

WISCONSIN



MASTERS SWIMMING

NEWSLETTER

October • November 2024

FROM THE CHAIR ...

Greetings Masters Swimmers!

It's time to say hello to a new short course swim season. Long course ended with success. We had 12 swimmers competing in Mission Viejo, and finished 4th! There is a report elsewhere in this newsletter.

Remember the Annual Meeting of Wisconsin Masters Swim Committee (WMSC) occurring on Saturday, Oct 5, beginning at 9:00 am. You may participate either in person, or virtually via Zoom at

<https://www.wisconsinmastersswimming.com/c/4DE7542/file/WISC%20Documents/Annual%20Meeting%20-%20for%20newsletter.docx.pdf>. If you are not able to

participate, but would like to share ideas with the board, please email me at WChair@usms.org. We always like to hear from the members!

In looking ahead for the end of season meets, the State meet will be near the end of March, with Short Course Nationals being held in San Antonio, TX, April 24-27, and Long Course Nationals being held in Federal Way, WA, August 6-10. If you liked the pool at Indy, Federal Way has the exact same pool, except with a different seating configuration. It's never too early to reserve the dates and think about joining the team. More specifics will be sent out when they become available.

Locally, our meet schedule is in development, with a proposed schedule listed on our website at <https://www.wisconsinmastersswimming.com/page.cfm?pagetitle=Swim+Meets>. The first meet planned for early November in Baraboo, with the West Bend SCM meet in early December. We are hoping to run a meet at the Verona High

School's new pool, awaiting final confirmation. Last year we had a good representation of swimmers at the meets, and we hope to continue to see that for this coming year. It's great to see rivalries continue, great swims occurring, and refueling post-meet at a local restaurant.



Beginning November 1, members may renew with USMS for 2025. At the USMS Convention, a fee increase of \$5 was passed, making the membership cost \$75 for the year. This will put USMS on the path to a balanced budget within another year or two. **When registering, remember to select Wisconsin as the LMSC, and Wisconsin (WISC) as the club.** Since Wisconsin competes at Nationals as a Regional Club, this registration allows you to participate on relays and score points for the Wisconsin club. We are a state-wide club, and no additional fee are incurred for WISC. You may swim as an unattached swimmer if you desire, but that limits your ability to participate on relays at both local meets and at nationals.

Please check our website periodically, wisconsinmastersswimming.com, for information about the meet schedule, news, newsletter, and any announcements of events.

Yours in swim,
Mary Schneider,
Wisconsin Chair

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Annual WMSC Meeting Announcement

The Annual Meeting of the Wisconsin Masters Swim Committee (WMSC) will be held on Saturday, October 5, 2024, from 9:00 am until 12:00 pm, at N66W34266 Primrose Circle, Oconomowoc, WI (a private home of a member, but all are welcome). The Zoom link if you wish to participate is

<https://jnimeetings.zoom.com/j/91642390363?pwd=G0S2S50K55CfsSB6mZoxPzxa3eo7N0.1> Meeting ID: 916 4239 0363 Password: 806255

Elections of Officers and appointment of committee chairs will take place at the meeting. All positions will be up for election or appointment, so take a look at the positions (listed on page 2 of the newsletter, or in our by-laws here,

<https://www.wisconsinmastersswimming.com/c/4DE7542/file/Documents/WMSC%20BY-LAWS%20Oct%202020.pdf>). Please email me at WChair@usms.org if

you would like more information, or if you are interested in serving on the board.

We are especially in need for someone to run as Vice Chair. A slate of candidates will be presented by email closer to the meeting.

Mary Schneider, Wisconsin Chair

USMS Registration Expires December 31, 2024

Beginning November 1, USMS members may renew with USMS for 2025. At the USMS Convention this year, a fee increase of \$5 was passed, making the membership cost \$75 for the year.

Note: While many USMS Clubs also require membership fee, the Wisconsin Masters Aquatic Club (our Regional Club for competition and meet development) does not require an additional fee. Your Workout Group may require additional fees.

