



SWAMP NEWS

Arlington Alligators Swim Club

January 2004, Volume IX



Coach's Corner

PMA!!! What does this stand for? It stands for Positive Mental Attitude! The Alligators are filled with this and it shows. All athletes struggle with harder moments, but the Alligator team is filled with good attitudes. This is what makes a good team a great team! Cheer each other on at all times, work your hardest and keep up the excellent attendance.

Speaking of Attendance! Our November attendance winners were: Tied for 1st – Laura Wilcher and Margaret Spacapan, 2nd place went to Ryan O'connor! Winter Break perfect attendance went to: Sam Wilcher, Adam Clementi, Erin Rodriguez, Erin O'Connor, Rebecca Ruffin and Jeffrey Ruffin! Excellent job to each and every one of you! Don't forget attendance counts!

Meet Memo

I want to thank all the parents that have been timing at all the various meets. This is part of our requirement when a team accepts our entry. We are about to come into the final part of the season. We will have many meets that will have smaller numbers at them. This means those that are present will need to time. I am referring to A champs, Age Group State, Senior States and possibly Sectionals. Your time is appreciated by the hosting team, but even more so, by me and the Alligator team!

Another swim meet note is that I would like all swimmers on deck and ready to go 10 minutes before the warm up starts. When athletes trickle in, our warm up space is usually taken by others and the quality of warm up drops off noticeably. Alligator suits (or a black suit) and caps are required. The team is represented in a more professional manner and the coaches can spot the swimmers (so can the parents) much more easily.

Our travels to Notre Dame were filled with fun times and good memories. Our team dinner at Outback Steakhouse overflowed with bigger numbers than ever before (77). The meet was a huge success. Best times were showing up everywhere! Championship meet cuts were achieved and Erin Rodriguez took a second place High Point Trophy. The following weekend most of our team went to Glenbrook North and swam even faster. While we were doing that, 3 of our team mates, who had been selected to swim for Team Illinois, were down in Indianapolis racing. Erin Rodriguez, Amy and Julia Andracki are due a heart felt Congratulations for a job well done. Julia placed 2nd in the 50 Breast, Amy placed 5th in the 100 Breast and 6th in the 200 Breast and Erin took 3rd in the 200 Free, 3rd in the 200 Im and 2nd in the 500 Free! Congrats!

At Stevenson this past weekend Our team stood out again. Sam Wilcher and Erin Rodriguez both got 1st place High points and Adam Clementi received a 2nd place high point. Julia Andracki achieved a National Reportable time in the 50 Breast and improved her 100 Breast, which she had already achieved a National Reportable Time. Kari Monaghan qualified for Senior States in the 100 Back. Erin, Julia, Amy, Kari, Sam and Adam were joined in finals by Margaret Spacapan, Tony Ponzio, Danielle Filipp and Jackie Pesenko! Our afternoon swimmers swam proudly as well. Ian Rodriguez qualified for Age Group State in the 100 Breast. Life time best swims were swum by: Megan Anderluh, Mary Cleary. Ariana Desimone, Rachell Farrell, Colleen Grady, Angela Rodriguez, Jeffrey Ruffin, Rebecca Ruffin, Madeleine Spacapan, Laura Wilcher, Emily and Mary Clare Zimmerman! WOW!

Let's keep it coming.

Thank you all for all your hard work. The Alligator swimmers are awesome!



Birthdays

Name	Birthday	Age
Amy Dahlin	Jan 2nd	17 years old
Bob Pellican	Jan 4th	15 years old
Nicole Otero	Jan 5th	9 years old
Mary Cleary	Jan 9th	8 years old
Lilly Miossi	Jan 9th	8 years old
Stephanie Pesenko	Jan 24th	16 years old
Allie Luciani	Jan 27th	12 years old
Julia Andracki	Jan 28th	13 years old

President's Corner

The Alligators are up and swimming in 2004! We are hoping to take more steps to strengthen our financial footing this year. Our meets are the absolute best way we can do this. We are hosting a one day meet at UIC on Sunday, February 22nd. Twelve and under swimmers will swim in the morning and thirteen and over swimmers will swim in the afternoon. We will

Executive Board

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Noreen Rodriguez, President
Mark Anderson, Vice President

