

# DAD'S CLUB SWIM TEAM

## MANY YEARS OF ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROGRAMS



There is a magic that begins with the hopes and dreams of parents and families. These visionaries worked together, taking a piece of land and creating a safe environment for the future that became an essential part of a supportive athletic community— and spawned a lifelong network of friends and opportunities for the athletes, parents, coaches, officials, and volunteers at the Dad's Club.

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** [Dad's Club Swim Team](#)

[Olympians](#) [Olympic Trials Qualifiers](#) [National Team Members](#)  
[National Qualifiers](#) [Scholastic All Americans](#) [UIL State Champions](#) [In Memoriam](#)

## MISSION STATEMENT



Dad's Club Swim Team is dedicated to providing swimmers with the opportunity to reach all of their swimming goals, through commitment and hard work, in an environment that fosters life lessons.

## IN THE BEGINNING



The Dad's Club, before it became a YMCA, was a private enterprise and served as the community center for the Spring Branch-Memorial area. It was formed in 1946 as the Spring Branch Memorial Drive Dad's Club. **Mr. Kiefner** was the first president. Initially, teenage activities were held at the Dad's Club every other Saturday night and

planning commenced for a Boy Scout House to be built on the grounds. By September of 1949, the recreation building was partially completed; and work on the grounds, tennis courts, and ball diamond were in progress.



1955 Joan Spillane, Melinda Merritt,  
Traci Nichols, Terry Patterson



1956 boarding plane for Georgia Meet,  
Coach E.A. Snapp and Team



**A PEACHY PRIZE**

June 28, 1957 Phil Simpkins, 13;  
Ellen Kaim, 12; Joan Spillane, 14



Early in 1952, following the recommendations of **Mr. Louis Cutrer**, plans were started for a swimming pool and a kitchen for the Youth Center. The Lions Club supplied the funds for the kitchen project. The new pool was officially opened June 12, 1953.

**Bill Baker**, father of five children, formed a committee of "Dads" who wanted a place for competition and fellowship for their kids. The "Dad's Club" was formed in the summer of 1954 with a small group of swimmers. **Mr. Raymond L. Murphy**, the Pool Director, and **Mr. Jake Alexander** aided in coaching that year. Through Mr. Baker's efforts and the swimmers' hard work, a good share of honors were won and a team was born.

The late spring of 1955 brought a new face to the Dad's Club, but an old one to swimmers of Houston and Texas – **E. A. Snapp**, Head Coach. The first record of the Dad's Club hosting a swim meet was July 8, 1955. The meet was a Junior-Midget Swim Meet with seventeen organizations present, 200 contestants and 50 AAU officials. Later in the summer of 1956, when E.A. Snapp took the Dad's Club to Georgia for a swim meet, he encouraged all the swimmers to think on a much larger scale when he arranged for a private corporate plane to fly the team to the meet. It was at this point that the swimmers began perceiving the Dad's Club Swim Team on a National Level. In 1956, at least 40 swimmers were in the finals of various meets in the Houston Area with over thirty winning local Junior Olympic Awards and many winning National Honors.

