



FACT NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER 2015 – Joannie Campbell

The end of the Long Course Swim Season culminated with a really fun meet at the Long Center in Clearwater. Because of the necessary cancellation of the popular Dog Days Meet in August, the DOGS theme reappeared as the “Tail’s End Meet” and featured all of the Long Course events in one day – Saturday, September 19 – and gave everyone a chance to better or swim their event before September 30th, which is the end of Long Course 2015. Next year we hope someone can pick this up and run with it for 2016 since the pool at the Long Center will be in the midst of reconstruction. We tried out some new ideas to save a bit of money this year and make this meet something you can do with little notice – no need to order things, etc. Something that was popular in Connecticut when I was there was to recycle medals – when you figure the cost of these you see that thousands of dollars are spent on medals. Many of us brought medals even back from the 1990’s – World, Pan American, National, Zone Championships. So many of them are just gorgeous and worth sharing just for the beauty of them. It was fun!!

With a small number of participants some contestants walked away with great times, individual high points, winners. Team high points were awarded – this was a Club meet and workout group meet – Sarasota took high point, Clearwater FACT workout group was second and St Pete a close third.

Postal National Championships are now open for 3000/6000 short course yards – September 15 through November 15. If you participate please make sure you let me know. Relays are three women or three men or mixed relays of 2 men and 2 women and FACT puts them together and pays for them I have had no reports from the LCM 5K/10K but entries just closed and relays are not due until the first week of October.

Some new members of our Clearwater FACT group participated in the Ironman this past week end in Chattanooga, TN. I am dutifully impressed with the dedication needed for these events and rather new at determining how you have placed and how anyone can do all this without a nap!! – 10 to 14 Hours of racing!!!! Congratulation to all of you: Patrick Bene, 27th in his division in 10:54; Dave Bracken, 56th in 11:41; Viny Bourgeois, 48th in 11:40; and our lone woman – great Sherri Mauzy!! – 14th in 13:21.03. This was a qualifying competition for the Ironman in Hawaii – hope you qualified. Our SPAM MAN Bob Brubaker, who has done 19 Ironmen, will have to bring us up to snuff on the details of these events..

Next week we have the Rowdy Gaines Dixie Zone Championships in Orlando – always a fun meet and lots of good competition. Entries are due October 4th so if you haven't done so, get busy. This is a short course meter meet. If you miss this one, the Shark Tank Meet in Sarasota is November 7 – 8th.is also SCM. I saved the 1500 for Sarasota last year and was pleased – kept me underwater for 35 minutes – away from the cold air that can hit us here in November. I note that the other events are at noon, which is a good plan when the sun is a little warmer.

I hope we'll see a good number of you at both these meets. Please let me know if you swim in open water swims or meets out of the area. I have no way of following you and giving you kudos. I'll be at USMS Convention in Kansas City this coming week and will bring home any changes or clarifications for you to study.

Joannie Campbell
jcampb10@tampabay.rr.com