

2020 was essentially a loss year for USMS and SMS Championship Meets as none were held due to

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SMS Championships May,2021

Yes, it is official. The SCY Championships will be held the weekend of May 1-2 at the Pelican Athletic Club in Mandeville. The SMS Board and members are greatly indebted to Charlie Hoolihan and Don Carroum, the meet directors, to whom you can mail your entries to when you receive the email invitation from the SMS registrar. The cost is $25 per day. Include a copy of your USMS card.

The meet includes all the normal 50s, 100s, and 200s plus a 400 IM, 500 free, 1650 free, and the 200 and the 400-yard relays. Swimmers can swim in six individual events and two relays each day. The meet is sanctioned by the USMS so times will qualify for Top Ten and SMS records. SMS place ribbons will be awarded and a special award for the four SMS Top Ten winners in 2020. A light lunch on Sunday during which the SMS will have their annual meeting and elect four officers. All SMS members are invited. Current COVID protocols will be followed so bring your mask. The times will be emailed to participants. Thank you for helping to time when you are not swimming.

For other exciting master swim events in the SMS area see the SMS Swim Schedule or for more selection go to events USMS.org. Several from Riptide Masters plan to attend the DeLuna Open Water Swim, a timed .6, 1.2, or 2.4 mile swim in the calm protected Santa Rosa Sound, on Pensacola Beach (pensacolasports.org) on Saturday April 24, 2021. This Open Water swim is reasonably priced. You will want to be there Friday for the party and very early start time Saturday morning so you can still spend most of the weekend with the family. Registration will not be open until May for the USMS Short course Nationals on July 21-25, 2021 at Greensboro, North Carolina.

You can swim FREE from March 1-21 in your own pool in the Jackson Ms e-Postal (teamunify.com). Just have your coach, spouse, or another swimmer time any event(s) you want to and send in the times! Many teams are doing this to prepare for the SMS swim meet.

2021 SMS Swim Schedule

DeLuna’s Open Water Swim Pensacola Beach Apr 23 & 24, 2921

3000 & 6000 yard e-Postal any 25 yd pool Mar 15- Aug 15,2021

SMS SCY Championships PAC Mandeville May 1 & 2, 2021

USMS SCY Nationals Greensboro NC July 21-25, 2021

La. Senior Games (LSOG) LSOG in N. O. May- November 2021

2020 USA Master Games Grand Rapids Mi June 24-27, 2021

SMS LCM Championships TBD TBD

Pelican Athletic Club 25-yard pool Last weekend in Sept.

5k & 10k e-Postal 50m pool Sept 15–Nov15, 2021

USMS LCM Nationals Geneva Ohio October 6-10, 2021

Huntsman World Senior Games St. George Utah October 4-10, 2021

2022 National Senior Games Ft. Lauderdale Fl. May 10-24,2022

Mia Erickson Stevens’ Goodbye Message

Thank you for allowing me to be on the Southern Masters Swimming board.  Our family will be making a move to the Tampa area in March so I will be leaving this LMSC.   I was honored to serve as a Long Distance, Open Water Chair and Adult Learn to Swim chair for the past 5 years and coach the Gulf Coast Multi-Sport team for the last 12 years.  I have fond memories of seeing everyone swim at the OSPREY swim in Ocean Springs, swimming across Bay St. Louis and participating in the many triathlons in our area.  The SMS swim meets were also high lights and always allowed us to catch up with friends from across the LMSC.

You will be left in good hands with Shawn Nowak who will be my replacement on the board.  He has some great ideas and is interested in bringing back swim across Lake Pontchartrain from Slidell.  Shawn grew up swimming in this area and is motivated to promote USMS and SMS in our region.

Editor’s note: Mia will certainly be missed by her team members, Southern Master Swimmers, the OSOREY and Bay St. Louis open water events. I will never forget her pride and excitement when her new Gulf Coast Multi-Sport’s team won first place in the SCM Championships defeating powerhouse teams like Crawfish Masters and Elmwood Sharks. She attended some USMS National Conventions and represented us on the USMS Open Water Swim Committee. She also kept us informed on Facebook as she recovered from her bike accident and about her families’ trips with pictures to several local state and national nature areas during the COVID months.

Swim Across Lake Pontchartrain?

