

## **NCMS Zooms to 8<sup>th</sup> place team finish at 2014 Spring Nationals** *By Don Gilchrist*

Seventeen members of NCMS shined at Spring Nationals, May 1-4, at the George F Hanes International Swim Center, Santa Clara, California. This is the pool where the Olympic legends competed and trained, and considered the epicenter of competitive swimming over the last 75 years. Enthusiasm and excitement was rampant and gave rise to great swims by NC swimmers and fellow master swimmers.

More recent legends participated and provided much thrill. They included Olympians Matt Biondi, Anthony Ervin, Josh Davis and Nathan Adrian (18.78 50 free and 41.13 100 free). NCMS member and national legend E Ole Larson, age 93, proved age is no hindrance by sweeping six events. Taking gold in all and having to purchase another bag to carry home the loot. One incredible feat!



***Below: Ole finishes the 1000 yd Freestyle***



***Below: Matt Biondi and Jenny Perrottet, our secretary.***



For those who have thought about attending a USMS National Event, please view the Spring National wrap up,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m31VCsfkQPc&list=UUieORPCvi3T59wtqHLvbeww>

Other first place finishes came from Barbara Crowder, Elizabeth Novak and Jon Klein but much contribution in scoring and enthusiasm came from others; Robert Crowder, Melissa Gass, Dana Greene, Kevin Happ, Stacey Harris, Amy Holland, Paul Kern, Jamie Miller, Steve Pegram, Jennifer Perrottet, Carol Redfield, Amanda Rubel and Don Gilchrist. Jamie and Jenny received by informal vote the toughness award by competing in the 200 butterfly.

There were 2249 participants making this event one of the largest USMS national events ever. The event was held under sunny skies, amongst manicured grass, palm trees, temperate climate. The host, Santa Clara Swim Club, was hospitable and efficient. The meet ran smoothly and each session finished by 5pm each day, allowing time to prime for nightly dining with fellow master swimmers. There were smiles, laughter and much friendship which is the core culture of USMS, as well as good food that included Vietnamese, Sushi, Italian, and fresh seafood at nearby San Jose restaurants.

Every year at the USMS Spring Nationals the Ransom J Arthur Award Ceremony is held in recognition of the member who has distinguished themselves in service to United States Masters Swimming. It is the most prestigious award given to a single member. This year the award went to our own NCMS member, Hill Carrow. Although Hill was not at the event (slack!) Nadine Day president of USMS presented the award via a video. The NCMS Nationals contingent shined with pride as recognition was given to Hill.

More excitement lies ahead. The 2014 Summer Nationals is nearing and not far away in distance, so we encourage NCMS members to attend. We expect a large number from our state to participate. The event will be held August 13-17 at the University of Maryland College Park Eppley Recreational Center. Entry deadline is July 9<sup>th</sup>.

<https://www.usms.org/comp/onlineentry.php?MeetID=20140813lcusmsl>. Do not miss the opportunity to compete at a national event and have fun; so train, rev up, get psyched! See you there.