

NC State Championships, April 2 and 3, 2011

By Jon Blank

Congratulations to all competitors and volunteers for a very successful 2011 NC Masters Short Course Yards Championships. The Grand Strand Masters found the hospitality at Hillsborough's Triangle SportsPlex particularly welcoming, as the South Carolinians won the meet overall. With the USMS Nationals to be held in Mesa Arizona early next month, many swimmers looked to this meet as a final tune-up prior to that event. Others chose to point to this competition as the capstone of their short course swim season.



The 192 meet competitors, led by seemingly ageless breaststroker John Kortheuer, sped to great times over the April 2-3 weekend. The short distances proved particularly to several competitors' liking. Kortheuer, moving up to the 80-84 age group, dipped under 40 seconds to set a new USMS national standard in the 50 yard breaststroke. Erika Braun and Michael Kraye successfully defended their claim to "fastest in the water", notching repeat overall victories in their respective 50 yard freestyle events. Todd Torres, a 1988 Olympian, blazed to a 26.41 time in the 50 yard breaststroke (men's 40-44 age group). Other noteworthy swims included Nicole Silvernail, a strong triathlete, who bettered her time from last year's 1650 freestyle by over a minute!



Several competitors took time to offer thanks to the fine volunteer staff, each of whom did their best to ensure a well-run competitive meet. Next year's NC Masters Short Course Yards Championships will be held at the brand-new Greensboro Coliseum aquatics center, as a prelude to the 2012 USMS Nationals at that same fast facility. On behalf of the meet organizers, we look forward to seeing you next year for the NC SCY Championships!