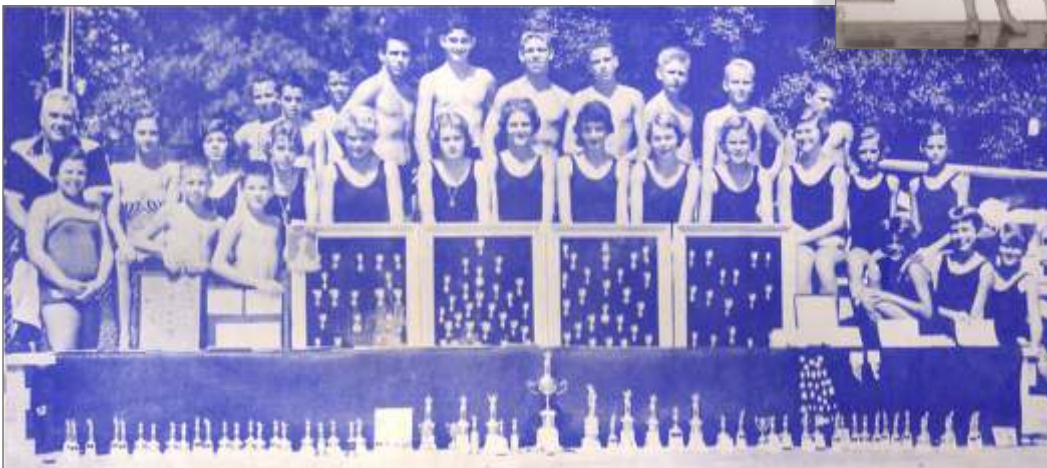


Pat Patterson, 1953

**Melvin "Pat" and Jane Patterson** were hired to coach the Dad's Club Swim Team in 1957. Pat, a former swimmer on the University of Texas Swim Team, with no previous competitive swimming experience, became the first Longhorn to break 50 seconds in the 100 Yard Freestyle. In 1956, Pat graduated from the University of Texas and was immediately hired as a football coach at Rogers, TX, for one year. However, in May of 1957, he got a call from the Dad's Club and came to coach the Dad's Club Swim Team in June. He and his family were given the old Boy Scout House at the end of the Dad's Club property for their home as part of the contract. He was both the swimming and diving coach and also taught all kinds of activities at the Dad's Club when first hired. The outdoor pool was the only swimming pool at the Dad's Club at that time, so arrangements were made for the swim team to practice at the downtown YMCA the first winter of 1957-58. In 1958, the outdoor pool was covered and the next four years proved to be outstanding in the growth of the team. Pat organized a swimming program for all Elementary School students in the Spring Branch School District and as a result the swim team membership grew exponentially.



1958 Girls winning team at Tulsa, OK



1955 Swim Team



1956 Babs Baker leaves pool after tying U.S. mark in 25 Meter Breaststroke





Joan Spillane

In 1960, **Joan Spillane**, a Dad's Club Swimmer, training under Pat Patterson at the Dad's Club, earned a Gold Medal as a member of the United States 4 x 100 Meter Freestyle Relay team in Rome, Italy, setting a world record. **Richard Quick**, a swimmer at Southern Methodist University, also trained during the summer of 1960 under Pat Patterson to prepare for the Olympic Trials in July.

Olympic diver **Kuni Schultz** and her husband Ike immigrated from Germany to the United States in 1957. Beginning in 1964 and for the next 25+ years, Kuni served as Executive Director and Diving Coach of the Dad's Club YMCA. In the early 1970s, she was one of the original promoters of national and international age group diving.

In 1963, **Bob and Janie Walker** coached the Dad's Club Swim Team for one year while Pat and Jane Patterson took a sabbatical to work on their Master's Degrees.

### 1961 Qualified National Swimmers



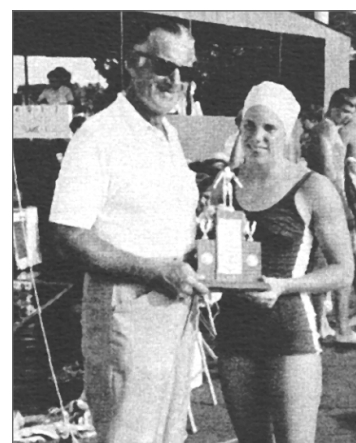
Pat and Jane returned to coach in 1964. In 1965, Pat accepted the offer to become the Head Coach at the University of Arkansas. Later he coached at Texas A & M for two years and at the University of Texas for nine years.

In 1964, the swimming-oriented Dad's Club donated a chunk of Spring Valley land to the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA). The Dad's Club Team, a group anchored by kid swimmers and divers and steered by a nine-member adult board, was a separate entity from the YMCA, but for nearly 40 years the two organizations shared swimming and fitness facilities on the north side of Katy Freeway at Voss Road.

In the summer of 1965, Richard Quick, now a graduate of SMU, was hired to coach the team along with his wife **Ann Quick**.

### San Antonio Commission AAU Sportsmanship Trophy 1969

Richard worked with the top swimmers and Ann worked primarily with what became known as the bronze team and also taught private stroke lessons. By 1967, the Dad's Club was ranked 6th in the Nation and the following year, seven swimmers qualified for the Olympic Trials.



Mel Weinberger and Jenifer Webb

### 1966 Qualified National Swimmers

Rick Fox, Tommy Suchecki, Jody Helman, Gerry Shoemaker  
Alan West, Bonnie Skogland, Leilani Essary, Wayland Fowler



In 1970, construction began on the present 50 meter outdoor facilities. Richard was the prime mover for the 50 meter pool, with he and Ann donating \$1000 towards the construction. The Dad's Club Swim Team paid \$35,000 and the YMCA paid \$35,000 to provide funding for the pool. The 50 meter pool offered an opportunity to train for long course swimming events and further enhanced the possibility of swimmers to compete on a national level year round.

**Keena Rothhammer**, an Olympian in 1972, trained at the Dad's Club under Richard Quick and later went to Santa Clara, CA., to train with George Haines. She won a Gold Medal in the 800 Meter Freestyle in 1972 in Munich, Germany, while swimming for Santa Clara.



Keena Rothhammer

In 1972, Richard Quick moved on to start his collegiate coaching career with SMU and to eventually become a 6-time Olympic coach (1984-2004). **Al Crosby** was hired to replace Richard Quick in 1972. Soon afterwards he left the Dad's Club to form the Tarpons Swim Club, and some Dad's Club swimmers followed.

