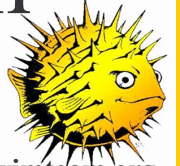


Bellingham Bay Swim Team News Bulletin



P.O. Box 5821 Bellingham, WA 98227

Oct 1st, 2007

www.bellinghambayswimteam.org

*“While striving to reach our full potential as swimmers
we strive to recognize, understand, and honor the team values that
help us to succeed in our sport and in life”*

Word From the Head Coach....

I would like to welcome everyone to another exciting season at BBST. The pool is full of a record number of swimmers starting off the season and the atmosphere is charged with the electricity of swimmers having fun, working hard and looking forward to fast swims.

I would like to especially welcome all the new swimmers and families: We are glad to have you as part of our Blowfish family! We will be having our fall meeting on October 12th, which will hopefully answer many of your questions. Until then, don't be shy to ask an experienced BBST family or a BBST coach a question or six (please remember, as per USA Swimming liability regulations, coaches can not talk with parents during a practice for any reason other than an emergency).

Also, we are very pleased to have **Coach Serena Galaviz** join our coaching staff. Serena is a WWU Sophomore hailing from Toppenish, WA and brings to the Novice Group a lot of personal swimming experience (and records!) as well as outstanding coaching experience and references.

Remember, we really want ALL swimmers to enter our home October Challenge (meet is October 20 & 21). Entries are due October 5th. It is a team effort and if you are on the team, you are ready to join in on the fun and swim in the meet. Talk to your coach if you are unsure what events to enter, or better yet: just turn in an entry form to your coach and let them decide the events.

I look forward to seeing all the swimmers and parents at our HUGE fundraising event: the Bellingham Bay Marathon! Wow, it will be a lot of work, but the benefits to our team are astronomical!

- Mark



Returning swimmers:
If you haven't already registered and paid for the 2007-2008 season, please be sure to check your file folders for registration forms and instructions.

All New Swimmers:
The file cabinet in the lobby of AHAC has file folders for each family. They are in the second and third drawers, alphabetically by last name. If you don't have one yet, please contact the

**Membership
Chairperson
Emily Baird-Levine
at 738-3561.**

Please continue to check these folders often for team information.



Team Practice Meet and Fall General Membership Meeting

Friday, October 12th
4:30-7:30pm
at
Arne Hanna Aquatic
Center

Practice for the
upcoming October
Challenge Meet then
join us for pizza and an
informative meeting on
the Swim Team



IN OCTOBER

Fri 5th: meet entries due to
your coach

Sun 7th: Bellingham Bay
Marathon volunteering

Fri 12th: October Challenge
Practice meet and Fall
General Membership
Meeting

Sat & Sun 20th & 21st:
October Challenge
Meet at Arne Hanna
Aquatic Center

Hello from the President of the Board....

Welcome to the new swim year! I always enjoy this time of the year, the weather is nice, the air is cooler, and school is back in session. Having a teenage daughter, it also means that the high school girl's swim season kicks in. It is always fun to see the local high schools compete, and recognizing that almost all of the top swimmers are members of BBST. For those of you with younger kids, hang onto your hats, you are in for a ride in the coming years!

I have been a "Swim Dad" for just a few years, but like many of you, like to stay as involved as much as I can in my child's activities. For me, this has meant agreeing to serve on the BBST Board of Directors, and happily accepting the role as President. This participation in my kid's activities is not only a pleasure; I believe I have an obligation to actively participate. This helps me connect better with my family, helps me better connect with and understand my growing child, but also has the added benefit of connecting with my child's peers and their families as well. What a great group of people at BBST!

As a member of the Board of Directors, I and the other board members have the added obligation of watching out for the club to the benefit of us all. This obligation means obtaining the best coaching we can, lining up pool time, organizing home meets, seeing to the variety of day-to-day BBST business, and while doing this, being ever mindful to the financial health of the club. This past year the decision was made to undertake a new fundraising venture - sponsorship of the Bellingham Bay Marathon.

While it seems odd at first that a swim club would host a running event, the opportunity for developing the Bellingham Bay Marathon as a recurring fundraising event makes huge financial sense. This event will not just happen on its own however. It will require a lot of hard work. Now is the time for all of us to recognize the obligation we all have in seeing to the health of BBST. If you haven't already guessed, I am asking each of you to plan on volunteering to help make the inaugural Bellingham Bay Marathon a huge success. Race day is October 7th, and we need a host of volunteers to help set up, tear down, assist on the course, cheer on the participants, and a help with a host of other activities. It will be fun, it will be hard work, but most importantly, it will bring a financial reward to the club. We have had great success in getting local businesses to contribute to the Marathon, all to the benefit of BBST. This highlights the obligation we have as members to be willing to help ourselves as well. If you have already volunteered to help out, thank you! If not, please contact Kris Runestrand at 676-9163, or complete the volunteer form on the website at www.bellinghambaymarathon.com.

Welcome to the new swim year! I look forward to getting to know each of you over the coming months!

-Craig Parkinson

