



**Ft Lauderdale, Florida,
May 9-12, 2012**

Masters Swimming for Life - From the Beginning

BARBARA DUNBAR, ROBERT E. BEACH, JOHN R. SPANNUTH, MEEGAN WILSON

USMS History and Archives Committee

Introduction: “It must be borne in mind that the primary existence of Masters Swimming is the promotion of physical fitness and, through the medium of physical fitness, better health for those who participate. The competitive aspects of Masters Swimming, although essential to the program, are held to be secondary in purpose and mainly to furnish the motivational spur necessary for continued swimming on a daily basis over the entire adult lifespan” (Krauser, 1984). Before 1970, many believed that strenuous physical activities by people older than 25 could cause serious bodily harm. Research by Captain Ransom J. Arthur M.D., USN, Navy Medical Neuropsychiatric Research Unit Commanding Officer, San Diego, California, disproved this theory. Due to Arthur’s research, dedication and promotion of swimming for older adults, Masters swimming was formed and continues to grow. **Method:** Historical Masters swimming documents, newsletters, personal letters, research papers and other literature were used in writing this abstract. **Results:** Captain Ransom J. Arthur showed an increase in fitness levels of individuals who took part in an aquatic training program (Ransom, 1968). He convinced the Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) that swimming improved adult physical health and that Masters Swimming should become an official AAU program. **Discussion:** During 1968-1969, Ransom Arthur convinced John Spannuth (Spannuth, 2012; Cassel Research Centre, 2012), AAU National Aquatic Administrator and World Swimming Coaches Clinic founder to direct the first Masters Swimming Championships for adults, 25 years and older, in Amarillo, Texas on May 2, 1970 (Anderson, 1974). Masters Swimming officially started on that day. Arthur received Navy funding to perform research tests on the participants. The research results showed that swimming improved health. Competition was a measure of individual fitness levels and a motivational tool. Through Arthur's encouragement, regional meets took place in 1971. Masters swimming became an official part of the AAU in ^{October 1971}. The Sports Act of 1978, allowed the formation in 1979 of the Masters Swimming Committee of the AAU, Inc. Full voting membership in United States Aquatic Sports, Inc. (USAS) was granted following the October 1980 USAS convention in Snowbird, Utah. With Ted Haartz as Chairman, Masters Swimming received 501(c)(3) exemption with the IRS (Haartz, 1981) on February 26, 1981. On April 23, 1981, the name was changed to United States Masters Swimming, Inc. **Conclusion:** Because of Ransom Arthur's research, dedication, and promotion, the United States Masters Swimming program has grown to its present level today.

References

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- Arthur, R.J. (1968). *Swimming and Cardiovascular Fitness in the Older Age Group and Swim Training in the Older Age Group*. Washington, DC, USA: Navy Medical Neuropsychiatric Research Unit, CA Bureau of Medicine and Surgery Department of the Navy.
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- Haartz, T. (1981, May). United States Masters Swimming. *Swim-Master*, 10(4), 1-2.
- Krauser, J. (1984, September). Up Date: Masters Swimming – Lifetime Vigorous Swimming For Health, Fun And Sport. *Swim-Master - Special Convention Publication*, 1-3.
- Spannuth J.R. (2012). *Bio*; United States Water Fitness Association (USWFA). Retrieved on 10 January 2012 from <http://www.uswfa.com/uswfainfo.asp>

USMS History and Archives Author and Presenter Bios International Aquatic History Symposium May 10, 2012



Barbara Dunbar is the office and financial manager for her husband's firm and previously was a laboratory research assistant. She has a Bachelor's degree in Biology from the University of California, San Diego, and a Masters degree in Immunology from the Medical University of South Carolina. Barbara has volunteered for and competed in Masters swimming since 1975. She was inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame as an Honors Masters Swimmer in 2000 and was inducted into the International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame in the inaugural class of 2003. Current volunteer services include Chair of the San Diego-Imperial Local Masters Swimming Committee, Vice Chair of the United States Masters Swimming History and Archives Committee, and a member of the USMS Records and Tabulation Committee. She continues to donate her time as a certified swim official, a meet manager, and as SI LMSC Registrar and performs many other volunteer functions at the local level for her community and for Masters swimming.

The **Honorable Robert E. Beach** worked his way through the University of Tampa and Stetson Law School, was admitted to the Florida Bar in 1958, worked as a lawyer for nine years before being sworn in as a Florida Circuit Court Judge in 1968, and continues to serve to this day. In 1967, at 37 years of age, Bob gave up a 20-year cigarette habit and starting swimming. Three years later, he contacted Captain Ransom Arthur, M.D., USN, and joined the effort to establish Masters Swimming. Bob was elected the first vice chairman of Masters Swimming in late 1971, and Masters Swimming became an official part of the AAU in 1972. Due to Bob's volunteer efforts in promoting Masters Swimming, he received the prestigious Captain Ransom J. Arthur Award in 1986. His swimming achievements include 22 Masters All American honors from 1984 to 2011 and eight All Star Team honors from 2000-2011. Today, at age 81, he continues to participate and promote Masters Swimming:-



John Spannuth became interested in aquatics more than seventy years ago when he nearly drowned and subsequently learned to swim, joined a swim team, and enjoyed teaching swimming. He has worked as a lifeguard, camp waterfront director, and pool manager before becoming an aquatics director, a collegiate swim coach, and a swimming coach for the Phillips 66 Splash Club in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. John has made presentations for over 50 years on physical education, recreation, and aquatics, and as President of the American Swimming Coaches Association, he formed the committee for "Swimming for Older Ages" which emphasized the benefits of physical fitness and regular swimming for "older people." In 1970, he organized and directed The First Annual National Masters Swimming Meet which included less than 55 men and women, and he was instrumental in getting the National AAU to officially accept Masters swimming as a recognized and official national program in 1971. Since 1971, John has held important positions including AAU National Aquatics Administrator and International Executive Director for the Special Olympics and has organized and directed various aquatics events including: The National Aquatics Summit, The National Aquatics Directors Conferences, The National Adapted Aquatics Summit, the 1969 World Swimming Coaches Clinic, the First National YMCA Masters Aquatic Championships, the First National Masters Synchronized Swimming Championship, and Who's Who in Aquatics.

