

Pacific Masters Swimming  
Conference Call Meeting  
June 18, 2008

Call to order and introductions: The meeting was called to order by Michael Moore, Chairman @ 7:00 p.m.

Introductions: Michael Moore, Jim Clemmons, Chris Campbell, Barry Fasbender, Nancy Ridout, Glenda Carroll, Laura Colette, Jim Morales, Joel Wilson, Joan Alexander, Joan Smith, Richard Smith, John King, Lianne Crittenden,

Officers' Reports

**Approval of the minutes of.** May 14, 2008 **MSA**

**Treasurer** Shoenberger – **MSA** to accept the report (Barry questioned line item #880 for HyTek. It was for software)

**Chairman** – Michael Moore – Michael noted Dore Schwab's passing and talked about his vast contributions to Pacific and USMS. There will be a moment of silence at LC Championships to honor him.

Also being remembered is Mary Lee Watson.

LC Championships will be Referee Bud Meyers last meet as he will be retiring. Santa Cruz Masters and Pacific will honor him at the Saturday BBQ. **MSA** Pacific will pay half of the cost, \$600 of the estimated \$1200.. **MSA** to purchase an award, which will be presented for his long-term service.

USMS has hired Rob Bucher as Executive Director. He is planning to be at the SCM Championship meet in Walnut Creek to meet with coaches.

Davis Aquatic Masters is looking for a Head Coach. Estimated pay will be about \$50,000 a year. Service Awards are due in August.

Executive Committee met by conference call to discuss the implementation of goals to the mission statement.

**Vice Chairman Administration** – Joan Alexander – no report

**Vice Chairman Operations** - Barry Fasbender – Vice Chair Operations –

On Sunday, the San Jose Mercury News printed a wonderful article about the Dick Bennett Memorial Meet Held on Saturday, June 14. See text of article below.

**Remembering a master swimmer** *BEGINNERS, EXPERTS COMPETE AT MEET, By Melanie Carroll, Bay Area News Group Article Launched: 06/15/2008 01:35:52 AM PDT*

*More than 200 swimmers ranging in age from 18 to about 80 dived into Sacred Heart Schools' pool Saturday in Atherton for friendly competition and to remember a man many say could even teach a brick to swim.*

*The second Dick Bennett Memorial Meet, hosted by the Menlo Masters headquartered at the Burgess Pool in Menlo Park, featured races for beginners and experienced swimmers ranging from the 50-meter freestyle competition to the challenging 100-meter butterfly race.*

*Masters swimming is a national organization that provides organized workouts, competitions, clinics and workshops for adult swimmers with the goal of improving fitness through swimming. Swimmers are grouped according to ability rather than age, which means someone in their 20s might be in the same lane as someone three times their age.*

*Menlo Masters coach Tim Sheeper said that of the 110 team members who competed at the Atherton pool Saturday, about a third were first-time swimmers. "They stepped out of their comfort zone," Sheeper said. "They overcame their fears and anxieties."*

*While dozens of new swimmers competed for the first time, many have been doing it for years. Ann Kay Bennett, 74, the widow of the champion Masters swimmer known as the "stroke doctor" for his ability to teach others how to improve their swimming, competed in four events. Dick Bennett died in 2006 following a battle with multiple myeloma, or a type of cancer of plasma cells, which didn't stop him from swimming and competing.*

*"If he's looking down," Ann Kay Bennett said, "He's thinking he must have done a few right things. . . . Not many people get a swim meet named after them." Daniela Barnea, 64, said she swam the 200-meter backstroke Saturday thinking of Dick Bennett, who loved the stroke above all others and became his signature style. Mountain View Masters swimmer Karla Rees, 35, competed in five events including the*

*100-meter butterfly, which was the last event of the day. "It was a tough last event," said Rees, who has been involved with Masters swimming for more than a decade. But there's a payoff. After a day of competition, Rees feels at liberty to eat whatever she wants, guilt-free. And that means "anything with sugar," including brownies and other sweets, Rees said.*

