

April 2015 Mixer Meet Report

On April 18th and 19th Montana Swimming held the second “Mixer Meet” from a recommendation for LSC’s that have a population of less than 2500 to get more interest in the sport.

Basic Format of the Event

We had 132 participating swimmers for the weekend. There were 88 (67%) girls and 44 boys (33%). There were 69 swimmers 10 and under (52%) and 63 swimmers 11 and over (48%). Cost was \$30 to participate. Swimmers 11 and over engaged in 1.5 hours of water time in Saturday morning that was training and social interactive focused. Swimmers chose a stroke or sprint/middle distance/distance freestyle and got to work with a coach for their lane. An afternoon 3 hour swim session was planned for all participants with rotation of skill development and working with multiple coaches, however in the middle of the 3rd rotation, a participant got sick in the pool and we were required to remain out of the pool for the remainder of the day. Swimmers also participated in 3 separate dryland/gym sessions focused on team building, games, and some dryland skills for a total of about 5 hours (including the time that got switched from the planned pool time). There was also snacks, 2 lunches and dinner provided to athletes. Upon Arrival, Swimmers received a Gatorade water bottle, Speedo full sized mesh bag with MT Swimming Logo, “I Love MT Swimming” stickers, and USA Swimming sticker and Tattoos to promote our sport.

Attending Coaches Comments

We had 1 MAC, 1 MYST, 1 BMA, 1 Unattached, 5 BOZ coaches and 1 BAC coach (Saturday only). Coaches mixed up as well and coached a group of 16-17 swimmers. We also incorporated ways that the kids got to meet each coach during dryland team building sessions. Coaches had a great time interacting with all kids and learned new skills from each other as well. There was a lot of positive response from the coaches that participated and the Bozeman hosts appreciated their time and expertise. Saturday’s event ran from 7:15am for 11 and overs and 9:30am for 10 and unders (check-in) to 6:00pm pick-up. Sunday’s meet ran from about 8:00am (warm-ups) to about noon and included pizza lunch at the end. We took the advise from coaches at the first mixer event and let 11 and overs start early, and had 10 and unders start later and that seemed to work much better. Coaches appreciated the older swimmers and their desire to fill leadership roles. Many opportunities were given for older swimmers to fill leadership roles and that was an exciting thing for coaches to see kids develop these skills.

Participant Survey Results

Survey’s were distributed to all participants via an online platform and collected from 50 participants after the event to try to help us plan for a future Mixer Meet. Below are the results of that survey.

Almost all surveys collected said they would return to a future Mixer Event. Of those, 20% said “no matter where it was held,” and 74% said “as long as it was within a 3 hour drive.” 2 “other” comments were collected (they both said they would if it was in Bozeman), 2% saying they would not participate again.

From the Survey Swimmers/parents ranked from 1-7 what was the best part about the mixer meet. Here are the results:

	Average Ranking
1. Meeting other Montana Swimmers/Building new Friendships	5.54
2. Learning new swimming skills	4.64
3. Working with new Coaches	4.12
4. Interactive dryland games/relays	3.88

	Average Ranking
5. Competing in relays (non-conventional relays)	3.48
6. Gaining Leadership experience	3.30
7. Competing for official times	3.04

Comment's section:

- "I love swimming"
- It was a great, fun introduction for beginners. Thanks!
- We think we liked the Cuda mixer meet better.
- This was a great experience for everyone. I enjoyed meeting new swimmers from in or out of town. I am excited to do it again, when ever it is. One problem I saw was that it became confusing when racing started because there was no colored caps, another thing was that there should be the event sheets e-mailed to the parents so that the swimmer and the parents could see who was swimming.
- Even though there was a hiccup in the schedule (the pool being closed) I loved the fact that we were able to continue and still learn lots of stuff
- The kids LOVED it! I also love that they had time to work on skills outside of a regular practice and get feedback from others. A great event thanks!
- there were several swimmers that were very upset because they didn't get to swim in two relays. Yet there were kids in their group that got to swim in three. It is important for the assisting coaches to understand how important they relays are to ALL the swimmer's
- It was a great meet and I had a real fun time experiencing it:)
- I was really bummed that we did not get to swim much. But on the back stroke station I know he had us swim either an 80 or a 40 of backstroke and the older kids kept running over the younger ones. Plus some of the younger ones had a hard time stay afloat. so I spent most of that station helping and trying not to be rub over. But I don't know how to make it better
- It was great for both the kiddos and adults. Thank you.
- Great job!! Kids had a lot of fun!!!!
- Clarification on #5 above - the competition/meet aspect of the event was super valuable as a way to "warm up" to the season (and I heard from many new families it was great introduction to what meets would be like). But I think recording "official" times is probably less important - could just as easily be unofficial and have the same value. This is a GREAT event! Way to go, Cudas!
- I don't think we would travel for a mixer meet, but would attend again if it was in Bozeman.
- Both my kids had such a fun time. Thanks for making it a great weekend for them. We are looking forward to next year! Loved all the good food!
- Thanks for all the hard work.
- This was my beginner swimmer's first experience with a "swim meet" and he couldn't have enjoyed it more. when we left he thanked me over and over for signing him up for it. and he couldn't stop talking about his older buddy from Missoula :)
- This was our first meet and we all had an excellent time. My daughter had a great experience. Thanks to the coaching staff for all the hard work organizing a great event.
- Keep this meet going!!
- Had lots of fun. Look forward to the next one.
- Our kids had a great time, just wished there were more 13 and over swimmers in attendance.
- Next year use name tags during dry land, my daughter didn't know the names of other kids!
- What a great weekend! Thank you Montana Swimming!
- Thank you for all the work you did to make this happen! It was well done!!!!
- More significant coach time, if possible Thank you so much!

Budget Breakdown:

Income from Meet Fees for event: \$8985

- MT Swimming paid host \$5,025 (\$6000- MT Swimming paid each coach \$100 stipend for their time (\$75 for the 1 Saturday only coach) Total-\$975.)
- Meet Fees Collected \$3960

Expenses: Total-\$7354.06

- Participation awards: \$3543.53
- Gift Card Awards/prizes (3 per group): \$330
- Food (2 lunches, 1 dinner and snacks): \$3,378.07
- Water Coolers/Dodge balls/items to serve food: \$102.46
- Payment to Clubs that provided travel for Coaches to come: \$300

Remaining Expenses not yet paid and Estimates:

- Pool \$400
- Gym \$40
- Cafeteria \$140

Anticipated Profit: \$750

Recommendations: Continue to provide this event for Montana Swimmers in increase the mix of teams participating. It was a fun event and the coaches that attended were amazing. Thank you to Montana Swimming and the supporting clubs for the event.

Submitted by Coach Jade and Coach Shelly Sobek