

FACT NEWS FOR SPRING SHORT COURSE SEASON 2015

Good news on the home front for our Betty Lorenzi, who had fractured her neck on Christmas day. She is BACK IN THE WATER!! After three months in a halo contraption that weighed 20 pounds and a month in a smaller collar she is on the road to complete recovery. Just an example, as doctors will tell you, that swimming gives you the strength to overcome health problems that otherwise would be fatal. Welcome back Betty and we'll try to give you a bit of competition over the coming year.

Another member of our older but better 85 age group, Sylvia Eisele, experienced additional heart trouble before leaving for the summer to Canada. She had a very scary month but is now doing better. Our prayers are with her for a complete recovery.

On a pleasanter note we just returned from San Antonio and the USMS Spring Nationals with a number of successes and a 10th place in the Combined Regional Teams – eligible for recognition. Our women also placed 10th. Elspeth Smith competed in her three allowed events after 5 ½ years in Afghanistan, where women are not allowed to swim in the pool – she kept up her stamina with many hours of running on the tread mill but it will take a few lengths of the pool to “get back in shape”. Nevertheless, she improved her times and took 9th in the 1000. Look for a real competitive position in the near future. Everyone on our team of 8 – five women and three men medalled in at least one event. Jeanne Hackett, Martha Henderson, Charlie Kilbourne, Joan Campbell, Isaac Silver and Ellie Trevison were consistently in the top ten. Results are posted on the USMS web site. We all had a good time – weather cooperated during the day and the festivities of Fiesta Time in San Antonio were quite a spectacle.

Prior to Nationals a few of us competed in St Pete at their short course meet. Their facilities were in a state of disrepair while locker rooms are being constructed, but the weather cooperated and with a much smaller than usual meet, everything went smoothly. Many of our team were swimming at the Villages Senior Games later that week and opted to concentrate on that Senior Games this year – too close together. Records were set for the Villages by many members of the FACT team – Joan Campbell, Paula Cunio, Roxanne Olmsted, Karen Klish, Ellen Brown, Sarah Zimmerman, Mary Rose Rowan, Marty Schenk, Betty Senter, Dave Jarvis, Nate Leech, Karen Panker, John Cornell and Bob Jennings. All results are on midnightsports.com.

Our “Oldies but Goodies” are at it again with an interview this week. Our webmaster is attaching the video file – all are in great form as usual. Our YMCA Nationals in Sarasota this past week would have given them some individual competition. We'll have to talk them into participating one of these days!! We had a 95 year old swimming the butterfly in a decent time!! Our FACT competitors did well with various YMCA team designations. Their times count for Top Ten USMS since the YMCA Nationals are a recognized meet. We are allowed to swim a total of 12 individual events in the four day meet and some of us came home a bit exhausted – we had relays on top of that!! Barbara McNulty took gold in the 200 butterfly and second in the 100 as well as placing in all the

free and back events; Ellie Trevison was in the top ten in all her events; Martha Henderson all with a gold in the 100 butterfly. I aged up to 85 and had ten golds. Bob Jennings did well – medalling in the top 5 in his events. Rick Trevison and Terry McGee in the 70-74 age group placed well – all within the Top Ten in their age group.

It was good to see our Open Water entries in the Hurricane Swim in early May. Especially good to see Andrea Nauta back in competition after her health issues of the past couple of years. Andrea won the 2.4 55-59 race. Lyn Sears took gold in the 1K same age group and Patricia Hoffman also gold in the 65-69 1K. Special Congratulations to our gold medal winners. In the 2.4 Cynthia Tiffany placed 8th in the 40-44 age group and Keith Roberts 8th in the 55-59 age group. Tom Hoffman also placed well in the 50-54 2.4K age group. I understand the course was really nice this year – give you all credit. I'm still addicted to the black line I'm afraid.

The summer season starts almost immediately!! The Bumpy Jones LCM meet in Sarasota is June 12-14th. We usually have a good turnout for that – they have a great picnic in the park after the meet Saturday. Any of you going to the National Senior Games in Minneapolis – they are scheduled for the first full week of July. St Pete's annual LCM is the week end of July 11th – there again we expect a good turnout – their facilities should be completed and ready for initiation. August 6th through 9th are the Summer Long Course Nationals in Geneva, Ohio at Spires Institute – a new 50 meter indoor facility. If you are planning to attend that, get busy looking for accommodations as early as possible. There are not many motels close to the venue! I've already made my reservations – get in touch if you need any information.

Again – let's have some competitors in the summer Postal Swim!! The 5K/10K races must be done between May 15 and September 15 in a Long Course Pool. I'm sure many of you Open Water Swimmers would like to go the distance this summer rather than swim in the Bay or other facility that's a little WARM.

Joannie Campbell
(new age group 85-89 – translated to 29 Celsius!!)