



WAVE MAKER

January, 1987

LAST CALL FOR NATIONALS ROOMS

If you plan to go to Short Course Nationals to be held at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California, and have not already arranged for rooms, call the Travel Agent, Professional Planners, 2441 Park Boulevard, Palo Alto, California 94306 at (800) 228-2649 IMMEDIATELY. Tell them you are sending your deposit and registration form. They must have the deposit by JANUARY 15.

Art Smith got them to reserve 30 rooms until January 15 at Ricky's Hyatt House, which is the Meet Headquarters and located only 10 minutes from the pool. The rates are \$70.20 per night single or double, \$77.90 triple and \$85.60 quad, tax included. Art will answer questions 759-2211, but go ahead and make your reservations today.

CALENDAR

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|-------------------------|---|
| January 1-31 | USMS One-Hour Swim National Championships - Art Smith, 337 Chesapeake Drive, Great Falls, VA 22066 |
| January 10 | Connecticut Masters Meet - Dan Davis, 1104 Ardmore Dr., Hamden, CT 06517 |
| January 18 | Easton Masters Swim Meet, Lafayette College, Easton, PA |
| January 25 | DC Department of Recreation Masters Meet - Al Allen, 9812 Muirfield Dr., Upper Marlboro, MD 20772 |
| February 8 | DCM/Burke Masters Pentathlon/Terrible Triple Meet, Burke Raquet & Swim Club, Burke, VA |
| February 15 | Valley Forge Masters Winter Classic, Swarthmore College, PA - Jean Merryman, 325 Abbey Road, Berwyn, PA 19312 |
| February 28- March 1 | Maryland Masters, UMBC, Catonsville, MD - Steve Brown, P.O.Box 786, Laurel, MD 20707 |
| March 14 | Maryland Masters 1650, UMBC, Catonsville, MD - Marge Rudie, 100 Tauntow Ave., Catonsville 21228 |
| March 20-22 | Colonies Zone Meet, Waltham, MA |
| March 28-29 | Mid-Atlantic Masters Meet, U. of Delaware, Newark. |
| March 29 | DC Masters Send Out Hour Swim Results |
| May 3 | Reston Short Course Meters Meet - Beth O'Connor, 689-0058, 476-3414 |
| May 8-10 | YMCA Masters National Championships, Schroeder Pool, Brown Deer, Wisconsin (includes 18-24 age group) |
| May 15-18 | USMS Short Course Nationals, Stanford University, Palo Ato, CALIFORNIA |

For entry sheets, send SASE (self-addressed, stamped envelope) to contact listed or to Ann Svanson, 1312 Seaport Lane, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Also, if you will be travelling and want to find workouts, USMS will be publishing a directory. In the meantime, many places are listed in Swim Magazine or you may contact USMS National Secretary, Dorothy Donnolly, 5 Piggott Lane, Avon, CT 06001.

On February 8 DC Masters and Burke Masters will co-host the Pentathlon meet at Burke Racquet and Swim Club. This year, in addition to the pentathlon (which consists of 50 fly, 50 back, 50 breast, 50 free and 100 IM) we have added an event for non-sprinters (sado-masochists?) called the Terrible Triple--500 free, 200 fly and 400 IM. Heats of these events will be held between those of the pentathlon events. Swimmers can also, if they prefer, mix and match/pick and choose to swim any of the individual events. However, special prizes will be given to those in the "feature" events--handsome desk trophies to age group winners in the pentathlon and t-shirts, specially designed for the event by our resident artist Steve Hogan, to all those who successfully complete the Terrible Triple. The usual ribbons will be given to the top six in each age group in the individual events.

Another innovation this year is the decision of the DC Master meet directors to donate one-half of the DCM share of the proceeds to the Swimming Hall of Fame. So those who swim will not be swimming just for themselves or their team but also for a worthy cause.

And of course, as always, we will be needing VOLUNTEERS. If you'd like to help or have a friend who would like to help, please contact Joann Leilich (354-2130) or Ann Svanson (549-5562).

