



MARCH – JULY 2021 FACT NEWS

I am indebted to Dale Charette for inspiration for this belated article. Over the past few months we have had little to report on because of various COVID related situations. The one USMS meet in the Tampa area was the Bumpy Jones Meet in June. Some Local Senior Games have taken place that are Recognized. If not recognized the times do not count for USMS but the top 5 will be able to attend the Florida State Games in Coral Springs December 4-5.

To further explain my comment about Dale. He was the only FACT competitor at the Greensboro USMS Spring Nationals but his almost daily Facebook comments were enthusiastic and brought back many memories to many of us. Dale performed well in his three events at the top of his age group but mainly he reminded us of why we are involved in Masters swimming. As a team several years ago FACT set National records at the Greensboro meet and had a great hospitality room – inviting all that wanted to join us. Our 85 and over team of Bill Adams, Tiger Holmes, Ed Graves and John Corse set a National Record in the 200 free relay. When ready to compete in the medley relay Bill was nowhere to be found – OOPS – he was getting his medal engraved for the prior record. The medley never made it to the water!! That meet didn't have pleasant memories for us.

There's so much more to our swimming memories than the medals. I started at 59 in a National Senior Games (then called Senior Olympics) in St Louis. Reason to go – I had many friends I knew in St Louis, where I had lived for 9 years. We all got together. I witnessed a blind older woman with a guide dog that walked along the pool as she swam the 100 meter back and barked when she was to turn!! Another male swimmer who was tapped with a long

pole when he was to turn. I felt so privileged to be involved. From then on I swam 10 National Senior Games, became involved with YMCA Nationals every year, swam short course and long course USMS Nationals at every opportunity and headed for New Zealand, Stanford, and Budapest for World Championships and Pan American Games wherever possible. The host of friends I made over these years are my “gold medals”. They can never be replaced. Many have passed away as would be expected – I am now 91 – and the memories will always linger. We are all a unique group.

To give back I became involved with the National USMS Organization, serving 13 years on the Finance Committee and the past 5 years on Legislation. Dale is just becoming involved in what can be a lifetime unequalled experience. Take the time to learn and become involved. You will not regret it.

Please follow our news in the LMSC newsletter and I’ll try to keep us up to date more often as news breaks. The coming St Pete Meet August 14 and 15, Dog Days in Clearwater September 11th, Rowdy Gaines in October and National Summer Nationals in Geneva, Ohio. Let me know at jcampb10@tampabay.rr.com if you are participating in meets around the globe!! The Pan American Games 3rd postponement in Medellin, Columbia is July 21-28, 2022. I’m hoping for the opportunity for Japan World Masters May 31 – June 9, 2022.

I will not be at the August 14-15 St Pete Meet – Life gets in the way. My granddaughter’s 4th wedding date (COVID interfered with three in Philadelphia) is August 14th in Colorado!! See you in Clearwater and Orlando.

Joannie Campbell