

Joseph Peppersack and Samantha Tubbs attended Paralympic Trials in Charlotte, N.C. at the end of June. Samantha Tubbs (Rappahanock Raiders) not only competed by she also received a first place gold medal in one of her events. Samantha's coach is Delwyn Jones.

Joseph Peppersack (NOVA South , VACS) finished in the top three in all seven of his events in the Paralympic Trials. This summer Joseph has been working at the local YMCA teaching children of all skill levels how to swim. He was back in the pool on Sept. 12th to start training himself. He is making plans now for his disability swimming schedule and which meets he will be able to attend this Fall and Winter.

Emilia Scovel finished the summer swimming for the Sideburn Run Sharks in Fairfax. She is currently swimming with a private coach and hopes to join the Riptide Swim Team in Prince William County for the 2016-2017 season.

Benjamin Hunter achieved his first A times this year and he even earned one AA time. He achieved his A times in the 100 Free, the 100 Fly, and in the 400 Free and he reached his AA time in the 50 Fly. Benjamin also achieved long course Age Group cuts in the 400 Free and the 50 Fly and he earned a trip to the Age Group Champs this summer. Benjamin also showed 100% or greater decreases in all the long course events he swam this summer.

Sean Harrington is still working at the materials management division at Chesapeake Regional Medical Center. Sean continues to swim up to four times per week at the Great Bridge YMCA during his workouts. He has acquired a great tan from his swimming workouts in the outdoor pool.

The VSI Disability Committee has been working on a proposal for standardized, consistent swimmer reimbursement, within certain limits, for disability swimmers competing at national level disability meets. The reimbursement principles would closely resemble those for the USA-VSI able bodied swimmers. Such a proposal would suggest that an athlete with a physical disability may be eligible to receive a travel reimbursement for up to two designated meets per year, with the exception that in an Olympic year, the same athlete may receive an additional travel reimbursement for participating in the USA Paralympic Trials.

Pat Donohue has been one of our lead VSI disability officials and she has, along with several other VSI officials, participated at national level disability swim meets during the last year.

Respectfully submitted - David V. Strider (Chair – VSI Disability Swimmer Committee).

