

6/12/2016

## Letter from the Chair

Orlando was an EPIC meet with one of the craziest Saturday night socials we have ever had! From the dance floor cage and pole (yes it was as it sounds and if you haven't seen the pictures I encourage you to check some of them out!) to the FOAM BATH – thank you Ed for pushing me into the bubbles! It exceeded expectations!

OLYMPIC TRIALS!!!! Masters Divers competing at our 2016 Olympic Trials include Troy Dumais and Gabby Han.

Troy is trying to make history by making his 5<sup>th</sup> Olympic Team. We all know the story, and will be cheering him on.

Competing in Orlando, Gabby was still unaware if her performance at the last chance meet in San Antonio was going to be enough for the committee to invite her to the Trials. Shortly after Spring Nationals, the email came and Gabby accepted the invitation to compete at the 2016 USA OLYMPIC DIVING TRIALS! A DREAM COME TRUE!!!!

Gabby has an empowering story of not giving up on her dream. Many people were encouraging Gabby to hang up her suit, but she refused, trained, was encouraged and now has achieved her dream at 27! The next chapter begins for Gabby, a NEW DREAM – RIO! Gabby has set up a go fund me page to help defray the costs for the journey. I encourage everyone in Masters Diving to support one of our own who has earned the opportunity to compete at the highest level. I am excited to cheer her on in Indianapolis. Gabby started diving in HS with Masters Diver Bonnie Wallace in Kalamazoo, Michigan. For more information and to help support the journey go to: <https://www.gofundme.com/gabbyolympictrials>

Gabby has also committed to giving back to Masters Diving by donating all the support that is left over after expenses back to USA Masters Diving. As of this letter she is 30% towards her goal. I want to encourage everyone who has the time and ability to give to do so with words of encouragement and financially.

SUMMER NATIONALS – GREENSBORO, NC is 50 days out and we already have a strong turnout for the meet. It is not too late to get signed up for our Summer Nationals, but it is different way to sign up for this event.

We are one of many sports that are a part of the USA Masters Games. It will be the USA Masters Diving Summer Nationals with medals that will be reflecting such. Registration will be as follows;

Go to: <http://www.usamastersgames.com/>

Sign up FIRST as an athlete and then REGISTER for DIVING. There are two charges that total \$125 or less (\$105?)

We are adding two events to our Greensboro meet and more info....

1. GOLF OUTING on Wednesday, tee time around 2pm. Fly/Drive in early and play. More details to follow. Email me at [ronkontura@gmail.com](mailto:ronkontura@gmail.com) if you are interested in playing. Hoping for 3 foursomes at one of North Carolina's finest golf course. Details to follow.
2. COMEDY DIVING EVENT – ITS BACK! After the GM events on Saturday. Contest consists of 2 comedy/clown dives and is judged. Winner will get a PIE in the Face☺ those interested are encouraged to sign up on deck. For those who were in Hawaii, NO BLIND FOLDS!
3. Nightly Entertainment will take place each night in the pool parking lot/athlete village. Beer Garden and more...
4. Closing ceremonies Sunday Night at 7:30pm at the amphitheater at the pool parking lot.

Many of you are wondering how we enter our dives for the meet. Divemeets will have the meet online for everyone entered to put in there dives. All divers competing in the meet will be notified on how to enter their dives.

The general meeting in Greensboro will take place on Thursday Night at the Marriott Downtown. This is an election year and my two term limit has arrived ☺☹ Those interested in running for a position with USA Masters Diving are encouraged to contact Ed Richmond. Ed is taking over for Bob Savoy as our election chair. We are also going to change the title/job description for some of the positions. We will be voting of these changes at the General Meeting.

On a sad note, we lost one of our biggest fans last month. Al Maas has passed away at 93 years of age. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Ryan and Miranda Maas and their family. We also send out our thoughts and prayers to Bob Sherman and his family on the loss of a son in a car accident two days before the Orlando Spring Nationals.

Upcoming Schedule:

2016

June 18-26	USA Diving Olympic Trials – Indianapolis, IN
July 28-30	USA Masters Diving Summer Nationals – Greensboro, NC
August 8-21	2016 Olympic Games – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
September 18-25	USA Diving Convention – Atlanta, GA

(Tentative-voting ends 6/21) = Mary Bennett being inducted into the International Swimming Hall of Fame)

2017

May 5-7	USA Masters Diving Spring Nationals - looking at Washington DC
July 30 – August ?	FINA World Masters Championships – Budapest, Hungry
August TBD	USA Masters Diving Summer Nationals – Riverside, CA
September 10-17	USA Diving Convention – Dallas, TX

2018

May	USA Masters Diving Spring Nationals – (looking at Texas for site, Pools being considered SMU and Houston)
June (?)	UANA Pan American Masters Championships – TBD (Orlando?)
August	USA Masters Diving Summer Nationals – Indianapolis, IN
September 23-30	USA Diving Convention – Jacksonville, FL

Let's Live! Let's DIVE!

Ron Kontura