Meegan Wilson is the Aquatic Director at the 300 Club, Inc., a private swim and tennis club in Gainesville, FL. She has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology from Purdue University, where she previously conducted basic research on vision for 14 years. Meegan started swimming Masters in 1984 and continues to compete and volunteer in the United States Masters Swimming (USMS) program. She is currently Chair and Webmaster of the Florida Local Masters Swim Committee, Chair of the USMS History and Archives Committee and a member of the USMS Legislation Committee.



Masters Swimming History

Thursday, May 10, 2012 7:30 pm – 8:10 pm

Agenda

1. Welcome and Brief Introductions – **Meegan Wilson**
2. History of Masters Swimming – **John Spannuth**
 - The idea of a committee for swimming for older ages
 - The First National Masters Swimming Championship (1970)
 - Effort to get the AAU to officially accept Masters Swimming as an AAU sport
 - The First National YMCA Masters Swimming Championship (1976)
 - Individuals who played a major role in getting Masters Swimming going:
 - ✓ *Dr. Ransom Arthur* – The father of Masters Swimming
 - ✓ *June Krauser* – The mother of Masters Swimming
 - ✓ *Judge Bob Beach* – The first National Vice Chairperson of Masters Swimming
 - ✓ *Carl House* – Developed a website including 7,000 pages recognizing many important people involved in Masters Swimming
 - ✓ *Dr. Paul Hutinger* – Wrote many articles regarding the benefits to the body for persons who compete in Masters Swimming
 - ✓ *Dr. Richard Rahe* – Dr. Ransom Arthur's assistant who conducted extensive research on Masters Swimming
 - ✓ *Dr. James Counsilman* – Of Indiana University who competed in Masters Swimming and directed the First Long Course Masters Swimming Championship at Indiana University
 - ✓ *Ted Haartz* – The first National Masters Tabulation Chairperson
 - ✓ *Buster Crabbe* – The first National Masters PR Chairperson. Famous movie star and swimmer.
 - ✓ *Jack Kelly* – National AAU President who swam in the first official AAU swimming meet held at ISHOF. Brother of Grace Kelly
 - ✓ *Hamilton & Mildred Anderson* – Masters swimmers who played a major role in developing the early Masters Swimming history.
3. Memory Lane slideshow of the Development of Masters Swimming – **Judge Bob Beach**
4. USMS Promotional Video

International Aquatic History Symposium
Introductory Speech
Meegan Wilson
May 10, 2012

Good Evening Everyone,

I'm Meegan Wilson, Chair of the United States Masters Swimming History and Archives Committee. I consider it an honor to be here tonight to present to you, the History of Masters Swimming. Captain Ransom J. Arthur, is credited for starting Masters swimming in the United States, but many others helped to advance the sport.

Two of those people are here tonight to tell their story.

Robert Beach helped to establish and promote Masters swimming and received United States Masters Swimming's most prestigious award, the Captain Ransom J. Arthur Award in 1986. Bob continues to compete today, and he's a 48 time All American.

John Spannuth ran the first Masters Nationals in Amarillo Texas in 1970, and was instrumental in convincing the AAU to accept Masters Swimming. He received the Ransom Arthur Award in 1988. He has been a leader in almost every field of aquatics and is currently the President of United States Water Fitness, Inc.

I would like to give a special thanks to the following people and please stand when I call your name, to Barbara Dunbar, Vice Chair of the History & Archives Committee who could not be here tonight, to Nadine Day, the President of United States Masters Swimming, to Ed Tsuzuki, the USMS Vice President of Local Operations, and to Rob Butcher, USMS Executive Director, for all their help. Thanks to you, Bob and John.

I will now turn it over to John Spannuth. John?



INTERNATIONAL AQUATIC
HISTORY SYMPOSIUM
& FILM FESTIVAL

40 Years of US Masters Swimming



May 10, 2012

Back when bell bottoms were cool
and disco was jive,
Masters Swimming in the United States
was just starting out...

Fellow Masters swimmer, Bob Beach,
was able to document
those first few years
of Masters Nationals





AAU Secretaries
June Krauser, far left



UNITED STATES MASTER SWIMMING - NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Hamilton H. Anderson - National Masters Chairman

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SHORT COURSE</u>	<u>MEET DIRECTORS</u>	<u>LONG COURSE</u>	<u>MEET DIRECTOR</u>
1970	-- Amarillo, TX	JOHN SPANNUTH	-----	
✓1971	-- Amarillo, Tx	JOHN SPANNUTH	-----	
✓1972	-- San Mateo, CA	JOHN SPANNUTH	Bloomington, IN	Doc James Councilman
✓1973	-- Santa Monica, CA	DON T. ARNETT	Chicago, IL	Irene David & Watson Lawrence
1974	-- Ft. Lauderdale, FL	JUNE KRAUSER	Santa Monica, CA	Cindy Baxter & Carol McPhears
✓1975	-- Ft. Lauderdale, FL	JUNE KRAUSER	Knoxville, TN	John Crews
1976	-- Mission Viejo, CA	G. BARNICOAT/SCHUBERT	St. Louis, MO	Wade Barber
1977	-- Ft. Lauderdale, FL	JUNE KRAUSER	Spokane, WA	Jack Zappone
1978	-- San Antonio, TX	"Bud" DALLMANN	Providence, R.I.	Enid Urich
✓1979	-- Mission Viejo, CA	SCHUBERT	Dearborn, MICH	Jack Dunworth
✓1980	-- Ft. Lauderdale, FL	JUNE KRAUSER	Santa Clara, CA	Baxter & McPhearsen
✓1981	-- Irvine, CA	MIKE GILMORE	Canton, Ohio	Harry Fox
✓1982	-- The Woodlands, TX	THOMAS BOAK	Portland, OR	Mike Popovick & Carl Walter
✓1983	-- Ft. Lauderdale, FL	JUNE KRAUSER	Indianapolis, IN	
1984	-- Los Angeles, CA	TINA MARTIN	Raleigh, N.C.	Hill-Gabrew

