SST NEWS

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**New Dues Schedule**

We have received the votes for the change in dues schedule, and the proposal has passed. The new dues will take effect on December 1, 2013. Thank you to everyone who cast their vote, as the proposal passed with a large margin. We understand change is not always easy, but the new dues schedule will be much more consistent and fair. The dues are now based on swim group (time in the water) rather than grade level. In an attempt to even the group numbers and make it more difficult to advance to the next level, the coaching staff is renovating the qualification standards for each group. We are not looking to discourage group advancement, but rather avoid swimmers from moving up the group levels to quickly. This will allow each swimmer to get the quality coaching they deserve in each group level, and their technique and speed will benefit from this extra time. As a reminder, the new dues structure is as follows: Copper $35 per month, Bronze $50 per month, Silver $65 per month, Gold $80 per month, Platinum $95 per month, Junior $110 per month, and Senior $125 per month. Again, thank you for your support of the Stingray Swim Team and our progression to becoming the best swim organization in the Interior.



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**Halloween Meet Recap**

 The Halloween Meet was a huge success! The swimmers did wonderful, the volunteers were great, and things ran smoothly. We would like to thank all the volunteers for their time and support. We could not host a successful meet without your help, and we appreciate your involvement. A special thank you to Marita Bunch for putting the meet together, and to Coach Felina who did a wonderful job getting the swimmers behind their blocks. With 35 swimmers, that was no small task. Coach Felina was able to take splits, talk to swimmers, and round up the next heat, and we thank her for her hard work.

  On the swimming side, we had one of our most successful swim meets ever! The Stingray Swim Team finished FIRST in time improvement. Of our 70 swims we had 50 best times, making our time improvement percentage 71%. North Pole came in second in this category with 67% best times, followed by Midnight Sun with 62%. We are so proud of our swimmers, and their hard work is paying off.

  We also had multiple event winners, top three finishes, and championship meet qualifiers. Greta Johnson won the 50 Fly, Lauren Hite won the 200 Breast, Ezra Billings won the 50 Back and 100 Back, Logan Fox won the 50 Breast and 100 Breast, Kyan Harnum won the 50 Fly, Trevor Chiu won the 100 Free, 100 Fly and 200 IM, and David Chen won the 50 Free and 100 Breast. Ezra, Logan, Trevor, and David also received individual high point awards on the men’s side, while Heidi and Lauren were high point winners on the women’s side.

  The Stingrays now have 15 swimmers qualified in 44 events for the Alaska Age Group Championships. These swimmers are Ezra Billings, Heidi Billings, David Chen, Katie Day, Raven Drake, Logan Fox, Risa Heinrichs, Lauren Hite, Madison Hrinko, Greta Johnson, Taylor Keyes, Shannon McCallum, Yuki Nagaoka, Victoria Schachle, and Marissa Strauss. We also have 5 swimmers qualified in 13 events for the Alaska Junior Olympic Championships. Those swimmers are Heidi Billings (4 events), David Chen (4), Risa Heinrichs (1), Lauren Hite (2), and Madison Hrinko (2). Congratulations to these swimmers, and we look forward to adding more names to the list after the Wishbone Invite.

  Again, congratulations swimmers on a wonderful meet and thank you volunteers for all your help! We are very excited about our team’s progress and look forward to further success.

  “Opportunity is often missed by those who wait…because it is dressed in overalls and looks like hard work.” Opportunity is not missed on our team because we have fun and work hard. Thank you and GO STINGRAYS!

**Wishbone Invite**

 Our next meet, the Wishbone Invite, will take place on November 15 – 17 at Hamme Pool. The meet is hosted by Midnight Sun and will be a three day, prelim/final meet. This is a great opportunity for swimmers to become comfortable with a prelim/final meet. We have 33 swimmers in this meet and 11 relays, which is more than we had last year. We are excited to have so many swimmers and expect great swims.