You will receive a meet announcement in the mail. Extra copies are available from Joann, Ann or your coach.

SWIM THE HOUR SWIM

As most of you know, the DC Masters sponsor the Hour Swim each year. You can contribute to its success by entering and swimming the event. If you don't already have an entry form, go ahead and swim the event, having someone count for you, and fill in the entry form after you get it. If you need a form, call or write Art Smith 759-2211, 337 Chesapeake Dr., Great Falls, VA 22066, for an entry.

MARYLAND MASTERS 1650 RESULTS

Congratulations to DC Masters who swam the 1650 this year at the University of Maryland on December 14. DC Masters took 8 of the age groups, and most swam very well for themselves.

Connie Meck swam an excellent 26:04 in winning the 35-39 category. Barbary Frech, 33, finished in 21:16 for her first 1650. Ann Svanson, 41, swam her second fastest time at 22:34 to win her age group. Her time was 35 seconds faster than last year. Joann Leilich swam 29 seconds faster than last year, at 24:30, and set a personal record of 30 flip turns. Betty Griffin swam a 29:49 and Mimi Lee about the same in 29:52, losing her rivalry with Ray Chen (27:27) but winning her age group.

Two DC Masters men greatly improved over last year. Sandy Brown at 19:27 took over a minute off last year's time and John Flanagan improved his time to a 17:54, which at age 40 was by far the fastest 1650 swum at the meet. Three DC men swam 21 minute races, Jim Myerberg at 21:35, Art Smith at 21:33 and John Alleva at 21:27.

ZONE MEET INFORMATION

As shown in the calendar, our zone will be having its first zone meet in Waltham, MA March 20-22. The Board of the DC Masters is considering the possibility of renting a bus to take swimmers to this meet. If you might be interested in attending the meet by bus, please call Art Smith at 759-2211.

CALIFORNIA PARTY BEING PLANNED

Those going to Nationals might be interested to know that Diddo Clark is tentatively planning a party for the team at the estate of her brother-in-law, Apple founder Steve Wozniak, for the day before Nationals. The available activities would include llama petting, trampoline jumping, hot tub sitting, video arcade games. More details will be forthcoming closer to the event.

DC Masters T-Shirts/Sweats

Team t-shirts (50/50) are available with short or long sleeves; sweatshirts with crew neck or hood. All are navy blue with red, white, & light blue team logo on front.

Send orders with check payable to DC Masters to:

Ann Svanson
1312 Seaport Lane
Alexandria, VA 22314

We must have at least 12 shirts ordered for a printing, so get your orders in soon--we would like to get an order together by the end of January.

| | Quantity | Size (S,M,L,XL) |
|-------------------------------|----------|-----------------|
| Short Sleeve T-Shirt (\$5.00) | _____ | _____ |
| Long Sleeve T-Shirt (\$8.00) | _____ | _____ |
| Crew Sweatshirt (\$10.00) | _____ | _____ |
| Hood Sweatshirt (\$13.00) | _____ | _____ |

Name: _____ Tel.: _____

Address: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

THOUGHTS ON THE OPERATION OF "NON-PROFIT" SPORT CLUBS

As a long-time middle-aged (ancient) athlete, I have had the experience of belonging to a number of clubs devoted to various and sundry sports. A lot of these have struggled and failed, while others are still viable. What are the problems these clubs have in common, and what can be done about them?

Examples of Clubs Failing

An example of such a club is the tennis club at the government agency where I work. Some 15 or more years ago, we started with perhaps 30 people and built up an enthusiastic society which had a newsletter, ran a few tournaments, had socials, and rented indoor courts for winter parties. The membership gradually rose to 80; then 100, and more. The officers asked for more help as the workload increased. A constitution was drafted which called for new officers each year. Unfortunately, nobody ever came to the election meetings, so the same people were stuck as officers year after year. As the novelty wore off, and officers left the agency, the club essentially died: no newsletter, tournaments, or whatever.