**Skip Kenney**, assistant to Don Gambriel at Harvard University was appointed to the position of Head Coach in 1972. Many of the swimmers who left with Al Crosby returned to the Dad's Club to swim with Skip Kenney when Al accepted a job with the Dynamo's Swim Club in Atlanta, GA. Skip coached at the Dad's Club from 1972-1976. The 1974-75 season saw twenty-three swimmers attend Junior Nationals in Ithaca, New York, with five of those reaching finals. The year culminated with the selection of **Buzz Stagg** and **Ralph Watson** to the United States National Team traveling to the Soviet Union in the fall. **Ted Knapp**, an all-American swimmer in 1975, worked with Skip Kenney as an assistant coach at Stanford for several years, then became Head Coach in 2012 after Skip retired.

By 1976, the Dad's Club had won ten consecutive Texas Age Group Swimming (TAGS) Championships, and set seven National Age Group Records. **Laura Raymond**, **Erica Meyer** and **Renee Magee** qualified for the Olympic Trials, with Renee becoming the first female swimmer in Texas to make an Olympic team in



Erica Meyer

an individual event, swimming the 100 Meter Backstroke in Montreal in 1976. The excellence at the Dad's Club continued as the swimmers from the team broke two Junior National Records. In this same year, Erica Meyer and **Sarah Irwin**



Renee Magee

represented the United States while competing in the Soviet Union. Two Dad's Club men, **Bill O'Brien** and **Kyle Ditzler**, won trips to France and Bulgaria, respectively. **Pat Nitsch** became the first Dad's Club athlete to be placed on the cover of Swimming World Magazine. Pat was also recognized in Sports Illustrated in the "Faces In the Crowd" section in the September 6, 1976 issue as follows: "At the Texas State championships, Patrick, 13, set National Freestyle records in his age group when he swam 50 Meters in 27 seconds, 100 Meters in 58.53, 200 Meters in 2:05.97 and 400 Meters in 4:24.70. He was 'Texas' Outstanding Boy Swimmer' the last two years."



Bill O'Brien

In 1977, **Rob Orr** was hired as the Dad's Club Head Coach and remained at the Dad's Club until 1979 when he accepted the head coaching position at Princeton. In 2014, Rob is still the Head Coach at Princeton. Rob was followed at the Dad's Club by Head Coach **Jay Fitzgerald**.

The San Antonio Aquatic Club, the Austin Aquatic Club, the Tyler Swim Club, the Shamrock Hilton Swim Team, the Waco Swim Club, and the Dad's Club were some of the largest competitive swim clubs in Texas during the 1960s and 1970s. Today, in 2014, the Dad's Club Swim Team is the only swim team from this list that is still in existence and has continued to have national level age group and senior level swimmers for the last 50 years.



1971 National Championship Qualifiers  
Scott McNamee, Tim Carter, Mark Beasley, Doug Meaden





In 1980, the Dad's Club team placed 18th overall at the Indoor Senior Nationals in Austin, TX, and 13th overall at the Olympic Trials in Irvine, California. Unfortunately, 1980 was the year of the Olympic boycott. However, **Ricky Bodor, Larry Craft, Rick May, Michelle Merchant, Bill O'Brien, Dean Putterman, Chris Rives, Kelly Rives, Andy Schmidt, and Pat Nitsch** represented the Dad's Club well at the Trials.

Jay Fitzgerald served as Head Coach at the Dad's Club from 1980-84. In both 1980 and 81, the Dad's Club won the YMCA National Men's, Women's, and Combined TEAM titles - six titles in two years and During this time, Ricky Bodor received a Silver Medal for the 4 x 200 Meter Freestyle Relay at the 1983 World University Games in Edmonton, Canada. The season of 1982-83 was one of transition and rebuilding. **Scott Hemingway** won three Gold Medals at the Junior Meet and **Heather Hardy** took the Gold in the 100 Meter Backstroke. Two Dad's Club swimmers qualified for Senior Nationals, Ricky Bodor and **Asa Lawrence**. Asa earned 6th in the 50 Meter Freestyle and 12th in the 100 Meter Freestyle.



Chris Rives prepares for 200 Yard Individual Medley

From 1984 to 1988, **Randy Julian** was the head coach. His boys won the 1985 YMCA National Title and his men's team placed 10th at Short Course in the Los Angeles Indoor Senior Nationals and 6th at Long Course USS Nationals that same year. Chris Rives qualified for the Pan Pacific Games and the World Student Games, both held in Japan that year. He was a Gold Medalist in the 200 Meter Individual Medley at the Pan Pacific Games, finishing with the fourth fastest time in the world that year.

