

Open Water & Long Distance Report

October 2018

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Open Water

2018 Recap

We hosted two United States Masters Swimming sanctioned open water events in 2018. These were:

- The John Shrum Memorial Cable Swim (formerly the Chris Greene Lake Swim), June 2nd
 - 1 and 2 mile cable swims
 - Unfortunately, due to weather and water conditions, the race was canceled this year.
- Lake Moomaw swim, August
 - 1 mile
 - 57 swimmers

Jay Peluso ran several swims which included some of our swimmers. These included swims spanning distances from 200m kids swims to a culminating 5mile race in the James River. The separate events included:

- Down River Rip (4.4 and 2.5 miles), May 18th
- Championship Weekend (5, 2.5, 1.25k), June 22nd
 - VMST sponsored and USMS sanctioned
- Swim Across America (5 and 2.5 miles), October 6th

2019 Goals

- Further advance promotion for the John Shrum Memorial Cable swim in order to increase participation in the event on it's new June race date (June 1st).
- Increase participation in both LMSC sponsored events via:
 - Re-starting the Virginia Masters Open Water Swim Series (including the Shrum Swim, Moomaw, and one of Jay's swims) as originally planned for 2018. The series would culminate with prizes for top three overall male/female winners in addition to recognizing the overall series winner.
 - Host a social after the John Shrum Memorial Cable Swim to promote cross VMST swimmer bonding. This could happen onsite or at a brewery/restaurant local to the Charlottesville area.

Long Term Goals

- Host an open water clinic for USMS swimmers in conjunction with one of the races. This would be open to all registered masters swimmers, not just VMST swimmers. In addition to promoting open water swimming it could be a fundraiser for VMST.
- Provide open water training opportunities to VMST swimmers. Ideas for consideration include inviting swimmers to Walnut Creek or Chris Greene Lake weekend swims hosted by the Charlottesville Triathlon Club.

Proposals for VMST Board Consideration in the 2019 season:

- John Shrum Memorial Cable Swim
 - Host a post-race VMST social at a local brewery/restaurant
- Host a VMST Open Water Swim Series