
Potomac Valley Meeting Minutes

November 7, 1999

By Cheryl Wagner

Update to last meeting's minutes:

The Colonies Zone web site is now at:
<http://www.colonieszone.org>

Report from the Chair:

Items from the USMS convention:

1. There were a number of rules changes (summarized in SWIM magazine and a separate report by Dave Diehl in this newsletter).
2. There is a new safety waiver which is required for all USMS national meets.
3. If you are caught diving in the warmup pool during a meet, you will be disqualified for your next event. (This does not include the sprint/dive lane.)

Report from the Treasurer:

1. The new annual budget will be presented at the next PV meeting.
2. Convention expenses were less than budgeted because we got good deals on airfare.

Report from the Secretary:

- All clubs are encouraged to use Meet Manager/HYTEK software. This allows meet results to be submitted to the USMS "Top Swimmers" web site.

Report from the Registrar:

1. The current Potomac Valley registration is at 1,756. (We're encouraging recruiting since we're allocated another convention delegate if our membership exceeds 1,800.)
2. The membership transfer fee is now \$5.
3. The replacement card fee is now \$2.50.
4. USMS team renewal forms are due.
5. There is a delay in getting the 2000 USMS registration cards from the national office

Report from Sanctions:

1. UMCY will no longer be having a fall meet.
2. Northern Virginia Jewish Community Center will hold its SCM meet in the Spring and Fall of 2000. Thereafter, they will hold it annually every fall.
3. A meet evaluator is needed for the April 15 Northern Va. JCC meet.

4. Some clubs are forgetting to list meet officials and the officials' certifications on meet results.
5. The rule book is online at: <http://www.usms.org>. (The 2000 rule book isn't up yet.)

Report from Newsletter Editor:

1. The deadline for the February newsletter is January 25, 2000.
2. Individuals are encouraged to submit items of interest about themselves and their clubs.

Report from Top Ten:

1. The "draft" LCM Top Ten USMS listing is on the Internet at: <http://www.usms.org>
1. If you have corrections to the Top Ten listing, email cath.p@worldnet.att.net.
2. Joann will be making corrections to the PV Top Ten listing soon.
3. When sending meet results, it's nice to include an alphabetical list of all swimmers' full names.

Report from Zone Rep:

1. Colonies Zone will have Open Water championships this year. (2 mile in Reston on May 28; 1 mile in Point Lookout, NY in June; and 3 mile in Mashpee, MA on July 15). There will be participation awards for swimmers who do all three.
2. The 2000 SCY meet will be at Rutgers on March 31 – April 2.
3. The 2001 SCY meet will be at the Goodwill Games Pool in New York.

General Business:

1. The current Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected.
2. The next meeting will be held on March 19 at noon in the Wakefield Recreation Center.

Attendees:

Ray Novitske - ALEX
Ed Mark - AAMS
Halley Esser - AVST
Frank Marcinkowski - BURK
Michelle Carter - CHIN
Joann Leilich - DCM
John Cobau - DCRP
Joe Kaufman - DCAC
Jack Markey - DCAC
Brian Ellis - FXCM
Mark Walters - GERM
Jeff Roddin - ANCM
Margot Pettijohn - ANCM
Penny Bates - ANCM
Tom Denes - ANCM
CJ Hall - ANCM
Alicia McCarthy - NCYM
Mike Clark - NVAQ
Lynn Hazlewood - RMST
Debbie Morrin - TERR
Dave Diehl - TERR
Cheryl Wagner - TERR

1999 USAS/USMS Convention Notes by Jeff Roddin

Ideas for LMSC events:

- 1) Relay meets are very popular in other LMSCs (regular relays plus fun relays).
- 2) A lot of time and planning should go into the socials that accompany the meets/open water swims as the social can be a primary reason for getting people to return the following year and to attract new entrants.
- 3) Oregon has an overnight camping open water event where one swim is Saturday and another is on Sunday.
- 4) Florida has a "Doggie Doo" open water relay where you have your dog on a leash and the first pair across the finish line wins.
- 5) Clinics get tremendous praise from participants but attendance is usually low. Suggestion is for Coaches to recommend them to their swimmers (since many swimmers don't feel that they are "good enough" but if the Coach says something it may go a long way).
- 6) A clinic idea is to run one at a local college where the college swimmers are the instructors. For one, this makes them more aware of USMS plus the adults in turn get more interested in the college team and attend their meets. The extra support at the meets begins to get noticed by the college swimmers. The money raised at the clinic would go to the college swim team and then they like USMS even more and continue to help USMS swimmers.
- 7) Virginia teams up with their local USS club and travels to the Caribbean every other winter as part of the USS club's annual training trip.
- 8) One team has a "Flick & Float" on Friday nights. Everybody brings an air mattress or raft and they float around the pool and watch a movie on a big screen.
- 9) Virginia LMSC purchased a laptop and Hy-Tek software and it travels around to all their meets. The programmer does all the meet entries and gets paid \$1 per swimmer.

Other Misc notes:

- 1) 20-23% of entries to Nationals this past year were done on the internet. Next year the paper copy of the registration card will not have to be mailed in as part of internet entries.
- 2) Alias@usms.org will no longer take on new aliases. Present alias will be maintained. The process to do these aliases is cumbersome because Mindspring does not permit our webmaster direct access to their system. Therefore he has to do them individually as opposed to batch filing. New aliases will be accepted, however, if Mindspring changes their access rules or if somebody else volunteers to do the work.
- 3) On-Line Committee strongly recommended adopting PDF as the format of choice for everything from newsletters to registration forms to meet entry forms. This format, when printed out, appears exactly as the author intended it to look as opposed to having numerous formatting differences when printing out .html format where people have different size screens and resolutions.
- 4) If Meet Directors use Hy-Tek or similar software, they are encouraged to email their data files to the USMS webmaster since he maintains a searchable database of times. Formats should be in SDIF format or you may zip up the entire meet directory. See <http://www.usms.org/comp/resultstrack.shtml> for the database of individual swimmers & clubs and <http://www.usms.org/comp/toptimes.shtml> for the compilation of top times.
- 5) LMSC Top Ten Chair is strongly encouraged to work with LMSC meet directors on getting the Chair meet results in electronic format. Merging the results into the Chair's database should cause much less errors.
- 6) Reminder: if you buy anything from Amazon.com by going to Amazon from the link on the USMS site, USMS will get a small commission. Similarly, if you buy any swimming related items from Amazon, look for them first on the USMS website as it will be the same price to you but USMS will get a commission from Amazon.
- 7) Championship Committee first talked about placing more restrictions on warm up facility requirements but then it was felt so many restrictions have been placed on hosting nationals that bidders are becoming fewer and fewer each year. As another incentive, the meet surcharge was raised from \$20 to \$30 for swimmers. This surcharge goes directly to the meet host for their expenses. The rationale here is more and more has been asked of meet hosts over the years and these extra requirements have increased costs to the hosts so much so that Minnesota lost money on their meet. It was also felt that starting a meet at 7am for a central or east coast meet is much too early for west coast travelers.
- 8) Important change to liability coverage: if a USA swimmer is in your USMS practice, the USA swimmer is not covered by insurance UNLESS the coach is a USA Swimming certified coach (all USMS swimmers in the pool are covered as long as they are all registered and the coach is USMS registered). Moreover, if the coach is not a USA Swimming certified coach then he/she may be personally liable for injury to the USA swimmer in the practice.