Mary Ann Anderson, Vice President
Deb Barrett, Treasurer
Jill Pellican, Membership Chairman

Maria Mackiw, Recording Secretary
Sara Zimmermann, Recruiting Chair.
Sue Urlich, President Ex-Officio

Patti Nordyke, Apparel Chairman
Mary Wilcher, Concession Chairman
Linda Stack, Fundraising Chairman

Karen Pesenko, Social Chairmen
Steve Pesenko, Social Chairmen



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need all parents to volunteer during the meet. If your child is unable to swim on that Sunday, we can use your help with the before meet preparations. A volunteer sign up sheet will be sent out via email in the next week or so. If there is a particular job you would like please let me know as soon as possible. We will be collecting \$10 per family for our concession stand. If at all possible a check would be preferred. If you do give cash please get a written receipt from the person you give your money to so confusion can be avoided. We are collecting money for a number of things right now so we would like to keep it all straight. A concession donation letter will be in your mailboxes soon.

Meeting

Parent Meeting Wednesday, February 4th at St. Viator 6pm. All families are expected to be represented at meeting. We will be discussing our upcoming meet, revision of By-Laws, Annual Banquet and championship season.

T-Shirts

Team t-shirts for \$5.00. What a deal! The Club is offering a black, short sleeve t-shirt with our logo in a bright kelly green on the front and the Kiefer logo on the back. We would like ALL of our swimmers to have a shirt along with our parents. Coach Mary has commented that having our team (parents and swimmers) in our team colors at all of the meets, would be awesome. Ideally, the shirts will be ordered and ready by the time our meet rolls around. The t-shirt order form is available on the website. Extra order forms are in the front of the mailboxes. Orders need to be placed by Wednesday, January 28th. Please give your order and money to any coach on deck. We also have Alligator flannel pants in stock. Contact Patti Nordyke at ptnordyke@aol.com for sizing and prices.

Board Members

New Executive Board members will be voted in at our Annual Banquet in late March. Please remember that our team's foundation is made up of swimmers, coaches and parents. We need your interest, skills, ideas and dedication. If you are interested in becoming a part of the Executive Board, please speak with any current member (see below for names) about available positions. There are extended board positions and committee roles as well. ▲

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Officials Needed!

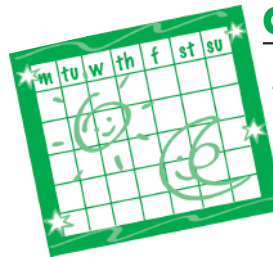
Our team is in need of parents willing to become Officials. We have been discussing the benefits of being an Official to both the individual and to the team since the beginning of the season. COHO Swim Team is offering the training at Deerfield High School on Sunday, January 25, 2004. Training usually lasts the day, and lunch is usually provided. We would like at least three or four Alligator parents to be in attendance. If you have general officiating questions, contact Mark Anderson; our Alligator team Referee at (847) 253-8367 or anderswim728@aol.com. Specifics about the clinic should be directed to Larry Chambers at (224) 405-3145 or CohoMeetDirector@aol.com.

Fundraising

Our Swimapalooza numbers are in. Our top earners were Lindsey Collins, Ariana DeSimone, Peter Cleary and Rebecca Ruffin. We brought in over \$950.00 which is better than we have done in the past but leaves room for improvement. Thank you to all families that participated. Your efforts are appreciated!

Updated fundraising reports are in your mailboxes. Credits for Swimapalooza, Gold C coupon books and meet ads are included. Many families have outstanding balances. Our upcoming meet will provide you with your last chance to fundraise. You may sponsor an event with a cheer for your swimmer or you may sell ad space in our meet program to meet your requirement. Information on pricing and sizing for meet ads are in your mailboxes at this time. Please do what you can to support the team and make our meet program outstanding.

Calendar of Events:



January 26th — Officials Clinic at Deerfield H.S.

January 30, 31 and Feb 1 — Schroeder A+ Brown Deer, WI

January 30, 31 and Feb 1 — BSC Meet at Barrington H.S.

February 4th — Parent meeting 6pm at St. Viator

February 10-14 — Sr. Nationals Orlando, FL

February 18th — Silver Conference Meet at New Trier Northfield

February 14th — COHO Meet at Deerfield H.S.

February 22nd — Alligator Meet at UIC