

17th Annual Hobbs Pond Swim

New Records But Still A Family Affair

Hope. Sunday August 3rd.. Between rain showers, 45 swimmers started the ca. 800 yard Hobbs Pond swim. Veteran Bill Jones told swimmers it is a free country but that it would be wise to head for shore and walk back if lightning appeared. He tried to convince swimmers that what sounded like thunder was the loose 2x6s on the Loon Lane bridge.

In the event, the course records set last year were re-broken by the same swimmers. Robert Spencer, a rising high school sophomore who summers in Warren, swam the course to warm up, then simply swam away from the field. Doug Roth (45, Warren) thought he was battling Lianne McCluskey (16, Hope) and Bruce Haffner (57, Hope & Chicago) for first place. He narrowly beat them but found Spencer already dried off. Spencer was a full 1'40" ahead of Roth and took 28" off his course record. Author Hodding Carter (45, Camden), still recovering from his near-death experience, was nevertheless part of the pursuit pack.

Two swimmers took the Hans Wendel breaststroke challenge (while Wendel (72, Dover-Foxcroft), a breaststroke specialist, swam crawl). Son Nguyen (28, South Portland) lowered his own breaststroke record by 11" and beat 34 of 42 freestylers. Most of the 42 freestylers swam crawl, at least most of the way. But not the youngest swimmer ever to complete the Hobbs Pond swim, Frances Ostensen (6, Hope) who employed an efficient humanistic stroke (as the Red Cross sometimes calls dog paddle).

What kind of people are turning out to swim the Hobbs Pond swim? Quite a range, from 6 to 72. The average age was 33,

higher for the 19 men than for the 26 women. Though youngish men won, both the women and the elderly held their own quite well. Three of the top five were over 45.

Family groups were very much in evidence and were locals. 24 swimmers were from Hope itself, and half of them were in the top 20, showcasing Hope's progress in swimming for both youth and the aged. Most of the rest were from Knox or Waldo Counties. There were 4 McCluskeys (the sailfish4), 4 Carters, 3 Ostensens, 3 Scotts, and pairs of Benjamins, Davees, Willauers, Spencers, Hall/Peases, Kandziolka/Pages and Haffner/Morans. More family groups emerge when you count meet officials and life-saver/spotters. Hobbs Pond swim founder Jennifer Goodman (Concord NH) was out in an aluminum boat guarding swimmers from danger with her mother, children and nieces while the 2x6s on Loon Lane bridge made noises that sounded more and more thunderous..

Due to weather, the social at the Jones's camp was cancelled. Next year is may be moved to Hope Volunteer Library.

Swimmers are grateful to those who helped preserve this tradition: meet officials Judith Jones & John McCluskey (Hope), Margaret Wendel (Dover-Foxcroft) & Jean Shaw (Lansdale PA & Orr's Island) and spotters (Bob Dupont, Paul Carroll, Charlie Benjamin, the Ireland/Goodmans and others not identified, and to the PenBay Masters Swim Club that provided the course-marking buoys.

Results follow:

Hobbs Pond swim
17th annual

3 August 2008

Results

Name	Age	Town/State	Time
Robert Spencer	15M	Warren/Chevy Chase MD	7:25
Douglas Roth	46M	Warren	9:05
Lianne McCluskey	16F	Hope	9:14
Bruce Haffner	57M	Hope	9:15
Hodding Carter	45M	Camden	10:01
Megan Moran	17F	Clarendon Hills IL	10:07
Colin Page	31M	Hope	10:08
Alyssa McCluskey	18F	Hope	10:17
Son Nguyen	28M	South Portland	10:48 breaststroke
Adam Scott	39M	Hope	10:49
Eddie McCluskey	13M	Hope	10:51
Mary Moran	55F	Hope	10:57
Carrie Carney	32F	Camden	11:00
Maureen Scott	38F	Hope	11:03
Elizabeth Spencer	42F	Warren/Chevy Chase MD	11:27
Kathy Kandziolka	33F	Hope	11:48
Bill Jones	71M	Hope	12:23
Kristi Panayoutoff	59F	Lincolnton	12:39
Langley Willauer	45M	Hope	13:30
Mark McCluskey	11M	Hope	13:50
Hiarry Schmitke	70M	Spruce Head	13:56 breaststroke
Lucy Carr	40F	Antibes, France	14:03
Shannon Thompson	40F	Lincolnton	14:21
Alison Davee	45F	Hope	15:10
Susan W. Longley	52F	Liberty	15:28
Nora Willauer	13F	Hope	15:39
Elizabeth Sherley	13F	Hope	15:41
Isabel Lyndon	68F	Wayland MA	16:09
Peggy Congleton	58F	San Diego CA	16:52
Hans Wendel	72M	Dover-Foxcroft	17:23
Weston Bryant	13M	Camden	18:06
Ella Scott	11F	Hope	18:07
Anabel Carter	12F	Camden	18:08
Anna Mason	14F	Hope	19:42
Emily Benjamin	14F	New Jersey	19:42

Helen Carter	10F	Camden	21:40
Jake Davee	12M	Hope	21:40
Eliza Carter	12F	Camden	21:40
Tom Ford	62M	Hope	21:59
Willow Hall	34F	Hope	26:33
Zeb Pease	8M	Hope	26:36
Joergen Ostensen	9M	Hope	31:00
Maureen Ostensen	48F	Hope	34:36
Frances Ostensen	6F	Hope	36:15
Chuck Benjamin	53M	Ridgewood NJ	DNF

Spencer's 7:25 sets course record, reaking his 7:53 of 2007.

Nguyen's 10:48 sets course breaststroke record, breaking his 10:59 of 2007