

WISCONSIN



MASTERS SWIMMING

NEWSLETTER

June • July 2026 — Spring Nationals Edition

FROM THE CHAIR ...

Greetings Fellow Master Swimmers!

The Wisconsin Masters team had quite the outing at USMS Short Course Nationals! The team finished second for Regional teams, behind first place North Carolina who had over 300 swimmers on its team. In addition, there were several national champions. You can read all about the successes of the team elsewhere in this newsletter.

The next event coming up is the **State Long Course Meter** meet at the Walter Schroeder Aquatic Center. The meet will be held on Saturday, June 20. The advantage of long course meters is there aren't as many turns. We're all conditioned for longer swims, but there are also the 50s which are one straight shot down the pool. Relays will also be offered, so look for some state records to break. Relay age groups are based on the addition of the ages of all 4 swimmers, which makes relay composition quite interesting. Will you be the ringer on the relay? Even if you don't get a state record, it's fun to swim with your friends.

Another national meet selection is the **Open Water Nationals at Square Lake near Stillwater, MN**, which is just over the state line near Hudson, WI. It will be a 2-mile swim in a clean lake. Those of us who swam there two years ago experienced a well organized meet in a park setting. A number of Wisconsin swimmers who have already committed to attending the event, so give it some thought and join us. As of this newsletter, the event is sold out.

Another sanctioned open water swim is the **Swim of Legends** in Lake Geneva, WI, hosted by Shark Free

Swimming, on Sunday, August 30. The swim will be 11 km (7 miles) this year, starting and finishing from Big Foot Beach State Park. The course is a clockwise loop at the East end of Geneva Lake starting at 6:15 AM. Wetsuits are not allowed as the water is expected to be around 78°F. Here is the link for registration and information,

<https://runsignup.com/Race/WI/LakeGeneva/SwimOfLegends>.

USMS Long Course Meters Nationals will be held August 5-9, in Sacramento, CA. There are several of us Wisconsin swimmers planning on attending the meet. Registration is open, and information can be found at, <https://www.usms.org/events/national-championships/pool-national-championships/2026-pool-national-championships/2026-summer-national-championship>. Remember, anyone can swim 3 events without any time standards. If there are enough swimmers, we'll comprise some relays, too.

Have a safe summer, and for those of you who are able, enjoy swimming outside!

Mary Schneider
Wisconsin Chair



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Setting Sights on 2028 Nationals

While the locations and dates for the 2028 U.S. Masters Swimming (USMS) Spring and Summer National Championships have not been officially announced, the WISC club is confident that, like 2024, Spring Nationals will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana in concurrence with the announced Olympic Trials at Lucas Oil Stadium.

In the 2024 Nationals at Indy, our WISC club came in second behind Illinois's regional team. However, our 97 swimmers were up against 147 Illinois swimmers. Our point total was 1489 to Illinois's 1579. WISC scored 15.35 points per event to Illinois' 9.08 per event. Had we more swimmers at the meet, we would have crushed the flatlanders. 2028 is our year!

Mark June 2028 on your calendar. Recruit your teammates, children, parents or anyone who can swim at 50 yards in a relay. We can win Nationals again!

New Enduro and Crescendo Meet

Correspondent, Mary Schneider

A mighty band of 27 swimmers attended the Enduro and Crescendo meet at **Vincent High School** on May 17. Some were fresh off of short course nationals, swimming their "off" events, some were continuing their short course season, and some were one event swimmers trying out masters swimming.

The meet was very well run, from the greeting at the door to the school, to the sign in for the distance events, to the flow of the meet. We had continuous warm-up and warm-down lanes in the diving area behind the bulkhead. The officials duo of Susan and Diane kept the meet running smoothly.

Besides the endurance events of the 1650 and 1000, there were fun relays for backstroke, butterfly, and breaststroke. The relays were crescendo, meaning the first swimmer swam a 100, the next one a 75, the third swimmer swam a 50, and the last swimmer swam a 25. I did hear a challenge from one of the butterfly swimmers to join in the fun!

This meet was very well organized from a new meet host, the Milwaukee Rec team. We even had a real announcer creating a little fun. Strongly consider attending this meet next year, as it was fun competition without the pressure of a big meet, or making certain times. Create a team of relay swimmers and throw down the gauntlet against one of the other teams!

Reflections on This Year's Short Course Nationals

Coach Dave Clark

I was honored to be the head coach of WISC. Finishing second was very exciting! Congratulations to all of your hard work and ability to come together as a team was fun to see.

A big congratulations to our national champions. Another major contributor to our success were the deck coaches: Carl Millholland, Martha O'Brien, Jerry Lourigan and Tim Capps helped the team gel and excel. I'm looking forward to an even better team, and of course more fun, next spring April 29-May 2 in Irvine California.

Here is what the coaches had to say about the meet:

Martha: I was honored to be chosen to help coach this year. There were so many swimmers that I got to know better both being on the deck and being in the stands. When focusing on the women's side there were so many swimmers and swims that stood out that I hope to do justice in calling out just a few of the many memories. I loved watching **Martha Kreitzman** and her big sister **Sarah Bolz** swim and cheer each other on. I even got a picture with Martha!

But they weren't the only sisters swimming. **Sarah Perez**, finding her Wisconsin roots again, crushed some relays with sister **Erin Schneider**. Mom, **Mary Schneider**, also had some great swims. I guess it runs in the family. **Nancy Kranpitz** held multiple hats by swimming fast, taking photos and being mom and grandma. Which leads into **Gracie Wallach's** amazing swimming after only giving birth like 5 months ago, if that isn't tough I don't know what is.