RANSOM ARTHUR RECIPIENTS

CHAIRMEN/PRESIDENTS

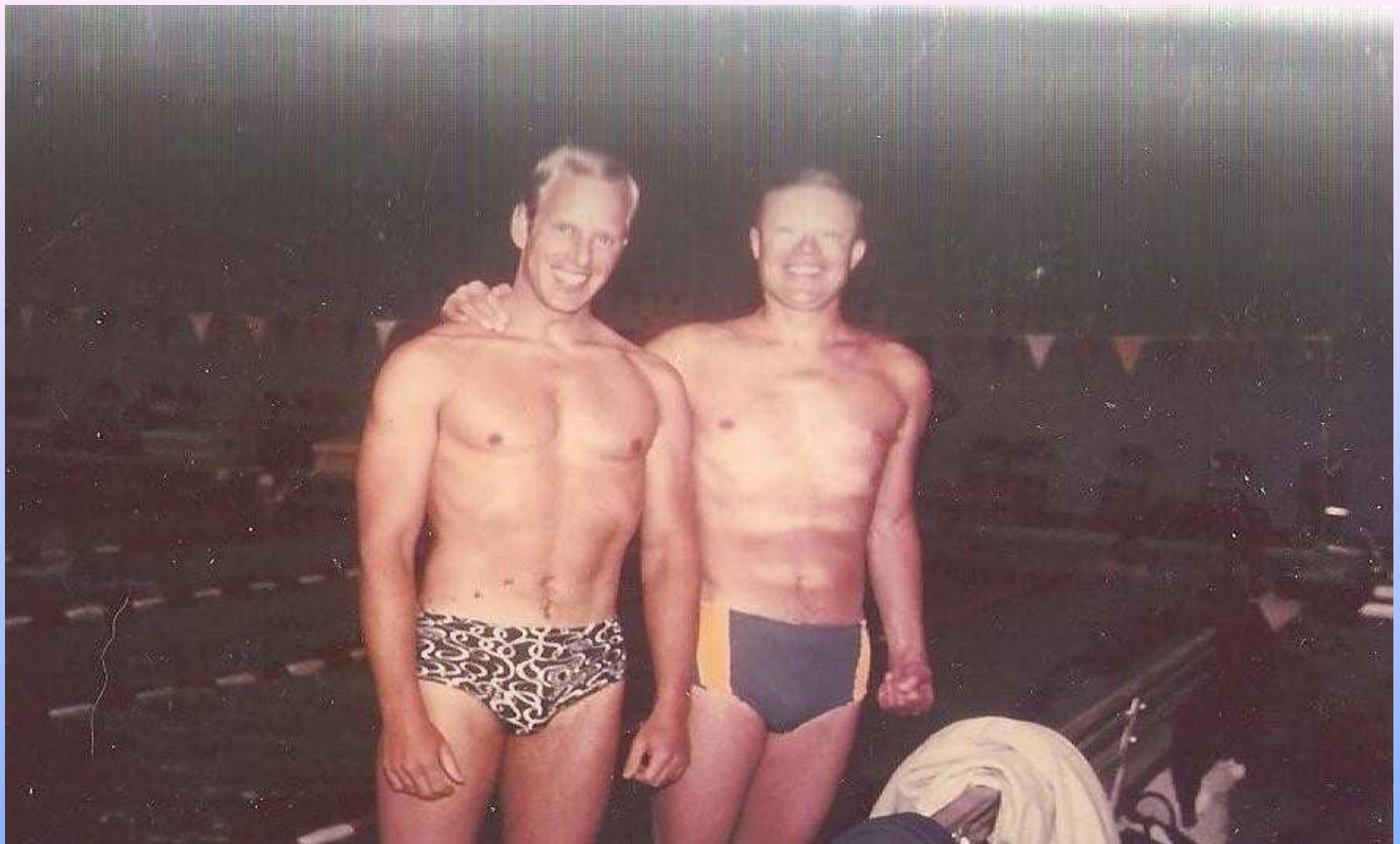
1973	RANSOM D. ARTHUR, M.D.	CA	1970	RANSOM ARTHUR	JOHN SPANNUTH	Honary
1974	JUNE KRAUSER	FL	1971	RANSOM ARTHUR	JOHN SPANNUTH	
1975	HELMUT "HAL" ONUSSEITM	MA	1972	RANSOM ARTHUR		
1976	F. H. "TED" HAARTZ	MA	1973	RANSOM ARTHUR		
1977	PAUL HUTTINGER	IL	1974	JUNE KRAUSER		
1978	HAMILTON & MILDRED ANDERSON	TX	1975	JUNE KRAUSER		
1979	ZADA TAFT	CA	1976	JUNE KRAUSER		
1980	ENID UHRICH & ED REED	MA	1977	JUNE KRAUSER		
1981	CINDY BAXTER	CA	1978	F. H. "TED" HAARTZ		
1982	HARRY RAWSTROM		1979	F. H. "TED" HAARTZ		
1983			1980	F. H. "TED" HAARTZ		
1984			1981	F. H. "TED" HAARTZ		
1985			1982	MICHAEL LAUX		
			1983	MICHAEL LAUX		
			1984			
			1985			

FEB 1974 1st International, Sidney Australlia-Jack Brown-John Auchland, N. Zealand-Col

