

DID YOU KNOW

By Jerry Clak

Did you know our LMSC Swimmers of the Year are decided?

For pool meets, we go to www.usms.org click on the Events & Results red tab, scroll down to Top 10 to View Top Ten Listing, then scroll to LMSC Top Ten Summary for All Years, then scroll to North Carolina and look at the 2013 LCM and SCY boxes, each of which has a number in it (which shows how many Top Ten times were attained by our NC swimmers), then click on a box to see the Top Ten place, the names, genders, age groups and swim times. For SCM Top Ten information (which isn't available until the SCM season ends), we look at the preceding year SCM Top Ten information.

The grading system is both objective and simple: If someone is first in a category, he/she is awarded 10 points. A second place finish is awarded 9 points; a third gets 8 points....on down to a tenth place in a category is awarded 1 point. We add up all the points someone gets from all three courses, and the man and woman with the most points becomes the LMSC Swimmer of the Year in his/her gender.

For Open Water & Long Distance events, we award similar points for those swimmers. We go to www.usms.org and click the same Events & Results red tab and look under Open Water & Postals and click on National Championship, then scroll to Championship Information and click on 2013 Championships and see the list of all the 2013 OW championship events. Start with the first one and click on Individual Results and the next page will show all the entrants, their places of finish, etc. Look under the column labeled CLUB ABBR and look for NCMS in the column, and if we see our abbreviation, we find that person's time and place of finish. If the place of finish was in the first 10 in his/her age group, that person is awarded the appropriate points according to the point count the Long Distance Committee uses. This has to be done in all the OW Championship events to make sure any and all NCMS swimmers get the points they deserve. There were six such events in 2013.

Then we keep scrolling below the Open Water Championship Events and come to the 2013 National Postal Championships, of which there are five: One Hour, 5K, 10K, 3,000 yards and 6,000 yards. As before, appropriate points are awarded for NCMS swimmers who finish in the Top Ten in any of those events.

Awards are presented at the annual Sunbelt Meet in Charlotte, which is traditionally held on the last weekend each January.