Our SWAT family had a stellar showing. They convinced **Micah Sumrall** to join in the craziness and swim at Nationals. Micah won five Championships. After the 200 breaststroke she had a small gathering followed her for photos, but they thankfully let her cool down. It was fun to hear her stories. She seemed just as surprised when she realized she helped the girls 35+ relay consisting of **Liz Brachmann**, Micah, **Jenny Mager**, and myself to a new state record.

The crazies who did the distance doubles (1650 and 1000 Free) and our 200 fliers, and especially those that also did the 400 IM—**Ann Berres-Olivotti**, **Laurie Alioto**, and **Jenny Mager**, I'm looking at you! You're an inspiration.

And then there was **Danielle Christel** battling a 200 fly after having been in the water for only a handful of days all year. They were a tough crew who made me feel like I shouldn't complain about doing Y Nationals only 2 weeks before. That did not appear to phase **Tracy Kellner** at all based on her swims. All of our first time Nationals ladies did fantastic and I hope they had as much fun swimming and talking as I did watching.

Every year brings new memories and fun! The mental support that everyone showed each other (including hanging out near the showers to try and stay warm). The laughs and giggles and playing cards like kids. There were so many moments that I was just so proud of everyone and I can't wait for next year.



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Tim: Inspirational swims: **Micah Sumrall** swimming at nationals was incredible. She is a perfect example of what Coach **Ann Berres-Olivotti** and I try teach our masters swimmers and high school swimmers, swimming is for life. To be able to have her as an example to share with our kids, especially, that someone who has reached the Olympics in swimming and done well can still continue to compete is so inspiring. This is something we will talk to our swimmers about even before the season begins.

We watched 95-year-olds swim in a swim meet and to be able to say a swimmer that made it to the world stage in swimming was a member of the Wisconsin team at Nationals and swam so well, will help us show them what we feel is the number 1 thing we try to teach them. The another inspirational swim were four of **Donnellan Family's** relay on Sunday. I may have had more fun with that relay than they did, and they looked like they were having a blast. It is a shining example of what USMS is about. Passing this on to others, swimming as a team and swimming as a family, what an incredible experience. I love that this relay happened and I would love to see that relay again. For me, this relay and Micah (and so many other swims) make me feel like I'm a part of something that matters. That always puts a smile on my

face when I walk on deck at practice, at a meet, and at Nationals.

Thanks for all you coaches did this weekend. It was fun and I'm tired.



Carl: This was my first year of on-deck coaching, and honestly, I was a bit overwhelmed by all the action, running around with heat sheets on my clipboard looking for the next WISC swimmer's event. Coach Jerry was our biggest on-deck cheerleader, running up to the lane when each swimmer made a turn, Jerry shouting encouragement. While Martha always had a cheerful word to each swimmer after they finished.

Mark Steinhafel had an exceptional meet, winning three events in the 100 and 50 Freestyle, and 100 Butterfly with a second place in the 50 Fly. (Aging up has its advantages!) Mark won his 100 Freestyle race by more than one second over the second-place finisher in his age group. In the 100 Butterfly, Mark was tied at the 50 turnaround and closed the gap to win by an amazing 1.10 seconds. **Darryl Stich** and **Gerald Palmer** also had great meets, placing either second or third in five of six swims. Gerald was the highest points getter for WISC among the Men, swimming six events and five relays. On the Women's side, **Nancy Kranpitz** and **Micah Sumrall** garnered 58 points for the club, but could not best National Champion **Laurie Alioto**, who brought home 60 points for our club. Nancy placed first in her two Fly events, and second in the Free and IM swims. Other National Champions were Linda **Schmidt** (100 Breast), **Sarah Perez** (200 Breast), **Nicholas Cole** (1000 Free), **Scott Richards** (200 Fly). Congratulations to all our great WISC swimmers!



Wisconsin Masters Goes International at Canadian Nationals

Correspondent, Reid Pezewski

A few weeks after USMS Nationals in Greensboro, **Jim Brandon** and I (pictured below) made the trip across Michigan to Windsor, Ontario, for the Canadian Masters Swimming Championships. We saw this as a great opportunity to experience international Masters swimming, represent Wisconsin Masters outside the United States, and enjoy the infrequent opportunity to race short course meters.

Tapering again only a few weeks after Greensboro made the meet an interesting challenge, but it was also part of what made the experience memorable. The atmosphere was welcoming, the competition was strong, and it was fun to see how Canadian Masters swimming compares to what we are used to at USMS meets. Windsor is also a convenient location for a first international Masters meet, close enough to make the trip manageable while still feeling like a special opportunity.

The highlight of the meet for Wisconsin Masters was Jim Brandon's outstanding 200 breaststroke. Jim broke Greg Blommel's Wisconsin record in the 55-59 age group, going under the three-minute barrier. Congratulations, Jim, on a great swim and a well-earned record.

I was also fortunate to have a strong meet, setting six new Wisconsin short course meters records in the 18-24 age group. Since short course meters events are relatively limited for Wisconsin swimmers, it was exciting to take advantage of the format and add to the record book. However, more than anything, the meet was a reminder of how fun Masters swimming can be when taking on new goals and enjoying new places to compete.

Overall, the trip to Windsor was well worth it. Canadian Nationals gave us a chance to race in a different setting, meet swimmers from another Masters community, and bring a little Wisconsin presence to an international meet. Hopefully, this will encourage more Wisconsin Masters swimmers to consider competing outside the usual local and national schedule when opportunities come up.



