

2014 Sunbelt Meet, January 25-26, 2014

By Jerry Clark

How nice it was to have 262 people enter this year's 40th consecutive Sunbelt Masters Meet. We had a larger number of contestants in 2012, but I think that was due to the fact that the Greensboro Aquatic Center was the host of the USMS National Championship meet in April that year. Thank you swimmers who came and raced, we hope you will return next year on the last weekend in January.

Let me mention a possible problem, which might be resolved in the next few months, which is that our Park & Recreation Department has been thinking about closing this facility for an unknown amount of time to do extensive renovations. The plan, from what I've heard, is in a state of flux at this point in time and the closing date seems to have been pushed back into the early part of 2015. I will keep those on my Sunbelt group lists informed when a decision is made.

At this year's meet, the racing was close in many age groups and events. So many times I would see people clamber out of the water and begin chatting with the swimmers in that heat as they walked down to the warm down lanes. I think it is an axiom that we all feel good about each other and ourselves even if our swim time may have been a little longer than hoped for. There is genuine camaraderie at this and other Masters meets.

To the new swimmers for whom this was their first meet, special thanks to you guys are in order. We hope you will participate in the upcoming Short Course Yards meets in Greensboro and Cary. Take time to look at the current NCMS records on www.ncmasters.org as well as the Top 10 times in your events and age groups on www.usms.org Striving for a Top 10 time is both fun and motivating.

Our Top 10 & Records person, Hans van Meeteren, has noticed in a couple of meets that the age groups that were stated on several relay cards were unintentionally incorrect. This is understandable in that (a) the age group in Meters meets is the sum of the ages of all four swimmers as of December 31 of that year, while the age group in Yards meets is that of the youngest swimmer of the four people on a relay team as of the last day of that meet; (b) many relay teams are put together in haste on the deck at a meet and the person filling out the relay card is hurried to turn the card in to the meet referee. I will convene a small task force to recommend a way to help remedy this problem.

Lastly, I must express a Thank You to our meet referee Marty Fehr who, with his officials, seems to move the Sunbelt Meets along smoothly and hassle free every year. This year, we were through with the Saturday afternoon session at about 4:15pm and on Sunday morning's session, we finished up around 12:15.

