



## **FACT NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER**

It's November and our FACT team is registered and ready for individual registrations. Keep in mind that locally we can compete as Chapters and for Dixie Zone Champs and Nationals we can combine to form a larger more competitive group. Please read over the rules and reasons for the formation of the Florida Aquatic Combined Team and join us – we will probably emphasize the Long Course Nationals in Auburn in August this year – it is close enough to have a good sized group compete. If you are competing at a Zone meet, remember that we can compete as FACT there also and run up some points as well as enjoy the camaraderie of a large team.

Fortunately our list of surviving wounded is looking up at this writing. Betty Lorenzi is back in the water and feeling fit; our entire group of “oldies” in Jacksonville is doing well; Mary Tusa is on the mend after several skin problems along with her stent – she's hoping to make the State Senior Games; Sylvia Eisele is returning to Florida from Ontario – we will check on her water progress when she becomes a Floridian again; and Martha Henderson is sporting a pacemaker after an incident in the skies over Utah on the way to the World Senior Games!!

The September Ocala meet was attended by many of the FACT group, mostly from the VAST Chapter in the Villages and all did well for the first meet of the season. A few brave souls also tried the Open Water meet in Sarasota and placed well – I hear the conditions were great!

The Rowdy Gaines Meet saw a number from the SARF, VAST, SUNF and 300 Club, as well as others I couldn't identify. Our group did very well – coming in 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Combined Points to the Orlando host team and Gold Coast. We were 4<sup>th</sup> in the women's and 5<sup>th</sup> in the men's. The 240+ Medley Relay of Gigi Hubbard, Joyce Hutchison, Meegan Wilson and Rae Suttie broke the meet record with a 3:24!! Good going ladies!

At convention there was little said about the Regional and Club Teams except for the fact that communication was difficult when dealing with a Regional group. I can attest to that myself. I have individuals with the competing teams that I contact before each meet to find out if any members are interested in relays. The Team Roster is usually available a couple of days prior to the meet and makes it easy to determine the contacts. Unfortunately some of the smaller teams don't have a contact and the relay roster often has to wait until the day of the meet! It would help if anyone in this situation would email me @ [jcampb10@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jcampb10@tampabay.rr.com) to let me know.

As of mid-October the Florida LMSC consists of 1858 members and 56 Clubs. Many of these Clubs are very small and individuals who happen to make cut-off times and wish to attend Dixie Zone and National events often hesitate to attend because they have no one to join up with and certainly no chance of forming relays. Florida Aquatic Combined Team was formed to accommodate these individuals and the camaraderie that has developed and opportunity to be competitive as a regional team in these large meets has been an asset. As the number of teams and our membership grows it becomes even more apparent that a Regional team with individual chapters is a positive. Any questions, please email me [jcampb10@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jcampb10@tampabay.rr.com).

Joannie Campbell