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www.swimaqua.org
Hotline 281-488-1582

Bay Area Aquanauts
Houston, TX 77062

“Turning Potential into Performance”

Aquanauts in mid-season form

Bay Area Aquanauts

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Meet Entries
Kelli Baliker

Head Coach
Jennifer Johnston

At the SCAT Open Meet Nov. 22-24, AQUA swimmers improved in 70% of their events. *Swimmers of the Meet* were Alyssa Mullery and Evan Fair. In addition to Alyssa and Evan, AQUA had 12 swimmers with 100% best times at the meet including Kacie Baker, Madelaine Watkins, Kaitlin Kirasich, Lauren Fiske, Amy Melancon, Jonathon Berezin, Brandon Nguyen, Daniel Shipman, Stephen Sun, and Peter Silkowski. There were 7 new TAGS times earned: Ellen Lobb (1), Aaron Olszeski (1), Adriana Sepulveda (1), Julia Sepulveda (1), the 10 & Under girls 400 free relay of Caroline McElhany, Adriana, Julia, and Ellen, and by virtue of improved individual times, AQUA qualified 2 additional relays (11-12 girls 400 medley and 11-12 boys 200 free). There were 12 new AQUA records by Kacie Baker (2), Jenny Claydon (3), Caroline McElhany (2), Adam Olszeski (2), 10 & Under girls 400 free relay, and the 11-12 boys 400 free and medley relays (Jonathon Berezin, Taylor Cryan, Mark Grijalva, and Will Kolodgie).

On Dec. 6-8, AQUA participated in the Winter Champs Meet at Kashmere High School. AQUA swimmers improved in 52% of their events. Three swimmers improved in 100% of their events: John Chilton (3), Robbie Chilton (3), and Blake Swaney (3). Four new team records were set by Lynn Fahey (2), Jennifer Joines (1), and Liz Eicks (1).

McELHANY SETS RECORDS

Also the same weekend, at the City of Richardson Winter Classic in Dallas, Caroline McElhany set seven new 10-under team records, a new Gulf Swimming record in the 200 IM, a new Gulf and STATE record of 1:02.05 in the 100 fly, and a new Gulf, STATE and USA Swimming *NATIONAL* record of 27.78 in the 50 fly.

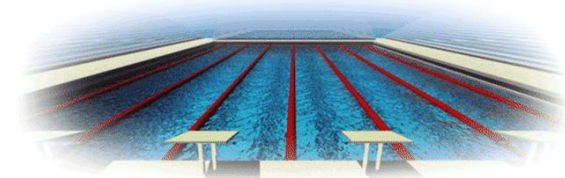
Congratulations, Caroline, and way to go, AQUAnauts!

THIS NEWSLETTER ON-LINE

There are now three ways to obtain a copy of this vital and 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.



My boyfriend said if I swim another night, he'll leave me; gosh, I'll miss him!

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.

CALLING ALL OFFICIALS

Gulf meet schedules are 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, and we would like to develop a list, and register several officials with Gulf Swimming before the Feb. 1, 2003 effective date of the requirement.

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 will be indicated in the "Upcoming Meets" section of the website.

Next AQUA Board Meeting
Tuesday, January 14, 2003 — 8:30 pm
Gloria Dei Church — Nassau Bay
Board meeting minutes are now posted online on our website

2003 REGISTRATIONS

USA Swimming registration for calendar year 2003 started officially on September 1, 2002. Please complete the information form and release as well as the USA Swimming registration (half-page) form, and turn in with payment made out to AQUA. Gulf Swimming

will not directly accept personal checks for individual athlete registrations. If you have questions about fees, just ask one of our team information contacts at each pool. You can turn in registration forms on deck at either pool.



Objects have lost their owners

We have accumulated a significant amount of "stuff" (a.k.a. lost & found objects) at pools since the start of the Fall season. In particular, a leather jacket was left at the La Porte pool last week. If this is yours, please see Coach Kelan. Susan Joines has Brook stuff. Please claim these items, as Susan's car [a.k.a. the AQUA Storefront] is filling rapidly.

Meet entry fee account system underway

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. The design of a new T-shirt [\$9] and sweatshirt [\$15-16] was recently finalized. Many of these team items are 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.



AQUA Fall/Winter Social Jan. 5

The annual Fall Social (or some might say the Winter Social) has been scheduled the afternoon of Sunday, January 5th at the La Porte pool. Barb Kolodgie will be providing details shortly, so put this event on your schedules. Games, door prizes, food and AQUA family fellowship are on the agenda.