**Secretary** – Karen Duggan – absent, no report

**At-Large** – Bill Grohe – absent, No Report

### Committee Reports

#### **Registration and Records** - Nancy Ridout

We have registered 8,382 swimmers and 120 clubs as of June 15<sup>th</sup>. (8,699 swimmers and 110 clubs as of 6/27/07; 8,769 swimmers & 115 clubs as of 6/17/06; 8,086 & ? clubs as of 6/11/05; 8,248 & 112 as of 6/18/04; 8,529 & clubs as of 6/21/03; 8,751 & 115 as of 6/22/02, 8,148 & 114 as of 6/18/01; 7,970 & 109 as of 6/23/00; 7,811 swimmers & 101 as of 7/9/99; 7,424 & 101 as of 7/10/98; 7,014 & 103 as of 6/20/97; 6,556 & 103 as of 6/21/96; 5,902 & 95 as of 6/23/95; 5,626 & 89 as of 6/17/94; 5,335 & 85 as of 6/18/93; 5,313 & 80 as of 6/19/92; 5,224 & 79 as of 6/26/91). We welcome the renewal of The Olde Durham Dolphins to our club membership.

I have purchased and received the new DVDs for our video library and they will be announced in the July/Aug newsletter.

Pacific Masters Swimming has the opportunity to nominate people to receive the Dorothy Donnelly USMS Service Award. Nominations should be forwarded to Kellie Casey, Recognition and Awards Chair, by July 30th.

Renewal notices were sent out and are coming in daily. We have gained 979 swimmers since our May meeting.

Convention delegates for approval include:

#### PMS Delegates

1. Ken Burr
2. Chris Campbell
3. Glenda Carroll
4. Jim Clemmons
5. Carolyn Cunningham
6. Alice Fasbender
7. Don Galine
8. Bill Grohe
9. Doug Huestis
10. Kristy King
11. John Morales
12. Linda Shoenberger
13. Joan Smith
14. Jody Smith
15. Richard Smith
16. Leanne Sparvel
17. Dick Thomas
18. Scott Williams
19. Theresa Wistrom
20. Jim Wheeler

(We still have not heard from John King, Kerry O'Brien, or Alan Levinson.)

Additionally, there are 7 automatic delegates that we would fund for varying amounts. This totals 26 delegates or 28 if two more decide to attend. Suzanne Heim-Bowen would like to go and will know by the end of July if she can get the time off from work. Each club has been notified about sending a delegate and one of our new clubs, Valley Springs Masters Swimming has responded with Leanne Sparvel.

Nancy will register the delegates.

**MSA** to approve the delegates.

**MSA** to approve the over budget

**Top Ten/Records** – Nancy Ridout

I am processing the PMS short course top ten and will submit it before the deadline.

**Coaches** - Campbell - Ten nominees were received. Three had been previous winners. The choice was difficult but Laurene Welting, TOC, was selected.

**Communications/Newsletter** - Joanne Berven – Newsletter -The newsletter is currently a work in progress. No discussion item unless there would be a change to the meet schedule.

Michael Moore – Webmaster, no report

**Fitness** – Crittenden –absent - No report

**Facilities Coordinator** – Alexander – The next scheduled meeting, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, will be at the classroom at Heather Farm pool. The September and November meetings will be scheduled when the schedule becomes available.

**Health and Safety** – TBA, no report

**Hospitality** – Rotating: . July – Duggan; Sept - TBA

**Equipment** – TBA

**Legislation Rules** - Alan Levinson –

From Leianne Crittenden. Please review the proposal below.

I deleted that requirement that House of Delegates ratify this scoring method in three years, but otherwise it is pretty much what was previously circulated. It was also posted on the USMS Discussion forum, with minimal comments.

Please consider posts on the forum recently (#245 and beyond) that suggested that for Regional Teams we only score to 5 places, and keep local teams at 10.

There is also continued support for mens womens combined scoring (Jerry Clark suggested that all members of a team get a computer generated certificate, as Regional Teams do not have a home pool where they would hang a banner, and a certificate honors all participants on the team).

