

A Letter from the Chair

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family have experienced a wonderful Fall and peaceful holiday season. I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve as the chair of Masters Diving for 2013-2014, hoping to give much back to this organization that has given so much to me in the last twenty years. A few things I wanted to touch base about as we enter 2013...

Mark your calendars!

May 2-5

Spring National Championships

Colorado Springs, CO - Air Force Academy

This is 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 location is the site for the 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?!

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! 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 looking into exotic locations for 2015 – can someone say Mississippi? And of course, if Puerto Rico becomes the 51st state, we will be enjoying a meet there as soon as possible!

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

In my time of competing in masters diving, I've come to greatly enjoy the camaraderie of fellow divers from every age group, several different places around our country and world, and many different walks of life. As it likely is for many of you, weekends spent at our national championships have been filled with memories that bring laughter and joy for several weeks and months following. As we look to a new year of diving, let's be sure we are inviting others to share in the joy of this unique group. If there is a diver you know not yet connected to Masters Diving, invite them to join us in May or August, or to any other regional event in your area. Our sport is sure to benefit from new faces, and what diver doesn't benefit from a live performance of "Ripatore"?

I'm grateful to be working alongside Mary Bennett (Secretary) and Eric Bomberger (Rules Chair), knowing that they each bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our organization. Please feel free to contact any of us with any questions or concerns you may have regarding upcoming events or organization business. Have a safe and happy new year, and I look forward to seeing you on the boards in Colorado!

Respectfully,
Ron Kontura