

Dear Montana Swimming Friends,

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on happenings within Montana Swimming.

First, congratulations are in order for Janice Bell of the Bozeman Barracudas who was named the Montana Swimming Phillips 66 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year. Erin Popovich of the Butte Tarpons Swim Team was named the Montana Swimming Outstanding Female Swimmer of the Year. Nate Wittnam of the Billings Aquatic Club was named the Montana Swimming Outstanding Male Swimmer of the Year. Congratulations!

Lev Bates of Missoula YMCA Swim Team was named the Head Zones Coach for Montana Swimming. Lev will be joined by Heidi Gray of FAST and Di Robinson of MYST as assistant coaches. Lars and Nancy Halstrom of Bozeman are the Zones chaperones. Nancy Halstrom is our Zones Team Organizer. Swimmers, if you qualify for zones, please contact Nancy as soon as possible. Nancy has the Zones packets available. Please contact Nancy at 406-522-2535 (work) or 406-586-7549 (home) or by e-mail at nhalstrom@fs.fed.us. If you would like to check out the zones web site, log on to <http://westernzone.usswim.net>.

At the end of this note is the long course and tentative short course meet schedule. There will be a short Montana Swimming meeting July 26 in Bozeman during LC State to finalize the meet schedule. The time and place for the meeting will be announced later.

Long Course State will be held July 25-27 in Bozeman. Please note that we have made a change to the age groups for the state championship meets. The 17-19 year old age group has been changed to 17 and over. The 17-18 year old qualifying times are the state qualifying times for this age group. Swimmers must be registered athlete members of Montana Swimming to compete in the championship meets.

Swimmers, you are invited to submit a design for the Spirit Award banners. Montana Swimming will have two new spirit banners made in August and we need a design for the banner. The banners are white with navy trim and state "Montana Swimming Short Course (or long course) Spirit Award". The current banners have a navy megaphone for the design. Designs can be no larger than 12" x 18" and should be in one or possibly two colors. Please send your designs to me by July 21. We will vote on the designs during LC State. If you e-mail me the design, please save it as a word file, if possible, as I don't have publisher available on my computer. My address is at the end of this note.

The fall Montana Swimming House of Delegates meeting will be held October 4-5 in Bozeman. All proposals to be considered at the meeting must be submitted to me by no later than September 2. We will also elect several officers

at this meeting. If you are interested in serving on the Montana Swimming board, please contact Lars Halstrom, the nominating committee chair, by September 2 at halstrom@in-tch.com or call him at home at 406-586-7549.

Montana Swimming will have a new web site soon on the usswim.net site. Once the new web site is officially up and running, I'll let you know. Also, USA Swimming has a new e-mail newsletter than you can receive to keep up with the latest news from USAS. To sign up for the newsletter, go to the USA Swimming home page (www.usa-swimming.org) and follow the directions. To view a recent newsletter, check out this link at <http://www.usaswimming.org/Newsletter/Lanelines6-6.htm>

The May Montana Swimming meeting minutes are available. If you would like a copy e-mailed to you, please contact Laurie Brennan or me and we will send you a copy.

Finally, please be aware that our Montana Swimming – USA Swimming dues will increase as of September 1, 2003. The dues increase is from the national organization. The athlete dues will increase to \$60 per swimmer. Seasonal athlete dues will increase to \$32.50. Non-athlete dues will increase to \$50 and non-athlete family dues will increase to \$85. The dues will then increase a dollar per year until 2014.

Listed below is the long course and tentative short course meet schedule.

MONTANA SWIMMING Long Course Meet Schedule 2003

| | |
|------------------|---|
| May 3 – 4 | Kalispell (KATS) |
| May 16 – 18 | Bozeman (BOZ) |
| June 14 – 15 | Havre (HAV) |
| June 27 – 29 | Missoula (MAC) |
| July 12 – 13 | Helena (HLST) |
| July 16 – 20 | Senior Sectionals, MT Hood Aquatics Center, Gresham, Oregon |
| July 18 – 20 | Big Sky State Games, Billings (BAC) (meet held at Rocky College) |
| July 19 – 20 | Butte (BTST) |
| July 25 – 27 | MT State Long Course Age Group Championships in Bozeman |
| July 29 – Aug. 2 | Senior Sectionals, Houston, TX |
| August 5 – 9 | Western Zones, Mona Plummer Pool, Arizona State University, Mesa, AZ |
| August | Nationals |

(2004 Western Zones Swim Meet is August 10 – 14 at Redding, California.)

Tentative Short Course Meet Schedule 2003-2004

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|-------------------|--|
| Sept. 7-14 | US Aquatic Sports Convention, San Diego, CA |
| October 4-5 | Fall Semi-Annual Meeting of MT Swimming, Bozeman |
| October 24-26 | Billings (BY) and MT Masters joint meet |
| November 1 | Great Falls (FAST) |
| November 8-9 | Missoula (MAC) |
| December 6-7 ?? | Bozeman (BOZ) tentative |
| January 17-18 | Butte (BTST) |
| January 25-26 ??? | Kalispell (KATS) |
| February 6-7 | High School State – Great Falls |
| February 14-15 ?? | Helena (HLST) |
| ?? | Billings (BAC) |
| ?? | Short Course State (still to be decided) |
| March 10-14 | Senior Sectionals, Federal Way, WA |
| March 13-14 | YMCA Regionals, Boise, ID |
| March 19-21 | Age Group Sectionals, Federal Way, WA |

Thank you for your support of Montana Swimming. See you at the pool this summer!