

GATOR BITS

Vol 11 October 19-23, 2015

ALL GROUPS

The Virginia Gators has been identified by USA Swimming as a National Top 40 Board Managed Club.



This honor allows selected clubs to send one representative to USA Swimming's Club President's Summit. The Virginia Gators has accepted this invitation and Glenn Muzzy will be attending this meeting at the Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs on October 29-31. Programs were selected by a combination of different criteria (some of them include: ranking in the Club Excellence Program, standing in the Virtual Club Championship, Club Recognition Program Level, recommendation from one of USA Swimming's Sport Development Consultants). This meeting is an in-depth governance focused summit with time for interaction with other club management. USA Swimming will cover a lot of the material that is used in the Club Leadership and Business Management School as well as topics generated by attendees. The Gators look forward to learning what other teams are doing and improving our program for everyone. Thank you to the swimmers, coaches, staff, and families for the support that will allow Virginia Gators Swimming to continue to grow and improve.

Upcoming Meets

SMAC Meet 8 & Unders and those swimmers trying to qualify for Pittsburgh

Titan Meet in Cary Team is not staying for Finals on Sunday

Hotel Information:

Best Western PLUS Cary Inn
1722 Walnut Street
Cary, NC 27511
[919.481.1200](tel:919.481.1200)

We have **40** rooms booked at the **newly renovated** Best Western PLUS in Cary, NC for Friday, November 6th and Saturday, November 7th.

- Standard Rooms (2 Full Beds) - **\$75.00** per room per night (Some rooms have microwaves and refrigerators - can try to request) Queen Suite Rooms (2 Queen Beds) (full kitchenette and separate living area) - **\$85.00 SOLD OUT**
- Free full **HOT** breakfast featuring pancakes, sausage, eggs, bacon, oatmeal, cereal, bagels, muffins starting at 6:00AM if needed
- Less than 1 mile from the TAC
- Crossroads and Cary Town Center shopping across the street as well as many restaurants.
- Working on late check-out if needed

To take part in this special team rate you will need to:

Email Amber Harris (millsuzy@gmail.com) ****not text**** by Friday, October 23rd. Please specify which nights you would like to stay.

Pittsburgh Meet Cuts listed in Meet Letter; More info to come

B-I- N- G- O B-I-N-G-O and Bingo is our fund raiser!

Please go to www.signupgenius.com and sign up today. We currently have openings through the end of December. Check back often for new availability. Please find a replacement if you cannot make it on the night you signed up to work.

THANK YOU GATOR OFFICIALS

The following parents deserve a huge Gator Thank You for stepping up and working at our Meet last weekend!

David Bowers	Kim Bray	Lori Fitchett	Mary Reed
Cindy Hunter	Lori Russo	Laura Whitlow	
Dan Summerlin	Victor Myburgh	Glenn Muzzy	

Tremendous job Leslie Floyd did at running concessions and hospitality.

Victor Myburgh with the super help of his dad, Keith, did an A-plus job as Meet Director.

NATIONAL TEAM & SENIOR GROUP NEWS



Congratulations Swimmers!

While many of our Senior and National Group Swimmers achieved their best times at our meet this weekend, our top 2 Swimmers were **Lillian Isbell 6/6** and **Collin Myburgh 5/6**. Lillian achieved personal bests in every race she entered, while Collin raced to five new personal bests for the weekend. Other swimmers who had personal bests included: Taylor Summerlin, Caroline Kulp, Callie Summerlin, Greg Reed, Noah Bowers, Keith Myburgh, Michael Pilar, Whitney Hamilton, Angelo Russo, Jake Bowery, Sydney Smith, Mills Harris, Khalil Fonder, Adler Cargill, Nathanael Pilar, Paige Assaid, Olivia Bray, Lilly Caldwell, Madison Horacek, Cabell Whitlow and Dominic Russo.

Sat Practices: 10/31, 11/14, 11/21, 11/28

National Group:

6:30am Depart GAC for Hargrave Military Academy

8:00-11:00am @ Hargrave

Return to Roanoke – Lunch along the way

1:00-3:00pm @ Gator Aquatic Center

* Swimmers will need to eat breakfast before departing from GAC and bring money for lunch



GATR Senior Shootout:

December 4-6, 2015 @ Hargrave Military Academy

THIS MEET IS FOR ALL SENIOR AND NATIONAL GROUP SWIMMERS

Meet is a closed invite for Senior Groups in conjunction with teams from within and around Virginia.

There will be Short Course Yards Prelims and Long Course Meters Finals

This meet is a special event for Senior swimmers competing against Senior swimmers.

It will serve as our final tune up before the Pittsburgh Christmas meet. Select swimmers within striking distance of Olympic Trials Qualifying Time Standards will taper while swimmers focusing on Pittsburgh will save their tapers for the Team PITT Christmas meet.

