



### ***“WE’VE BEEN BUSY!”***

It’s been a while since the last Hobie Memorial Foundation Newsletter. That’s because the foundation has been very busy organizing and working with the City of Dana Point to make the Hobie Memorial happen.

Most important, a location has been decided upon for the Hobie Memorial. It will be located in Zephyr Development’s South Cove Linear Park on Pacific Coast Highway.

Positioned next to the Doheny Beach Pedestrian Bridge and across the street from Doheny Beach, the monument will greet motorists as they enter the south entrance to the City of Dana Point.

Let’s take it month by month and give you the low-down on what’s been happening.

(Cont. on p8.)

## ***“You Don’t Tandem at Oak Street!”***

***By Donna Jost***



*Hobie at the Beach.*

*Photo Credit: Hobie Alter Archives*

Three generations back our parents and grandparents were privileged to live in such a pristine world, out of which a handful of watermen and women who took advantage of the ocean more than just recreationally. These few immersed themselves in the beach lifestyle in every aspect. They knew which beaches had the best waves, where to dive, the tides, etc. They basically lived more by the rhythms of the sea than by a conventional time clock.

Hobie Alter and his friends were among those watermen. They surfed, dove and sailed together, they partied with one

another around bonfires on the beach, and babysat each other’s kids.

The following is from an interview I conducted with Dana Tompkins Lane, the daughter of Dave “Keyhole” and Paula Tompkins, and Dana’s childhood friend and long-time Laguna



*Hobie at his surf shop.  
Photo Credit: Bruce Davidson*

## 2017 Donations

### THE HOBIE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION RECEIVES 501 (c) (3) STATUS

Contributions to the Hobie Memorial Foundation are now tax deductible. On February 23, 2016, the Hobie Memorial Foundation received an exclusion letter from the IRS, which recognizes it as a legal 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization, with effect retroactive to September 17, 2015.

To make a tax deductible contribution to the Foundation, go to [www.hobiememorial.com](http://www.hobiememorial.com) or send an email to us at [hobiememorial@gmail.com](mailto:hobiememorial@gmail.com).

**ONE HOBIE.  
ONE GOAL.  
GIVE  
BECAUSE  
YOU CARE.**

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

Beach resident, Susie Ross Bahan. Both born in Laguna Beach, they met when they were five years old, and were raised among the watermen of a bygone era. I tell you, sitting there and listening to the list of their families' friends is like reading Matt Warshaw's, *Encyclopedia of Surfing*. They definitely had some stories to tell about the good ol' days.

### **THE GANG:**

**DL:** My dad, Dave Tompkins, was born in Long Beach in 1927. My grandparents had just built a house on Shadow Lane, which was then Johnson Street. Just two blocks from the beach, my dad and his sister, Annie, would walk down to Treasure Island and surf and dive, then they'd walk home, have lunch, and go back down again. ‘



*In front of the Shack at Thalia Street. Shirley Cotton, Unknown, & Wayne Moseley. Photo Credit: Tompkins Family Private Collection*

He and my mom, Paula were married in 1949 but my dad met Hobie years before. My dad was a fisherman first, a Laguna Beach Lifeguard in the mid-1940s, then went on to become a fireman, so when he was home they would watch Hobie's kids, Paula and Hobie, Jr. Jeff wasn't born yet. They would come to our little house, or we would stay with them, and I can remember Hobie just being up all hours with the planes that he would make. He was always thinking of things and just such a sweet and fun man.

My parents' house on Catalina Street in Laguna Beach was the party house every weekend. They owned the lot next door where my Dad would build and store his lobster traps. Hobie and Sharon, Grubby, and Dick Metz. Loren Harrison was there. My dad and Loren were partners in an Ab diving business for a while. Hevs and Marge Calhoun and her daughters, Candy and Robin would also stop by. They lived on the street just above us in South Laguna. The Novaks would come over too, with their daughter, Sherry. She was gorgeous! When we were going from Brooks Street to Oak Street, Sherry

would come down to the beach. Dick's a really good photographer. I've got shots he took of Sherry. We're in it too, but they were mainly of Sherry.

Dick grew up in Laguna too. My grandfather used to take me on the swings on the boardwalk where his dad had a restaurant/bar on the beach and he'd go have a beer.

When we lived at the Catalina Street house, Dick worked for my dad for a while, and then he was gone. He went traveling around the world. When he came back, he stayed in an apartment behind the Dirty Bird, the Sandpiper, that Chip and Chuck Harrell's family has owned forever.

