

2013 YMCA Masters National Championships

April 11-14

*In this picture
bottom left to right:
Rob Bolduc, Andy
Martin, Grant
Johnston, Pam
Fortney.*

*Top left to right: Kelly
Onesti, Erin Bolduc,
Jamie Miller, Hans van
Meeteren, Greta van
Meeteren, Craig
Anderson, Steve
Kelley, Jan Mosca,
Jenny Hall.*



The 2013 YMCA Masters National Championships were held at the Fort Lauderdale Swimming Hall of Fame for the final time in the "old" pool. Construction on a brand new, state-of-the-art facility will commence in January of 2014. For those of us who have attended this particular - wonderful - swim meet multiple times this is tinged with a little sadness, but also a good feeling knowing that we **WILL** be back there.



The plan is for "Y-Nats" to be held in Florida again in 2014, and an announcement was made that this would be in an outdoor facility again, which all of us really enjoy after experiencing the winter blahs.

Words from several swimmers who attended this spectacular swimming event are needed to describe it. This was the first time we had 13 Masters swimmers from North Carolina in

attendance. There was the younger group from YOTA Masters in Raleigh, the somewhat more "mature" group from New Bern and the lone swimmer (Jamie) from Greensboro.

Jan Elisa Mosca: The National Master's Event in Fort Lauderdale was my first YMCA Swimming Event. As expected, the competitors represented a range of ability, and as expected, I enjoyed the camaraderie of all the swimmers and appreciated the lovely Hall of Fame Fort Lauderdale venue. What I did not expect was the dedication and genuine interest and concern displayed by the officials, timers, scorers and announcers. A four-day athletic event can be tiresome and challenging. Their smiles and seemingly effortless work ethic made the meet as fun for the swimmers in heat number one as for the swimmers in heat number twenty-one. Special kudos for all the workers and volunteers!



Andy Miller: For me this is the 3rd time in 4 years attending Y Nationals in Ft Lauderdale, but it was also the most fun, with 13 present from NC and the first time there was a team there to cheer each other on. I look forward to the continuing growth of participants and NC making a statement in the future.

Jenny Hall: This was my first meet in seven years and I only recently joined the Master's team here in Raleigh about a year ago.

Needless to say I could not believe how much fun the meet was! I was pleasantly surprised with my swims but could not believe the support and enthusiasm there was within my team. Whether we were warming up, warming down or in between events I think everyone one of us cheered on each teammate for every event. I always enjoy a good relay and was excited to be able to swim on the 200 free relay with some great new friends.



Steve Kelley: I'd thought about going to the Nationals before but always came up with "reasons" not to. Same thing this year. Not in good enough condition, still recovering from body repairs. Then I realized you don't get unlimited opportunities, so I might as well go for it. Although most of my swims were not in the fast heat I found plenty of encouragement and always smiling faces at the end of each race. I saw the young bodies and thought of days gone by. I saw the old bodies and found inspiration in their determination. I shared great meals with my teammates and enjoyed the beach and weather. Watching some of the better swimmers also helped me become more aware of technique improvements I need to work on. It was a great experience for a first timer.

Erin Bolduc (*swimming 100 fly in this picture*): I've only been back in the pool seriously swimming for 18 months, and this meet was exactly what I needed, a low pressure, fun, outdoor meet! While I didn't have a great meet time wise, I made so many memories and had a lot of fun! The swim meet reunited me with one of my former coaches, and I made new friendships that I hope will last a lifetime! It is a meet that I plan to do my best to return to every year, and I'm hoping to convince more of my team mates to join us each year!



Craig Anderson: This was my fourth consecutive Y Masters Nationals Championships. It will likely be my last for a few years as well because my wife and I are leaving soon for full-time mission service. Thus, a new set of emotions swept over me at this year's meet. It was my last competition for awhile; it was the last time to swim in this pool; it was the last meet with many of my teammates. I'm so glad that all of these "lasts" occurred at the Y Masters Nationals in Ft Lauderdale. Unquestionably, this particular meet has been the high point each year for me as a swimmer. That's because so many wonderful things are woven together in a swimming sense.....I always have my best times of the year here.....this venue is so unique

because it is the Hall Of Fame complex, it is outdoors, everything is within walking distance, and the beach and ocean are across the street.....the mix of swimmers includes young to old, fast to slow, famous to not famous at all! Additionally, the atmosphere and design of the meet is relaxed, fun, encouraging, and friendly. No other meet that I have participated in can claim all of these elements as well as the YMCA Masters National Championships can. I look forward to returning as soon as possible, and experiencing all of this again in the new facility. Thanks, YMCA!

Hans van Meeteren: YMCA Nationals in Ft. Lauderdale, can it get any better? Great outdoor pool, Florida spring weather, white sandy beaches in front of the pool, and nice restaurants all over the place. This attracts swimmers of all ages and abilities. In almost all events there was a mix of very fast, fast and not-so-fast swimmers. Considering swimmers' comments everyone had fun. Maybe because of swimming better than expected, swimming a record, or just watching great swims.



At this year's meet 41 individual and 17 relay YMCA records were set. The top record setter were: for the women - Betty Lorenzi with nine out of nine, and for the men, Burwell (Bumpy) Jones with five out of five. Some of these swims were USMS records as well. In addition, there were many high quality, very tight races that got many swimmers exited.

Greta van Meeteren: Ditto for just about all of the above: I consider myself very fortunate to be able to swim in this event which is my favorite event of the year. Hans and I have attended this meet for 8 consecutive years and I would be very disappointed if I'd have to miss it! This was the first year we had 6 swimmers from our team present, and we were able to swim relays - the icing on the cake! I had some good swims and some mediocre swims - it is after all a 4-day meet. I have met so many wonderful friends here and these friendships endure, a great gift.