Meet information will be posted for the event very soon.

GOLD GROUP NEWS

Meet Recap—The Gator Fall Classic is always a great chance to knock off the rust after summer break. The Gold Group had a plethora of best times throughout the weekend and we are looking forward to even better swims at the upcoming meet in Cary, NC. Please register ASAP as entries are due Friday, October 23rd. We would like to have all members of the group attend. Special thanks to all the parents who helped volunteer as the meet went on without a hitch. The kids certainly notice and appreciate it when you help out!

Highlights of the meet were **Jack Plogger and Jacob Miller** swimming in their first ever Gator and USA Swimming Meet. They both did a fantastic job and I can't wait to see their improvement throughout the year.

In addition, **Miranda Kirtley** broke the team record in the 1000 free and 1650 free. Her 1650 free was also the Virginia Swimming State Record! Way to go Miranda!!!!



Schedule Change - Gold Dryland will be Tuesdays from 530pm to 615pm in the weight room going forward.

BRONZE GROUP NEWS

Hello parents!



I just want to congratulate everyone who swam in the meet this past weekend!! For the shrimps, green group, and bronze group parents, please let me know if you want your child to swim in our next meet. The meet schedule is on the website. We are coming along and learning our strokes (green group). Also, our Shrimps are swimming the length of the pool and becoming some great backstrokers!

Please contact me at trisha@vt.edu so I can have your contact info if any changes need to be made or practice canceled, etc. I am so proud of our kiddos and we will be pushing forward to keep learning and swimming.

Lastly, for the Bronze group, we would love to have more swimmers!! If you have a child between 9-13 please consider coming to practice from 7pm-8pm M-TH. Our bronze swimmers are coming along wonderfully and every group is gaining stamina!

8 & UNDER GROUP NEWS

Great swim meet for the 8 & unders, who have worked very hard this Fall. The North Carolina coaches were very impressed by the quality of swimming from our 8 & unders, and especially the 6 & Unders! Achieving their first "B" times were **George Lugar**, **Lindsay Murtaugh**, and **Alexis McFarland**. Adding to their already achieved B times were **Zach Muzzy** and **Kaleb Humrickhouse**. We hope to build our 8 & Under contingent competing at Pittsburgh with more B times achieved at the SMAC meet in Waynesboro. Please get your swimmers entered soon!

Attention Parents!! **It truly "takes a village" of volunteers to run our Gator Program.** In the next couple of weeks there will be several volunteer jobs open that will need filling. Please consider these when they are posted. Additionally, we are in desperate need of new stroke and turn judges. Those of you who know your swimmers "are in it for the long haul" should consider training to become an official.

Without Gator officials, we will not be able to run meets.



Thank you to all of the parents who spent hours volunteering last weekend. We are at about 80% for parents volunteering but need the other 20% to step up and help.

Great start to the season 8 & under Gators!



Mills Harris turned 14

Callie Summerlin is now 14

Charlie Floyd just turned 9

Miranda Kirtley turned 13

Harrison Bui is 14

Caroline Summerlin will be 12 on Oct 23

Ari Wolfe turns 8 on Oct 29

Tessa Muzzy will be 17 on Nov 1

Dominic Russo will be 19 on Nov 2

Adler Cargill becomes 18 on Nov 4

Josh Smith turns 9 on Nov 10

Ava Muzzy turns 10 on Nov 12

Heidi Wienke turns 7 on Nov 12



COACH'S CORNER

Many parents have relied on the excuse "It is too hard to DQ those little swimmers, I could never do it!" Why not DQ them? The only way a swimmer knows he did something wrong is get a DQ for doing the stroke incorrectly. Now the swimmer and the coach know what needs to be fixed.

Think of it this way: would you correct your child at home if they did not follow your rules? Or would you allow them to continue to repeat the bad behavior over and over again? It is the same with swimming.

We can correct the problem while they are young and are at small meets so when they are older at National Level meets they do not get a DQ for something that should have been corrected a long time ago! Do not use that excuse for not becoming an official.

Think about the message you are sending to your child: ***I am not willing to be a helper.***

Officials need to be strong, impartial, and fair. They cannot overlook some infractions because they are afraid the parents will get mad at them. They judge everyone equally. It is what gives our swimmers credibility. The golden rule for Officials is "When it doubt, do not make the call." In other words, if you think you saw something wrong but are not sure, you do not call it. But if you did see something wrong, you make the call and allow the coach the opportunity to correct the stroke. Not giving a DQ does not help the swimmer.

Find the strength to say "Yes I Will Become an Official." You are at every meet anyway. Why not show an interest in your child's sport. Step up and get your training done. It also allows you to be on deck at many meets where parents are not allowed on deck.

Tell Cindy Hunter or your swimmer's coach that you are willing to be an Official today! We need the help for our upcoming meets.

