

THE QUIVIRAN

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Lake Quivira moms talk about the 'boomerang effect'

By Jim and Joan Davies

What is so special about Lake Quivira for the *fifty* of our Foundation members who spent their childhood years at Lake Quivira and who are now opting to raise their families here? Most responses to this questions we have heard are deep seated and offered with great emotion. It is about "coming home" to an environment allowing everyone to experience a real sense of community.

Since returning permanently to Lake Quivira in 2001, we have been intrigued to discover how many other "Quivira Kids" who grew up at Lake Quivira returned to the Lake as adults to raise their own families, i.e. the boomerang effect. (We had our own reasons for returning to Lake Quivira—it's called returning to nirvana for our retirement.) So what are other "hooks" bringing others back? We decided the most logical place to begin to understand this phenomenon was with some of our young parents. Our two interviewees were the Lake Quivira Mothers' Club new President, Beth (Randolph) Taylor and new Vice-president, Bobbi Chapman.

When asked, "Why did you come back?", the mothers' answers were similar. It is because of the great childhood experiences they or their husbands had while growing up here. Beth belongs to the Randolph clan, who has roots way back to her father's aunt who lived here in the 50's. She says, "Everything was going fine with a career in NYC, doing what I had studied to do, being a journalist and enjoying the excitement of one of the world's most dynamic cities. Then I married and we started a family. The only place I could think of that was good enough to raise children was Lake Quivira!" Sporting a great smile, she continued, "It took some time to convince Patrick, but after being here for a year, he understands why I was so insistent to return here for our kids' formative years."

Bobbi's story has a slightly different twist. It was Brent who insisted they return to Lake Quivira. "We were quite settled and content traveling to fishing tournaments around the country," says Bobbi. "But after the kids were born, Brent said, 'We have to get back to Lake Quivira for the kids. It is where I learned how to fish, to live responsibly and it is exactly what I want for our kids!' So, our kids are now fishing with Grandpa [Ron Chapman] whenever we are not out on the road for a tournament."



Bobbi Chapman, Diane Delaney, Beth Taylor, Valerie Kalney, Debbie Foust, Renee Barackman and Mandy Lockett have fun at a Mothers' Club social.

Speaking for themselves and other Mothers' Club members, Beth and Bobbie talk about the importance of a small town environment where people know about, care about and watch out for each other. They appreciate the basic good values held by Middle Americans, which seem even stronger in a small community like ours.

They appreciate the broad spectrum of things for their children to enjoy and how they can learn from the natural environment surrounding us. For example, there are not too many places to live now where one can see a fox dashing across the road on the way to the beach, deer in front and back yards (well, many a few too many now), over a hundred different species of birds perched and nesting in the trees surrounding our homes, flocks of geese honking from one end of the lake to the other, gulls from the Great Lakes borrowing our lake in the winter and a lake full of many species of fish.

Add into that mix the opportunities to learn water safety, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, sailing, tennis, golf, camping, basketball and of course tree climbing, and you have a children's wonderland right outside the door. The learning and recreational experiences are virtually unlimited.

In most cities and towns, it seems that bureaucratic Parks and Recreation Departments or formal clubs exist to help children and adults participate in these kinds of activities. We are fortunate our active Mothers' Club offers a wide variety of programs throughout the year. For example, don't miss the fun times at the current

program, "Movies At the Beach," for "kids" of all ages.

One of the goals of the new Mothers' Club leadership is to get more Patron members and grandparents involved in the Club's membership and activities. As a part of their campaign to get more involvement by non-parent members, they are offering diversified speakers

for their meetings with many topics not focused on children (they all focus on kids everyday of their lives and need a break too). In addition to a broader educational focus for meetings, the group hopes to become more of a women's social group, by planning events like "Pub Crawl" bus trips downtown, Mothers' pontoon crawl, Lake Q women's nights out, movies on the beach for moms and holiday parties, which they try to plan for once a month.

The Mothers' Club primary membership drive event will be the *Annual Mother's Club Picnic* on August 25. All residents and Country Club members are encouraged to attend this fun event. Bobbi also reminded us the *Casino Night* this year will be November 4—after the new school year has started, but before the holiday activities begin. Casino Night is a fun night for everyone and the other main fund raising event for the Mothers' Club.

The Club hopes to earn enough money this year to replace all the beach sand before next summer. Some of the old sand was replaced four years; however, Bobbi quipped, "That sand would be 'Caribbean Island' sand in comparison to the beach sand right now!" We were amazed when we learned about projects like this, just one of many the Mothers' Club funds to benefit us all.



Clare Taylor, Grace Logan and Makayla Chapman enjoy games on the beach following the 4th of July parade.

See additional 4th of July photos on pages 17, 20