I agree with this and if we want to include it I can draft something. Just let me know, I was trying to keep it very simple this time....

I know Michael has been asked to forward this to Mark Moore of Championship for his review. I have already sent it to Kathy Casey a while ago, but have not heard anything from her....

TO: Kathrine Casey, Chair USMS Rules Committee

Sean Fitzgerald, Chair USMS Legislation Committee

FROM: Alan Levinson, Chair

Pacific Masters Swimming, Legislation & Rules Committee

RE: PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE USMS RULE BOOK SUBMITTED BY PACIFIC MASTERS SWIMMING FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE SEPTEMBER 2008 USMS CONVENTION [Changes marked against existing text in 2008 USMS Rule Book]

*Intent: provide a more equitable means of scoring the National Championships, by proposing two scoring divisions.*

Introduction:

Several years ago, scoring at Nationals was changed from small, medium and large divisions to scoring all teams in a single division. There has been significant dissatisfaction with the single division method of scoring also. Last year, Pacific LMSC proposed a means of scoring in two divisions, which raised significant debate at the House of Delegates, and afterwards on the USMS Discussion Forum for “Team Scoring at Nationals”. Pacific LMSC again proposes to change the method of scoring at National Championships, using a two division system, as follows:

**A. Proposed Revisions to text of applicable Rules:**

**Regional Team and Local Team Categories:**

Article 104: NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MEETS

From 2008 Rule Book:

104.5.6 Club Scoring

**A Scoring—All national championship meet scoring and awards shall be treated as if the meet were swum in a 10-lane pool, regardless of the actual number of lanes available. Points shall be awarded as in article 102.12.3.**

**B Categories—Club scoring will be tabulated in ~~three~~ two categories.**

(1) ~~Regional Teams~~ Women's—women's individual events and women's relay events. For competition at National Championship Meets, a "Regional Team" consists of a team made up of those swimmers who represent a club at Nationals, but at competitions within their LMSC, they compete for an entity or subgroup (such as a workout group) that is different than the one they compete with at Nationals.

(2) ~~Local Teams~~ Men's—men's individual events and men's relay events. For competition at National Championship Meets, a "Local Team" consists of a team made up of those swimmers who represent a club at Nationals, and at competitions within their LMSC they compete for the same club, and that club has a single management structure that is responsible for administering the club's activities (including, for example, acquiring facilities and/or providing coaches).

~~Combined—women's individual events, women's relay events, men's individual events, men's relay events and mixed relay events.~~

(3) The Championship Committee is responsible for publishing a list of Regional and Local Teams no later than February 15 of each year. Where a club contests its designation, it may file an appeal with the Chair of the Championship Committee at least 60 days prior to the National Championship Meet.

**C Overall Point Total—The overall point totals for each club shall be published in all results documentation.**

Article 104.5.7 – Awards [page 35]

**A Awards—All top finishers in each race will be given awards regardless of the nationality of the swimmer. Duplicate awards will NOT be given except in the case of ties. Appropriate awards as determined by the Championship Committee will be awarded for places one through 10.**

**B USMS championship award (i.e., patch or some similar award to be determined by the Championship Committee)—Each individual who wins a short course or long course individual or relay championship shall be awarded a USMS championship award. Swimmers winning more than one championship may purchase one additional award for each additional championship won.**

**Team awards – The organization conducting the national championship meet shall provide awards to the first through tenth place ~~winners in the women's, men's and combined categories~~ for two categories: the Regional Team category and the Local Team category.**

Rationale:

