

August 2011

The Peach Buzz



Memo from Mike

This was definitely one fast and busy summer. The highlight of our summer was definitely a road trip that lasted 21 days covered 6066 miles through 16 states. We were able to see several family members and many things we have never seen before along the way. Not to mention 6 days in southern California with a lot of friends, some old and some new.

If you ever have an opportunity to attend a National convention, I highly recommend it. We have only attended 3, but the more times you go, the more people you meet. The more people

you meet, the more you look forward to the next one. Me personally, I really enjoyed some of the DAAA events.

We have 3 events coming up in the next 2 months to close out the busy summer. On Aug. 20 we will have a meeting at the Johnston's. On Sep 3rd, we will be going to a Braves game and on the last weekend in Sept (23 - 25) is our Fall regional in Knoxville, TN.

Hope to see you in Barnesville,

Mike

August Meeting

Hosted by the Chapter

Saturday August 20, 2011

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

770-603-8911

We will be returning to Noah's Ark animal rescue center for our August meeting, we are going to start about 11:00. The animal enclosure will open at noon and close at 3:00, but there are many animals you can see prior to the enclosure opening. Please bring your own picnic lunch, we will be providing the dessert and drinks. I am going to try to get there and reserve tables right at the entrance of the animal enclosure like last time. There is plenty of room to sit, eat and visit. There is also plenty of room for the kids to run and play.

Directions to Noah's Ark

From the North

Take I-75 south to exit #212 Hampton/ Locust Grove, turn left. Go approx. .25 miles to Stanley K Tanger BLVD (next light after McDonalds) and turn right. Follow this road until you get to L-G Griffin Rd (BP gas station on the corner) turn right, go approx. 3 miles and the Ark will be on your left. Once you turn into the Ark, turn right into parking lot and we are going to try to set up down by the fence opening.

From the South

Take I-75 north to exit #212 Hampton/ Locust Grove, turn right. Go approx. .25 miles to Stanley K Tanger BLVD (next light after McDonalds) and turn right. Follow this road until you get to L-G Griffin Rd (BP gas station on the corner) turn right, go approx. 3 miles and the Ark will be on your left. Once you turn into the Ark, turn right into parking lot and we are going to try to set up down by the fence opening.

Here is the website for Noah's Ark if you would like to look them up to find out more info, <http://www.noahs-ark.org/> . The directions I provided are a little different than those on the website, mine are just as simple and shorter.

James McNeal and Family

Many of you may not know James, because he and his family have not been able to attend many of our meetings. James is from Warner-Robbins and has spent a large portion of his young life in and out of hospitals for one reason or another. On July 12 with his mother at his side he underwent his first of two spine surgeries. Between the two surgeries, he will be in halo traction for at least 5 weeks. He will be inpatient at Al Dupont in Delaware for this entire time. They are hoping to be able to return home by the end of August.

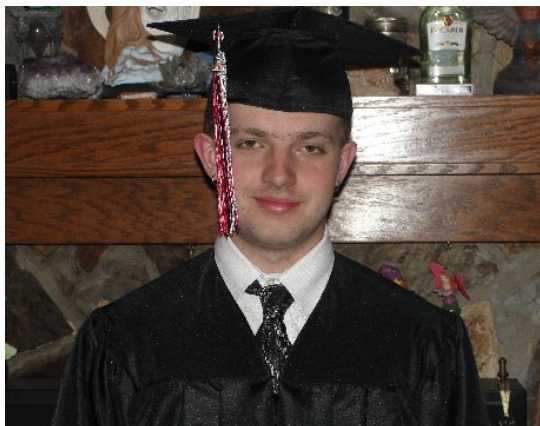
His mom Brandie keeps everyone updated on his progression with a caringbridge posting. If you would like to follow their ongoing struggles, send your prayers or send words of encouragement you can find them at www.caringbridge.org/visit/jamesmcneal.



Marcia Hein, 58

Marcia passed away on June 19, 2011 due to a long battle with cancer. She was involved with LPA for over 30 years. The funeral service was held on June 24, 2011 at Birmingham United Methodist Church in Alpharetta, GA. Condolences may be sent to The Hein Family at lhaniel@sotherncompany.com or 765 Brookfield Pkwy, Roswell, GA 30075.