Sound crazy? Well, maybe not as crazy as it sounds. It has been done and even recently. Ashley Tappin-Doussan and three other Team USA members who took turns swimming 24 miles across Lake Pontchartrain in ten hours on November 15, 2020. They swam from the north shore to the south shore in changing sea conditions from calm to 15 mph winds at a good pace of 2.4 miles per hour. We all remember Ashley Tappin who won three gold medals on relays in the 1992 and the 1996 Olympics. The other three on the relay team were local male triathletes. Ashley grew up in Metairie and now is raising a family in Covington.

The first solo swim across was claimed by Mathew Mosley who swam the 25 miles at age 47 as a fund raiser for the 25th Anniversary of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin foundation on June 13, 2014 in less than 15 hours. He says he is the first to swim the lake using English Channel/World Open Water Swimming Rules, but he is not the first and only solo swimmer of Lake Pontchartrain. He is a distance swimmer who also swam from the U. S. Virgin Islands to Puerto Rico. The first solo swim across Lake Pontchartrain that I know of was by Patrick Owens, a SMS swimmer from Mandeville and Franco’s Athletic Club. He swam 25 miles solo from the south shore to the north shore in view of the Pontchartrain Causeway. Team mates were there to greet him along with his mother Barbara Owens who held many SMS records and USMS Top Ten during her masters and Senior Olympic swim career. Even the editor of Lane Lines swam across Lake Pontchartrain solo in 1989 with four other Southern Master Swimmers, BUT we swam along-side the 5.5 mile I-10 Causeway! I know you can do it!

USMS Top Ten (10)

Have you wondered if you have swum a USMS Top 10 time and been ranked as one of the Top 10 fastest swimmer in the USA in a sanctioned USMS swim meet for that year? You can find out easily (well, not to an 84-year-old editor) by going to USMS.org and *go to Track my results*, fill out a few questions and ALL YOUR SWIM TIMES in USMS sanctioned meets will be listed (I had 379 swims) by age group, date, name of meet, age, club, event, heat/lane, place, and even events in which you were disqualified or a no show!

To see all your Top 10 times and places, click on *events picture, then results, data-base, and ranking* but these rankings are the unofficial list of Top 10 or 100 swimmers by year. So, next you need to click on USMS TOP TEN LIST at the bottom of the paragraph. Finally, you can view your Top 10 listings by age group, year, course, or (this is what you have been looking for) click on all for Top 10 listings for any swimmer, including yourself. You can click on individual or relay for a given year, age, and course OR click on *Search* for a listing of ALL USMS TOP 10 swims by submitting just your last name. The reason I suggest just using your last name is that your total will include your nick name, middle name, maiden name, or initial if they were ever used in entering a relay or event. Also, you can search for SMS, your club, or Southeast Zone (Dixie Zone) Top 10 swims by individuals and relays by year and by course. If I haven’t confused you too much, try to find your Top 10 swims. Hopefully you will be inspired to set goals for this year or when you enter the 85-89 age group. Good luck.

Meet Amanda Janszen, SMS Official’s Chair

Amanda grew up swimming in Dayton/Cincinnati, Ohio. She swam from age 7 through college at DePauw University, and is currently an active Masters Swimming participant.  She still competes in both USA meets and USMS meets, and is currently a 17-time USMS All-American. Additionally, she is a certified USA and YMCA official and swim coach.  She practices on her own, with Red River Masters with about 20-30 other participants, and she swims and competes with The YMCA of Northwest Louisiana as her USA team.  She is the Officials Chair of the Southern LMSC, as well as the Top Ten Chair of her native Ohio LMSC. Outside of swimming, she enjoys spending time with her family and target shooting.

Editor’s note: Although only 32, she already has 321 swims in USMS sanctioned meets including 84 individual Top Tens and 27 relay Top 10s. But what I like most about her is that she swam for the small (2000 students) liberal arts university in Greencastle Indiana known as DePauw University and SO DID I fifty years ahead of her. What are the odds we would be on the SMS Board?

**The Largest Pool in the world is 90 acres in Dubai (see below)**

The city’s latest venture is a colossal, artificial lagoon, fed from brackish groundwater, that stretches across nearly 90 acres of desert. The huge water feature, which has a surface area equivalent to some 330 Olympic swimming pools, is the mainstay of a $7.1 billion development project in Mohammed Bin Rashid City, in the heart of Dubai, and, when complete, will be the largest manmade lagoon of its kind in the world. The first phase has been completed, and the full 90-acre project is expected to be done by 2020.