1. To provide a level playing field where similarly composed entities can compete against their peers.
2. To present a simple, easily administered alternative to methods that have been tried and found unsatisfactory by USMS members.
3. To address comments from USMS members as posted on the discussion forum at USMS Discussion Forums/General/Nationals/Team Scoring (<http://forums.usms.org/showthread.php?t=8354> ). Please review posts # [specify the exact comments?] for extensive discussion on these issues. Many thanks to the active participants for their constructive discussions on this forum, including but not limited to: Scott Williams, Meg Smath, Karen Duggan, Jerry Clark, Michael Moore, Jim Matysek, Rob Copeland, Paul Smith, Carolyn Boak, Jim Clemmons.
4. This is a very long forum discussion (showing how much interest there is!), but if you want to see some of the posts that were taken account of, please see Posts on this forum numbered: 7, 90, 105, 131, 139, 141, 144, 159, 187, 189, 192, 195, 212, 226, 240, 245 as well as any others that you may be interested in!
5. This proposal does not affect how or with what entity a USMS swimmer registers – it only impacts team scoring at Nationals.
6. This proposal does not change how relays are composed, or who is included as a team member on those relays.
7. The designations for scoring divisions acknowledge that all USMS swimmers are members of "clubs" and that no form of club is better or worse than another. Different types of organizations have arisen to address regional differences and those organizational structures are not changed by this proposal.

Background:

Several years ago, team scoring at Nationals changed from Small/Medium/Large divisions to a single division. Since 2004, posts on two USMS Discussion Forums have criticized the current method of scoring. Participants have noted that under the single division method of scoring, teams that draw from a local area are at a strong disadvantage when competing against teams drawing from an entire state or region. For a compilation of team scoring results in recent SCY Championships (2003-2007), made by Michael Moore, go to Post #7 of the "Team Scoring at Nationals" USMS Discussion Forum. However, going back to the previous method of scoring (using small, medium and large team categories) is also unsatisfactory, because of the arbitrary nature of determining what will be a small, medium or large team, and who will determine those categories.

Many suggestions have been made on the USMS discussion forum:

- (1) Score the meet using the highest average scores by number of splashes (the number of swims by a team, divided by the number of swimmers to derive the average score per swimmer),
- (2) Using Regional and Local team divisions with the following ideas:
  - (a) defining regional and local teams using a geographic component by requiring that 90% (or another portion) of all club members reside within a certain distance from a club's designated headquarters (prevents national recruiting of an elite team, but would be difficult to confirm the number of registered swimmers on a specific club that live close to the club headquarters);
  - (b) using small/medium/large classes within each division (forum participants thought this was an arbitrary measure);
  - (c) using specified classes of small (10 or less swimmers)/medium (11 to 24 swimmers)/large (25 or more swimmers) teams within each division (to prevent teams from discouraging participation so that they could be in a specific classification, but still viewed as arbitrary, and many participants did not believe that coaches discouraged swimmers from going to Nationals);
  - (d) using mens/womens/combined within each of the two divisions (no consensus, except a concern about the number of team awards to be given at Nationals)
- (3) No team scoring at Nationals at all (generally rejected by Forum participants as not in keeping with a Championship meet);
- (4) Scoring addressed by the Championship Committee only (rejected by forum participants as not adequately representing members' concerns, given that the volume of posts on this forum was more than three times the traffic on other USMS discussion forums).

Most of these alternatives would create administrative difficulties, which is why Pacific is proposing a very simple proposal, in keeping with the general comments on the Discussion Forum to "Keep It Simple Stupid".

Recognizing that there is no perfect method of scoring National Championships, Pacific submits this proposal to define what is a "Regional" or LMSC team, and then to score Nationals based on two divisions: "Regional" Club Teams and "Local" Club Teams, through ten places in each division (twenty total team awards). The proposed Rule change spells out how a Regional and Local team is determined, based on a swimmer's registration with a club that is a member of the LMSC. Swimmers register with USMS as a member of a "club" and the club sends swimmers to Nationals, who compete as the "team" that represents the club.

The Championship Committee, in consultation with the USMS Registrar, will determine and publish a list of Regional Teams no later than February 15 each year. If a club contests its classification, it can appeal to the Championship Committee by submitting a complete written claim not later than 60 days prior to the first day of competition at the National Championship Meet. Since SCY Nationals is usually in May, this should provide adequate time for submission of protests and decisions.

**Scheduling** – Marcia Benjamin, no report

**Meet Operations** – Barry Fasbender

Linda Shoenberger found the missing Performance Bonds from last year and has deposited them.

