

## YMCA Masters National Championships, the *other* national championships.

*By Greta van Meeteren and Cathy Sheafor*

I call these the "other" National Championships, because they are unique. For years these championships were held in Fort Lauderdale in the International Swimming Hall of Fame pool, which is slated to be completely renovated.



Because most of the swimmers at this particular event live in colder climes, it is a great thing that the YMCA took into account the swimmers' wish to keep this meet in an outdoor Florida facility. And so this year the meet was held in the Sarasota Potter

Park YMCA, home of the Sarasota Sharks. The pool is jokingly named the "Shark Tank."

It is a 50M pool, which was divided into two 8-lane courses, with a 25M X 25YD pool which had 10 lanes for warm-up / warm-down. Plenty of covered bleacher space to keep swimmers out of the sun – which warmed up things after an initial cool spell, and a lovely water temp of about 78°F.



There were about 15 NC swimmers present, and it is our hope that more will join the fun next year.

In this picture left to right: Jan Mosca, Craig Anderson, Hans and Greta van Meeteren, Steve Kelley and Jamie Miller.

Sailfish Aquatics Masters team swims at the Y in Concord, NC just north of Charlotte. We partner with the YMCA but have never participated in YMCA meets until this year when we sent two swimmers to YMCA Masters Nationals in Sarasota.

The meet was fun and efficient and the weather was beautiful. It was great to meet and socialize with some of our fellow North Carolinians, all of whom did well in the meet! Our small team of 2 swimmers walked away with 8 top 3 finishes, but the medals weren't what made the meet. We will return next year to reunite with some wonderful people -- we just can't pass up the opportunity to watch several hundred adults, including some Maryland swimmers in their 90s, dance to the beat of YMCA by the Village People. We hope to see you there!



Pictured above: Doug Sheafor and his 3<sup>rd</sup> place medal.

To the left: (l.t.r.) Brendon and Elizabeth Lindsey, Cathy and Doug Shaefor.

Cathy is the coach of Sailfish Aquatics Masters.