FACT NEWS FOR MARCH AND APRIL, 2009

The USMS National SCY Championships will be held next week in Clovis, California. I have gone over the psych sheets and find we have only three entries for FACT, which means no relays. Good luck to Martha Henderson, Ellie and Rick Trevison! Five other teams from the Florida LMSC have entered one or two swimmers. We continue to downplay Florida National swimming as a team sport and therefore cannot compete with the many other states that combine their teams as we have tried to do as FACT. I realize it is a long trip and hope that next spring's National meet in Atlanta will be better attended. Those of you that swam in Savannah with us back when will recall the great fun we had as a team, taking home a 3rd place nationally. We are again planning a hospitality suite, etc. Read up on the requirements should you just want to join us for Nationals. You are not required to make cut-off times to swim 3 events and relays and rules state that you must have 60 days between competing for another USMS team, which would mean you could switch after the Valentine meet and even possibly the St Pete meet (check on the dates) since the Atlanta competition is scheduled for May 20-23, 2010.

Florida Aquatic Combined Team has accomplished much this spring. Our 200 LCM 320 Medley Relay broke the National Record at the Good Life Senior Games at the Long Center – a record set by California's Walnut Creek in 1998. The old record was 4:19.11 – new record 3:47.69. Our Sylvia Eisele broke two National Records in the 100 and 200 LCM breaststroke and Betty Lorenzi broke the 200 backstroke National Record. The Valentine Meet on February 13th and 14th saw many of our Chapters and individual swimmers doing well – remember that the smaller teams can band together with members of other Chapters should you not have enough Chapter members of the right age to form your own relays.

The St Pete Masters SCY Championship was scheduled as a State competition between the Florida LMSC and Gold Coast LMSC and therefore FACT was able to swim as the Florida Aquatic Combined Team and score accordingly. Our strength as a team was very apparent and indicated in a small way what Florida can do on the National scene. We fielded 20 relays and set two National Records in the 75 and over women. Four of the relays entered failed to materialize because they did not show up on the blocks. We should make sure that members of our team check under the FACT banner for their name – it is difficult to find members of the team when we are spread all over the pool deck with their individual chapters and one of our pluses is getting to know members of other Chapters. Nevertheless we managed to place 2nd to the host team, St Pete, in the Women, 3rd to Sarasota and St Pete in the men, and 2nd overall to the host team. Betty Lorenzi set two National Records in the 100 and 200 backstroke. High Point Individual awards went to Linda Visser, 35-39 Don Puchalski, 70-74, Nancy Durstein, 75-79 Betty Lorenzi, 80-84, and John Woods, 85-89. Other High Point scorers (Top 3) were Donald Thieman, 40-44, Meegan Wilson, 60-64, Susan Newland, 65-69, Robert Mraovich, 65-69, Shirley Fishlock, 70-74, Sylvia Eisele and Mary Tusa, 75-79, and Ellen Brown, 80-84. At this writing Betty will be competing for FACT at the LCM Nationals in Indianapolis, along with Joan Campbell, Sylvia Eisele, Meegan Wilson, Nancy Durstein and Don Puchalski. I will keep an eye out for anyone else making the trip. The meet schedule has a full day with just relays this year, which should be exciting with our record-breaking 320 relay attending.

The One Hour Postal swim placed us 10th among the Medium teams – placing in the top ten were Martha Henderson, 70-74, 9th; Joan Campbell and Nancy Durstein, 75-79, 2nd and third respectively; and Betty Lorenzi taking 1st place in the 80-85 age group. Our 75+ relay of Betty, Nancy and Joan won the National Championship and the 45+ men's relay took 4th. Only 17 members participated. Many clubs make a real effort for these postal swims, which require participation in your own home pool, thus no expense for traveling. PLEASE try to make a Chapter effort to do these swims – it's a great way to work toward a goal in the long winter season!! And send in your results to Coach Joe at jbiondi3@tampabay.rr.com.

I am continuing the inclusion of the advantages we determined when we formed the Florida Aquatic Combined Team in October of 2003 to keep our members informed and answer any questions you may have.

The Florida Aquatic Combined Team (FACT) is ideally composed of those members of the Florida LMSC who regularly compete and desire to join others to form a team that is competitive on a Zone, National and International level. We hoped to create camaraderie in line with USMS goals and give us all a chance to really know members of the other teams that comprise the Florida Combined Team. Although there are large clubs in this LMSC, it is a normal occurrence that approximately 10% of a team competes regularly (a local and national phenomena), and even less outside our LMSC – sometimes only 3 or 4 swimmers at Nationals and World's!! This makes for very weak representation on a national scale for one of the strongest swimming areas in the country!

