



Volume 4, No 3
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www.swimaqua.org
Hotline 281-488-1582

Bay Area Aquanauts
Houston, TX 77062

“Turning Potential into Performance”

Short Course season winding up

Bay Area Aquanauts

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Meet Entries
Kelli Baliker

Head Coach
Jennifer Johnston

AQUA sent teams to two midseason meets in January. Just after the holidays, our 11 & Ups went to A&M, improving in 56% of their events. Swimmer of the Meet was Kacie Baker with 100% improvement in 7 swims. Others with 100% improvement were Jonathan Berezin and Sierra Dyer. There were 14 new team records set by Kacie Baker (2), Lynn Fahey (3), Jennifer Joines (3), Caroline McElhany (3), and the 11-12 girls 200 free and medley relays (Kacie, Caroline, Jenny Claydon and Katharine Silkowski), and the 11-12 boys 200 free relay (Jonathan, Cole Cragin, Taylor Cryan and Will Kolodgie). In addition, there were 9 new TAGS times by Kacie (1), Jonathan (1), Jenny (1), Cole (2), Caroline (3), the composite time of 11-12 boys 400 free relay (Jonathan, Cole, Taylor and Will).

Later in January at the BTA 10 & Under meet, AQUA swimmers improved times in 45% of their events. Swimmer of the Meet, with 100% best times in four events, was Elizabeth Noriega. Lauren Fiske also improved in all three of her events. There was one new TAGS time by Ellen Lobb. In addition, there were a number of great individual and relay swims.

On the weekend of Feb 1-2, AQUA swimmers of all ages participated in several meets. At the HCAP Open, Swimmer of the Meet was Caroline Baliker, with 100% best times in 9 events, quite an accomplishment. Other swimmers with 100% best times were

Lauren Barr (4), Christine McManamen (3), and Matthew Roth (3). AQUA's high school swimmers hit the water in both district and regional meets. Congratulations to Adam and Aaron Olszeski, and Eileen Viscontini for winning two events each at regionals. In addition, Ashley Johnson anchored her medley relay at regionals, qualifying a total of 4 AQUAnauts for their respective high school state championships. Well done!

In all meets that weekend, there were 9 new TAGS times by Jenny Claydon (2), Jill Cooke (1), Devren Hobbs (1), Ashley Johnson (2), Aaron Olszeski (1), and Eileen Viscontini (2). There were also 11 team records set by Jenny Claydon (1), Cole Cragin (1), Devren Hobbs (1), Ashley Johnson (1), Aaron Olszeski (2), Adam Olszeski (1), Jared Schneider (2) and Eileen Viscontini (2). AQUA continues to prepare the swimmers for the short course championship season later in February. Look for a wave of great times to break.

UPCOMING MEETS

February is one busy month for AQUA swimmers. We have high school state, B & Under Champs, last chance TAGS, Sectionals, and a 13 & Up meet, all with significant participation by AQUAnauts and the coaching staff. Even though time is short for short course, long course season is coming shortly. Be on the lookout for an Open Meet in April. Meet information, entry

forms, and invitations are available at both pools typically three weeks prior to each meet.

You can now “eEnter” meets with separate on-line meet entry forms and email links to Kelli Baliker available on the team website for every meet. Contact any of the coaches or Kelli at (281) 488-3943 or kbaliker@ev1.net 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 !

Many AQUA families have opened meet fee accounts that, when used with the on-line meet entry system, have helped AQUA streamline its meet entry process. You don't have to be an accountant to credit these debit accounts for simplicity and convenience. Accounts can be set up to work something like the EZ Tag toll road 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 paperless option.

AQUA OFFICIALS RESPOND TO CALL

Meet schedules have never been more taxing on the limited number of available officials in Gulf Swimming, and some rules changes have been advanced in Gulf Swimming to increase availability of officials for meets. As you may know, Scott Cryan has completed training and is now a certified Gulf official. In addition, 3 other AQUA parents have come forward to register and begin training. As always, AQUA has come through with volunteers. AQUA thanks *all* our parent volunteers!

Next AQUA Board Meeting
Tues., Mar. 11, 2003 — 8:30 pm
Gloria Dei Church — Nassau Bay

ANY EXPERT SHOPPERS AVAILABLE?

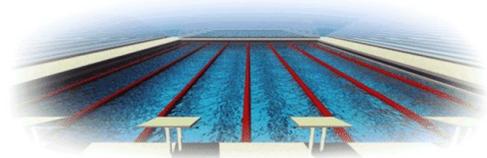
The AQUA Board is looking for a parent volunteer with finely-honed shopping skills to serve as Purchasing Agent. This person would manage all our team purchases, select vendors, place orders for apparel items, caps, etc., distribute items between pools, manage inventory and reorder items when necessary. Our Treasurer has previously been handling these duties. AQUA would be pleased if one of the expert shoppers among us would put their streamlined purchasing skills to work for a great cause.

LOST ‘n FOUND ITEMS IN DEMAND

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

A proposed CCISD natatorium has been included in a citizen committee recommendation for a \$339 million bond issue to the CCISD Board of Trustees. Final decisions on timing, size and content of a bond issue will be made by the CCISD Trustees in the next few weeks. The AQUA Board has taken the position that it should not promote the natatorium project as a *team* interest, but rather encourage our members living within CCISD to consider the merits of any bond issue as independent voters.



NEW AQUA BOARD SLATE ANNOUNCED

The Board has put forth a slate of four new prospective Board members for the April Board election. The ballot will include Patty McElhany, Jana Cryan, Marcy Barr, and Ted Eicks. The current AQUA Board thanks these volunteers, and the voters for their consideration of these candidates for 2-year terms beginning in April 2003. Board members whose terms will be expiring are Susan Joines, Mike McElhany, Ken Baliker, and Harold Johnston. The Board wishes to thank these four for their dedicated service and continuing involvement with AQUA.

SHORT COURSE PICNIC SCHEDULED

Mark your calendars. Barb Kolodgie has informed the newsletter editorial staff that the next social and awards picnic will be located at Frankie Carter Randolph Park in Friendswood on Sunday April 13 from 3-6pm. We had a giant cookout there 2 years ago with great food and weather. Hope to see everyone there.

AQUAWear

Check out all the new 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!!

HEB GRANT RECEIVED

AQUA has received a **\$250** grant from HEB through their corporate Community Development program. In addition, we continue to receive generous grants from other businesses and corporations for whom AQUA parents work. This is free money out there available for the asking, so let's be aggressive!! The fact that HEB money was available was discovered by an alert AQUA parent perusing the HEB website [what are *you* doing in *your* spare time!?!?].



Also, if your employer has programs that benefit non-profit organizations such as AQUA, please let Ken Baliker know at kkbaliker@ev1.net. These grants help AQUA keep fees the lowest around.

NEWSLETTER AVAILABILITY

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

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.



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.