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www.swimaqua.org
Hotline 281-488-1582

Bay Area Aquanauts
Houston, TX 77062

Turning today's potential into tomorrow's performance

Championships produce fast times

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AQUAnauts finished the high school and USA Swimming short course seasons with scores of PR's, team records and a good showing at TAGS. The four AQUA members qualifying for HS state — Eileen Viscontini, Ashley Johnson, Aaron Olszeski and Adam Olszeski had 100% best times in their individual events.

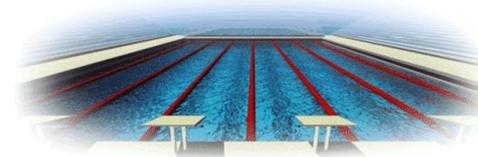
Results from Spring Champs at Alief showed AQUA swimmers improving in 63% of their events. Swimmer of the Meet was Kari Burrell with 100% improvement in her six swims. Other swimmers with 100% improvement were Katie Crumpler (2), Kennedy Metcalf (2), Mark Nguyen (1), and Rachel Nguyen (3). In addition, Katie had a swim qualifying her for Last Chance TAGS. At Last Chance TAGS the following weekend, AQUA swimmers achieved four new TAGS times including Caroline Baliker (100 breast, 200 IM), Jenny Claydon (200 IM), and Ellen Lobb (200 back). There were also 2 team records set by Cameron Dyer (100 breast) and Caroline McElhany (200 back).

Six AQUA swimmers entered the 13 & Up Spring Championship meet at Katy the weekend of Feb. 28-Mar. 2. A seventh came on Sunday. AQUA earned a ninth-place finish. Team records were set by Lynn Fahey in the 100 fly and by Jennifer Joines in the 100 breast. Most swimmers earned positions in finals, with Lynn and Mark Grijalva winning events. If all qualified AQUA swimmers had participated, the team championship for this meet would easily

have been captured by AQUA. Congratulations to Lauren Barr, Maggie Eicks, Lynn, Jennifer, Noelle Gilman, Mark and Justin Russo for their team and individual contributions.

To finish the short course season, AQUA had 11 kids participate at TAGS at A&M from March 6-9. AQUA swimmers improved in 71% of their events. Cole Cragin was Swimmer of the Meet; he improved in all seven of his events and placed in finals in four events. Other swimmers with 100% best times were Kacie Baker (3), Jonathan Berezin (1), and Cameron Dyer (2).

Nineteen AQUA records were set as follows: 11-12 Girls 400 Free Relay (Caroline McElhany, Kacie Baker, Ellen Lobb, and Jenny Claydon), 11-12 Girls 400 Medley Relay (Ellen, Kacie, Caroline, and Jenny), 11-12 Boys 400 Free Relay (Cole Cragin, Will Kolodgie, Jonathan Berezin, and Taylor Cryan), 11-12 Boys 400 Medley Relay (Cole, Jonathan, Will, and Taylor), Kacie (50, 100, 200 breast), Jenny (50 and 200 free, 200 back, 100 IM), Cole (50, 100, 200 back and 50, 100, 200 fly), and Cameron (50 and 100 breast). The 11-12 Girls 400 Medley Relay also made T16 consideration.



SEASON WRAP-UP

The short course season has to be considered a success. Meet attendance was up, AQUA maintained a very high 68% improvement at meets, our swimmers set dozens of new team records, we had a swimmer set Gulf Swimming, Texas state and National records, we had an all-time best seven athletes qualify for Sectionals, four qualify for HS State Championships, and perhaps as many as three of our graduating seniors will be attending college on swimming scholarships in the fall. This resume is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of AQUA swimmers. Way to go!

UPCOMING MEETS

The first Long Course meet will be an Open meet April 25-27. The location has not yet been confirmed. Open meets are good ones to attend, particularly if swimmers need official times. Be especially alert for LC meets and entry deadlines. If you blink, you might miss this very short season!

Meet information, entry forms, and invitations are available at both pools typically three weeks prior to each meet. You can now "eEnter" meets with an on-line meet entry form and email link to Kelli Baliker available on the team website.

Contact any of the coaches or Kelli at (281) 488-3943 or kbaliker@houston.rr.com (NEW email ADDRESS!) with questions about meets and entry procedures. It is always a good idea to enter by the team deadline, so that Kelli can submit entries electronically, notify the coaches early to prepare the kids for their events, and help avoid higher "on deck" entry fees.

MEET FEE ACCOUNT = CONVENIENCE !

If you have not yet opened a meet fee account, it's not too late. Many AQUA families have already opened meet fee accounts that, when used with the on-line meet entry system, have helped AQUA streamline its meet entry process. Accounts

can be set up to work something like toll road EZ Tag accounts. Simply open accounts by making an advance payment of meet entry fees, and then drawing on the account over time. Susan Joines has more info for anyone interested in this option.

AQUA PARENTS STEP UP TO THE BLOCK, AGAIN

Last month we acknowledged that four AQUA parents that have/will become GULF swimming officials. This month, we can report that two volunteers have come forward to serve as Purchasing Coordinators. This should help with ordering and managing inventory of AQUAwear and other team items, and provide our members the benefit of bulk pricing. Thank you, parents, for stepping up to the block as volunteers.

