

FACT NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER, 2008

The Phelps effect is impacting USA Swimming big time throughout the United States as reported over the past week. AND the Torres effect is in turn impacting United States Masters Swimming. During the 2008 LCM USMS Nationals at Mt Hood in Gresham, Oregon, we had the pleasure of following the exciting races on the scoreboards and with weather in the 100's tried to create some excitement of our own.

FACT women placed 14th out of 92 teams and their score placed them 29th in the Combined Teams out of 138!! Linda Visser, 38, placed 2nd in the 200 Breast and 400 IM, 3rd in the 100 Breast, and 5th in the 50 breast and 200 IM. Martha Henderson, 72, took 2nd in the 400 Free, 3rd in the 50 and 100 butterfly, 4th in the 200 IM and 6th in the 200 free. Joan Campbell, 78, placed 2nd in the 800 free, 200 fly and 400 IM, 3rd in the 200 free and 400 free. Betty Lorenzi, 81, took gold in all her events – 50 free and 1500 free, 50, 100 and 200 back. Our 200 women's free relay placed 6th – second in the Dixie Zone prelims. John Keen, 45, was up against some tough competition and did well in all freestyles. He bettered his 800 free time by 10 seconds!

Dixie Zone preliminary Top Ten has many FACT members placing well. Take a look on the Dixie Zone website for our many top swimmers! Deb Walker, 57, set USMS records in the 50, 100 and 200 breast. Dixie Zone Records are Linda Visser, 38, in the 200 breast; Pat Sargeant, 55, in the 100 free and 100 fly; Meegan Wilson, 60, in the 50 and 200 breast and 200 IM; and Margit Jebe,70, in the 50, 100 and 200 breast and 200 back. The men posted exceptional swims also. Bruce Mohl, 62, set a Dixie Zone record in the 800 free. Karl Wiedamann, 70, set World Records in the 50, 100 and 200 Breast and Robert MacDonald, 80, set a new USMS record in the 100 breast and Dixie Zone records in the 50 and 200 breast, 50 fly and 200 IM.

Over the next two years there will be some real opportunities for the Florida Aquatic Combined Team to "make waves". The State Championships at the end of March, 2009, will give us the opportunity to swim and score as the Combined team since it will be a competition between the Florida LMSC and the Gold Coast LMSC. We should be able to field a very competitive group to help our Florida LMSC take the gold. Encourage your fellow teammates to join with us for the exciting championship meet to be held at the North Shore Pool in St Petersburg – and try out some of your combinations at the SUN Masters Valentine Meet in Clearwater February 14th and 15th, which will be a chapter meet.

2010 may see the Short Course championships in Georgia – We will report the final decision after the National Convention in a couple of weeks.

I will go over many of the details involved in membership in the Florida Aquatic Combined Team in the October Newsletter. November starts a new registration and we want to clarify what FACT membership means and how to register for the FACT team. Florida can only place on the National scene by combining our strength and this state has an enormous potential. Please consider the options.

Joan Campbell