

Nomination for Tom Bliss for the 2013 Sue Moucha Overcoming Adversity Award

All of us who have been swimming with USMS in Florida for the past 20 years or so are very familiar with our fellow swimmer, Tom Bliss from the Space Coast area.

Tom has been very active in our Florida LMSC . He served as Chairman from 2001-2008, during which time he implemented our LMSC Awards Banquet in 2002. Tom spent his time as chairman, soliciting advice from the members on ways to improve our LMSC, and many of the suggestions and ideas were accomplished during his years. He was instrumental in developing job descriptions for both elected and appointed positions on the LMSC board. Tom was awarded the USMS Dorothy Donnelly Service Award in 2008 for his contributions to USMS. He attended four conventions and served on the Coaches and Safety Education Committees.

Tom was also instrumental in helping form the Florida Aquatic Combined Team (FACT) in 2003, with its primary goal of allowing swimmers from smaller clubs the ability to swim on relays at national and world events.

An avid swimmer and competitor, Tom swam on scholarship from 1972-1975 at Auburn University. He holds two individual USMS All American spots and one relay top spot. He has 129 national USMS top ten finishes since 1991.

Since Tom's accident in May 2010, he has worked diligently to recover and rebuild all of his swimming skills. This is not an easy task when one has had to have an arm and wrist rebuilt and to recover from a hip fracture.

I nominate Tom Bliss for the Sue Moucha Overcoming Adversity Award for 2013.

Marianne Bradley, with input from Meegan Wilson.