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/154332632463104/>



Great Team Showing at Long Course Nationals

Records Drop, Laurie Alioto Shines in the California Sun

A dozen Wisconsin Masters swimmers turned out for the 2024 Long Course Nationals at the Mission Viejo pool in California. They were **Erin Schneider, Mindy Seidler, Laurie Alioto, Mary Schneider, Candy Christenson, Jeanne Seidler, Jane Dillon Stewart, Reid Pezewski, Greg Blommel, Dean Fochios, Carl Millholland and Larry Mueller**. The star of the show was Laurie Aioto, 65-59 Womens National Champion in the 1500M Freestyle (21:55.06) and the 200 Butterfly (3:02.85). In her other four events, Laurie placed 2nd, earning the Wisconsin team 58 points. Aging up gracefully, Laurie has set 12 State Long Course Records in 2024.

Other National Long Course Champions are Larry Mueller in the 80-84 Mens 400M Free (7:40.58*) and Reid Pezewski, Mens 18-25 200M Breaststroke (3:07.72) Overall the Wisconsin placed 4th among Regional Teams, besting neighboring Illinois, Michigan and Minnesota teams. We rock! As expected, the team placed behind three West Coast regional teams, while of the top 10 Local Clubs, eight were from California. The weather was sunny and pleasant throughout the meet.

*A win in a win. Right, Larry?



On Wisconsin!



National Champion Reid Pezewski



Wisconsin Team Relaxing After a Hard Week's Work

The Chicago River Swim... in Lake Michigan

Carl Millholland (Bib 168)



The Chicago River Swim held on September 22 was momentous for several reasons. One of which is the fact that the swim didn't actually happen in the Chicago River. While organizers announced the swim in April of this year, Chicago politicians were taken aback and learned that the city's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events had not approved the swim. The media jumped on the "Oh my God, they are going to swim in the Chicago River" panic.

Organizers worked to demonstrate that the swim would be safe, including the fact that the river is constantly tested, including prior to the start of the swim. Eventually, the organizers decided to run the swim in good old Lake Michigan, after fighting an uphill battle to prove that swimming in the river will be safe on race day.

Everything about this swim compared to other open water swims I've done was, well, over the top! All swimmers were given plush bathrobes to wear before and after the race. We were given numbered race decals that were to be applied to both shoulders and smaller numbers for your hands. (They

stuck to my skin for over a week and won't wash off in water, of course.) We received numbered caps, and orange oversized and numbered swim buoys. I do not fault the organizers for being overly cautious. They called the 2024 Chicago River Swim a "proof of concept" event. Any serious incident would be fatal to their goal of running the swim next year in the Chicago River.

Swim day itself was a little bizarre but nothing as bad as Big Shoulders two weeks prior. The course paralleled the lakeshore, out about 100 yards in a down and back configuration. Originally the swim was to run one mile out and one mile back (with a halfway turn around for the 1-milers). This meant (to my glee) that we would even be swimming outside the breakwater up to the Oak Street beach. But safety concerns again scaled the course back to 800 yards, with the 2-milers circling around the course two times.



Swimmers in Bathrobes on Tour Boat to the Beach

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Instead of typical race buoys, this event included a series of yellow course markers about 12 feet across sitting on small pontoons spaced every 100 yards. The buoys were guided by small trolling motors controlled by a GPS system. We were warned not to swim under them.

As we turned in our plush robes, it started to rain. Because this swim was a momentous event, organizers and a train of politicians and charity recipients spoke for about half an hour while we stood mostly naked in a chilly rain eager to get in the warm 74 degree water.

Finally the race began. But there was one more little snag. The first wave, 2-miler, non-wetsuit women, waded out to the starting buoys and were held in the water for about 20 minutes while the race safety team performed checks. Necessary abundance of caution! We watched the women jumping up and down to stay warm. After they were sent off, my wave quickly got going. The water was calm, the buoys abundant, and the rain still poured. The seawall was lined with cheering spectators in raincoats and umbrellas, a little wet but also impressed by 200 swimmers churning past the magic bouys. Yours truly finished second to last among the 2-miler men. But I was also the only one over 70 years old to swim it.

This was a major fundraising event for [ALS research and learn-to-swim programming in Chicago](#). I wish to thank those who contributed to my fundraising. A serious thank you! And please expect me to hit you up again next year when I can actually swim in a clean Chicago River.