Allen, Jim	Forbes, Jim	Kaye, Lori	Sable, John
Anderson, Hamilton	Foster, Sally	Matthewson, Pat	Segrist, Oscar
Anderson, Mildred	Garrett, Sue	Onsgard, Al	Shockley, Micky
Ashford, Rexene	George, Margaret	Peterson, Lorraine	Sheppard, Susan
Cleary, Pense	Goldman, Edy	Petranek, Dale	Stewart, Bud (Canada)
Clinton, Patricia	Huber, Jane	Raye, Richard	Thompson, Viola
Coble, Judith	Husson, Bob	Richardson, Reg	Trask, Bill
Edwards, Jim	Husson, Bob	Rankin, Don	Van Nouten, Bill
Foley, Julie	Kaye, Ann	Robertson, John	

Record of USMS National Championships Meet Information

*Errata note: 1974 LC
Nationals were at Santa
Clara, CA, not Santa
Monica, CA.



Short Course Nationals
Amarillo, TX 1971
R.Rahe & R.Arthur

won by
THE INTER MOUNTAIN SWIM TEAM
 at the
U.S. Masters Championships
 in Amarillo, Texas
 May 8+9, 1971
 (See Trophy Case in Entry)

Newspaper article about Short Course Nationals Amarillo, TX 1971



Staff Photo by RON MARLOW

Masters' Record Breakers . . . Four swim marks fell in the second annual National Masters Swim Meet Saturday. Richard Rahe (from left) broke his own mark in the 100-yard breaststroke. Helmut Onusseit crushed the 50-yard butterfly. Jill Slattery topped the 200-yard breaststroke and Sam Jones snapped the 100-yard butterfly mark. Details are on Page B-2.

Records Fall In Masters Swim Meet

Saturday's first day competition in the second annual National Master's Swim Meet was paced by the setting of 21 new records.

Sam Jones of Livermore Aqua Cowboys, Calif., set three new marks in the 35-44 age group. Jones dashed to marks in the 200-yard freestyle, 100-yard butterfly and 50-yard freestyle.

Cecilia Brown, U.S. Navy, broke records in the 200-yard free and 100-yard backstroke in the 25-34 age group while Ann Champ, Riviera Club, Ind., set marks in the 100-yard breaststroke and backstroke for age 35-44.

Paul Hutinger, Western Ill. Swim Club; Ken Merten, Dallas and Jim McGrath, San Fernando Valley Aquatic Club, all set two standards in their respective classes.

Five more men and three more women competitors set one mark each in their divisions, including Richard Rahe who busted his own mark of last year in the 100-yard breast for age 35-44.

Cherry Beasley, Ellen Dawson and Earlene Chamberlain, all of the Amarillo Maverick Club, had the highest place finishes for Amarillo swimmers Saturday as all three grabbed third place awards.

Competition continues today beginning at 12 noon in the Amarillo Aquatic Club.

NEW MASTERS' RECORDS

Mens Age 25-34
 Ken Merten-100-breast, 1:03.2; 100-back, 59.3; Jim McGrath - 100-fv, 54.4; 50-free, 22.3; Paul Thompson-200-free, 1:54.0.

Mens Age 35-44
 Sam Jones - 200-free, 1:05.3; 100-fv, 1:03.8; 50-free, 24.8; Richard Rahe - 100-breast, 1:14.1.

Mens Age 45 and Older
 Paul Hutinger - 200-free, 2:11.6; 100-back, 1:07.8; Ranson Arthur-100-breast, 1:15.3; Helmut Drusseit-50-fv, 28.7; David Tyler, Jr. - 50-free, 26.2.

Womens Age 25-34
 Cecilia Brown - 200-free, 2:28.3; 100-back, 1:16.4; Jill Slattery - 100-breast, 1:11.9.

Womens Age 35-44
 Ann Champ - 100-breast, 1:39.2; 100-back, 1:21.6.

Womens Age 45 and Older

NATIONAL MASTERS MEET AMARILLO, TEXAS, MAY 8 & 9, 1971

18 Amarillo Globe-Times Friday, May 7, 1971

Masters Swim Meet Set

The Amarillo Aquatic Club will be invaded by All-American and Olympic swimmers as the second annual National Masters Swimming Meet opens Saturday with competition continuing through Sunday. Swimmers from all over the United States and one from

Canada will be competing in four divisions and 12 events including two relays.

The top name in the competition, which is open only to swimmers 25-years old and older, is 1968 Olympic Gold Medal winner Doug Russell. Now swim coach at the University of Texas at El Paso, Russell, won his gold medal in the 100 meter butterfly.

Topping the women's division is British record holder Jill Slatery. She owns British records in the 220-yard and 200-yard breaststroke competition.

The Captain of the British Empire Swim for women took fifth in the 200 meter breaststroke in the 1964 Olympics and ninth in that event at the 1963 Olympics in Mexico City.

Richard H. Rahe is the only returning Masters champion. Rahe won the 100-yard breaststroke last year at the first Masters.

The two oldest competitors in the two-day meet will be William S. McCalley from Bryan who is 62 and 61-year old J. I. "Bud" Stewart of Toronto, Canada.

The competition is divided into four groups with Group I for ages 25-34, Group II for ages 35-44 and Group III for ages 45 and up. The Group IV is for relay teams ages 25 and up.

Saturday's events will include 200-yard freestyle, 100-yard breaststroke, 100-yard butterfly, 100-yard backstroke, 50-yard freestyle and 200-yard freestyle relay.

Sunday's action will be in the 200-yard breaststroke, 100-yard free, 200-yard back, 100-yard individual medley, 400-yard free and the 200-yard medley relay.

Denverites Aid Swim Triumph

The Intermountain Swim Team, comprised mainly of Denver area swimmers, captured team honors in the second annual National Masters Swim Championships at Amarillo, Tex.

The team totaled 261 points to outscore the U.S. Navy with 224½ and the Maverick Swim Team of Amarillo, with 180.

