

History of Maine Masters Swim Club

Maine Masters Swim Club (MESC) was born in 1988. George Erswell, a native Mainer who moved back from Atlanta, Georgia, met Sharon Forney who was then head monitor and life guard at the Bowdoin pool. George was a regular swimmer in Atlanta and was part of a Masters swim club. George encouraged Sharon to start a Masters program at the Bowdoin pool. George helped Sharon lay the ground work. One of the first tasks was to find out how many Bowdoin pool swimmers would like to compete, have group workouts and clinics. The response was gratifying.

By 1989, Sharon held the first meeting of MESC. Present were George Erswell, Wil Meacham, Peter and Betsy Packard, Barbara Murphy, Fran Weichel, Sandy Potholm, John Woods and Bev Decoster. At this meeting we decided to have our first swim meet. George contacted the New England Masters (NEM) to get the guidelines in running a meet. At that time NEM wanted us to join them, but John Woods was instrumental in pushing us to form our own. We had our first swim meet in April of 1989 which became known as the Patriots Day Swim Meet. For 3 years we only held one meet a year. Because it was so well received, we decided to hold another meet in the fall. We called it our Halloween Meet.

In 1992-1993, Bowdoin was the nucleus and other area pool groups began to form. Enrollment in 1993 was 187 members. Currently we are at 162 (10/12/02) with 19 pool groups.

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Sandy Q. Potholm