Yeah, there'd be Hobie, Grubby, and Burrhead (Jim Drever). He was an engineer and they talked about how to make one foam and the right resin, but mainly they talked about the foam with Grubby. I was just a kid back then. I didn't understand what they were all talking about. Later, I realized Grubby made the foam blanks for Hobie at Clark Foam. Hobie and his friends were all into helping each other, while having a good time. As Hobie said, "If you're not having fun, forget it."

I don't know what year it was, but Hobie made my dad a balsa board and we gave it to the Laguna Beach Lifeguards.



**SB:** And so is your dinner table.

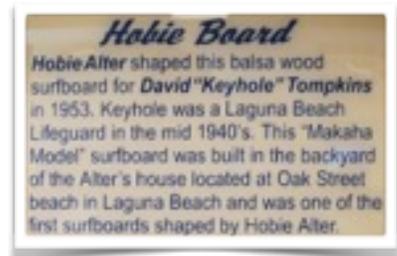
**DL:** And so is our dinner table. Grubby was making maps of the coast and only a few came out, and he gave my parents one of them when they built our house above Aliso Pier. My dad put it in the garage and then one day he had a table made out of it. That at the lifeguard headquarters too.

**SB:** Everybody sat around that dinner table from Hobie to Tom Morey to John Parlette.

**DL:** One time, Pezman and Flippy came over. Bruce Brown was there and my friends from Australia. Boy, that table could talk. Unreal stories.

**DL:** We didn't have a television until I was a senior in high school.

**SB:** That's right! I'd come over to Dana's house and there'd be her mom and dad sitting there and Keyhole would have his sunglasses on, looking out over the beach. That was the tv for those guys.



**FUN IN THE SUN!:**

**SB:** Dana, I think, you were probably little when she learned to surf. I rode mats starting at Wood's Cove. That was my beach. Then we moved to Agate when we got to be like 12. We got away from our parents and we were there about a couple of years. I was probably 13 or 14 when I went down to Oak Street.

**DL:** My mom would go bodysurfing with all the Principals at Laguna Beach High during school hours.

**SB:** How embarrassing!

**DL:** I always thought, what were they doing surfing? They should've been at school.

**SB:** You know, I tandem boogie boarded with Artie Brewer when we were little. I had a Wardy belly board, which I still have that had redwood stringers in it and a redwood handle. We'd take it out at Oak Street. If you got hit in the head with that board, it would knock you out. Artie would take me out every once in a while and I'd ride on his back because he was big back then. Remember how big he was? Oh my God, it was the best thing in the world.

I took my Wardy board over to your dad's memorial and Tom Morey was there and I said, "You know I have a Wardy board with me." And he goes, "You do!" And I said, "Do you want to see it?" and he goes, "Yeah!" He thought it was pretty cool.

**DL:** None of those guys were a big deal back then. Hobie was just a guy. I used to babysit his kids. Jeff was the one that I had to race after. With the beach right there, you had to really watch him.

**SB:** He was the cutest little thing, all three of those kids were adorable. Jeff's hair was the blondest. He was just a little cutie pie, and a little hellion. He didn't want anyone telling him what to do.

**DL:** One day, Tom Morey came down to Oak Street and walked up with two black Boogie Boards. He asked my mom and me, "Will you go out and try these and tell me what you think?" It was so fun! Even Mom went out on it. After I got out, I asked, "Can I keep it, please?"

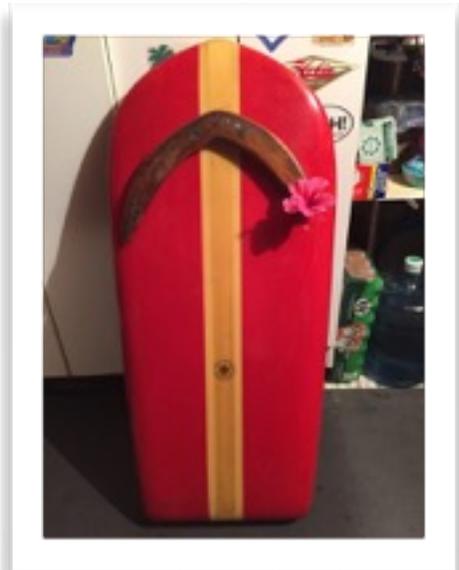
**SB:** Yeah, Hobie was just Hobie. He had some surfboards and he had a little place down in Dana Point. But his house was also right on the sand at Oak Street.

**DL:** It was his parents' house. And they lived there for a long time until they moved from, let's see, they went from Pearl Street to Bluebird, and then back down to Gaviota. There's another little place that's right next door to it and they would stay there too.