The Intermountain team was top scorer in men's competition with 186 points, just 4½ points more than the Navy, with 181½.

The women's team took second with 75 points. The Maverick team won that division.

The women's team had only three members, Monica Boyles, Jody Anderson of Denver and Diane Hyer, of Albuquerque, N.M.

The men's team was made up of Bill Williams, Bob Patton, Ed Schelonka and Walt Lindstrom, all of Denver, and Sam Jones, Dennis Brittain, Dick Agee, Gus Clemons, Bill Hudson and Joe Neal, all from either New Mexico or Texas.

Jones was the meet's high point winner. The former Denver native and Denver Swim Club coach won the 50-yard freestyle, 100-yard freestyle, 200-yard freestyle and 100-yard butterfly and was second in 400-

Masters Swimmers Going to Nationals

A group of masters swimmers from the Denver area will travel to the National AAU Masters Swim Championships May 8 and 9 in Amarillo, Tex. The group, which will swim under the Celebrity Swim Club's banner, includes Bill Williams, Bob Patton, Ed Schelonka, Monica Boyles and Walt Lindstrom. Mrs. Jody Anderson, Jim Railey and Mike Wallace are listed as possible competitors.

More from Amarillo, TX 1971



Short Course Nationals San Mateo, CA 1972
Burwell Jones, Robert Beach, ?, ?