For both the Dad's Club and the Houston area in general, 1986 proved to be a difficult period. Hit by the hard economic times within the oil industry, many families left the Houston metropolitan area. The spring of 1986 brought tragedy to the club with the traffic death of **Kirsten Torgerson**, one of the club's strongest swimmers. The Dad's Club team, determined to overcome this adversity, sent a strong fourteen member team to the Austin Junior Nationals.

The Olympic year of 1988 had great impact on the Dad's Club yet again! **Mark Boerner** was hired in 1988 and served as head coach for 21 years through 2009. Many good swimmers were developed during this period. The team had two United States Olympic Trials qualifiers in **Eric Ruby** and **Dave Hansen**.

**Russ White**, a Dad's Club parent and a USA official, was the Men's official starter at the 1988 Olympics in Seoul, South Korea. **Doug Gjertsen** trained with the Dad's Club while attending the University of Texas (UT). He won an Olympic Gold Medal in 1988 as a member of the 800 Meter Freestyle Relay in Seoul, South Korea. He also won an Olympic Bronze Medal while training at UT in the 800 Meter Freestyle Relay in Barcelona, Spain, in 1992.



Doug Gjertsen



Young 1972 swimmers at the Dad's Club who later (1980-84) developed into nationally recognized swimmers as they progressed through age group swimming from a very young age. Left to right: Scott Knapp, Ricky Bodor, and Larry Craft



The 1990-91 season saw the Dad's Club Swim Team improve at every level of competition. Dad's Club swimmers placed 8th overall at the 1991 YMCA Nationals in Orlando, with the Women's Team finishing 3rd.

### 1990s Jr. Nationals Qualifiers



(Left to Right) Front row: Meghan McGovern, Cathy Angerstein, Alegra Breaux, Julie Musgrove  
Back row: Chris Archer, Steve Quance, Weston Cerny, David Baker, Brian Hurst, Michael Reynolds, Joe Asher and B.J. Allenstein.

US Swimming sponsored a contest for Swim Teams to determine which Swim Teams provided the most services for its swimmers and parents as well as being run efficiently. The Dad's Club was one of three teams in the United States chosen by US Swimming that met those qualifications and awarded the Dad's Club Swim team a \$500 check as the winner in the 1991 competition.

The Dad's Club 1992 season was exemplary in true Dad's Club tradition. US Swimming, again, honored the Dad's Club for providing the most services for its swimmers and parents by awarding them \$500. These were the only 2 years this competition was held and the Dad's Club was chosen as the outstanding team in the US both times.

The 1993 YMCA Nationals was another bright spot for Dad's Club Swimmers as the Women placed 1st, the Men 2nd, and the Team placed 2nd overall. Coach Mark Boerner was voted the "YMCA Coach of the Year."

1995-96 was highlighted by a very successful Junior National meet in Santa Clara, CA. **Shannon O'Neal**, **Ashley Messersmith**, **Kylie Williams** and **Allison Mahlstedt** scored in all relays. Allison became the fastest Freestyler in Dad's Club History. While swimming for Mark Boerner, **Mark Van Akkeren** maintained high national rankings in his age group as well as in the Open category. At the Speedo Junior Championships hosted by Clovis Swim Club in central California, Mark earned a world #1 Junior ranking in the 200 Meter Individual Medley. In 1996, at the Spring Senior Nationals, Mark Van Akkeren placed 8th in the 200 Yard Butterfly. Kylie Williams placed 2nd at the UIL High School Swim Meet with a Senior National time.



Allison Mahlstedt

### 1996 Jr. National Team



Left to right: Shannon O'Neal, Francisco Padua, Kylie Williams, Allison Mahlstedt, Head Coach Mark Boerner and Mark Van Akkeren





The 2000-2010 decade proved to be a difficult one for the Dad's Club. The team experienced challenges, including hard economic times and the downsizing of the property due to the I-10 freeway expansion. These and other factors greatly affected team growth. Loyalty from the few swimmers and parents who remained with the team played a big part in building positively for the future. Although the team was small, the group's vision and goals never wavered.

Two swimmers represented the Dad's Club at the 2000 U.S. Olympic Trials held in Indianapolis, IN. **Peter Fry**, who was also a University of Nebraska swimmer, and **Jada Sanders**, who was also a Rice University swimmer, competed in the 200 Meter Freestyle and 200 Meter Butterfly, respectively. During the early 2000s, the team continued to produce many up-and-coming age group swimmers. At the 2002 Short Course Texas Age Group Championships, the younger swimmers continued to excel. The 11-12 year old boys won the High Point Award and helped identify the team as a "Top 8 Finish". During this time, the team also qualified multiple swimmers for All Star and Zone Gulf Select teams.

