

placed 5th out of 8 in the 35-39 age group, while Donna placed 2nd out of 8 in the 50-54 age group.



**Jennifer Bew**

The meet began with a very unusual first heat of the 1650 free. This was the first time in over 30 years that **Rowdy Gaines** swam the 1650 free. He took second place to Grand Strand Masters swimmer **Maria Elias-Williams**.

Notable swims for us were Jen and I swimming in the same heat of the 1650 and my 200 fly with Jeff Moxie.

Jennifer and I both enjoyed the 3 hour Saturday afternoon stroke clinic with Rowdy and the annual FREE dinner at Wild Wing Café.

I must admit that Grand Strand Masters puts on the best annual meet I have ever attended. They really treat us swimmers like royalty, providing us with food and drink throughout the meet. Great friend and great competition, in a fantastic setting. Even a 15 person hot tub to warm down in after your race.

### *2013 Auburn Meet Highlights*

By Walter Leen

There were over 50 Georgia swimmers from 2 teams among the 180 swimmers and 30+ teams that enjoyed another well executed meet hosted by **Conner Bailey** and the Auburn Masters organization.

This meet still uses the old 3-category team size breakdown (large-medium-small) for team awards which places GAJA and AWJ in different categories. It was a kind of strange meet for Georgia swimmers that started with a rare 1650 DQ, included competition in some age groups so heavy that the last 6 swimmers in

some events scored no points and then ended with rare High Point draws that seldom occur in 2 day meets.

#### *Atlanta Water Jocks - 3rd place effort*

Atlanta Water Jocks earned a 3rd place medium team size award off outstanding performance by **Britta O'Leary** (25-29) and **John Fields** (55-59). Both won the High Point in their age group with Britta setting a Dixie Zone record in the 200 breast stroke while John, (a recent gold medal World Masters champion) set 4 Georgia records in the 50 to 500 free. AWJ had 2 winning relays –the Women's 25+ 200 Medley and the Mixed 25+ 200 Free.

The former features **Felicia Bianchi, Heidi Natkin, Britta** and **Lynn Beach** while the latter squad included **Brita, Andy Dyer, Heidi** and **John**. All 7 AWJ swimmers won first places including **Andy Dyer** who again won the 50 and 100 breaststroke in a packed 18 swimmer 50-54 field that had 14 swimmers in the 50 fly.



**2013 Auburn AWJ Team with Amy Webb, Heidi Natkin & High Point winner Britta O'Leary with 3rd place trophy**

**Amy (Schneider) Webb** who won the High Point in 2012 was a Sunday only attendee this year and won the 500 free and the 50 back. Unfortunately, a prince of the pool, World Champion **Lorenzo Benucci** (45-49), who was entered in the meet did not attend.