In the sport of table tennis, players generally have to get together and rent some facility where they can play. I can name at least 10 DC area table tennis clubs where I have played at, which no longer exist. The problem is that the organizer gets into something else, or the rent goes up, or the players are not attracted into coming.

I have also played duplicate bridge at a number of clubs which have folded. The problem: usually it is that the clubs were organized and conducted by one or two directors who then decide to do something else.

As for Masters Swimming, there have been numerous clubs which have disappeared. Locally, Columbia Masters used to host 2 or 3 meets a year but now is defunct.

The collapse of sport clubs follows a predictable course. In the beginning, there is a small band of enthusiastic people. The club then expands, and the workload increases. The same people do all the work, lose interest, and quit when some more or less minor adversity strikes.

Avoiding Club Failure by Using Money

The above example of our agency's tennis club is an example of how money can help to run a club. A most time-consuming duty of the officers had always been the conduct of tennis lessons, which involved scheduling, phone calls, teaching, etc. The club hired a professional to do all this. Out of the lesson fees, he gets about \$25/hr but kicks back a certain amount to the club while taking care of the courts and many clerical duties. Although a couple of us have resuscitated the club by putting out 15 newsletters in 6 months, we feel that volunteer direction is too insecure and are looking for other ways to pay people to help run the club.

In table tennis, the national organization some years ago decided to let tournament directors make a profit on tournaments. At the same time, prize money was offered. The result is that, while many clubs still flounder, there is a profusion of well-run tournaments.

How about swimming? Many of us belong to swim/racquet clubs, and these are frankly commercial ventures. Some require more than \$1000 as an initiation fee. Obviously, since these clubs still exist, there must be a demand for them despite the stiff fees.

Masters Swim Clubs: Money Fights Drudgery

As Masters swim clubs grow, more and more of the volunteer work becomes drudgery. Paying people to do routine tasks will help to avoid discouragement. The printing and mailing of newsletters and notices are already done commercially for D.C. Masters. We should consider farming out as much other work as possible.

Consider the Hour Swim, which everyone thinks is a wonderful idea. How much longer are we going to be able to count on one person donating 500 hours of his time to run this meet each year? There must be someone on the team (or even not a member) who could use \$2000 plus a percentage of the endorsements for running the meet.

As for our regular meets, perhaps some enterprising people could incorporate as "Swim Consultants" who would run meets for a fair price. The price might be, for example, a guarantee that the club would pick up any deficits, and the meet directors would get a percentage of the entry fees and endorsements. The profit motive would promote recruitment of sponsors and the running of attractive meets. Would entry fees go up? Maybe not. If different groups vied for the right to run meets, we would have good old capitalistic competition.

How about paying the officers? This can be justified, and is done in sport clubs. As the workload is directly related to the size of the membership, perhaps we should pay our officers X dollars per head. Perhaps this would encourage recruiting of new members. If the club grew to 300-400 members, it would be all the more easy to justify paying the officers. As for the newsletter, the editor should also be given a chance to make money. The US Table Tennis newsletter editor is paid about \$1000 per issue (12/year), but the corresponding amount would be less for smaller clubs.

Summary

Sporting clubs are always changing. Starting with a small group of enthusiasts, each club starts to grow. The officers find themselves doing more and more work. Eventually the workload is burdensome, the officers lose interest, and the club folds. History has shown that paying people to do the routine tasks of a club greatly improves efficiency and morale. We should not expect people to do large amounts of work out of sheer altruism. These clubs are not churches. Identifying the tasks which can be farmed out to paid "consultants" may be a way to ensure that our sporting club continues to improve.

Ray Chen

Much thanks goes to Ann Svanson for gathering most of the information for this Wavemaker and to Joann Leilich. I liked the timeliness of Ray Chen's article as our club is working to create a constitution and by-laws. I hope that it will stimulate some creative thinking about our club.

Obviously, we need articles. I will be calling some of you this month, and hope that others of you will send articles or at least suggestions. Send them to Jill Hoover, 2509 Arlington Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201. Phone 522-3027 (H) 442-6233 (O).

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