

Browns Corner Gazette

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**Speedo's Boys
Special Edition**

Speedo's Boys Reunion at Browns Corner!

By Nana

On September 16-19, a Speedo's Boys reunion was held at Browns Corner. In 1963, the Westwood New Jersey High School Boys' Cross Country team won the State Championship, under the capable and dedicated leadership of Bob Wood (Speedo). This was the third reunion of this esteemed team – there was one held in 2008 in Granby, Connecticut hosted by Amy and Steve Hatfield, and another one took place in 2013, in Asheville, NC hosted by Paul and Dollie Llanso.



Don and Ed haven't seen each other since they graduated from high school.

Speedo's Boys came from far and wide to celebrate the camaraderie and strong bond they shared as a cohesive, determined group of athletes. Attendees were: Coach

Wood and his fiancée, Ruth, Bruce Borylo, Ed Martin, Don Ritterbush, Paul and Dollie Llanso, Sandy Randall and Carol Franks-Randall. A telephone exchange took place with teammate Jimmy Myles, who couldn't join us. Everyone present had an opportunity to talk to him and share this experience with him.



Ed and Bruce were bunkmates in the library.

While the event was advertised as the 54-year reunion of the championship team, the get together was so much more. To a person, every one of Speedo's Boys had a story to tell about how Coach influenced their lives separate and apart from the Cross Country team. There was much reminiscing about high school crushes, amazing teachers and the connection that was felt within the school community. It was touching to watch the interaction and hear these stories.

The group spent some time talking about the rigor and dedication that Coach Wood instilled and the depth of the transformation that occurred for each and every one of them. His fastidiousness was documented with a three-page mimeographed sheet that depicted runners' times, the eating regimen and workout suggestions. This document provided further evidence of the intense routine and attention to detail that Coach Wood displayed and expected from his team.



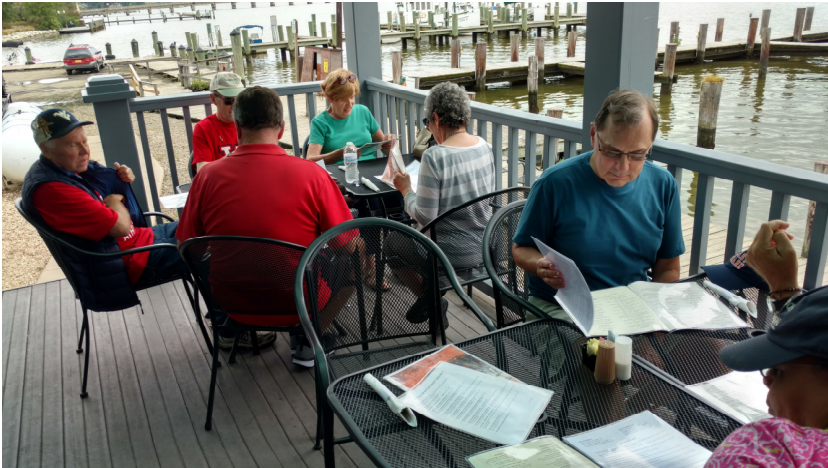
The attendees enjoyed lots of Eastern Shore eats and consumed a fair amount of crab cakes and other seafood at local eateries. Friendships were rekindled and a good time was had by all. It was hard to believe that some of the attendees had not seen each other in over 50 years. Everyone just picked up where they left off and enjoyed each other's company.



Ned, Bruce and Sandy at Harris Crab House.



We liked Harris Crab House so much we went twice. Pictured: Ruth, Speedo, Don and Ed



Lunch at the Fish Whistle, along the Chester River in Chestertown.



Paul and Speedo

A quiet moment on the back porch. Pictured: Speedo, Bruce and Ruth

Hopefully another reunion of Speedo's Boys will happen before too long!

Don and Dollie shared pictures and memories.