Doug McConnell, co-founder of A Long Swim addressing swimmers as the rain started to pour

2024-2025 Meet Schedule is Online

Visit <https://www.wisconsinmastersswimming.com/page.cfm?pagetitle=Swim+Meets>

2024-2025 Wisconsin Meet Schedule	
Baraboo Jack Young Middle School SCY	Sunday, November 3
John Bauman SCM at West Bend West HS	Saturday, December 7
Wisconsin Water Warriors Fitness Event	Nov-Dec Virtual

Grumpy Old Badgers Successfully Tackle Rough Waters – and Sharks!

The Saturday before Labor Day in Hawai`i features the annual Maui Channel Swim. And this year the **Grumpy Old Badgers** were there yet again.

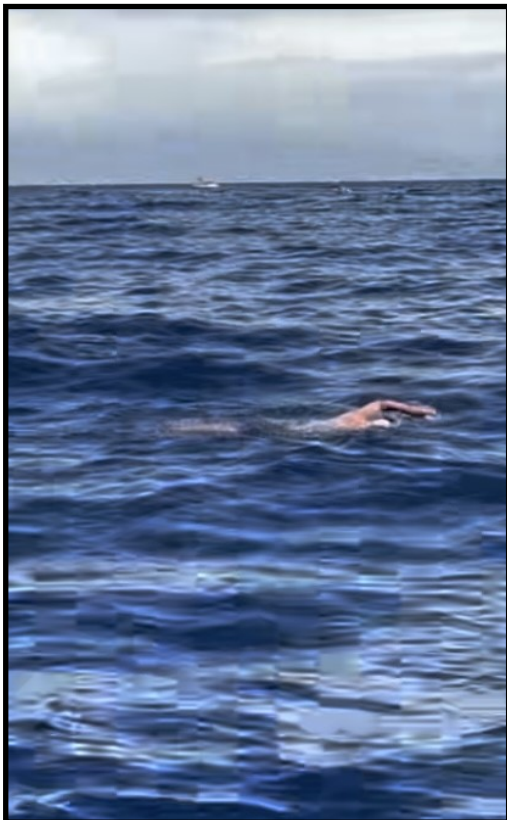
The swim is a 10 mile 6-person relay from the island of Lanai towards "Black Rock" at Kaanapali Beach on Maui. Long time Wisconsin Masters swimmers **Art Luetke** and **Brad Horner** have each done the swim more than any other Wisconsinite. And this was their ninth time in the past 25 years. In fact, Brad even swam it solo once.

Other swimmers on their August 31st relay were newbies, **Dan Slick** and **Kim Groshek**, both from Wisconsin, plus **Simon Motamed** from California. The team's sixth member had to drop out on the morning of the race. So, the remaining five tackled the swim themselves. On the boat to watch were Brad's wife **Kim Horner**, and daughter **Jillian Gibas** along with her husband **Alex Gibas**.

The crossing took 5 hours and 9 minutes and was one of the toughest crossings Art said he could remember from his previous eight encounters. Conditions started out looking



L-R Boat Capt. Ariel Farrar, Simon, Brad, Jillian, Art, Dan, Kim and Alex



great with nice with flat water ahead. But about four hours into the swim, treacherous whitecap waves begin to grow. The current, known as the "Molokai Express" due to its propensity to sweep swimmers towards the island of Molokai, got much stronger. Both waves and

currents are expected as swimmers get within a couple miles of the finish, but this year were bigger and stronger than past crossings. And yet! There was even more excitement.

The Maui Channel is also known as one of the most shark-infested channels in the island chain. This swim didn't disappoint. For the first time ever, the Grumpy Old Badger boat was one of three that, in the middle of the race, had to pull their swimmer out because of a shark was sighted. Dan Slick was in the water when a tiger shark came up about 15 feet behind him. Two people on the boat saw it (Dan didn't), and the alarm whistle was blown, getting Dan to immediately swim over and exit the water. Upon the quick arrival of a safety escort craft, swimmers were soon however back in the water.

Art has told this writer that at 77 years old (and the second oldest competitor among the 20 teams that participated), this would likely be his last MCS swim. However, he'll always remember the great feeling of looking back at the island of Lanai and knowing the special accomplishments that he's felt with all the swims across to Maui.