Starting with **Rachel McLaurin** in the summer of 2000, the Dad's Club produced a long list of Junior National Qualifiers. **Keri Hyde**, one of the most decorated age group swimmers during the first part of the decade, met multiple Junior National qualifying standards in

distance freestyle and butterfly events. Others who achieved in qualifying times for the Junior National level include: **Stephanie Ward** 2002, **Katie Schlesinger** 2003, **Regina Aguilar** 2004, **Hunter Bayley** 2006, **Shelby Bottoms** 2008, **Catherine Wagner** 2009, and **Harrison Robinson** 2009. In April of 2009, Head Coach Mark Boerner accepted a job as Head Coach of the Texas Terrapins located in Northwest Houston. **Rey Aguilar**, the head age group coach at the time, became the Interim Head Coach during May through July and was named the new head coach in August of 2009.

Beginning early in the 2000s, **Danielle Yoon** showed continuous improvement, setting 50 new team records. In the 2009 season, Yoon became the first Senior National Qualifier from the Dad's Club in 9 years. Shortly after Yoon became a National Qualifier, **Lilly Marrow** also recorded a National qualifying time during the 2009 short course season and was followed by **Hannah Cooper** and **Alex Pujol**, who made National qualifying times in 2010.



2008 TWIST Summer Meet



2008 Dad's Club A Meet



Coaches Mark Boerner and Rey Aguilar with team in 2007



The Dad's Club experienced huge growth from 2010 to 2014. Well-established swim lessons created a great feeder program for the competitive swim team, and the Dad's Club became a learning and training facility for all ages, from infants to adults.

The momentum created in the latter part of the 2000s continued into the next decade. Swimmers like **Michael Miller**, **Jaimie Miller**, and **Alexandra Buscher** added their names to the long list of All Time National Qualifiers and placed at many Junior National meets. The team had over 25 Junior National qualifiers (NCSA & Speedo) in the last four years and Dad's Club swimmers recorded 95 new team records since 2011.



2013 NCSA Junior Nationals  
Danielle Yoon, Briana Burns, Alexandra Buscher, Elizabeth Prasse



Elena Skaribas, Annie Miller, Briana Burns



NCSA Junior Nationals 2013  
Michael Miller



Dad's Club Team at Chesapeake Elite ProAm, Oklahoma

### Dad's Club Swimmers, Divers, and Coaches Who are Recipients of the Texas Swimming and Diving Hall of Fame Awards

2008 Inductees – Swimmer - Joan Spillane Postma

2009 Inductees – Diving Coach - Kuni Schultz  
Swim Coach - Melvin R. Patterson  
Swim Coach - Jane Kneip Patterson  
Swim Coach - Richard Quick

2011 Inductees – Swimmer – Renee Magee

2012 Inductee – Swimmer – John Vogel



2012 Long Course Boca Raton, Florida





The Dad's Club Diving Team was formed in May 1964. The first coach was Kuni Schutz. The team consisted of five divers—three boys and two girls. All three of those boys received scholarships to college: two to Texas Tech and one to the University of Texas. In those days, diving was simply an event within a swimming meet. The two strongest swimming teams in Texas at that time were the Shamrock Hilton Swim Team and the Dad's Club Swim Team. The Shamrock Hilton team continually beat the Dad's Club because they had diving entries whose diving points “tipped the scales” for total winning points for the team in the favor of the Shamrock Hilton Team. So, the Dad's Club decided to have a diving entry as part of their swimming team. Recruitment was through classes taught at the Dad's Club by the coach, and also through clinics and shows at neighborhood pools.

The team grew to twenty divers by 1970. Spring Branch Independent School District did not have a diving team. High School students who wanted to dive were referred to the Dad's Club. When the Spring Branch High School divers competed with their High School Swim Team, the Dad's Club Diving Coach went along to the meets.

In the fall of 1972 Mrs. Schultz's work load was such that she could no longer continue as the diving coach. The first salaried Dad's Club Diving Coach was Joe Suriano, the Aquatic Director. He coached for the Dad's Club for three years and resigned to become the first diving coach at Vanderbilt University. The second Dad's Club Diving Coach, Bob Rydze, also the Aquatic Director, coached for three years and left for a coaching job at Iowa State. In 1978, Dave Moreau, the third diving coach, came from the University of Ohio. Ed Hooker,

who followed Dave Moreau as Diving Coach, had dual coaching responsibilities for both the Dad's Club and Spring Branch Independent School District.

