

## **A Letter from the Chair**

Happy Spring! I hope you and your family have experienced/survived a wonderful winter and peaceful holiday season. As the weather is warming up so is my excitement for the upcoming Masters Diving schedule for 2013.

As I watched the TV show Splash (you can watch on [www.abc.com](http://www.abc.com)), it brings back GREAT memories from summer nationals 2012 at Riverside, CA. The show takes place at the same pool we competed in and it is amazing how they have transformed the outdoor pool into an indoor television set. My hope is to somehow get Masters Diving some attention on the show. Still trying to figure out how, please contact me with any suggestions.

Anyways

A few things I wanted to touch base about as we enter 2013...

### **SIGN-UP!**

**May 2-5, 2013**

#### **Spring National Championships**

##### **Colorado Springs, CO - Air Force Academy**

This is going to be an amazing meet at one of the prettiest locations in the country. The first time in Masters Diving history that we will be having a National Championship meet in the great state of Colorado! The Air Force Academy pool has been recently refurbished, and I have heard nothing but great things about it. This was the location for the 2013 NCAA Zone E Championships, and it is one of two indoor pools on the western part of the United States that is a FINA compliant indoor pool. Our host hotel is the Marriott in Colorado Springs, which is giving us a wonderful rate of \$99/night with breakfast included. In addition to enjoying the facilities and the Academy itself, there are countless activities for you to enjoy in or near Colorado Springs. The USA Olympic Training center, Garden of the Gods, Manitou Springs...I will do my best to make sure our meet is run efficiently so we can maximize every minute of our time in Colorado! Have I mentioned skiing on Monday?

**JUNE 6-8, 2013**

#### **PAN AMERICAN MASTERS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

##### **Largo, Florida**

On January 11<sup>th</sup> of 2013 I found out about the Pan American Masters Aquatic Championships taking place for the first time in the United States. I contacted Mel Goldstein, the Chairman UANA Masters Technical Committee and asked if diving could be part of the championships. Mel said the swimming events are taking place in Sarasota, FL. and there is no diving facility to host diving so they decided not to have diving. I convinced Mel to give me a week to come up with a Diving Option for the Championships. I called Tony Perriello in Tampa and asked for his guidance on where we could host the diving events. I found out that Water Polo is taking place at the end of June in Orlando, FL. This allowed me to understand that I was not limited to having the event in Sarasota, FL. Called the City of Largo, Florida to see if they were interested in the hosting the Championships. Largo said yes and the meet information is now offered in three

languages. Medals will be the official medals for the championships. FINA rules apply for the event. There is a Masters athlete social on June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Ringling Museum. Food and refreshments will be provided at a cost of \$25/person. The UNAN Committee is making it a requirement that in the future, hosts sites must have the ability to offer venues for the 5 disciplines of Masters Aquatics (Swim, Dive, Water Polo, Synchro Swim, Open Water). This will be a biennial event. There was diving in 2011, but very little information was provided to USA Diving. I will make sure that we have a strong relationship with UNAN moving forward.

**August 22-25**

**Summer National Championships**

**Ann Arbor, MI - University of Michigan**

We are going to the “BIG HOUSE”, or at least, right next to it! The Kimball Diving Well at the University of Michigan is the model on which many new pools in the country are based. There is dark tile on the bottom of the pool, making it a great place to dive, and this championship meet an event not to be missed. Especially for former Kimball Divers - you won't want to miss a chance to re-live all the wonderful (and painful) memories at the Canham Natatorium! I have talked to Dick Kimball and will be trying to get him out of retirement to compete in the event, so all you divers who competed against Kimball in the past, get ready for another shot to compete with a legendary diver and coach.

Ann Arbor is the quintessential college town, and a hotel arrangement will be finalized soon.

Looking ahead to 2014, sites of San Antonio, Texas in May and Stanford (tentative) in August are looking good for our Nationals Championships. 2014 is also FINA Worlds in Montreal, Canada. I am still looking into exotic locations for 2015.

As diving is getting more exposure on Prime Time TV, this gives all masters divers the opportunity to share the diving stories with those around them. We all love the sport of Competitive Diving and believe it gives us all an excitement that very few can understand. Overcoming fear and fulfilling goals is one aspect of why we do what we do, but the fellowship and fraternal aspect of who we are as a group is what keeps bringing us back. May we always find a way to take the “Leap” and make it to one of the National diving meets every year. 2013 memories begin in Colorado! I hope to see you “On the Boards”!

Respectfully,  
Ron “Krash” Kontura

*“Make new friends! (and keep the old ones, of course!)”*