New Long Course Records

Age Group	Event	Time		Date	Location
Women 30-34	50 BREAST	35.78	Jenny Holtzen	6/15/2024	2024 WI State LCM Champs @ Schroeder
Women 30-34	100 FLY	1:09.58	Jenny Holtzen	6/15/2024	2024 WI State LCM Champs @ Schroeder
Women 30-34	200 IM	2:33.86	Jenny Holtzen	6/15/2024	2024 WI State LCM Champs @ Schroeder
Women 65-69	100 FREE	1:29.48	Julie Van Cleave	6/15/2024	2024 WI State LCM Champs @ Schroeder
Women 65-69	400 FREE	6:53.61	Julie Van Cleave	6/15/2024	2024 WI State LCM Champs @ Schroeder
Women 65-69	50 BACK	42.30	Laurie Alioto	6/15/2024	2024 WI State LCM Champs @ Schroeder
Women 65-69	100 BACK	1:30.08	Laurie Alioto	6/15/2024	2024 WI State LCM Champs @ Schroeder
Women 70-74	400 IM	8:12.94	Susan Swedler	6/15/2024	2024 WI State LCM Champs @ Schroeder
Men 18-24	50 BREAST	33.87	Brigham Freeman	6/15/2024	2024 WI State LCM Champs @ Schroeder
Men 45-49	400 IM	5:47.44	Darryl Stich	6/15/2024	2024 WI State LCM Champs @ Schroeder
Men 70-74	200 BACK	3:49.17	Richard Alderman	6/15/2024	2024 WI State LCM Champs @ Schroeder
Men 75-79	200 FLY	4:09.64	Mike Ziniel	6/15/2024	2024 WI State LCM Champs @ Schroeder
Women 65-69	100 FREE	1:24.59	Laurie Alioto	8/21/2024	2024 USMS Summer Nationals @ Mission Viejo
Women 65-69	200 FREE	2:53.13	Laurie Alioto	8/21/2024	2024 USMS Summer Nationals @ Mission Viejo
Women 65-69	400 FREE	5:50.16	Laurie Alioto	8/21/2024	2024 USMS Summer Nationals @ Mission Viejo
Women 65-69	800 FREE	11:41.77	Laurie Alioto	8/21/2024	2024 USMS Summer Nationals @ Mission Viejo
Women 65-69	1500 FREE	21:55.06	Laurie Alioto	8/21/2024	2024 USMS Summer Nationals @ Mission Viejo
Women 65-69	200 BACK	3:08.20	Laurie Alioto	8/21/2024	2024 USMS Summer Nationals @ Mission Viejo
Women 65-69	100 FLY	1:22.44	Laurie Alioto	8/21/2024	2024 USMS Summer Nationals @ Mission Viejo
Women 65-69	200 FLY	3:02.85	Laurie Alioto	8/21/2024	2024 USMS Summer Nationals @ Mission Viejo
Women 65-69	200 IM	3:05.11	Laurie Alioto	8/21/2024	2024 USMS Summer Nationals @ Mission Viejo
Women 65-69	400 IM	6:33.41	Laurie Alioto	8/21/2024	2024 USMS Summer Nationals @ Mission Viejo
Men 70-74	50 FREE	30.25	Dean Fochios	8/21/2024	2024 USMS Summer Nationals @ Mission Viejo
Men 70-74	100 FREE	1:08.51	Dean Fochios	8/21/2024	2024 USMS Summer Nationals @ Mission Viejo
Men 70-74	200 FREE	2:33.31	Dean Fochios	8/21/2024	2024 USMS Summer Nationals @ Mission Viejo
Men 70-74	400 FREE	5:25.29	Dean Fochios	8/21/2024	2024 USMS Summer Nationals @ Mission Viejo
Men 70-74	50 BACK	37.32	Dean Fochios	8/21/2024	2024 USMS Summer Nationals @ Mission Viejo
Men 70-74	200 BACK	03:21.3	Carl Millholland	8/21/2024	2024 USMS Summer Nationals @ Mission Viejo
Men 70-74	200 IM	03:21.9	Carl Millholland	8/21/2024	2024 USMS Summer Nationals @ Mission Viejo

Wisconsin Masters Swimming
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