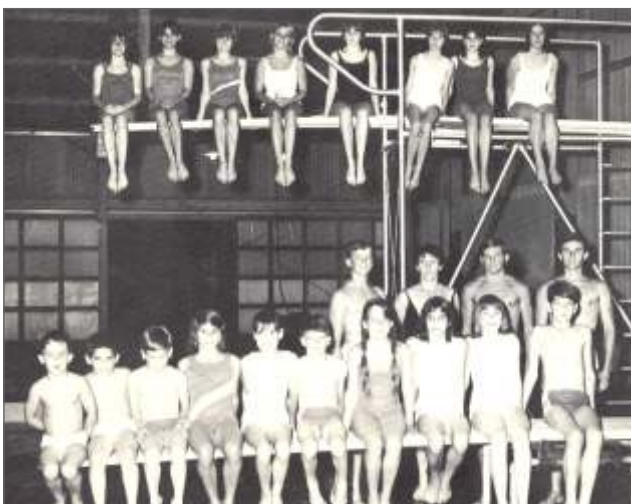
During the years at the Dad's Club as Executive Director, Mrs. Schultz coached the divers along with the head coach — as a volunteer and consultant. The divers actually had two high caliber coaches for the price of one. The Dad's Club developed a reputation throughout the United States diving community as a training ground for college caliber diving coaches. It was hard to retain Dad's Club Diving coaches because they were prime targets for college recruitment.

Over the years Dad's Club divers won medals in city, state, national and international competition. Through connections in the diving community, every effort was made to expose the divers to college coaches on the national scene. Fifteen of the divers entered college on diving scholarships and seven of the divers have been high school All-Americans. Four received honorary mention as All Americans. One special education student from the Dad's Club won first place in the National Special Olympics.

After 1970 the Dad's Club Diving Team traveled twice to Europe and once to Mexico. Many of the divers were part of the Texas All State Diving Team and as such traveled at home and abroad. In 1973 diving became a sport on its own, separate and apart from swimming. The Diving Team outgrew the facilities and could no longer hold diving meets for anyone over the age of twelve because of the depth of the pool.



1968 Bill Holloway



1966 Diving Team

A groundbreaking ceremony occurred in 2013 for the new outdoor pool, which will have seven swimming lanes and an 11-foot-deep area at one end for diving. "With the diving area, hopefully, the Dad's Club can go back to its history of spring board diving, as it was in the '50s, '60s, and '70s, when spring board diving was taught," says Georgia Marrow, the group's Operations Director.



**1949** — A “Youth Center”, used as a community center/recreation building, was constructed on the property. Sometime before 1957, a “Boy Scout House” was built.

**1952** — Following the recommendations of Louis Cutrer, plans were begun for a swimming pool and a kitchen for the Youth Center. The Lions Club donated funds for the kitchen project. The new pool officially opened on June 12, 1953.

**1953** — The first pool was outdoors and 33 1/3 meters in length, along with two diving boards, a one-meter and a three-meter. Before the summer of 1956, a bulkhead was installed to make the distance 25 yards for AAU-sanctioned swimming competition. There were five lanes.

Dressing rooms and bathrooms were also constructed (although not heated), and shared with the community center.

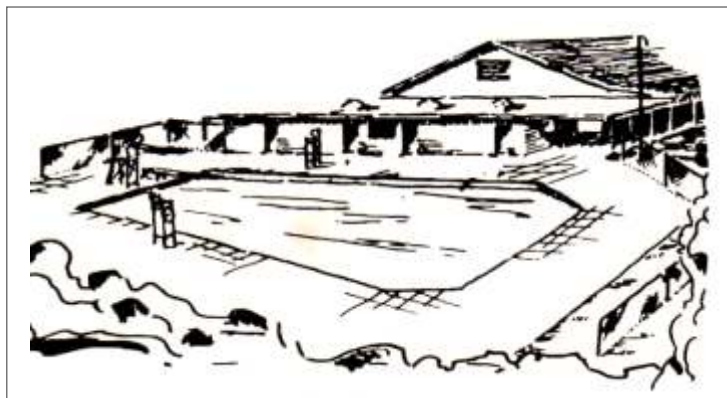


Illustration of Original Outdoor Pool

**1956** — Bill Baker, father of five swimmers, pushed the Board to approve a cover for the outdoor pool, so the facility could be enjoyed year-round.



Left to right is Ellen Kaim, Phil Simpkins, Joan Spillane and Vicki Dickinson at deep end of enclosed 33 1/3 meter pool

**1957** — Pat and Jane Patterson were hired as swim coaches. They lived in the old Boy Scout House at the back of the property for a few years. Later, the house was used for crafts during summer camp. Pat also worked as an Activities Director, teaching archery, riflery, etc. He coached diving until a diving coach was hired in 1964.

**1958-1959** — Thanks to Bill Baker, the outdoor pool was heated and enclosed, although it was several years before the dressing rooms and rest rooms followed suit.

