

To Accomplish Great Things, One Must Not Only Dream, But Act

by Margie Hutinger

Thirty years ago, Barry Fassbender, STAN, was a youngster of 39, and entered the very first USMS One Hour Postal Meet. Every January since then, Fassbender, now 69, has consistently kept this popular annual event in his routine.

Although the 2,080 entries weren't a record number, these swimmers accepted the annual January challenge and swam an incredible 7,716,017 yds. International entries traveled across the Pacific Ocean, all the way from Australia and Japan.

Swimming for an hour clearly is an event for dreamers. Five swimmers achieved their ultimate goal of breaking a National record, by acting upon their dreams.

Laura B Val	55	TAM	4,940 yds
Robert J Margalis	24	SPM	6,135 yds
Jim Mc Conica	56	VCM	5,440 yds
James T McCleery	61	PNA	4,970 yds
Graham M Johnston	75	MOST	4,125 yds

Six teams expanded the relay limits.

55+ Women - DCM - 12,010 yds

Svenson, 61 - Haines, 59 - Lytle, 58

55+ Men - VCM - 14,625 yds

Mc Conica, 56 - Kerns, 57 - Raffaelli, 63

18+ Mixed - SPM - 21,115 yds

Margalis, 24 - Bradley, 23 - Petersen, 42 - Reich, 31

55+ Mixed - PNA - 17,855

Dillon, 60; Belserene, 55; Bell, 56; McCleery, 61

75+ Mixed - PNA - 12,155

Kavadas, 75; Phillips, 79; Prosser, 78; Taylor, 76

75+ Mixed - FMM - 11,760 (2nd pl)

Troy, 79; Olsen, 80; Schlegel, 76; Pitts, 76

Robert Margalis, 24, SPM, broke the all-time distance swum record, by holding his 100 pace under 1 minute, for one entire hour - 6,135 yds! Laurie Dodd, 34, UCLA, was the overall champion on the women's side, with her outstanding swim of 5,380 yds.

EXTRA LARGE team winners:

1st - New England Masters

2nd - YMCA Indy Swim Fit

3rd - UCLA Bruin Masters, CA

LARGE team winners:

1st - Masters of South Texas

2nd - Menlo Masters aka Team Sheeper, CA

3rd - Pacific Northwest Aquatics, WA

MEDIUM team winners:

1st - Colorado Masters Swimming

2nd - Long Beach Grunions, CA

3rd - Henderson Southern Nevada

SMALL team winners:

1st - Ventura County Masters, CA

2nd - DC Masters

3rd - Arkansas Masters

Winning isn't always about swimming the farthest, but your own definition of triumph. Edna Gordon, 80, FACT, expressed her sentiments, which echoed the thoughts of many of this years' swimmers, "Do the best you can, with whatever you have."

After the November/December issue of USMS SWIMMER appeared in mailboxes throughout the country, we had many contacts from coaches and swimmers. After seeing it for the first time, they wondered, "This sounds like fun, how do we do this?" and "What can we do to get our team involved?" They were creative and persistent in seeking ways for their own triumphs.

The first entry arrived on January 4th, from Patricia Bond, FMM. She swam early, so she and her husband could head out on a canoe trip.

Bernice Phillips, PNA, 79, started competing at age 76. After her husband died, she felt lost, until a friend told her, "Why don't you put on your bathing suit?" Jill Coleman, 76, MARY, is grateful to Masters swimming, "At my age, I can swim faster than I can walk!" John Shrum, VMST, 58, had a broken arm and rotator cuff surgery, and didn't swim for 18 months. He wasn't sure he could even swim for an hour. James Fetter, 22, 3285 yds and Ashley Nashleanas, 20, 3200 yds, IAMP, totally blind since birth, have never seen the black line on the bottom of the pool. Susan Ingraham, 47, MOST, had a notable swim of 4180 yds, 10 weeks after Radical Hysterectomy/Appendix removal from Cervical Cancer.

Heidi Boodt, 37, LVM, swam 3500 yds while 25 weeks pregnant and Kris Jackson, 36, MOST, swam 2820 yds while 7 months pregnant. Elizabeth Nil- sen, 38, CRUZ, completed this trio of pregnant ladies, and swam 3490 yds at 8 1/2 months, while carrying a double load--twins. Togetherness also carried over with Rob and Sarah Awe, a couple from ISF. They swam at the same time, but not in adjacent lines. Amazingly, they swam stroke for stroke for the entire hour, finishing at the same distance, 4110. An unusual family connection came from Paul, my husband. Ross Bogue, 50, IM, included a note on his entry that he and Paul's son, Scott, swam together in high school at Macomb, IL.

There was a close race between two women in the 75-79 age group. Lisa Bogatko lives in Sun City, AZ, while Jean Troy lives across the country, in Sun City Center, FL. Lisa out swam Jean by a mere 5 yards.