 For Friday’s session, warm ups begin at 5:00 pm and the meet will start at 6:00 pm. There are only two events on Friday (the 1650 free and 800 free relay). Saturday and Sunday’s prelim session will begin with warm ups at 8:00 am and a meet start time of 9:00 am. All morning events are for swimmers 11 years and older. The finals session on Saturday and Sunday will include all 10 & Under events, as well as those who made finals in the morning session. All relays will be swum during finals. The finals session start time is TBD depending on the duration of prelims. Please make sure your cell phone number is accurate and verified on our team website account so we can text everyone the finals start time ASAP. Thank you! If you have questions, please let us know.

**November at a Glance**

* November 11 – Tatum Weckwerth’s Birthday
* November 12 – Grace White’s Birthday
* November 12 – Greta Johnson’s Birthday
* November 12 – SST board meeting
	+ 6:30 at Madden Real Estate on Barnett St.
* November 15 - 17 – Wishbone Invite
	+ Friday 5:00 warm up, 6:00 start
	+ Saturday and Sunday prelim 8:00 warm up, 9:00 start
	+ Saturday and Sunday Finals TBD
	+ Held at Hamme Pool
* November 17 – Helen Johnson’s Birthday
* November 24 – Owen Bunch’s Birthday
* November 28 – Joshua Baurick’s Birthday
* November 28 – Martha Hood’s Birthday (High School State Champ, Congrats!)
* November 29 – Marissa Strauss’s Birthday

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**New Swim Groups**

 We are excited to announce that our newest swim groups have been a huge success. The Copper Group, which practices on Fridays from 3:30 – 4:30 at The Alaska Club, has already reached the participation limit of 7. Coach Felina has taken over this group and everyone is having a great time. Coach Felina gets into the water to teach technique, aquatic balance, proper kicking, and lane dynamics. We foresee great things for this group in the future, and if you are interested in your youngest swimmers joining the group, please let us know. We are currently taking registrations for the waiting list.

 The new Junior Group began this week at the UAF Patty Pool. These swimmers practice from 4:30 – 6:00 in the cooler water of the Patty Pool, and Coach Scott has taken over the responsibilities until Coach Josh can move to the Patty Pool. Coach Josh will move once we get another coach on board at The Alaska Club, which should be sometime next week. At that time, Coach Felina will be the main contact at The Alaska Club as the Age Group Coach. She is greatly looking forward to this promotion and is highly qualified to run things at The Alaska Club. Coach Josh will continue to make his presence felt at both pools, and he will remain the main contact person for the entire team. Thank you again for your support through this transition to make our team more successful.

**Raffle Tickets**

It is that time again to sell raffle tickets as one of the two annual team fundraisers. You may pick up your raffle tickets during practice or at the Wishbone Invite. Each swimmer will be required to sell 75 raffle tickets, and the drawing will be on December 13. We are currently setting up locations to sell your tickets at Safeway, Frontier Outfitters, Sam’s Club, etc. More information and sign ups for these locations will be available soon. We understand the turn around is shorter this year than in the past, so we will try hard to provide as many locations as possible. You may also sell raffle tickets at any time and at any location you choose, but we will provide structured locations as early as this weekend. We will post any new information on our team website as it becomes available. Thank you again for your support, this fundraiser is a large part of the team budget and it allows our team to continue moving forward.

**SST 2013-2014 Meet Schedule**

Back to School Meet September 28 – Wescott Pool

Warm ups: 8:00 am

Halloween Meet October 19 – Patty Pool

Warm ups: 8:00 am

Wishbone Invite November 15-17 – Hamme Pool

Prelim/Final Meet

Coach Robb Coady Novice Invite December 7 – Hamme Pool

Warm ups: 8:00 am

Candy Cane Time Trial December 14 – Wescott Pool

Warm ups: 8:00 am

Spring Will Come Meet January 11 – Hamme Pool

Warm ups: 8:00 am

Great Alaska Open January 24-26 – Hamme Pool

Warm ups: 8:00 am

Valentine’s Day Meet February 8 – Patty Pool

Warm ups: 8:00 am

AK Age Group Championships February 14-16

Warm ups: 8:00 am

St. Patrick’s Day Meet March 15 – Wescott Pool

Warm ups: 8:00 am

Northern Area Championships April 4-6 – Hamme Pool

Prelim/Final Meet

AK Junior Olympics April 24-27 Bartlett Pool

Prelim/Final Meet