, married to Joan Stewart.
- 1955 Graduate school, University of Southern California, University of Hawaii, marine botany.
- 1955 Surveys of Eniwetok and Bikini atolls after atomic tests.
- 1955 Part-time diver/researcher at Scripps Institution of Oceanography
- 1956 Participant, “Red Wing” 1956 A-tests, dived Bikini wrecks of 1946 “Operations Cross Roads.”
- 1957 Participant, Scripps Institution kelp project. Forty-two day dive trip from San Diego to La Paz, Mexico.
- 1957 Diving Instructor, San Diego City program.
- 1957 April, Studied spill of 20,000 gallons of diesel from the tanker *Tampico*.
- 1957 Eniwetok atoll study continued.
- 1958 General secondary teaching credential, San Diego State University.
- 1958 Operation Hardtack, Eniwetok atoll dive crater research. Tested United States Navy Repetitive Dive Tables.
- 1958 Field Director, Scripps Institution of Oceanography Kelp Project.
- 1958 Founder, San Diego Council of Divers, Vice President and advisor.
- 1958 Founder, underwater search and recovery program for San Diego County.

- 1959 Discovered and filmed “Rivers of Sand,” Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Filmed California Gray Whales underwater.
- 1960 Interim diving officer, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, death of Conrad Limbaugh.
- 1961 Bitten by reef shark at Wake Island.
- 1961-1965 Participant, research of sand falls and canyon erosion, Cabo San Lucas and Los Frailes submarine canyons, Mexico.
- 1963 First draft of *University Guide for Research Diving*.
- 1964 Participant, United States Navy mixed gas school.
- 1964 Instructor and member, Board of Directors, National Association of Underwater Instructors.
- 1965-1991 Founder and chairman, San Diego County Coroner’s Scuba Death Investigation Committee.
- 1965 Part-time coordinator, Sealab II activities.
- 1967 Participant, Carmarsel Expedition, 62 day research cruise to Caroline and Marshall Islands.
- 1967 Participant, research diver in “Project 600”. First saturation, open-water dives to 600 foot depth.
- 1967 Developed formal research diving program for Division of Polar Programs and National Science Foundation.
- 1968 Chairman, aquatic school, American Red Cross, San Diego.
- 1968 Volunteer Chair for Safety Services for San Diego Red Cross Board of Directors.
- 1968 Member, State of California Advisory Board on Underwater Parks and Reserves.
- 1968 Assistant to the development of a diving program for high arctic research in Canada.
- 1974 National Association of Underwater Instructors Outstanding Performance Award.
- 1976 Member, California Park and Reserve Board, conducted underwater survey of Palancar Reef, Mexico.
- 1976 National Association of Underwater Instructors Award, “Outstanding Contribution to Diving”.
- 1976 “Craig Hoffman Award”, Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society.
- 1987 “Golden Trident” Award from Southern European Diving Community.
- 1990 Conrad Limbaugh Award, Los Angeles County Underwater Unit.
- 1991 March, dive at Bikini, Eniwetok, and Ponape.
- 1991 September, Retired.