**Open Water** – Glenda Carroll, no report

**Communications** – Newsletter-Joanne Berven, Web Master-Michael Moore

Newsletter - We are leaving this afternoon for our cabin and will be gone until the 22nd. The newsletter is out and has gone to the publisher. The next deadline date is July 6. However, the submission date isn't until August 4 to allow for coverage of the Long course National Meet.

We will most likely be gone most of July as well, so I may not make the July meeting either. Where we are in the mountains, we have no land line or cell phone service or electricity. We run what electricity we do use from a propane generator. Water is from the creek. It can be primitive by most standards, but we love it and look forward to it all year. I will be back for August as school starts mid month and I have some other commitments. I can get email about once a week while we are gone by sitting in the parking lot of the nearest restaurant/motel and using their wireless service on my laptop! Have a great summer.

Web Master – no report

Fitness – Leianne Crittenden, no report

Marketing/Publications – Bill Grohe, no report

Officials – John King

I am currently working with the Zone 2 Pacific Swimming officials chair (Gwenn Chong) to develop a guidebook for becoming an official. This cookbook will serve as a resource for emerging officials to follow to obtain training and certification within the Pacific region.

Trailer – Allan Cartwright, The trailer sustained some damage when the back tire lost some tread. The estimated cost will be about \$300.

Ad Hoc Facilities – Joan Alexander – July 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting will be in the classroom at Heather Farm pool. I will schedule September 17 when the schedule is posted.

Hospitality – Ridout

A volunteer is needed to provide dinner for the September meeting:

July (*Duggan*), and **September** ( ? ). Our November meeting will be potluck. Please contact Nancy Ridout or volunteer at the meeting if you could help out this way.

**Marketing/Public Relations** – Bill Grohe – No Report

**Meet Operations** - Barry Fasbender –

**Officials** – John King – No Report

**Open Water** – Carroll - The first open water swim of the season, Parkside Aquatic Mile was held on Saturday, May 10. A sunny day, coolish water (65-66 degrees). The swim was very well run, but results were not complete.

San Francisco YMCA expressed interest in sanctioning their SF Bay swim. They were told that all swimmers would need to be USMS members. Have not heard back from them.

The new buoys are terrific...very visible from the water.

**Scheduling** - Marcia Benjamin – no report

**Old Business** –

**New Business** –

**Team Announcements** –

Adjourned in memory of Dore Schwab

Respectfully submitted

Joan Alexander for  
Karen Duggan  
Secretary  
Pacific Masters Swimming

## **JULY MEETING REPORTS – 07/23/2008**

Chairman – Michael Moore, Verbal report

Vice Chair Operations – Barry Fasbender

The Time Line for the 2008 National Long Course Championships shows some very long days with late ending times. The sixth event has been dropped, all events 200 meters and longer will be deck seeded, and the starting time has been changed from 8 am to 7:30 am. The ending times and durations for each day are:

Thursday: ends at 9:20 pm, duration 13 hours 50 minutes

Friday: ends at 6:40 pm, duration 11 hours 10 minutes

Saturday: ends at 8:40 pm, duration 13 hours 10 minutes

Sunday: ends at 5:50 pm, duration 10 hours 20 minutes

Secretary – Karen Duggan, no report

Treasurer – Linda Shoenberger

I just received the bank statements so I probably won't get them done by tomorrow. I'll have to send you the reports for next month.

At Large – Bill Grohe, no report

Legislation/Rules – Alan Levinson, no report

Coaches – Chris Campbell

Registration – Nancy Ridout

We have registered 9,010 swimmers and 120 clubs as of July 22, 2008: (9,040 swimmers and 110 clubs as of 7/18/07; 9,196 swimmers & 115 clubs as of 7/15/06; 8670 & 109 as of 7/16/05; 8,623 & 111 as of 7/17/04; no July meeting 2003; 9,151 & 115 as of 7/19/2002; 8,598 swimmers and 119 teams as of 7/27/01; no meeting 2000 but records show 8,202 swimmers as of 7/14/00; 7,811 & 101 as of 7/10/99; 7,424 & 101 as of 7/10/98; 7,318 & 104 as of 7/97; no July meetings 1996 or 1995; 6,110 & 97 as of 7/22/94; 5,725 & 87 as of 7/27/93; 5,632 & 80 as of 7/17/92.