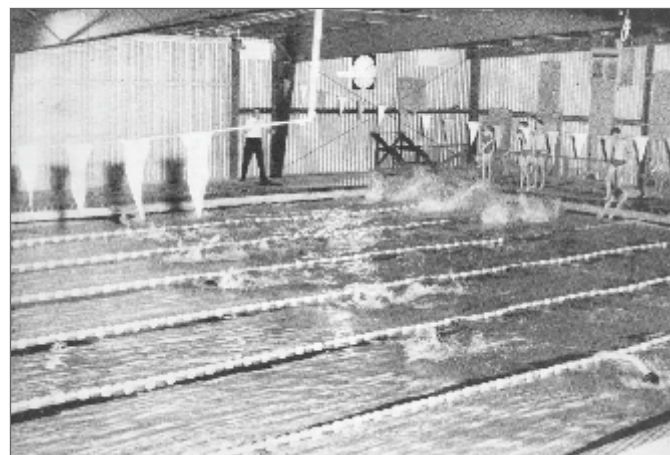
The 33 1/3 meter pool was the only indoor pool in Houston with competition diving boards through the early 1970s. For this reason, divers from the Shamrock Swim Team trained here in the winters, and Kuni Schultz helped coach them.

Melissa Briley Mieras, a former Shamrock diver, remarked, “It took a different kind of courage to train there as the pool was only eight to nine feet deep (most are 14’-16’). The drain on the bottom under the boards came at you really quickly and there are stories of fingers and backs getting the brunt of a good dive.”

During the summers, the Dad's Club divers trained on platform at the Shamrock Hilton's outdoor, 55 yard pool, at least 14 feet deep in the diving area.

**1962-1963** — Construction began on an indoor, heated, 25 yard pool with seven lanes.

**1963** — The indoor 25 yard pool became a reality through a generous donation from the Bill Williams Capon Dinner Group.



Swim practice in enclosed 25 yard pool





Parents and coaches worked diligently to make it a fast, efficient pool. John Dickinson, father of three swimmers, designed the gutters and specified the depth to minimize backwash and enhance swimmers' performances. The lanes were wide and the lane ropes were cutting edge. Janie and Bob Walker were the first swim coaches to utilize the new pool for training. Large sliding doors, on the both the north and south sides, provided ventilation and kept the water temperature cool enough for workouts. The grassy area on the south side was used for the swimmers' dry land routines, as well as for lining up in their assigned heats at meets.

The areas beyond the pool deck included a coach's office, a storage area, a pump room, and bleachers on the north side. There were no dressing rooms or restrooms in the new pool building. On cold days, swimmers would sprint from the indoor pool to the facilities attached to the 33 1/3 meter pool.

Both pools were used for training, but the majority of swim workouts were held in the new pool, leaving the 33 1/3 meter pool for lessons, synchronized swimming, and diving practice.

**1964** — Kuni Schultz was hired as the first Head Diving Coach. The Dad's Club donated 10 acres to the YMCA. The YMCA took over management of the facilities, and added buildings over the years.

**1970-1972** — Construction began and was completed on the 50 meter, outdoor pool. Richard and Ann Quick, along with R.B. Little (father of two swimmers), were

the momentum behind this project. The Quicks donated \$1,000 toward the costs, and the swim team families underwrote the financing for construction.

**1993** — The Dad's Club Swim Team became an independent entity, separate from the YMCA, and steered by a board of nine members. The swim club continued to use the YMCA pools, and the two organizations shared swimming and fitness facilities for nearly 40 years.

**2002** — The 25 yard indoor competition pool was demolished during the expansion of the I-10 Katy Freeway. Ironically, Will Reeves, a former Dad's Club swimmer, worked as an engineer on the project. The Dad's Club Swim Team signed a 7 year lease agreement with the YMCA for \$1.00 per year for the remaining 6 acres, 2 pools, gym, locker rooms and offices. At the end of 7 years, if the Dad's Club Swim Team was still operational, the YMCA would give the property back to the Dad's Club Swim Team.

**2007** — The YMCA lease had a provision to purchase the land for \$1,000,000 and terminate the lease. The Dad's Club Swim Team signed an earnest money contract to buy back the land it donated to the YMCA in 1964, and the Westside YMCA sold six acres back to the Dad's Club. The sale had a provision in it that if the Dad's Club Swim Team was still operational after 5 years, the Westside YMCA would return the \$1,000,000 to Dad's Club Swim Team. This action occurred in July 2012 and the \$1,000,000 bank loan was paid off. The City of Spring Valley passed a resolution to help the Dad's Club remain at 1006 Voss Road, its home for 54 years.





**2013** — A two-phase project began, with funding provided through generous donations from local foundations, fund raising events with contributions from members, swim parents, and local businesses, as well as personal donations by board members.