June Krauser (on left)
Atlanta 1972



Bumpy Jones
Atlanta 1972



1st Long Course Nationals
Bloomington, IN 1972
Reg Richardson on left¹¹



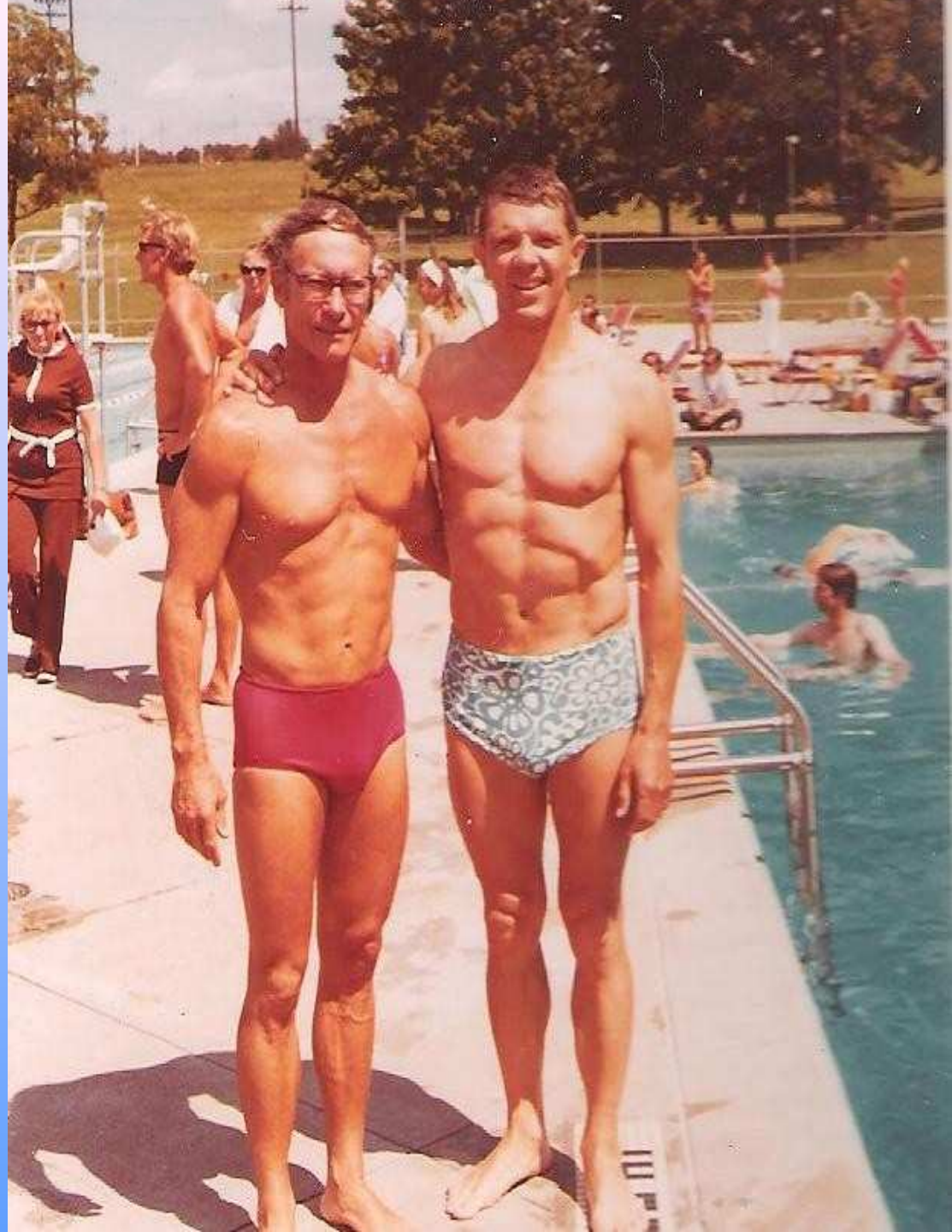
Bloomington, IN

P.Hutinger, M.Anderson, B.Crabbe, J.Krauser,
J.Spannuth, R.Beach 12



John Spannuth

P.Hutinger &
H.Onusseit
Bloomington, IN



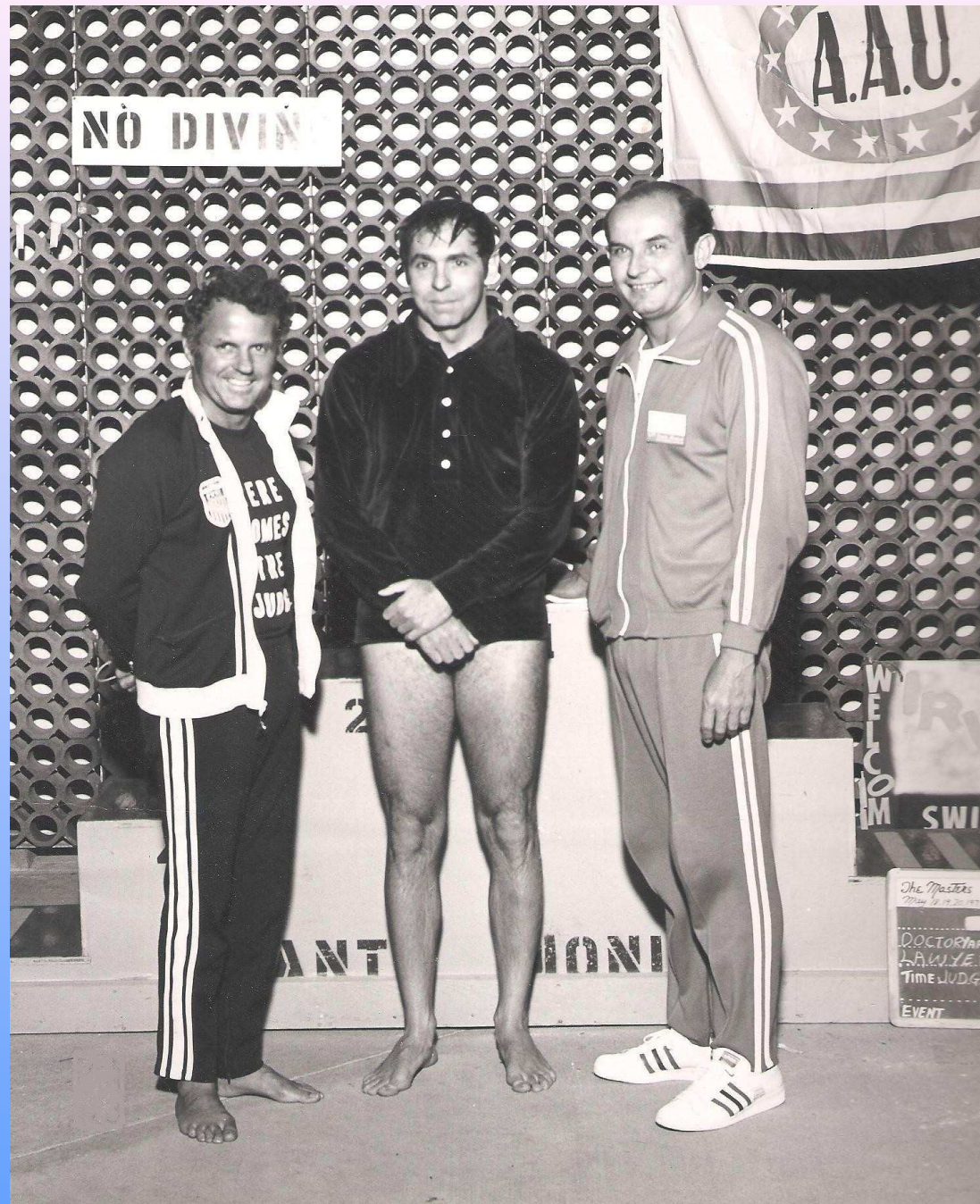


Burwell "Bumpy" Jones, (top) Bloomington Bob Beach, 2nd from left



J.Eubank, ?, P.Hutinger, H.Anderson,
B.Crabbe, J.Krauser, J.Spannuth, R.Beach

Bloomington, IN
1972
Robert Beach, ?,
Burwell Jones





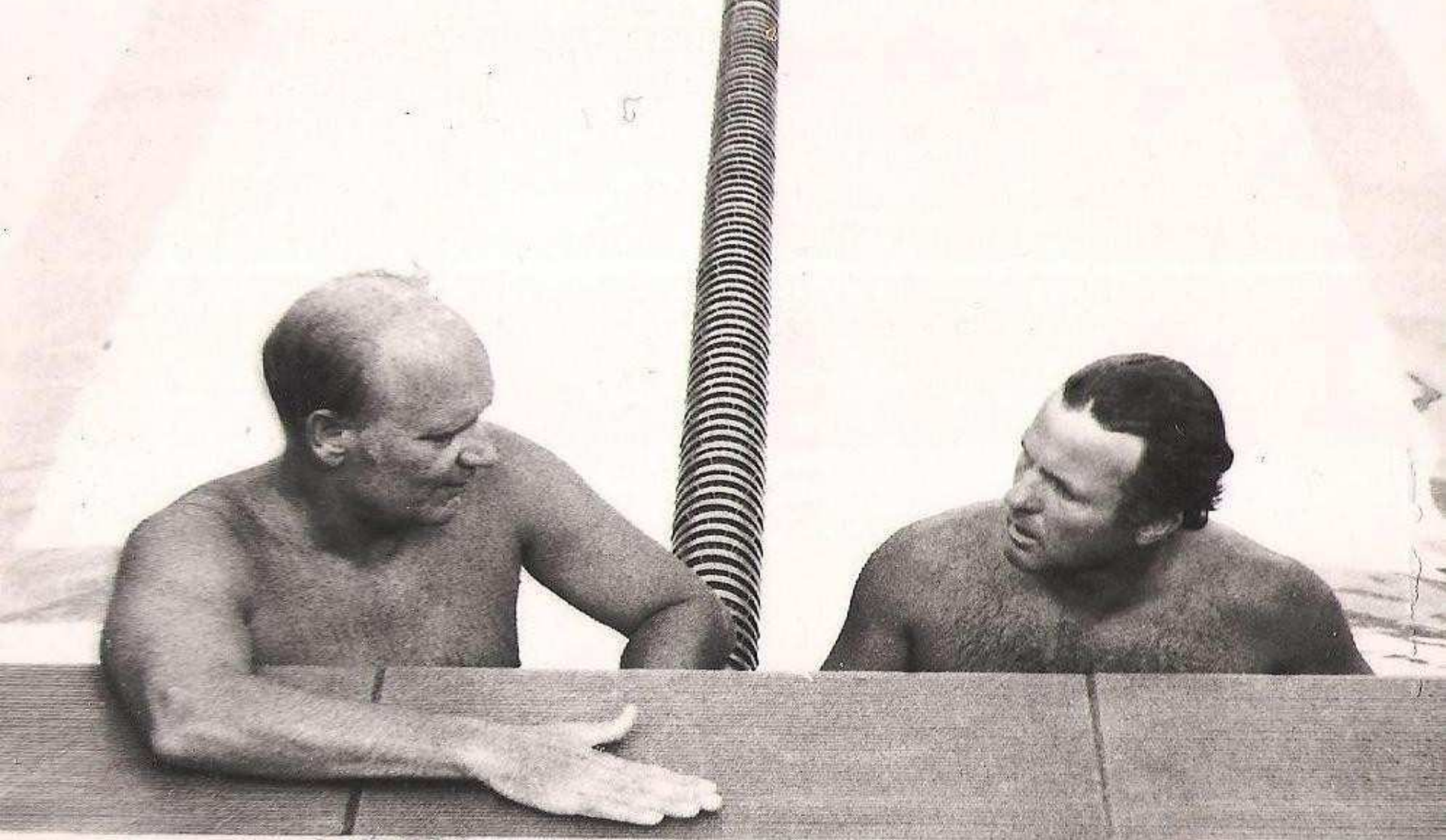
B.Jones, B.Beach, and
meet director Doc Counsilman
at Bloomington, IN 18