- **We will refer to Clubs and Chapters within this information sheet as:**
  CLUB: The USMS Registered Club (FACT, HLJ, CATM, SUN, SPM, FMM)
  CHAPTERS: Workout Groups or those affiliated with FACT (UNAF, SUNF, SARF, VASF, SPCF, TBAF)
- **Meets within our LMSC can be Club or Chapter competitions.**
- **If the Meet Director is agreeable, team scores can be totaled by using their chapter designation, including relays made up of all SARF or VASF members, for example**
- **At all times consider that USMS only recognizes our REGISTERED team and results for Top Ten, Records, etc. will indicate FACT.**
- **All Clubs or Chapters remain autonomous financially and otherwise.**
- **There are no additional fees for membership in FACT other than a once-a-year $3.00 registration fee that covers FACT relays at all meets.**

We recommend that members of a Chapter who plan on any competitive swimming events be registered as FACT. Also, it is advantageous to maintain your club entity registration for communications purposes and for those totally non-competitive members.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in FACT is voluntary at both the individual and chapter levels. Membership can include Unattached swimmers as well as swimmers who are members of Chapters.

FACT is an independent club in the Florida LMSC. It is not the LMSC club, it does not have special LMSC support, other than what is given to other independent clubs, and the LMSC does not exercise any control or responsibility other than what it does for any other registered clubs.

Can some members of a club join FACT while others choose not to?

Yes. It won't make any difference anywhere except at competitions, but be sure everyone understands the implications for competition.

How would that affect each person's USMS Registration?

As far as USMS is concerned, the Florida Aquatic Combined Team (FACT) and the local Club are two entirely different entities. To make things easier to understand, TBAY would be an example of a Club; TBAF would be a Chapter of the USMS registered Club of FACT, even though they may swim and workout together.

USMS Rules about membership and transferring membership:

USMS rules pertaining to registration:

- **There shall be only one USMS registration per individual permitted at any time. This means that swimmers may not register for the combined team and their local club. They will be considered a local chapter of FACT.**
- **In order for a swimmer to compete as a representative of a club, that club must be a member in good standing of an LMSC and USMS for the year a swimmer is registering. FACT is a registered Club of LMSC and USMS.**
- **A swimmer shall not REPRESENT any club in competition for 60 consecutive days before transferring affiliation to another club, unless this transfer takes place at the time of annual registration.**

FEES

What about registration fees?

All local club registration fees would still go to the local club/chapter, which would set its own fees. Members of the FACT Chapter have an additional $3.00 fee to cover office and relay expenses of the FACT Treasurer. UNATTACHED FACT swimmers, who would not be paying local club fees along with their $3 FACT fee, must be sure to send their $3.00 fee to the FACT treasurer, currently: Marianne Bradley, 869 Manning Road, Palm Harbor, FL 34683. Questions: bradleym@tampabay.rr.com. Failure to pay this small fee will mean you will not appear on the roster as FACT when we are forming relays, so PLEASE make our life easier and follow these simple instructions.

What about local club dues and other fees?

Local groups are and always continued to be independent groups that set their own pool fees, coaching fees, dues, and whatever else they already do. Nothing changes at the local level! FACT chapter and Local Club can still speak to each other (aquaquack), practice in the same lanes, attend the same social functions, volunteer to help at chapter and club events, and everything else they've always done.

COMPETITION

Competition rules are covered on the Florida LMSC website, floridalmsc.org under Form & Registration: Explanation of FACT competition in Local and National Meets.

RECORDS & TOP TEN

All new individual and relay records set by members of the combined team will be listed with the combined team designation and must be reported to the LMSC Top Ten and Records Chair as such, not with the individual chapter designations. Because the combined team is the only official USMS-registered club, club affiliation with record performances need to be consistent at the LMSC, ZONE, USMS and FINA levels.

ADVANTAGES FOR SMALL CLUBS

- **At meets within and outside the LMSC, individuals can participate in relay events.**
- **Relays can be created in a variety of age groups**
- **Socially, it provides an opportunity for increased involvement in Masters swimming, makes Masters swimming more enjoyable, and encourages people to become involved in Masters swimming.**
- **Relays tend to be "bonding" types of events, so individuals get to know swimmers from other small clubs and are more likely to attend meets if they know they are swimming on a relay.**
- **If one of the chapters has a coach who attends meets, the coach offers suggestions and tips to other swimmers on the combined team.**

ADVANTAGES FOR LARGE CLUBS

- **The likelihood of putting together national championship and All-American relays is much greater.**
- **The likelihood of winning National team championships is greater.**
- **At National and International competitions where attendance is usually small, combined team members have a greater opportunity to create competitive, winning relays and contend National titles.**
- **The elite swimmers already know each other and have no problem putting together relays; however, they are often in need of a certain age, stroke and gender and members of the combined team have a great chance of participating and contributing to a team effort.**

RELATED ITEMS:

- **Swimwear with the current logo is available through Agon Swim Wear on the Internet.** http://www.agonswim.com/cgi-bin/sales1/agreement.cfm?ClientID=17991&AgreementID=1. **Or contact Nick@agonswim.com.**
- **We currently have a few t-shirts (white and navy) and swim caps available if anyone is interested. Please contact: Joan Campbell for prices and size availability. (jcampb10@tampabay.rr.com)**