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www.swimaqua.org
Hotline 281-488-1582

Bay Area Aquanauts
Houston, TX 77062

“Turning Potential into Performance”

Aquanauts 5th at Gulf Champs

Bay Area Aquanauts

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Meet Entries
Kelli Baliker

Head Coach
Jennifer Johnston

At the Gulf Champs Meet Dec 13-15, AQUA swimmers improved in their events at a 75% rate. Swimmers of the Meet, with 7 best times in 7 events, were Ellen Lobb and Adam Olszeski. Ellen was also presented the meet high point award for the 10-&-under girls. Other AQUA swimmers with 100% improvement in the meet were John Christopher (5), Christie Latimer (5), Aaron Olszeski (6), and Adriana Sepulveda (6).

There were three new Top 16 times, two by the medley and free relay combination of Caroline Baliker, Ellen Lobb, Adriana Sepulveda, and Julia Sepulveda, and another by Ellen in the 100 IM. In addition, there were 12 new TAGS times by John Christopher (1), Jenny Claydon (3), Mark Grijalva (2), Christie Latimer (1), Aaron Olszeski (2), and Adam Olszeski (3). An incredible number (43) of new team records were set at the meet, including 11-12 girls 400 free relay (Kacie Baker, Jenny Claydon, Caroline McElhany, and Katharine Silkowski), 11-12 girls 400 medley relay (Kacie, Jenny, Caroline, and Christie Latimer), 11-12 boys 400 free and medley relays (Jonathan Berezin, Cole Cragin, Taylor Cryan, and Mark Grijalva), 13-14 girls 400 free and medley relays (Kim Anton, Sierra Dyer, Lynn Fahey, and Jennifer Joines), 13-14 boys 400 free and medley relays (John Christopher, Aaron Olszeski, Adam Olszeski, and Justin Russo), and individually Kacie Baker (1), John Christopher (2), Jenny Claydon (3), Cole

Cragin (4), Lynn Fahey (3), Mark Grijalva (3), Ellen Lobb (1), Caroline McElhany (6), Aaron Olszeski (3), Adam Olszeski (7), and Julia Sepulveda (2)

UPCOMING MEETS

If you have not gotten in on the meet action, please consider it. We've had great team showings in the numbers of swimmers participating, sportsmanship, and fast times. Our next meets will be Gulf Champs Dec 13-15, and both 11 & Up and 10 & Under Open meets in January. 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 three weeks prior to each meet. You can now "eEnter" meets with the 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@ev1.net with questions about meets and entry procedures.

Procedures are also now available in our draft team handbook at www.swimaqua.org. It is always best to enter by the team deadline, so that Kelli can submit entries electronically and notify the coaches early to prepare the kids for their events. Advance entry fees are also typically one-half the cost of entering "on-deck" the day of the meet.

So far I've lost 30 seconds on the Swimfast plan.

CALLING ALL OFFICIALS

Meet schedules have never been more taxing on the limited number of available officials in Gulf Swimming. AQUA would like to know who among us has officiated before (stroke & turn, start, and referee) in other leagues or LSC's, and would be willing to volunteer and train as an official at Gulf meets.

AQUA will be required to begin providing a limited number of officials at meets beginning Feb 1. So far, three parents have expressed interest, but many hands make light work.

Let's share this volunteer effort to lighten the load on everyone. Contact any coach if you have an interest in officiating.

THIS NEWSLETTER ON-LINE

There are now three ways to obtain a copy of this informative monthly newsletter:

- It is posted on our www.swimaqua.org website.
- It is available by request to Marcy Barr by email.
- A limited number of hard copies will be available at each practice location.

Refer to the newsletter often to keep up with team events and information items.



TEAM HANDBOOK ON-LINE

Parents should begin to 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.

"eAQUA" ON-LINE MEET ENTRY

In an effort to make it easier than ever to complete your meet entries, AQUA announces the "eAQUA" 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 eAQUA 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.

Next AQUA Board Meeting
Tuesday, February 11, 2003 — 8:30 pm
Gloria Dei Church — Nassau Bay

Meet entry fee account system

AQUA has made optional meet entry fee accounts available to our members as a convenience. Accounts are set up and tracked by our treasurer Susan Joines, and they work something like pre-paid EZTag toll road accounts. Members open accounts by paying, for example, \$50 toward future meet entry fees, and then draw on the account over time. Susan will send a notice when the account balance drops below the amount of a typical meet entry. Some folks have even used the account to pay for AQUAstore purchases. Your choice.

We think this might be most convenient to families that email meet entries or use the new "eAQUA" on-line meet entry form, or to anyone not typically on-deck at practice around the time entries are due. We also hope this will make the meet entry process easier to do in advance, avoiding higher cost of entering "on-deck" the day of the meet.

AQUAstore: New T-shirts, sweats



Front-side lettering on sweatshirt and T-shirt

Check out all the new AQUAwear on the team website, including 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.



Back design of new T-shirt

Kroger mini-Share Cards

AQUA now 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, and should be available on deck at 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 our 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 \$50 per month between the two programs. That's a nice benefit, but still short of our goal of \$100 per month. Keep using the cards, and benefit AQUA at no cost to you.



How many pizzas can one team eat?

Not only do Aquanauts drop time in the pool, but it also seems that 100% of our kids devoured pizza faster than at the fall social last year. This year, the big event was Jan 5 at La Porte pool. Thank you to all the parent organizers and families that donated door prizes.

See pictures of the event on our www.swimaqua.org website.



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.

