



## FACT NEWS FOR JUNE/JULY

Because of a slower summer season this year, I have combined the months of July and August. The Bumpy Jones Dixie Zone Championships in June had some awesome finishes for so early in the season. Because of illness I was unable to attend, but several of our teammates (most notably Don Puchalski, Deb Walker, Rae Suttie and Bill Rodensfels) stepped in to help and did a great job. The more help the better, as the formation of the relays becomes a mammoth job for one person when we have a good number of FACT swimmers. I am hoping that the ability to contact Chapter representatives in advance will become a norm and the psych sheets that come out a few days before the meet are a great asset. At the Dixie Zones our relays combined the chapters of VAST, SUNF, 300F, SPCOF and SARF to win both the mixed free and medley 200 240+ - 1<sup>st</sup> 6 and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Medley and 1,2, and 3 in the Free. Also, the Mixed Free 280+ 200 too 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. Individual finishes were very impressive and can be noted on the results on our Dixie Zone website.

The St Pete Long Course Swimming Championships on July 10 and 11<sup>th</sup> just made the LMSC Newsletter. Our 17 FACT representatives from the Chapters of SARF, SPCO, VASF, SWIF, 300F and SUNF had some great relays – placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the 280+ Women's Free and Medley Relays; the men's 200+Free Relays took a 3<sup>rd</sup>; their 280+ Medley Relay won. The 280+ B Mixed Medley Relay was fun – the B relay with our fantastic butterfly ringer Bob Jennings, outswam the A relay – they took 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The 320+ Mixed Free Relays also won. The FACT team placed 2<sup>nd</sup> to the Host Team, St. Pete, in combined results; 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Men and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Women.

I would like to bring to your attention an article in the newest SWIMMER magazine “**both sides of the lane line**”. I think it is interesting to view the perspective of other USMS organizations and at the same time see where we are going in the Florida LMSC. There has never been an argument that I know of that large local swim clubs create a problem. We have two in our state – St Pete (242 members) and Sarasota Sharks (192 members). The problem has been the remaining 1,276 members in our State, scattered in an area reaching from Jacksonville through Naples and Fort Meyers, from Melbourne through Gainesville. A large local swim club such as SPM is certainly not including people from Jacksonville; nor is a Sarasota club including people from other areas of the state. FACT has hoped to correct this but even with our 248 members this leaves over 1,000 Florida LMSC members swimming on small teams throughout the state

and as mentioned recently, when it came to Nationals in Atlanta had we combined those small teams, most of whom could not field a relay, it would have been much more fun for all. Because of the fact that we swim locally as individual Chapters, to maintain our identity, we are classed as a Regional Team. We compete with many much larger State teams but still hold our own. Ruminant on these articles and drop me a line as to how you feel – this will be a controversial subject at the coming convention:  
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