

The Meadowbrook Woods Sporting Times

12 June 2010

Smiles everyone! Smiles! It's Time Trials Saturday!

Veteran fans of primetime and “must-see” 1970’s television will assuredly remember Mr. Roarke (Ricardo Montalban) and his diminutive associate “Tattoo” (Herve Villechaize) who cried *De Plane! De Plane!* each week to signal the arrival of two new guests coming to *Fantasy Island* to have their wishes and fantasies fulfilled. The mysterious host - the debonair and suave white-suited Mr. Roarke - would sometimes do the impossible and grant them their wishes ... but there were always some twists to the fantasy such as letting the guests learn something about themselves or getting something they weren't expecting.

In the early seasons, each guest paid as much as \$50,000 in advance for the fulfillment of their fantasies. Later, the format changed such that the price a guest paid was substantial to him or her. One little girl emptied her piggy bank - less than ten dollars - to have her father's wish for a clean bill of health fulfilled.



Shown here outside a hacienda on their secret island located somewhere in the Pacific Ocean, Mr. Roarke and Tattoo entertained Americans for 7-seasons in the mid to late 1970's.

Roarke had a strong moral code, but he was always merciful. He usually tried to teach his

guests important life lessons through the medium of their fantasies, frequently in a manner that exposed the errors of their ways. On occasions when the island hosted terminally ill guests, he would allow them to live out one last wish.

Roarke's fantasies were not without peril, but the greatest danger usually came from the guests themselves. In some cases, people actually got themselves killed due to their own negligence, aggression or arrogance. Roarke directly intervened occasionally when the fantasy became dangerous to the guest. For instance, Tattoo was once granted a fantasy for great power which ended up with him being chased by hostile natives in canoes. Mr. Roarke suddenly appeared in a motorboat, snared Tattoo's canoe with a grappling hook and towed it safely away.

Closer to home, good things are happening as local swimmers and fans assemble for the annual outdoor season. Some will be seeking ribbons while others are more interested in personal best times. Still others are seeking to renew long lost friendships from last summer or to simply enjoy a Mako Burger grilled to perfection. As you file through the burger bar this morning, take a deep breathe, smile, and let your mind drift to a tropical paradise located *far, far away* while imagining the conversation...

Roarke: “Welcome my dear guests to Fantasy Island. We have planned a wonderful 8-week vacation for you. To start, parents are invited to relax on the beach while swimmers practice for our first annual *Fantasy Island Swim Season*. Tonight, adults will enjoy a five-course dinner prepared by our award winning chef followed by an evening on the veranda while swimmers attend a seminar to learn the rules and regulations of summer swimming. In the weeks to come, parents are invited to enjoy a wide variety of activities including yoga, tennis, golf, kayaking, reading, culinary cooking, hang-gliding, hiking, and fishing

while children swim, swim, and swim some more.”

Tattoo: “Boss, you sound as though it will be all work and no play for the Makos this summer. Where’s the fun?”

Roarke: “On the contrary, Tattoo. Several age-based social activities are in the works for these youngsters. Watch the team website for more information.”

Tattoo: “Boss, there goes the 8U crowd. They’re so talented.”

Roarke: “Indeed, my friend, they are extremely talented. And remember, the only time that *Hard Work* beats *Talent* is when *Talent* doesn’t work hard. These boys and girls have their work cut out for them this summer. If they practice hard, get plenty of rest, and eat a well-balanced diet, their dreams of heat ribbons and personal best times may just come true.”

Tattoo: “Boss, there’s the 10U group stepping off *de plane*. Newspapers say they’re a speedy bunch.”

Roarke: “Yes, Tattoo. After having worked with the swimmer-coaches for a couple of years now, they’re stroke techniques are coming along nicely. My crystal ball indicates that they will do well this summer.”

Tattoo: “Boss, what do you make of the 12U group?”

Roarke: “Hmmm...good question, my friend... definitely a talented bunch. With swimmers like Morgan Combs, Zachary Gehr, Nicole Koob, Rachel Lowman, Sabrina Townsend, Colin Turner, Robbie Palisin, Timothy McEvoy, Taylor Tolson and Liam Turner on board, I believe they can compete with just about any team on the island if they put their minds to it.”

Tattoo: “What’s your take on the 14U’s?”

Roarke: “A mysterious group, Tattoo...one of my favorites. They tend to appear from nowhere, sweep up the heat ribbons, and vanish into the crowd...always working as a group and cheering

for each other. Definitely tough to beat on any given Saturday.”

Tattoo: “Boss, tell me about the 18U swimmers.”

Roarke: “Ah yes, Tattoo...we’ve been watching this group since they were waist-tall. Over the years, they’ve become poised, polished, and exceedingly fast. But remember that with great success comes great responsibility. They’ll need to take time with younger swimmers to ensure the ways and means of sportsmanship are passed along.”

Tattoo: “Boss, what’s your fantasy for this summer?”

Roarke: “Tattoo, I most enjoy essence of teamwork – especially the relays. There’s nothing more exciting than to seeing the lead-off swimmer build an early lead followed by the all important middle swimmers hanging on and keeping things close for the anchor swimmer. The Makos have a terrific group of coaches and volunteers backing them up. If these youngsters carry a strong work ethic and improve each week, our effort to support them will have been put to good use.”



Following today’s time trials, the Makos will find themselves on the road for the next three Saturdays (Wellington, Bridlewood, Brookside) prior to returning to the friendly confines of Superior Court on July 10 for the season home opener vs. Ashland. Everyone is encouraged to build-in extra time and to drive carefully while traveling. Good luck Makos. Swim fast and have fun!

Faces in the Crowd (Divisionals 2009)







