

## Asheville's 2012 Steve Barden Swim Meet: A Great Success!

By Nancy Casey

A beautiful late-summer day in the North Carolina mountains provided a fantastic setting for the 7th Annual Steve Barden Memorial Swim Meet. "The Asheville Masters Swimming program is proud to host this event," said AMS coach Andrew Pulsifer. The meet was held on Sept. 15 and featured both pool and open water events. "Attendance for the meet was up over the past four years and people really seemed to be having a nice time," Pulsifer said.



The morning's events, held at the Asheville School pool, ran smoothly and quickly despite the usual hiccups with the timing systems. After a short break, swimmers headed over to Biltmore Lake and were treated to gorgeous mountain views, crisp blue skies, and sunny warmth reaching the low 80s.



Lake water conditions were ideal for many swimmers, with a calm surface and a temperature of about 79F. Some participants said they liked having the open water events (1600m, 800m, and 225m distances) in the afternoon due to the warmer temperatures, rather than in the morning (as done in previous years). After the final event, many swimmers, friends and family members, sat back lake-side to enjoy a post-meet picnic BBQ.

"It is not possible to run this meet without the awesome efforts of the [AMS] board, Jeff

Owen, Ruth Battle, Anne Sherry, Tom

Sherry and Jen Baker. Team Schmidt (Kitty and Joe) did a fine job of managing the timing system and entries, and along with Colleen Gillan, officiating at both venues," Pulsifer said. "We also extend our thanks to all the volunteers who served as safety boaters and lifeguards from Warren Wilson College, and the timers who helped to make this event a success."

AMS hosts this annual meet in honor of Steve Barden who passed away in 2005. Steve was a faithful swimmer and beloved teammate who continues to be missed. This year's meet was a one-day event, instead of a two day meet as in past years. The plan for next year, according to Pulsifer, is to stick with the one-day format, to return the 400 IM to the line-up, and to hold it on the same weekend (actual date TBD soon). With 61 pool and 40 open water entries (Matt Willis from Cape Fear Aquatics in Wilmington traveled the farthest), this meet continues to be a lot of fun. We hope more folks will consider joining us next year!