

On the passing of Dick Webber - *By Sally Newell*

Dick Webber was a longtime YMCA swimmer and coach, well known for his passion to teach swimming to everyone old and young. He competed in the Senior Games, winning more than 20 national titles and two world titles. As a USMS member, he belonged to RAM (Raleigh Area Masters) where he achieved 163 individual Top Ten times and 13 relay Top Ten's. He was also awarded All American honors for three pool individual and three relay swims. On June 29th, Dick captured the men's 80-84 age division 50 butterfly title at the National Senior Games in Houston, also winning three silver medals.



Dick retired from General Electric as a marketing executive after 38 years and he and his wife, Ruth, moved to Hendersonville, where they lived for 21 years. He and Ruth had six children, 17 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A YMCA member since 1945, Dick was very involved in the Slim Chalmers Fund which provided swim scholarships for children who could not afford lessons. Dick first met Slim while on the Ohio State swim team and Slim coached West Point. Chalmers and his wife later moved to Hendersonville where he developed the endowment. Slim was the one who taught Dick the butterfly.

I had the pleasure of sharing the 200 meter Mixed Medley Short Course World Record title with Dick on November 9, 1996. Jeannie Mitchell swam the back, Sally Newell the breaststroke, John Kortheuer the fly & Dick the free.

Dick passed away November 14, 2011 after a 2 month battle with pancreatic and brain cancer.