I was 13 or 14 when Hobie came home one day and asked me, "You wanna go out in the waves?" Cause he had the Hobie Cat out there. So we went out and I just laid out on the front the whole time.

We'd surf at Doheny with his kids also. Our first surfboard for Christmas was a Hobie noserider plank. Brother (Dave "Brother" Tompkins) was even on the Hobie Team. It was so fun because I could actually walk and hang ten on it.

Hobie was always thinking up new ideas. "What do you think about this?" He'd ask my mom, "You surf, what do you think?" He was always in your face and charged up. He wanted to know how he could improve the next one.



*"Susie Bahan's Wardy belly/knee board that she bought from Wardy in 1963 for \$113"*

*Photo Credit: Susie Ross Bahan*

**SB:** I think what's so amazing about Hobie is that God created a person like that, you know, that had so many great ideas.

### **THE GIRLS:**

**DL:** Mom and Sharon used to go surfing all the time, and one day we all went in Sharon's station wagon to Church. They left us in the car while they went surfing and the MP's came and asked, "Where are your parents? Jeff wasn't born yet, and it was just the four of us, Brother and me, Hobie, Jr., and Paula, who was named after my mom.

"Our moms are surfing."

We also used to go to Salt Creek and barbecue. It was a really fun time. Candy Calhoun and I would bodysurf, and Mom would surf with Marge.

**SB:** Yeah, they were all really tight. Your mom, Sharon, Marge, and any other woman that surfed. Back then there just weren't that many women surfing.

**DL:** Hobie entered my mom in the first Brooks Street contest. She won it, but she was madder than hell at him because she had to go all the way home to get her board then come back home, and she didn't want to be in it.

**SB:** Your mom was good and she looked so cute in her bathing suit that she made. She made us all shifts and jams with the little grommets back in the day. She was good!



*Dave & Paula Tompkins; Photo  
Credit: Dana Tompkins Lane*

### **HOBIE SURF SHOP & COVE ROAD:**

**DL:** The original Hobie Surf Shop was located just below the old Cove Road where my dad fished.

**SB:** Yeah, I thought they came down the steep part of the hill by the Chart House.

**DL:** No, no, no. That's Killer Dana. That's way north of the Cove. You know the condos right there? Well, you'll see there's a little service road. I swear, that's the old Cove Road.

**SB:** Either PCH wasn't split back then or there was nothing else around. It was all flat, and it seemed like it took us days to get to Dana Point. There were some houses in Three Arch Bay, but after that, nothing. Seriously, it took forever. We used to drive from Laguna and down the hill and watch the water. I used to make out on the hill down to Cove Road.

I also remember Paula taking me down to San Onofre with them and I swear, I saw Hobie practicing tandem surfing out there. I could've dreamed it, but for some reason...

**DL:** With Laurie.

**SB:** But he did compete with Sharon too.

**DL:** Not that I know of.

**SB:** I swear I remember Sharon being up on his shoulders. But I know it wouldn't have been at Oak Street, so it had to have been a dream.

**DL:** You don't tandem at Oak Street!

**SB:** I know! That's what I said! You don't tandem at Oak Street!

**THE HOFFMANS:**

**DL:** Flippy Hoffman and my dad were really good friends. But my mom went to Hollywood High with him and his brother, Walter. She knew of them in school, but, Walter told her at Flippy's memorial, "Oh, we knew who you were."

**SB:** Every man that ever came in contact with Paula loved her. She was well loved. She took care of everybody too.

**DL:** Dana Hoffman would stay with us on the weekends because she lived with her grandparents up in L.A. We were born at the same time, and they didn't know they both named their daughters Dana. So she would come down and stay and Flippy would bring fabric for Mom.

**SB:** She was a really good seamstress.

**DL:** When they moved the warehouse, he invited her up and he would give her fabric. So she would make aloha shirts for everyone in the family. Even Justin, my oldest, when he was a baby, had little Hawaiian shirts. She kept all of the remnants of whatever she was sewing and made a patchwork quilt of all their fabrics.

Flippy and Walter each had houses down at Playa Bledito in Cabo and my parents camped there right on the sand. Everybody who stayed down there would come and sit with my parents, and when the sun would get in the way, Mom would put that big patchwork quilt up. One day, Flippy was sitting there and he asked my mother, "Where did you get that? That's all Hoffman Fabrics."

"Yes, you gave it to me," she answered.

"You're kidding! Wanna sell it?" You know Flippy, "Can I buy it? Can I buy it?"