Bloomington, IN
R.Arthur, ?, ?, R.Rahe, ?,
R.Beach, ?, F.H.Haartz ¹⁹



B.Crabbe, R.Beach, & R.Arthur



Doc Counsilman getting advice after losing
to Bob Beach!



June 1973, Northshore Pool
St. Petersburg, FL

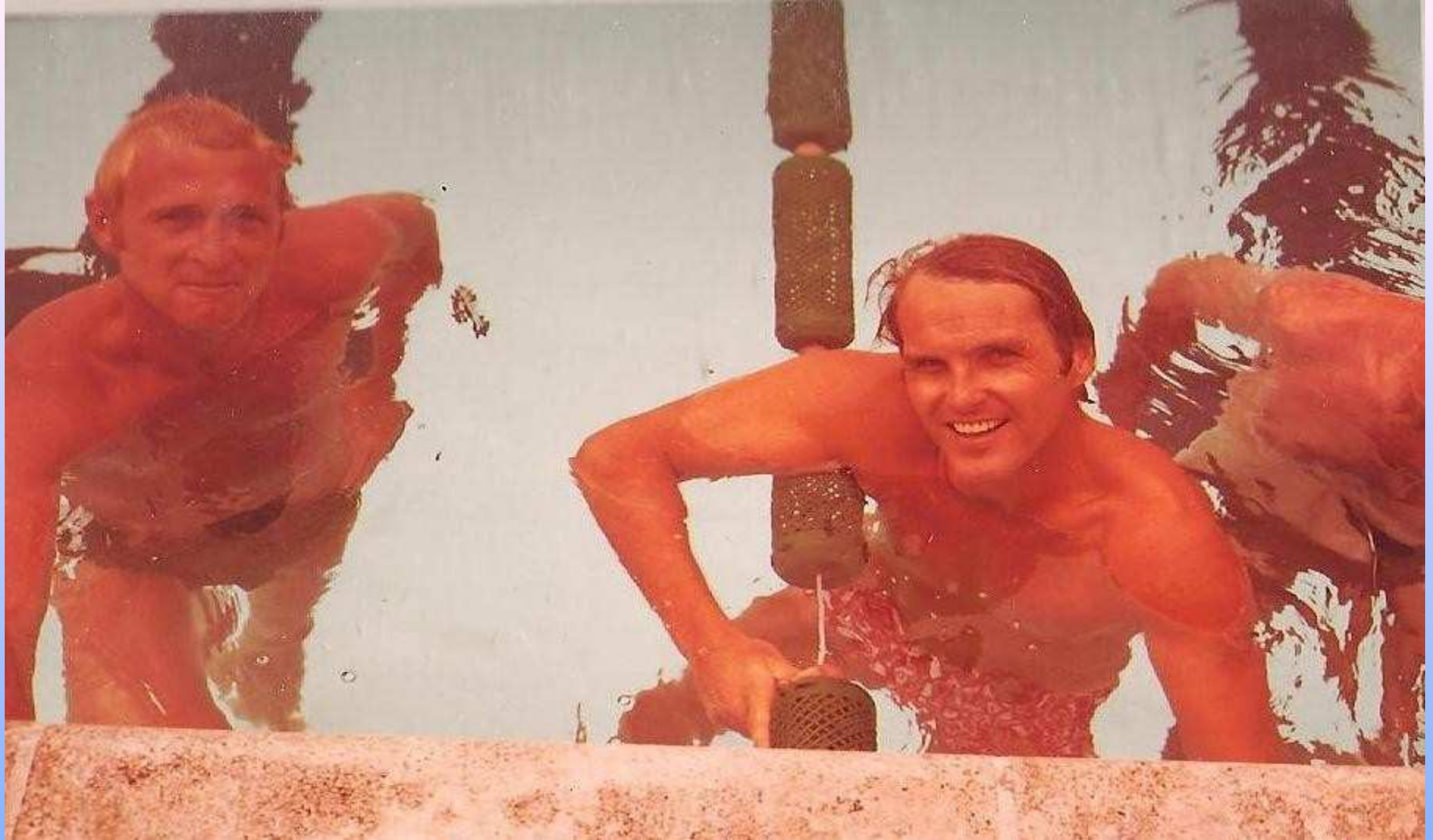
Ted Haartz, Gay Rosser, Bump Jones, Reed Ringel



Ft. Lauderdale
Short Course Nationals 1974
?, Bob Beach, John Spannueth, ?