LOST 'n FOUND ITEMS

AQUA ALERT! Ileana Sepulveda picked up a couple of items left in the team area at Last Chance TAGS at Kingwood (Feb 22-23). There is an aqua blue zipper jacket size 8 from Old Navy and a fleece blanket that is aqua blue in several shades with designs of swimmers. If you are missing these items please contact Ileana.

A BTA parent volunteer has requested that teams in the Gulf consider donating lost and found items to needy organizations of swimmers in the area, most notably to a team being formed at a near north side Salvation Army facility. Before AQUA considers this, we wanted to be sure our families had this reminder to check the lost & found for any missing items. Susan Joines has a trunk full of who-knows-what?



CCISD NATATORIUM STATUS

The proposed CCISD natatorium has been deleted from a \$337 million bond proposal, a vote for which is scheduled for May 3. In its place, the bond proposal includes a larger pool at the 4th high school proposed near Creekside Intermediate including 8 lanes, larger deck area than other district pool facilities and seating for 1200, enough to host a variety of aquatic events.

The AQUA Board has taken the position that it should not promote any particular natatorium project as a team interest, but rather to encourage our members living within CCISD to consider the merits of any bond issue as independent voters.

AQUA 2003-04 BOARD ELECTION APPROACHING

AQUA promises a board election on Tuesday, April 15 totally free of partisan politics, image consultants and spin. Thank you to Patty McElhany, Jana Cryan, Marcy Barr, and Ted Eicks for placing your names on the ballot for 2-year terms beginning in April. Please mark your calendars and take part in this very important team function. Meeting is at 8:00 pm, at Gloria Dei Church in Nassau Bay.

SHORT COURSE PICNIC SCHEDULED APR. 13

Mark your calendars! The Short Course Social and Awards Picnic will take place at Frankie Carter Randolph Park on FM 2351 in Friendswood, on Sunday April 13 from 3-6 pm. We had a giant cookout there two years ago with great food and weather. Hope to see everyone there.

A map to the park is on our website. A link to RSVP to Barb is also there.

AQUAWear

Check out all the AQUAWear on the team website. See the new shirt and sweatshirt.



Team items are usually available at each practice pool and meets, including rear window decals and team swim caps. All apparel items are provided at cost, so get into short course season by proudly (and economically) displaying your AQUA caps, decals and apparel items.

We are making another run at PARKA orders. We need 12 orders to get discount pricing. . .we have five families waiting on others to take the plunge. If interested, contact our fashion coordinator Susan Joines!



Next AQUA Board Meeting
Tues., Apr. 15, 2003 — 8:00 pm
Gloria Dei Church — Nassau Bay

Annual business meeting & Officers election

TEAM HANDBOOK ON-LINE

Parents should consult the team handbook now posted on the website. It is currently a draft, under revision, but most parts are fairly complete. If you have a question about the handbook or have suggestions as to content, please contact either Ed Mullery or Paul Russo.

“eENTRY” ON-LINE MEET ENTRY

In an effort to make it easier than ever to complete your meet entries, AQUA offers the “eEntry” website-based electronic meet entry form, if you so desire to utilize it. The online entry form will be made available for each meet as soon as meet entry information is posted on the Gulf website.

When you "submit" the form, you will receive a Confirmation Page you can print out, AND

it automatically sends Kelli Baliker an email with the info you entered. It will also not let you submit unless you have filled in all pertinent info, like name, age, USA ID#, total entry fees owed, etc. A built-in calculator will even figure your entry fee total for you !

The form, of course, works hand-in-hand with the new prepaid meet entry account system, if you desire to utilize THAT feature, **but you may still pay by cash or check the “old-fashioned way” and use this electronic meet entry form.** You simply indicate on the new form how you will pay.

This “eEntry” system virtually eliminates all paper handling when entering and paying for a meet entry! New entry forms will be posted for every meet and will be tailored to that meet. Links to meet-specific forms are indicated in the “Upcoming Meets” section of the website.

KROGER MINI-SHARE CARDS

AQUA has mini (ultra convenient) Kroger Share Card stickers that may be used on your key chain Kroger Card. These work the same as the business card-style we have been using. Simply have the cashier swipe the bar code on the card at checkout, and Kroger will donate 1% of the purchase amount to AQUA. If you have had a problem with the bar code wearing off, Susan, Marcy and Barb have plenty of replacements on deck at evening practices. Otherwise, you might try laminating your existing card.



This program along with the similar Randall's program (simply have a cashier or customer service person code AQUA's Good Neighbor number **9266** into your Randall's card) has become a high impact, low effort fundraising vehicle for AQUA and the benefits have helped AQUA maintain low training fees. We currently receive about \$65 per month between the two programs. That's a nice (and increasing) benefit but still short of our goal of \$100 per month. Keep using the cards, and benefit AQUA at no cost to you.



TRAINING FEE REMITTANCES

Please remember the correct address to which your monthly training fee remittances should be sent:

Bay Area Aquanauts
15403 Pleasant Valley
Houston, TX 77062

Mailing assures [pending the efficiency the US Postal Service] that your payment will not get misplaced if hand-delivered at the pools.