Zach Brooks, High School Graduate



Zach recently graduated from High School and is planning on going into the military. Congratulations Zach! Zach is the oldest son of Tina Brooks.

Liam Swain, New



Congratulations to the Swain family!

The Swains welcomed their 4th child into their lives/family July 17, 2011. His name is Liam Ashton Swain.

He weighed in at 9 lbs even and was 21" long.

If you want to read a great story about becoming a family, read the article by Amber Johnston posted on rainbowkids.com. Here is a link to the article:

<http://www.rainbowkids.com/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=754>

If the link does not work, go to rainbowkids.com and go to back issues and look at May 2011. The article is "Building our family through birth and adoption"

Upcoming Event Schedule and Other Stuff

Future conferences:

2012 - Dallas, Texas,
Sheraton Dallas Hotel,
Sat. 6/30- Fri. 7/6
2013 - Washington, DC,
Marriott Wardman Park Hotel,
Sat. 6/29 - Fri. 7/5
2014 - San Diego, California,
Manchester Grand Hyatt Hotel,
Sat. 7/5 - Fri. 7/11
2015 - St. Louis, Missouri,
Hyatt Regency St. Louis at the
Arch, Sat. 7/4 - Fri. 7/10

August - Johnston's
September - Waterhouse's/Regional
October - OPEN
November - Pierce's
December - Mary Alice/Chapter

The District 13 fall regional will be held Sept-23-25, 2011 at the Holiday Inn West-Cedar Bluff, just outside of Knoxville TN. The Hotel has a 24-hour indoor and outdoor saline pool, whirlpool, kid's pool, a fitness center w/ racquetball courts and a game room. Room rate is going to be \$90+ tax a night. Registration packets should be out by the 15th of August. You can make reservations at this time, just call 865 - 693 -1011.

<http://www.holidayinn.com/hotels/us/en/knoxville/tyscb/hoteldetail>

September meeting/outing heads up.

Andrea Waterhouse has once again been able to get us Braves tickets. She has 50 tickets for the Sat. Sept 3rd game @ 7:10PM vs. LA Dodgers. The tickets are all lower level along the 3rd base line. This game is also father/daughter night at the ballpark. Father/daughters who want to participate can walk around the field in a pre-game parade.

These tickets will be handed out on a first come basis. She will be bringing them to the August meeting at the Johnston's if you would like to attend the game. You may also e-mail her at awaterhouse@comcast.net.

I highly recommend you get them in advance so you can go ahead and enter the park early, especially if you want to get there early for batting practice or the father/daughter walk.

This event will also serve as our September meeting/outing.

The LPA Employment Committee is conducting a survey of people with dwarfism relating to employment issues. The survey can be found at: <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/561021/LPA-Employment-Survey>

2011/2012 National updates

The LA National was a blast. There was always something going on for every age group. The hotel was great with plenty of room to hang out. There were 984 registrations with 2715 attendees. There were 167 first time registrants and 25 countries represented.

I personally ran into 9 families from the Atlanta chapter which I thought was great since it was so far from home. Several of our members competed and medaled in DAAA events.

As part of the 6066 miles Mary, Mike and I drove during our National adventure, we passed through Dallas to see the hotel for next years National. The Sheraton Dallas Hotel is in the south-eastern corner of downtown Dallas in what is called the Art District. The hotel has 1840 rooms and 22 elevators, so there should not be any reason for overflow hotels. The room rate is going to be \$114 + tax a night and parking is \$10 a day.

There was a large bus transfer area right outside one end of the hotel and a DART rail station at the other end. So getting around should be fairly easy if you don't drive.



