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[www.swimaqua.org](http://www.swimaqua.org)  
Hotline 281-488-1582

Bay Area Aquanauts  
Houston, TX 77062

“Turning Potential into Performance”

## *Long course here we come!!*

After a fast and successful short course season, AQUA has started to prepare for the long course season which runs from the first meet on April 26-28 to TAGS at the end of July.

AQUA finished the short course season with a 76% improvement rate, dropping time in more than 3 of every 4 swims in competition. Our focus has been and will continue to be on dropping time. Meet success is the logical outcome. The coaches challenge the kids to repeat or better this rate of improvement again in long course season.

Check the calendar and bulletins at the pools for meet formats and entry deadlines. Meet information, entry forms, and invitations are available at both pools typically 3 weeks prior to each meet and are also available for downloading from the website.

Contact any of the coaches or Kelli Baliker at (281) 488-3943 or [kkbaliker@ev1.net](mailto:kkbaliker@ev1.net) with questions about meets and entry procedures.

### **AQUA SPORTSMANSHIP**

One final meet note: AQUA has developed a good reputation at Gulf meets for visible displays of team unity and sportsmanship, and we always provide plenty of timers to help meets run uninterrupted. One thing we should always do to maintain this goodwill with host teams is remember to clean up our team area after each day of a meet.

#### **Next Board Meeting:**

**Tuesday, May 4, 8:30 pm**  
**Gloria Dei Church**  
**Nassau Bay**

## Short course social wrap-up

The spring social and team awards presentation was held April 6 at Seabreeze Park in La Porte. The event was well-attended and everyone seemed to adapt well to the trade winds. Despite reports to the contrary, it was not necessary that we nail plates and cups to the picnic tables.

Thanks to the Kolodgies and Langfords for their great job on the grills and to everyone for bringing a side or dessert. Kids and parents reportedly consumed 0.371 cows,

which is pretty impressive. Awards included a display of AQUA's 2nd place finish at Winter Champs and 10th place TAGS finish.

Individual awards went to **Gabby Guthrie, Caroline McElhany, Will Kolodgie, Cole Cragin, Kacie Baker, Jennifer Goodinich, Mark Grijalva, Justin Russo, Sierra Dyer, Lynn Fahey, Alec Korogodsky, Aaron Olszeski, and Haley Menard.** Congratulations!!



## 2002-03 Board chosen

Twenty-one of our dedicated parents attended the Board meeting April 9th and elected 4 new Board members. Paul Russo, Christine Swaney, Ed Mullery and Barb Kolodgie have been elected to 2-year terms. The Board would like to thank outgoing (term-limited) board members Scott Cragin, David Anton and Marcy Barr for their time and continuing

dedication to AQUA, and the incoming members for the volunteer commitment they have made to the team. Election judge, Jane Fahey, has certified the ballots as being free of hanging chads. No court challenges are expected. 

## Summer practice schedules

The Board has been working on summer practice schedules. Due to summer league and maintenance on area pools, the schedule will be somewhat more dynamic than we experience during the school year. Please keep close watch on the practice calendar, particularly in May and June.

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*"Forget mistakes. Forget failure. Forget everything except what you're going to do now, and do it." -- Will Durant*

# Fundraising in the new Millennium

AQUA has a “low-pressure” fundraising philosophy. We prefer corporate grants and grocery rebate programs to candy sales and walk-a-thons. We have had some success with the former, but can and need to do more.

If you have not already done so and you shop at Randall's, remember to enroll in the Randall's **Good Neighbor** program



at your next stop in an area store by simply having the customer service people code #9266 onto your Randall's card, and then use the card when you shop. Randall's makes a donation to AQUA of 1% of purchases. The cost to you is zero, and the benefit to AQUA is real.

Alternatively, Marcy Barr has extra **Kroger Share Cards** for the benefit of AQUA. Simply have the cashier swipe the card at check-out, and Kroger will rebate to AQUA 1% of purchases. We average about \$25 per month in these rebates, but have a goal of \$100 per month. If you use the cards, keep it up. If you don't, the cards cost nothing and are used in addition to any



other discount card you may also have for the store. Marcy can easily replace lost Kroger Share cards or provide extras for friends and relatives to use. Any “friend of AQUA” – whether a team member or not – can help by using these programs. See Marcy on pool deck or call at (281) 471-6666. AQUA does not endorse any particular grocery chain, but we do ask that you participate in these programs in the store of your choice.

In the area of corporate grants, we have obtained \$745 so far this year in two grants from Hickham and Rohm and Haas, and have pending applications for about twice that amount from two other companies. We believe that a large number of companies in the area have grant programs for tax-exempt organizations, and we find that AQUA typically qualifies for these grants.

We need only identify the programs and submit applications. Please let Ken Baliker know at (713) 567-0187 if your employer has such a program and he will do the follow-up. The fundraising we do ultimately helps the team with its operation and allows AQUA to continue to provide services at the most affordable training fees possible. 🐬



## Website rollout



The new-look website has been implemented through the overtime efforts of Ed Mullery and Katherine McElhany. If you have not visited the site, please do so. The address, [www.swimaqua.org](http://www.swimaqua.org), has not changed. It is a great source of team info. There are still more great features on the way.

# Know Gulf recruiting rules

Reminder about Gulf Rules on Illegal Recruiting: The greening of lawns and blooming of flowers marks the beginning of spring. Unfortunately, it is also the time of year when those inclined to do illegal recruiting are most active. Gulf rules prohibit anyone (coaches, parents, and swimmers) from recruiting swimmers currently registered with other teams. If you are asked for information about AQUA (whether by a USA Swimming-registered swimmer or not), there is no problem. It is illegal, however, for any parent, or USA Swimming-registered coach or athlete to initiate a conversation with another USA Swimming-registered athlete or parent with the intent of encouraging a transfer to another team. Given our consistent improvement at meets and our Top 10 finish at TAGS, it is not surprising that other teams may try to improve themselves by recruiting AQUA swimmers. If you have been approached in a manner you think may be a violation of these Gulf Swimming rules, please contact a coach or a Board member. 🐟



Continue to check the practice calendars and AQUA *Splash* news for updates and team info. Visit the AQUA website ([www.swimaqua.org](http://www.swimaqua.org)) for schedules, team news and other features. Keep submitting pictures for the website, and look in the local *Citizen*, the *Houston Chronicle This Week* and Friendswood papers for articles on AQUA swimmers. 🐟

Solomon Berezin	5/ 2/96
Justin Russo	5/ 7/89
Taryn Brashear	5/11/88
Trisha Haydon	5/14/88
Stephen Sun	5/14/91
Alec Korogodsky	5/15/88
Emily Young	5/17/93
Katherine McElhany	5/21/86
Jaci Russo	5/26/93
Taylor Cryan	5/30/90