**1st phase:** Renovation of existing facilities to maintain good working conditions. This included re-roofing of the office buildings, complete renovation of the changing rooms, new air conditioning, and replacing windows, doors, and code-compliant electrical wiring.

**2nd phase:** Construction of a new 25 yard outdoor community pool, with dual-purpose as a neighborhood pool during the summer and as a

training and competition pool during the rest of the year. Included in this project are a building with washrooms, a place for pool equipment, and recreational areas for patrons to enjoy lazy summer months. The pool has an L-shaped design with a zero-depth entry away from the 7 swim lanes. Construction began in January 2014 and is scheduled to be completed by April.

**2014** — A new capital campaign is underway for the next phases of rebuilding the Dad's Club to a top-notch facility. The 33 1/3 meter indoor pool, used for swim lessons and therapy services, needs a new surface, structure and mechanical overhaul, and the 50 meter outdoor pool needs resurfacing and updated pool equipment.



Artist rendering of 25 yard outdoor pool



New 25 yard pool under construction spring 2014



Indoor warm water therapy pool



## THE DAD'S CLUB BOOSTER CLUB



The Dad's Club Booster Club started shortly after the Team. In 1959, Pat Patterson felt that national competition was critical to developing Joan Spillane's talents further towards the goal of making the 1960 Olympic Team. There was no funding, but a few team dads decided to support this effort and raised enough money to fly Pat and Joan to the Nationals in California. The Booster Club was created! This support helped to prepare Joan for the Olympic Trials and she made the 1960 Olympic Team. Over the years, moms and dads continued in the endeavor to assist the swimmers, divers, and the coaches in any way they could. They were the on-deck officials, the timers, the starters, the judges, and the scorekeepers, all helping to run both the diving meets and the swimming meets. They became experts in organizing swim meets and were known throughout the swimming and diving world as friendly and encouraging, but standing firm and fair. The Booster Club continued over the years raising funds to assist with all possible needs by sponsoring many annual garage sales throughout the year and saving items all year long to sell. They planned the banquets, organized the yearbooks, and took care of a thousand other loose ends; and, in the early years, did all this without cell phones or accessing Internet – wonder of wonders!



Young swimmers awarded with patches at Awards Banquet



Selling Spirit Wear 2011

## THE DAD'S CLUB PARENTS



How appropriate it is that through all the decades described above, the team is still known as the "Dad's Club". In the beginning, it was the dads in the community who were determined to provide a place that their children could learn a life-saving skill and have fun and fellowship with other young people in the area. The combined efforts of all of the swimmers' and divers' dads and moms at the Dad's Club... were extraordinary and beyond belief. Parents—your swimmers and divers learned, as they got older, to appreciate and not take for granted everything you did: the early mornings, the late afternoons, the rush to get dinner, the tired kids, the carpools to and from practice, the out of town trips, the endless stream of washing and drying wet towels, and the missing warm-ups and practice equipment lost in the house. Oh, yes, you remember it well! All the

swimmers and divers, former and current, want to thank you for your time and dedication to our growth, and development, not only as swimmers, but as strong, independent, honest, persistent, individuals, competitors and teammates. You gave us the strength to overcome hardships in our lives by encouraging us never to quit whether we won or lost. You made us aware that NOT winning is NOT losing. These qualities you helped instill in us not only assisted us in our swimming, but will be treasured throughout the rest of our lives. You helped us enjoy our swimming and diving to the extent of our talents and beyond our dreams. To all the parents of the Dad's Club Swimming and Diving Teams over the years, we are thankful you were along for the ride, we couldn't have done it without you!

## MANY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING DAD'S CLUB SWIMMING COACHES



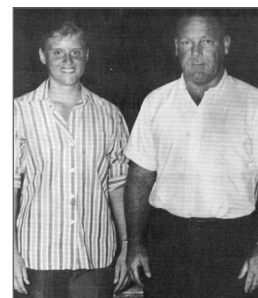
Raymond Murphy - 1954



E.A. Snapp - 1955



Melvin (Pat) and Jane Patterson - 1957-62, 64



Bob and Janie Walker - 1963



Richard Quick - 1965-71



Skip Kenney - 1972-77



Rob Orr - 1977-79



Jay Fitzgerald - 1979-81



Steve Cattolica - 1981



Randy Julian - 1982-88



Mark Boerner - 1988-2009



Rey Aguilar - 2009-2014

## MANY YEARS OF OUTSTANDING DAD'S CLUB DIVING COACHES



Kuni Schultz - 1963-93



Win Young - 1969



Joe Suriano - 1970-73



Bob Rydze - 1974-78

### Head Swimming and Diving Coaches

Swimming Coach Al Crosby - 1972  
(not pictured)



Dave Moreau - 1978-81



Ed Hooker - 1981