



FACT NEWS FOR OCTOBER 2016 – Joannie Campbell jcampb10@tampabay.rr.com

It's that time of year again!! Registration for the new 2017 year began November 1st. Some of you are swimming as FACT members without a workout affiliation and some have convinced their home base to register a "workout group" of FACT. The advantage is that your group receives USMS information directly from United States Masters,. Otherwise you'll get all the news that's fit to print through factmasters.org, myself and our Registrar and Communications chief Meredith Moore. I see where Clearwater Long Center and The Villages have already registered their groups: CLCF and VASF. For your information, if you are not aware, FACT or Florida Aquatic Combined Team is a Regional Team – we do not compete against any of the Clubs in the area. There are 62 Clubs in the Florida LMSC, many of them small and unable to compete in any competitive way in Regional, National and World Championships. At these large meets there are often 100's of Clubs and a small number of Regional Clubs. They compete separately and with the ability of combining individuals from all over the State, FACT is able in many instances to build camaraderie with many swimmers who would be all by themselves in the midst of thousands of swimmers. In local meets, also, it is fun to meet members of the smaller groups and build some competitive relays.

In the last Pan American Games in Sarasota in 2013 we had 32 relays – we had a blast!! Our Regional Team has won the Rowdy Gaines Dixie Zone Championship for several years. We have placed relays in the Top Ten every year and have World and National Championship records. Coming up in 2018 is the Pan American Games in Orlando. We hope to have at least as large a group as in 2013 so look ahead.

We had four members compete at the Portland Oregon Summer Nationals in August and as a Regional Team placed 10th.out of 17 – good for being the other side of the country! As an example of my information in the first paragraph – 146 Club teams competed.. Some of these were from small Florida teams that would have enjoyed being a part of our Regional Team. – especially with all the sightseeing and fun we had!!

Since our big meet, the Rowdy Gaines Classic was postponed to December 16th-18th, we obviously can't report on that!! I do want to point out that we have until December 11th to sign up for that meet – those of you that are just getting into town and can take advantage of the extra practice time!! The hotel rates are comparable to the October rates. And those that had already registered are still in the same events unless you have requested a refund – this was taken care of as of October 24th.. We had 20 relays set up for this meet – with the new date I will definitely have to rearrange and hope we can fill in some of the blanks with new competitors for the meet. Outstanding is the possibility of 2 World Records in the 360 age group.

The Shark Tank Meet is next week end. Not too much interest at the moment, but if possible please support our local team meets!!

There's been some interest in the FINA World Masters Championships next August in Budapest. I will be going with at least a couple of our team. This will be a great experience – planning on a connecting 8 day Viking Cruise to Nuremberg. Nationals next year for spring will be in Riverside, California. I know of at least one person planning on the trip so far. Let me know if any others want to join in. The summer Nationals are in Minneapolis – also let me know if there is any interest. I will be in Budapest at that time but will arrange for relays, etc. Remember FACT pays for all the relays during local, District, National and World Competitions.

Also, keep in mind the 60-day rule. Should you wish to swim with your local team during part of the season and then join a larger group for Nationals, you can do this by waiting 60 days after your last SWIM for your local group and registering for a larger competitive group for the BIG meet. Just be careful and do your math. Recognized meets such as YMCA Nationals and Senior Games do not count unless you specifically note that you want to swim them as a USMS member.