"No!" she said.

When I got married to Jeff, Flippy gave me a whole bolt of white satin for my wedding dress and said, "That's your wedding present."

When Flippy passed away, I took my mother to his memorial. Hobie was there. Neither could really see or talk because of dementia, but he and my mother just sat next to each other and held hands. They still knew each other, even though.

***"Unpretentious...low key...man's man...  
big heart...laid back..."***

These are some of the adjectives people have attributed to Hobie Alter.

"You forgot one," Charlene Dapelo added. "He was a terrific human being!"

Some only heard about Hobie in passing, while others knew him well like Charlene Dapelo. And she would know what he was like. Charlene was Hobie Alter's personal secretary for over ten years.

Back in 1977, Charlene worked for the company that was distributing “On Any Sunday”, in Bruce Brown’s office. Later when the office moved up north, Bruce told me, ‘We can’t lose you!’” recalled Charlene. “That’s when he introduced me to Hobie.”

“I began working for Hobie and stayed in Bruce’s office for a while. This was after he sold the catamaran business to Coleman. Eventually Hobie built us an office in the surfboard factory on Domingo, behind the car wash in Capistrano Beach. That’s when I started doing the bookkeeping for the surfboard shop too.”

Charlene learned a lot about Hobie that first year. “Hobie was always thinking. So many times, he’d be looking at something, and he’d say, ‘I can make that better!’” After working for him for six months, Hobie surprised Charlene and her then husband, who was in law school, with a generous Christmas bonus. “We didn’t have much money back then so it really helped us out!”

Hobie and Charlene worked well together. Her job descriptions ranged from standard office duties, to doing his Christmas shopping for friends and family, to keeping an occasional eye on Jeff, his son, when Hobie was out of town. “I wouldn’t call it babysitting. Jeff was fifteen,” said Charlene. He even had her buy a car for him once. “When Hobie was working on something new he was always completely immersed. So I helped him run his personal life and business so he could do what he loved do to.”

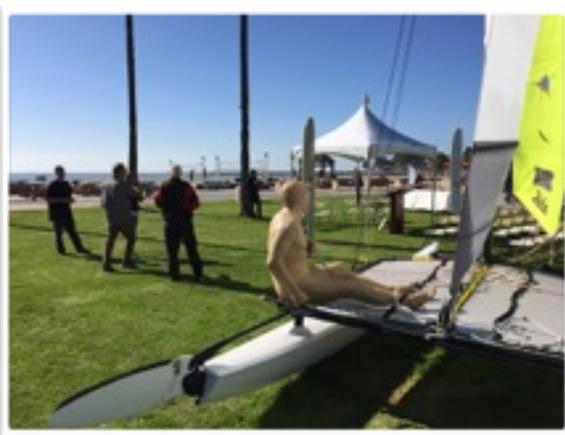
“My husband and I had two sons when Hobie finally retired in the early 1990’s. I knew it had to end someday, because he made me promise early on that I wouldn’t quit until then. But looking back, it was a really fun job! The best job ever!”

Asked if she could recall a moment that described the man’s character, Charlene said, “Occasionally, people would come up to Hobie and say they named their cat or dog after him. He’d just smile and act appreciative. Then afterwards, he’d be kind of embarrassed. ‘What am I supposed to say to that? Thank you?’ He didn’t like attention drawn to himself at all.”

**“We’ve Been Busy”** (Cont. from p1)

#### **OCTOBER 2016:**

Ursula Luna-Reynoso, Director of Community Development of the Planning Department presented at the October 19, 2016 Arts & Culture Commission meeting. She then presented at the October 24, 2016 Planning Commission meeting.



*Prototype of the Hobie Memorial displayed at the Zephyr Partners Groundbreaking. Photo Credit: David Baer*

#### **NOVEMBER 2016:**

Luna-Reynoso made her final presentation at the November 15, 16 Dana Point City Council meeting to seek approval of the memorial and the sculptures as a whole.

#### **DECEMBER 2016:**

The City of Dana Point and Hobie Memorial Foundation (HMF), after a successful vote of the City Council, have entered into an agreement whereby the City will grant up to \$200,000, dollar for dollar, to match funds contributed to HMF in cash or in-kind donations for the installation of the statue.

**JANUARY 2017:**

On Thursday, January 27, 2017, San Diego-based real estate development company, Zephyr Partners officially broke ground on the South Cove residential and park project. City officials, representatives from Hobie Cat Company, the Surfing Heritage and Culture Center, and the Hobie Memorial Foundation were there to help celebrate.

**HOBIE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

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