Pacific Masters Swimming has the opportunity to nominate people to receive the Dorothy Donnelly USMS Service Award. Nominations should be forwarded to Sally Dillon, Recognition and Awards Chair, by July 30th.

Top Ten/Records – Nancy Ridout

The PMS short course top ten and wwas submitted on time. **Many, many thanks** to Joan and Richard Smith who proofread the PMS file and compared it to the USMS list and found errors! On to the LC top ten.

Scheduling – Marcia Benjamin, no report

Meet Operations – Barry Fasbender

The use of Hy-Tek Meet Manager at the Long Course Championships was very successful. Pacific, National and World records were automatically flagged saving much volunteer time for the Host. All of these records are posted on the PMS results page or our website. The meet results now posted on our website also include the Pacific, National and World records for each age group of each event and also included split request times.

On Saturday, we were able to start posting real time results heat-by-heat on the PMS website at <http://www.pacificmasters.org/rt/>. The results for each event include the 100 split times.

A Hy-Tek Meet Manager order has been placed for MAAC for running there SCM meet on Saturday, August 23, 2008. They have experience with Meet Manager and will be running the program themselves.

Open Water – Glenda Carroll

As you already know, the Open Water championship Lake Mendocino swim is replacing the Russian River swim this weekend (July 26). Dave Robinson, event chair for the Lake Mendocino swim, said they now have blue skies The Lake Natoma swim was cancelled unfortunately. Another event literally kicked the swim off the course. The Redding Swim Club (Whiskeytown 1 mile/2 mile open water swim) said that the air is finally clearing in their area and should be okay for next month's swims.

I'm thinking about doing a survey of the open water swimmers after the season to find out what works for them; what doesn't; what we need to change; if they have suggestions for attracting

new swimmers (e.g. maybe another 3/4 mile swim or even a 1/2 mile swim, or a 3 or 4 mile swim). Cindy Clements put excellent systems in place to organize and keep track of the swims. Now I'd like to expand the swim base, if possible. More on that later.

#### Communications – Newsletter-Joanne Berven, Web Master-Michael Moore

Newsletter - The newsletter is a work in progress. Once I get the final version of Michael's report, it will be done. I have sent versions to both Barry and Glenda and have not heard back from either, so I am thinking that all is well. Attached is the latest version. I will be back on Monday the 28th and if the needed information is waiting for me, I can have the newsletter to the publisher for Wednesday morning, ahead of whatever deadline they have decided on.

Web Master – The Update has been going out weekly with news to the membership at-large. At the Pacific Masters Long Course Championships, I spoke with Franz Mortensen and we came up with a way to put the results immediately on the Pacific Masters Website. Now when an event is finished it will be posted directly on the website. People can access the results from their Personal Communication Devices to see how they did and their splits if available.

The results in an SDIF file were sent to the USMS website and those results are part of the USMS database. On the USMS swimmer database, swimmers can review their individual times, results and splits.

Over the past month the website has average about 130MB of traffic a day, with the greatest traffic on 14 July - the Monday after Long Course Championships - 354 MB of traffic.

Fitness – Leianne Crittenden, no report

Marketing/Publications – Bill Grohe, no report

Officials – John King, no report

Trailer – Allan Cartwright, no report

Ad Hoc Facilities – Joan Alexander

Received a call from the WC room booking person, Maria, and we have a choice this year of either the large Lakeside Room at \$75/hr or the Community Center (our regular meeting room) at \$40/hr. Yes, the prices have gone down this year. She will hold the rooms till after our meeting on this Wed. at the pool.

Do we want to change the meeting time of our Sept 19 meeting to 6:30, since the pool closes at 9pm?

Hospitality – Ridout

HELP! A volunteer is needed to provide dinner for the September meeting. Please contact Nancy Ridout if you could help out this way. Our November meeting will be potluck.