

Our family lived the early years in Manhattan Beach.

Dad started Bob on swim team at about 8 years old. We spent every afternoon at practice and weekends at swim meets. Bob quickly became an AAU Jr national swimmer. Summers we traveled up and down Southern California to Ocean swims, and for fun Bob was surfing. The families and kids in our swim club became extended family.

About 9 years old Bob became a junior lifeguard. He competed each year in the 2-mile Pier to Pier rough water swim from the Hermosa to the Manhattan and was always a top finisher. The training and energy spent to prepare took the whole family being involved. It was exciting to set a goal and work for it. That was a good life lesson Bob and I had from our parents.

When Bob wanted a new skateboard, Dad said he had to earn it. He set-up Bob with the red wagon, number stencils and spray paint. Bob went through the neighborhood painting the house numbers on curbs. He charged a dollar a house, and was raking it in... until the City inspector told him he would need to buy a business license.

On Summer nights, after we finished doing dishes (which usually ended with a few wet-towel snaps or a good Indian burn) there was time for neighborhood relay races in the alley, we named teams and played Red Rover. Sometimes we went to friends for night swims and played Marco Polo - with the pool lights on – which was much more fun than in the daytime.

When he wasn't in the water, Bob was on the pier with a fishing pole. My brother and my husband became great friends in 7th grade, fishing together on the Hermosa Pier. Bob would go to the bait and tackle shop in Hermosa and buy the supplies to make his own lures. He spent the evenings in front of the TV, making his flies and lures, all while watching Victory at Sea... in black-and-white.

About 13 years old, his friends would get into these marathon Monopoly Games at the dining room table. There was always lots of popcorn... Sometimes they had to leave everything on the board and finish the game the next night. They took it very seriously, sometimes even made small bets... Then it moved into poker games.

About the same age, Bob went to gun school. Which meant more newspaper spread across the living room floor, and more Victory at Sea. Bob would take his shotgun apart, oil all parts, put it back together again and study for his gun license. We even had a machine in the garage where Bob could reload his shot shells. This was the new hobby.

Labor Day was spent camping at the Colorado River for the opening day of Dove season with our swim team families. They would shoot in the morning, and water ski in the afternoons. It was always hotter than heck.... And I recall seeing crickets on my toothbrush in the morning.

Bob played water polo in high school. Mira Costa had a great coach who Bob really liked, and it was a high-level team. Water polo quickly took over his favorite sport from swimming. He was always selected for the all-tournament teams.

Bob's best friends on the team, Andy Keene and Curt Caldwell went on to play for UCLA, and Bob at USC.

One fun note you may not know is when Bob was a junior at Mira Costa, his friends included the cheerleaders. Just for fun, the girls asked Bob and Andy Keane to help them at the tryouts and come on stage as yell leaders.

So, he and Andy got the white sweaters with the big school logo on the front, and the megaphones, and they went up on stage at the school assembly to tryout. They made it through the routine and ended up being voted in.

Then got themselves in a pickle when they had to tell the vice principal, they had no intention of being yell leaders.

It was about the end of high school when Bob started playing beach volleyball. It was more social and fun than competitive. But of course, he was pretty good at it, and the beach volleyball culture was just coming alive at that time. Bob earned his AAA rating on the beach with Leonard Armado, who later became the owner of the AVP.

Then, Bob went off to USC and we were all so proud of him and enjoyed watching him play water polo in college.

Bob was a junior lifeguard instructor for LA County and worked the Summers during college as a lifeguard. He competed in the lifeguard competitions traveling to different counties, swimming paddling on the lifeguard relays.

This was part of the international surf festival in the South bay - we looked forward to the races every year. The whole community turned out to see LA county lifeguards and teams from San Diego to Santa Barbara compete.

When Bob graduated SC he had an apartment just up the hill from my mom's house in Hermosa. She loved that on the weekends he would walk down the street to go surfing, then stop in for waffles when he got out of the water.

I could not wait to tell Bob when my husband and I became engaged. He was the first one I told... and he approved. Then he told me "Bob Boice was the funniest guy in 7th grade".

My brother was my inspiration and encouraged me to start my business 35 years ago.

My daughter-in-law is now running our volleyball club, and we have over 300 hundred families in our club. Having Bob in front of me, leading the way all my life with love and support gave me confidence to do things I may not have tried otherwise. He truly was my hero.

Bob was sensitive, kind and thoughtful. He loved and cared deeply about his family and friends...And he was kind to animals.

My family has so many wonderful memories made possible by Bob and Kelley. Raising our boys together - surf trips, fishing trips, and our wonderful family Thanksgiving Holidays in Santa Ynez. The boys and their families have always been very important to me and my husband.

I know all our boys have a strong bond and that will be a part of my brother's legacy.