Swimmers commented on successful journeys with pace, and many included goal pace charts. Jim Barber, 47, ISF, held his pace of 1:12 intervals for his 100's, for 5,000 yds. Teammate, Tom Perrin, 56, had a 1:15 pace, for 4800 yds. Newcomer teammate, Elizabeth Mink, 40, also achieved her goal of 50's @ 2:00 for 1500 yds. Far away in New Hampshire, at the Granite State Penguins workout, Tracy Grilli, NEM, won the Steady Penguin Award, for having the smallest average standard deviation, 0.4701, between splits, for 4520 yds. Emilo Sovero, DSSM, included a very creative graph to demonstrate his pace throughout his swim. Different destinations; successful journeys for all.

Just how long is an hour? I'm sure many of you thought it would never end. Geoffrey Comstock, MOST, 44, stopped at one hour to ask, "How much longer?" Priscilla Bergethon, 84, CONN, has been consistent for 24 years of hour swims. Swimming for only an hour, 3600 yds, was a mere pittance for Tom Hetzel, MOST, 71, who has seven English channel swims in his resume. Marsha Brunett, ISF, wasn't content to swim it only once, as she aged up in January. As a 44 year old, she swam 2825 yds, and with more experience under her swim cap six days later, as a 45 year old, extended her distance to 2970 yards.

Every group has its role models, and the One Hour Postal is no different. Hilda Buel, 92, OREG, was the oldest woman entry, and swam 1,180 yds. Margie Hut-inger counted for Frank Tillotson, FMM, 92. He wants you to think that I forced him to swim it. Don't you believe it! I did encourage him, and tell him that as a 92 yr old, he is a role model for Masters swimmers every where, and they would appreciate the energy and effort he put into his swim. He initially told me to tell him when he reached 300 yds. I did. He kept swimming, taking breaks to chat, When I told him he could stop, his total yardage was 1325. He couldn't believe it. With tears in his eyes and a hug for his counter, he said, "I couldn't have done it without your help."

**What you accomplished, was a result of first
deciding to swim for an hour, then, getting in the
pool and doing it, your way. Winning isn't
always about swimming the farthest,
but your own definition of triumph.**

Dream on.....

MAVERICKS REVIEW-----

When we submitted our bid to host the 2007 One Hour Postal, we knew what we were getting into, since we hosted the 2002 OHP. We were crazy enough to give it another shot. This time, I discovered the miracle of having a magnifying glass by my computer to unravel the mysteries of handwriting.

Numerous clubs took the deadline seriously. The last three days, we must have received 500 entries a day, and the mail men wondered what this "postal" thing was. Me, too. On deadline day, I could have sworn there were at least 5000 entries waiting to be verified and entered.

I couldn't have accomplished this monumental task without the continual and unwavering support from the Mavericks and friends. No matter how trivial your contribution may have seemed to you, it was important to me, as it was one less item on my list.

Paul Hutinger - husband, assistant, entry organizer, yardage checker, "They don't really expect me to believe they swam 25 (or 50) yds on a pushoff, do they?" and "It says to round down, not up."

Chuck Hutinger - son and computer support. He created my iMac data entry program and was my life saver whenever I bugged him with, "How in the world do I do.....?"

Pat Tullman - organizer of the massive t-shirt folding and mailing missions.

James Donnelly - logo designed, t-shirts and certificates.

Karen & Rod Swanigan, Marianne Vann, Bob Williams, June Reynolds, Doris Prokopi - opened envelopes and organized them for the yardage checker

Carole Dirksmeyer-Nichols & Greg Rotole - devoted several Sunday afternoons (after swimming, of course) to the major task of alphabetizing ten notebooks, with 2080 entries. Yes, I can find your entry.

Pat & Jim Browne, Jean Troy - alphabetizing, counting and delivering medals for packing

Frank Tillotson - check stamper

Jean Allen - money lady who accounted for daily totals

Homans & Allen - picked up t-shirts from the print shop

Sue and Janet Moucha, Harry & Peggy Homans, Jean Allen, Tullman - folded t-shirts

J Moucha, Tullman, M & P Hutinger, Allen, Homans', Brownes, Troy, Vann, Pat Bond - stuffing envelopes.

James Christie - Web architect

Marcia Cleveland - Long Distance Chair who kept me on track for meeting deadlines and reviewing entry and results. (She even went a step further, with her offer after all our work is finished, "If you want a "different" type of vacation, come to Chicago! I'm looking out onto our snow-covered back yard, with more of the white stuff expected this week. I can always use a hand shoveling." I thanked her and said I preferred Hawaii.)

Tracy Leach - Hasty Awards

Esther Lyman - National Registrar who kept me current with data for the registered swimmers, and let me know who wasn't on her list.

John Sampedro - LMT, whose magic fingers massaged away all the achy muscles

Bill Volckening - printed the entry in USMS SWIMMER Magazine.

Every time I felt bogged down by the lack of sleep and the overwhelming, and sometimes, unending stacks of entries waiting in line, I would get another note thanking us for our efforts to provide such a wonderful event.

I apologize for any oversights, they certainly weren't intentional. Let me know if there is anything I need to correct.

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Results posted at:

www.maverickswim.org

www.usms.org/longdist