Ft. Lauderdale 1974
?, ?, June Krauser, Ransom Arthur,
Ann Adams, Bob Beach



1952 Olympian Gay Rosser, ?



1964 Olympian
Steve Clark
with
Bob Beach

**NATIONAL A.A.U. MEN'S AND WOMEN'S
SHORT COURSE MASTERS SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS**

May 16, 17, 18, 1980



10th
Anniversary of
SCY Nationals
at the ISHOF
pool

International Swimming Hall of Fame Pool
Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA



June Krauser and Ted Haartz in 1994 Kansas City, MO Convention

- Krauser:
 - President 1974 - 1977
 - Received Ransom Arthur Award in 1974
- Haartz:
 - President 1978 - 1981
 - Received Ransom Arthur Award in 1976



Dorothy Donnelly in 1993

- Qualified for the 1940 Olympics - canceled because of World War II
- Received Ransom Arthur Award in 1983
- First USMS Executive Secretary from 1985 - 1996
- First National Office was established in her home in 1985



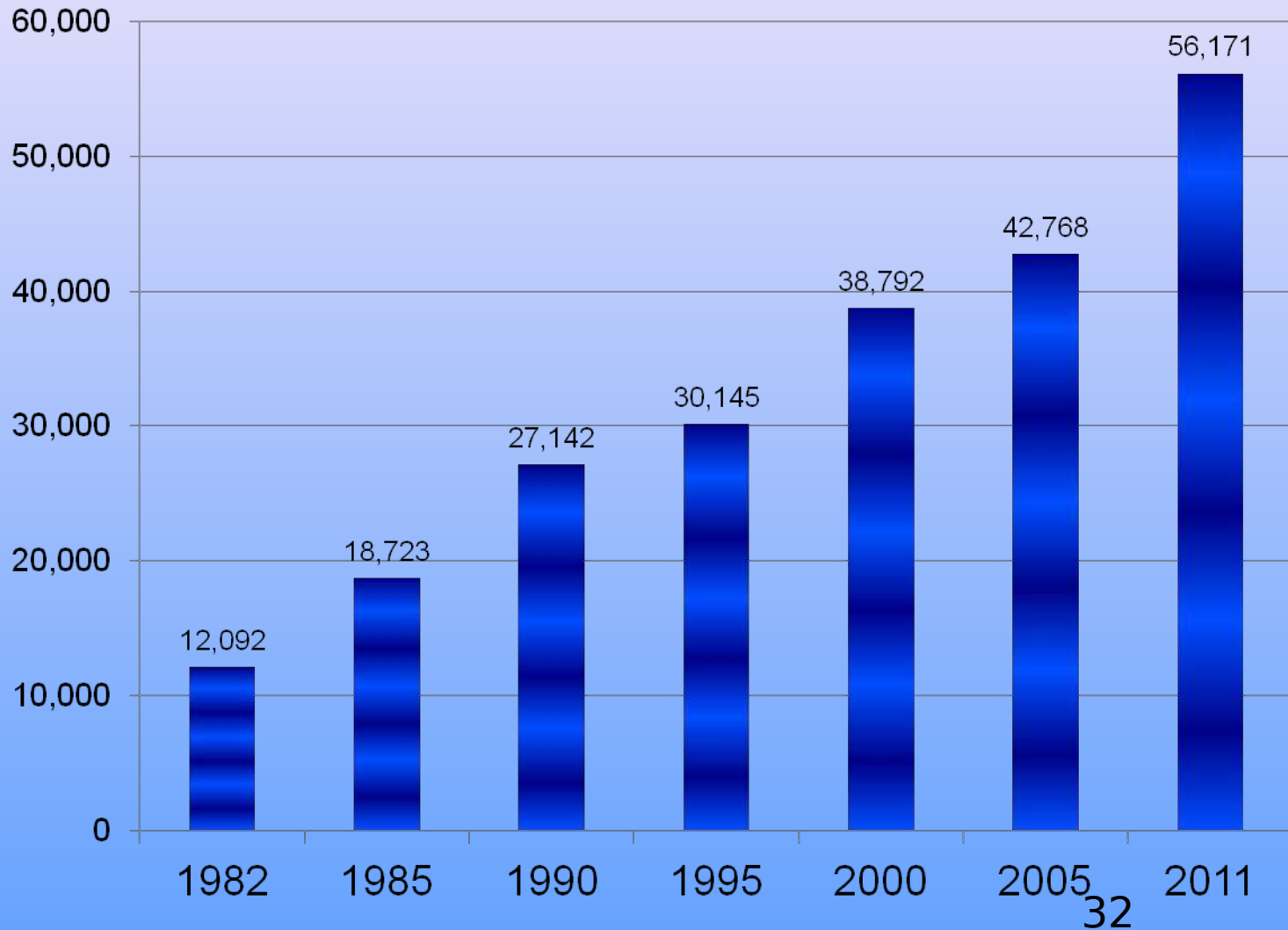
June Krauser in 1994 at the ISHOF Henning Library at her induction in to the Hall of Fame as an Honor Contributor

- Referred to as “The Mother of Masters Swimming”
- Wrote the first Masters rule book - 1972
- Editor of “Swim Master” 1972 - Masters Swimming’s first newsletter



Permanent National Headquarters
established in Sarasota, FL - 2009

Membership Growth 1982-2011





2012 USMS Summer Nationals to be held at the US Olympic Trials Venue in Omaha Nebraska



We Are US Masters Swimming!