

DAWN MUSSELMAN INSPIRATIONAL SWIMMER 1998

The Pacific Northwest Association Local Masters Swimming Committee proudly presents the 1998 Dawn Musselman Inspirational Swimmer Award to **Clark Pace**.

Clark, the Green Lake “Aqua Ducks” and all PNA hereby recognize your dedication to our sport, your swimming skill, and your inspiration to others. Teammate MaryPat Lawlor tells of your early accomplishments in land-based athletics, including a broken back from setting a state pole vaulting record and three weeks in traction after football. Once you finally settled on swimming, your accomplishments included city and state championships in breaststroke, and in your freshman year at UNC you were an All-American Swimmer. Following time away from competition, and after suffering asthma-related respiratory problems, you returned to the water, joining PNA Masters in 1991.

Since then, you and wife Jesse “Chainsaw” Pace have been swimming with GLAD. You have also undergone four back surgeries, three within the last year. Despite all this, you swim religiously with GLAD (in the “testosterone” lane, no less) with utter dedication and unbridled enthusiasm—even at 5 AM. And when there are no GLAD workouts, you create workouts at other pools, find workouts with other Masters swim teams, or put together a lake or Sound swim—and make everyone welcome. In addition to offering “pool hints,” you have encouraged many, many PNA swimmers to “Escape from Alcatraz,” swim with the sharks across San Francisco Bay beneath the Golden Gate Bridge, and swim alongside the I-90 bridge. If there’s water, a workout to be dreamed up, and Clark Pace is breathing, we will find you out there swimming and promoting swimming!

Last year at the USMS Nationals and PNA events, despite being unable to compete due to back surgery, you volunteered as a lead timer every day for both meets. Because of all the timing you have done for PNA when you couldn’t swim, your teammates think that the timing device used in practice should be renamed the “Pace Clark.” You also demonstrate amazing prowess in the post-workout sauna, where you offer more tips—not just limited to swimming but to life, love, and the pursuit of personal bests! The image of swimmers being loners is a fallacy with Clark Pace around. You have refused to let your physical problems—ruptured discs, asthma, chronic pain—lessen your passion for swimming, proving it to be the great recreation it is. This is truly an inspiration to everyone, not just fellow swimmers, and serves as a testimony to the sport of swimming.

For the PNA Board:

Jane Moore, Chair

Lee Carlson, Vice Chair

For the Nominating Committee:

Steve Peterson

Frank Newquist