

Information and the meet website for the Pan Am Masters in November is now posted online at <http://www.uana-aquatics.org/html/English/2panmaster1.htm> and <http://www.panamericanmaster2011.org/>

## **EXPERIENCE WITH ON-LINE REGISTRATIONS WITH CLUB ASSISTANT**

By Conner Bailey, Auburn Masters Swimmers

2011 was the 13<sup>th</sup> running of the Auburn Masters SCY Invitational and far and away the easiest and smoothest due largely to the ClubAssistant on-line entry system. Instead of manually handling all the entries, with the inevitable absence of USMS registration numbers, missing signatures on waiver forms, missing checks, and other assorted glitches, we let ClubAssistant (<http://www.clubassistant.com/>) handle all that. They are tied to the USMS membership database and can confirm or process USMS registrations as part of the meet entry process. The people who run Club Assistant are all Masters swimmers. I met Dan and Karin Wegner last summer while swimming with their home club in Santa Monica, California. Feedback from swimmers at our meet was uniformly positive. Swimmers were able to enter times on line, and look up times they had swum at other USMS meets. If they were not yet registered with USMS (which happens particularly for meets held early in the calendar year), they could register immediately online and then proceed with their meet entry. Entry fees were paid online through a secure server. Out of roughly 200 swimmers, we had less than a dozen who used the traditional paper entry. I think all of our swimmers over 70 years old used the online system! For me as Meet Director, working with ClubAssistant saved enormous amounts of time. I didn't have to handle checks. I didn't have to handle entries or have entry times manually entered. I could go online at any point and see how many swimmers had entered, how many social tickets had been purchased. Downloading meet entries was a snap, and when we did so, all USMS registration numbers of all swimmers were entered correctly, which made reporting of results that much easier. During the meet, swimmers with smart phones were able to monitor results, including graphs showing splits by 50s. Those who negative split their 200s saw a nice flat to descending line. Others saw an upward trending line. Very cool! Karin Wegner is the point person for working with people hosting meets, and she was unfailingly pleasant and supportive. As a first timer, I had lots of questions which Karin answered patiently. They were cool with the fact that host team registrations were free, meaning they received no income from such registrations. Initially I was reluctant to use the ClubAssistant service because I thought the cost would be too high. It was

not. They charged 5% of all credit card fees plus \$1.50 per entry. Smaller meets and larger meets may have somewhat different base fees. The cost worked out to be almost exactly what I had been paying people to handle data entry for me in years past. (A basic meet entry fee of \$50 plus \$15 for our social totaled \$65, and total ClubAssistant charges worked out to \$4.75, or 7%.) All the other advantages (registration, reporting, etc.) provided by ClubAssistant make their service something I will use again.

## **PRE-MASTERS SWIMMING**

Pre-Masters Swimming will be taught ("Miracle Swimming") to residents of Sarasota, FL this summer by a new non-profit organization, 21st Century Swimming Lessons, Inc. of Sarasota. Many adults wish to be masters swimmers but they're afraid in water or afraid to join a masters team on account of having no strokes besides "crawl," or being intimidated by the workouts and the specter of competition.

Miracle Swimming is a class that's been taught by Miracle Swimming Institute since 1983 for adults who are afraid or terrified in water. It uses a new paradigm of teaching and learning that's successful 100% of the time. The non-profit is offering scholarships to coaches and instructors who wish to become trained in Miracle Swimming to make it available in their communities. Instructors who are eligible pay the training fee and the scholarship pays the air fare and hotel.

For more information, go to <http://www.conquerfear.com/v/vspfiles/training/indextraining.shtml> or call 941-921-6420.

## **OPEN WATER SAFETY CONFERENCE REPORT**

by David Miner,  
Florida LMSC Open Water and Long Distance Chair

The Open Water Safety Conference took place in San Francisco, March 18-20, 2011. The conference was sponsored and put on by USMS and Pacific Masters Swimming. Steven Munatones from the Open Water Source and open water guru was the conference coordinator pulling together over 130 open water swimming race directors, administrators, lifesaving professionals, doctors, writers, athletes, and officials from over 26 U.S. states and seven countries. The conference was designed to bring light to the fact that safety must be the primary goal for every open water swim around the world and to address how the open water community could better protect its athletes going forward as the sport grows by leaps and bounds.

Below are summaries of the lectures I was able to attend. The entire event was video taped and will be available on USMS's website for everyone to view.