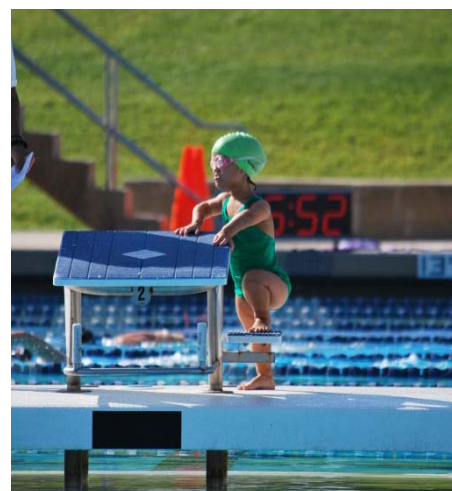
Levi made a Believer out of everyone at the talent show



Maya swimming for gold



Maya and Vicca on the medal stand



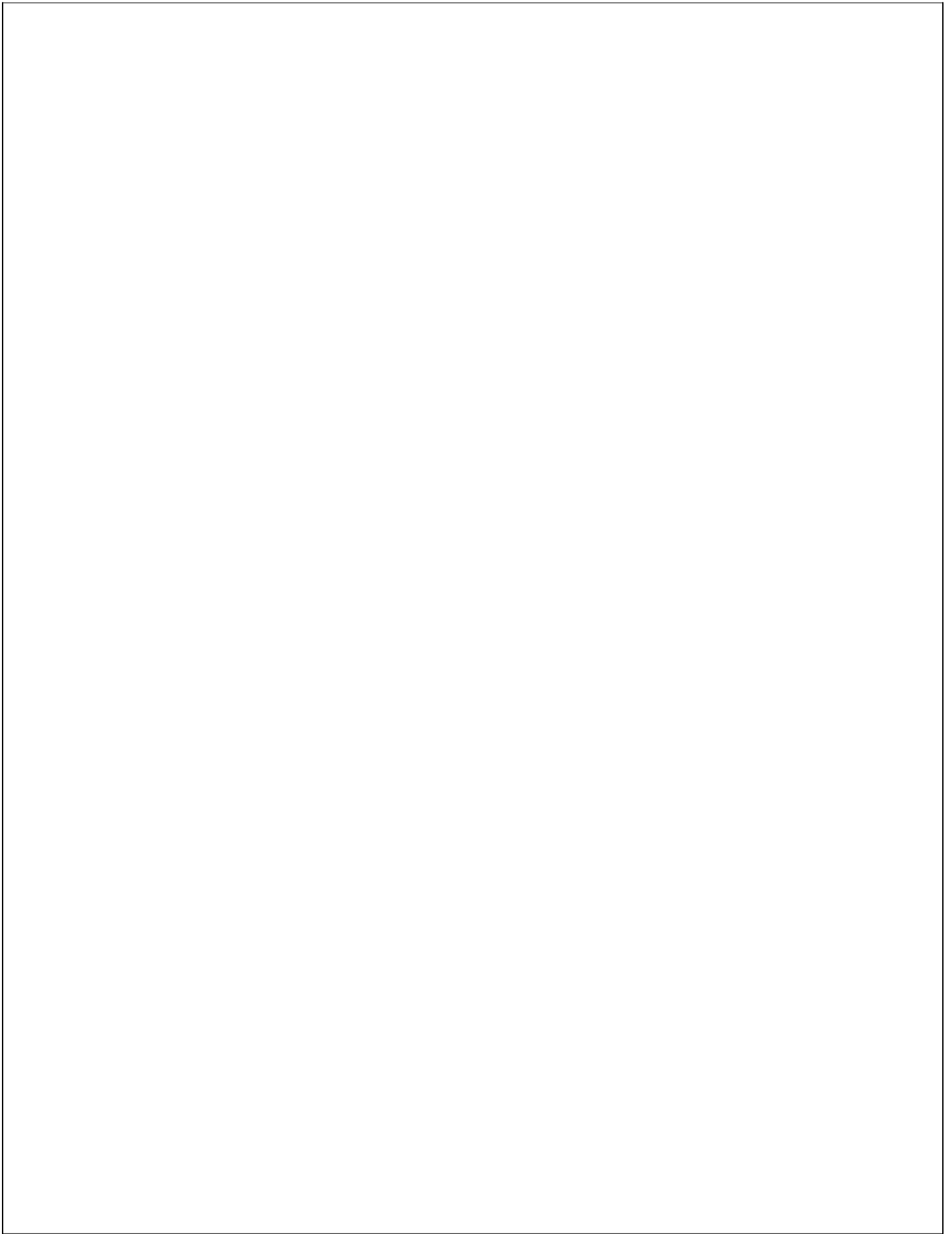
Vicca getting ready for the 25 meter swim



Dominique stretching before the race



Max with the Javelin





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