

2018 special awards:

Grand Masters:

Male - Robby Turner - Won 1st place in the 60-64 AG. Completed eight GP races, including Florida 70.3 and Augusta 70.3, and toed the starting line at IM Lake Placid. A great accomplishment to compete in so many races while training for a very tough IM. He also serves on the Tri Club BOD and on various sub-committees within the Tri Club. Robby had an impressive year and was inspiration to many. His service to this club and his compassion/dedication to the sport, as well as sharing his experiences with other Triathletes, demonstrate why Robby deserves the 2018 Male Grand Master award.

Female - Lorraine Ausley - Won 1st place in the 55-59 AG. Won 1st place AG in all three GP races she entered AFTER coming back from a bad crash at Florida 70.3 just four months earlier. Lorraine's bike crash at Florida 70.3 left her with a broken thumb, cracked hip, and concussion - not to mention being left to die after another one of our Tri Club members rode past her, knowing Kelli Dillion would stop to aid her. Lorraine's mental toughness and dedication to rehab and come-back from such a bad crash in only four short months was inspiring to many. Lorraine regularly supports our club in several events, and organizes training rides/runs. Her vocation as a State Representative allows her to advocate for the sport we love. For these and many more reasons, we present Lorraine with the 2018 Female Grand Master award.

Masters:

Male - Jeff Bowman - Won 1st place in the 55-59 AG. Completed four GP races, including Florida 70.3, as well as August 70.3 and IM FL. Jeff's racing resume for 2018 is very impressive, finishing 1st or 2nd in his AG for most races he entered. But it's his dedication and love for the sport that makes him a clear choice for one of our club's special awards. Jeff spends a tremendous amount of time giving back to the sport: organizing and facilitating Wednesday night intervals (open to anyone who wants to participate, member or not), coordinating countless group rides for cyclists of all speeds, and volunteering to spend a weekend at the IM FL training camp, helping to lead one of the ride groups through the course. For many reasons, in addition to his performance, this club thrives because of Jeff (and Ann). Jeff is deserving of the 2018 Male Masters award.

Female - Tina Bahmer - Won 2nd place Tri Club Overall Female. Completed six GP races, three 70.3's, and her first 140.6 in 2018. In the USAT national rankings, Tina finished in the top third of her AG in both the country and the state of Florida. Tina's race accomplishments are impressive, but it's also her extreme commitment, service, and inspiration that won her this year's Female Master award. Tina is a wife and also a mom to SIX kids. She balances that with training and racing three 70.3 & one 140.6. She also serves us on Tri Club BOD and other subcommittees in the club. For these reasons, we are proud to present this award to Tina.

Rookie:

Male - Rob Klepper - Won 1st place Male Clydesdale 40+ in the Tri Club. Rob completed four club races, winning 1st or 2nd (in the club) in most of the races. Rob

took the sport by storm, earning him the nickname from some of his peers of “1st Place Rob” in just his FIRST YEAR of multi-sport racing. Rob’s first race was Sprint on the Flint in 2017, and he improved his time in 2018 by 20 minutes. He went on to race St Marks DU, Red Hills, Freedom Springs, and Beach Blast Olympic II in 2018. We are excited to see what 2019 holds for Rob, and thrilled to present him with the 2018 Male Rookie of the Year!

Female - Lura Diestelhorst - Lura has come so far in a short time. She completed four GP races and one 70.3, continually improving her times and increasing her distances. Lura’s first triathlon was Sprint on the Flint in 2016. She really upped her game from there, completing five tris in 2017 and four in 2018. Lura progressively increased the distances of her races by completing two Olympics in 2017, and knocking out her first 70.3 at Choo in 2018, a pretty tough half IM for your first. One performance that stands out is the 2018 Jax Olympic Tri, where she improved her previous year’s finishing time by 26 minutes! If you don’t know Lura, it’s probably because she is a quiet killer, sweet, soft-spoken, so you may not know her name. But I’m sure you will recognize her face. She is very active in our club/events/socials and volunteers to give back. Lura, we are glad to have you as part of our Club, and we look forward to watching you grow in experience and excel in the future. Lura, our 2018 Female Rookie of the Year!

Most Improved:

Male - Jim Waddell - Jim completed four GP races, as well a 70.3 and his first 140.6. Jim’s peers agree that he embodies the Ironman mantra of “Anything is Possible” by completing his first IM in just two short years of training. Jim started his multi-sport career in 2016 at Red Hills, a tough first race, with time of 2:40. In 2018, Jim improved his Red Hills time by 16 minutes, for a finishing time of 2:24. Sprint on the Flint was another big accomplishment for Jim: he bettered his time by 7 minutes from 2017 to 2018. After finishing two sprints in 2016, Jim stepped it up in 2017 by competing in Augusta 70.3. In 2018, he rose to the bigger challenge of completing IM Florida. Because of Jim’s improvements year over year and his taking on greater challenges with a dedicated spirit, he has earned the 2018 Male Most Improved Triathlete.

Female - Ashley Moore - Ashley started her multi-sport career in 2017 at Red Hills (known to be one of the toughest ‘sprint’ races), with a time of 1:55. In 2018, she improved this time by 8 minutes, with a finishing time of 1:47. In her very first year of tris, Ashley raced Choo 70.3 and finished in 6:28. She went back in 2018 and PR’d with a time of 6:11. If that’s not impressive enough, she did Choo 70.3 in 2018, less than one month after completing her first IM, IM TX, with a time of 13:31! The improvement in her performance, as well as the challenge of doing an IM in just her 2nd year, made it clear that Ashley represents all the criteria for the Female Most Improved Triathlete for 2018.

Service: Lynn Massimore - Lynn does a lot of work behind the scenes to keep our club up to speed and visible. She has spent a lot of time maintaining and updating our Club website, as well as our St. Mark’s Du website. Lynn’s willingness to volunteer in this specialized discipline has saved the club A LOT of money. Additionally, Lynn

volunteered at the Tri Club waters stops for the 10-mile challenge, and helped with registration for the St Marks DU, Red Hills, and the Tallahassee marathon. This is true service to the club. Thank you, Lynn, for all you do that we may not even be aware of, and for all you do for our Tri Club and the sport itself!

Youth: Bryce Bass - Bryce is one of our very few youth (under the age of 18) that consistently competes and improves in the multi-sport world. Bryce is 'super-fast', as described by some other triathletes, and he has a very promising triathlon career ahead of him. Bryce is also one of our youths who gives back to the sport by volunteering. Bryce, we thank you for inspiring your peers, as well as the older triathletes in our club. Your involvement helps make Gulf Winds Tri Club the best it can be!