

2012 YMCA MASTERS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The other national championship

By Jamie Miller and Craig Anderson

Five North Carolina Masters swimmers participated in the YMCA Masters National Championship. This meet is much smaller in size than the USMS spring national championship. The name says it: this meet is for Masters swimmers who are also YMCA members. For many years "Y Nationals" have been held at the historic Swimming Hall of Fame venue in Fort Lauderdale.



Here is what fellow NC swimmers Jamie Miller and Craig Anderson have to say about this very special meet:



Jamie: This is so much more than a swim meet - it can be a great family vacation. The swimmer's spouse and/or kids can do things besides watching a meet. There is shopping, deep sea fishing, and that nice beach right across the road from the pool.

Craig: It is a wonderful reunion with friends from past years, and new friendships begin here. There

is an incredible camaraderie and support among ALL swimmers regardless of age, experience, or speed.

There is genuine warmth and kindness of the host group from Ohio who run the meet. The meet is very well-run and each day is completed by early afternoon – plenty of time to eat, relax, nap, sight-see, etc.

Jamie: There is no need to rent a car. We stayed at a hotel about ½ mile from the pool. This makes for a nice walk along the beach front every morning.

Craig: The venue is very user-friendly – easy to move around and not crowded, many choices of seating (sun/no sun, high/low, pool-side or not). On-site options to purchase food, swim gear, and Masters items.



Left to right: Jamie Miller, Greta van Meeteren, Pam Fortney, Craig Anderson, Hans van Meeteren

Jamie and Craig: There are so many choices of good restaurants - plenty of seafood and reasonably priced.

There is the other great advantage: two 50-meter pools. One is divided into two competition pools, the other has 18 lanes available for continuous warmup/warmdown. There are not many facilities that can boast this kind of accommodation for the swimmers.

Everyone agrees on one thing: it is an amazing feeling to swim outdoors in wonderful clean, crisp, cool water in the sunshine (most days).

Very nice medals were awarded for places 1-8. The YMCA has once again done a great job this year, and it is our sincere hope that more NC YMCA Masters will join in the fun next year.

We were told on the final Sunday of the meet that next year we'll be back again at our favorite venue. Please come and join us!

