FACT NEWS – OCTOBER 2005

Joannie Campbell

A small contingent of 9 FACT members went out to the left coast to compete in the Mission Viejo Long Course Nationals. We hope the rest of our large competitive team were saving their energy to compete in the 2006 Short Course Nationals in May in Coral Springs, FL. Competition with the Gold Coast Masters and the other large teams will I am sure equal the SCY National Meet last May in Fort Lauderdale, where we placed third overall. The banners we won were delivered last week and we will see that they are displayed wherever possible. Also, many of us are working hard for the BIG one – the August 2006 FINA World Championships in Stanford, CA. There will be no Long Course Nationals next year, but Stanford promises to be a great meet. The details are already up on the USMS website and entries can be made on line starting in January. The facilities are fabulous and it will be a once –in-a-lifetime experience. The talent we have here in Florida should be a factor in both of these top competitions.

At Mission Viejo our Hall of Famer Bumpy Jones was National Champion in the 800 free, 200 back and 400 IM. Jean Bancks' (49) freestyle swims placed her 5th in the 800, 6th in the 100, 7th in the 200 and 8th in the 50. She also placed 5th in the 50 fly. Ellie Trevison (62) placed 8th in the 50, 9th in the 100 and 400 free. Mark Calvert (46) placed 7th in the 50, 5th in the 100, 6th in the 200, 8th in the 400, and 4th in the 800 freestyle. Carl Hawkins (53) placed 8th in the 100 and 9th in the 50 backstroke events. Dean Dye (64) took 5th in the 200 and 6th in the 50 backstroke events. John Cornell (78) placed 6th in the 200 and 8th in the 100 freestyle. Congratulations to all for some great swims.

Forms for 2006 registration are now posted on the floridalmsc.org website under 2006 interactive USMS registration forms. PLEASE CAREFULLY READ THE INSTRUCTIONS to avoid any confusion during the year. The Coral Springs SCM meet held the week end of November 18th is outside our Florida LMSC, so, similar to the Dixie Zone Championships in Fort Lauderdale last year, you will be swimming as FACT. The Valentine's Meet Dixie Zone Championships to be held February 11th and 12th, 2006, will be run as a Chapter Meet, to give all individual Chapters an opportunity to compete for Team High Points. At the recent SCM meet at St Pete's Fuller Pool we were able to get several FACT relays together – fun to get to know other swimmers and makes the meet more enjoyable for the smaller teams. Be sure to look for a FACT representative at any of these meets if you wish to swim relays – either Joe Biondi, Don Puchalski or another designated representative is usually present.

Obviously the inclusion of all members of a Club as FACT members simplifies the competition. Relays must be composed of all FACT members. Chapters cannot join with other members of their Club to compete on a relay, unless those members are also FACT members. Since the purpose of the Florida Aquatic Combined Team (FACT) was to give swimmers a chance to compete together on relays, we are defeating the purpose to have separate registrations within a club, but the option is available. At regional and nationals competitions there are seldom enough competitors within certain age groups, etc. to form relays without a combined team.