

# SQUAWK

VOLUME 18, ISSUE 7

WINTER 2010

## LIAISON

Tony Portela, VP Liaison is seeking a parent representative from each swim group to be the contact person for that group. A veteran parent is encouraged, but not essential. The responsibility of this group parent representative would be to share pertinent information or disseminate information with the whole group through email or a phone tree, be available to answer questions of parents new to the sport of swimming, and share any group concerns with BOD Liaison.

If interested in this position, please contact Tony Portela by email:  
 tportelagolf2@hotmail.com

### Volunteers Needed

We are gearing up to host the MAL Championship meet on February 13-14th. This is the last meet that we will host for the remainder of the 2009/2010 short course season. It will take approximately 100 volunteers to make this meet run successfully. Please sign-up on our website or contact the meet director, Alyson Cistola at

[cistola@yahoo.com](mailto:cistola@yahoo.com)

### Office Hours

Monday thru Thursday  
 10:00 a.m.– Noon, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
 Friday 10:00 a.m. to Noon  
 Office phone # 785-393-7966

### Important Dates

February 5-7 Presidential Invitational 14 & Under  
 February 7 Presidential Invitational 15 & Under  
 February 12 MAL 8 & Under Championships  
 February 12-15 Missouri Grand Prix  
 February 13-14 MAL West Champs  
 February 26-28 SC Division II West  
 March 4-7 Region VIII Sectional  
 March 12-14 MV Division I Championship

Check the website for more specific meet information.

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## SQUAWK NEWS

### All-Star Meet

Overall the 2010 All-Star meet was a complete success. There were 15 meet records set and one NAG record, a first for the pool and the meet. The competition was as fast as ever!

Due to the NAG record being set we had to have our pool certified by USA Swimming, which was received and approved this past week. This allows the NAG record to be certified as well giving our pool its 1<sup>st</sup> ever NAG record officially.

### Practices and Calendars

Continue to check your group calendars for practice time changes, Saturday practice additions, and upcoming end of the season meets. Coaches will give reminders at practice if anything is going to change, but please stay up to date using the web.

### Group Movement

Our coaching staff is in the midst of evaluating each group and making decisions on movement for this upcoming long course season starting in April. PLEASE BE PATIENT through this process, because we will not make things "official" until following our February Coaches Meeting. We will then notify swimmers and parents.

### Meet deadlines

As we are getting towards the end of the season, please be aware of the meet deadlines, so that no one is missing sign ups. Once our entries are sent for end of the season meets we are seldom able make additions to the meet unless they involve last minute cuts.

### Championship Shirts

We are going to be ordering and selling championship shirts for our groups. They will be minimal cost and be very general, so that our 8 & under championship swimmers are wearing the same championship shirts as our National qualifiers. Be on the lookout for more information regarding these shirts in the next week.

### End of the season

As we are in the final 6-8 weeks of the short course season please keep a look out for our season ending parties and fun. Announcements will be made via the Aquahawk website or email.

### New email

All of our coaches are officially set up on an [\\_\\_\\_@aquahawks.org](mailto:___@aquahawks.org) account. For example: [zach@aquahawks.org](mailto:zach@aquahawks.org), [cassie@aquahawks.org](mailto:cassie@aquahawks.org) and so forth. Email is the simplest way to communicate; however phone calls and verbal communication is much more effective.

### Coach request

Please refrain from talking with our coaches during practices. Our coaches try and focus on making our swimmers the best that they can be on a daily basis. If you have a pressing matter, then please try and catch them before practice or after practice. Anything else is just a distraction while practice is going on. Thank you for your understanding.

### Office Number

Our office number has been changed to the phone number to reach the Head Coach. Our office phone has moved on (to the trash heap) and all calls are now received on Zach's cell phone. If you need anything do not hesitate to call the number on the web, if he is unavailable he will return your call as quick as he can.

## PRESIDENTS LETTER

There have been many changes in the Aquahawk camp since the September annual meeting of members. Hopefully by now you have either met Zach Devine or are aware that he has taken over as Head Coach of the club. Zach brings with him an excellent reputation in the swimming community along with a proven record for making swimmers faster and making swimming fun at all levels.

**Zach Devine – Head Coach:** Zach has been with the club for approximately 2 months and he has observed the structure of our club and learned many aspects of how the Aquahawk operation is organized and operated. He has been impressed with the operation and its members. Zach believes there is always room for improvement and he wants to make the club even better. Zach has definite ideas for our club that will suit us well in the years ahead. For instance he is committed to increasing the level of communication between coaches, parents and swimmers. He's leveraging his background as a Special Education Teacher to continue to develop the organizational structure that goes with that discipline as the foundation for his coaching and will use this foundation to build a bright future for the Aquahawks.

Presidents Letter continued on page 4

## AQUAHAWK CONTACTS

Presidents Ed & Polly Sloan	841-4087	<a href="mailto:Esloan01372@aol.com">Esloan01372@aol.com</a>
VP of Operations—currently vacant		
VP of Fundraising Paul Miller	785-559-6414	<a href="mailto:Paul-Miller@payless.com">Paul-Miller@payless.com</a>
VP of Membership Christy Odrowski	331-2883	<a href="mailto:Christy.odrowski@sbcglobal.net">Christy.odrowski@sbcglobal.net</a>
VP Liaison Tony Portela	865-0995	<a href="mailto:tportelagolf2@hotmail.com">tportelagolf2@hotmail.com</a>
Secretary Jana Flannigan	749-0845	<a href="mailto:spenc-mor@sunflower.com">spenc-mor@sunflower.com</a>
Treasurer Collier Case	841-3024	<a href="mailto:Collier.w.case@sprint.com">Collier.w.case@sprint.com</a>
Age Group Coach Patrick Norman	841-8891	<a href="mailto:normanpphawk@hotmail.com">normanpphawk@hotmail.com</a>
Head Coach Zach Devine	393-7966	<a href="mailto:coachzachdevine@gmail.com">coachzachdevine@gmail.com</a>
Business Manager Jolisa Buchner	841-8891	<a href="mailto:businessmanager@aquahawks.org">businessmanager@aquahawks.org</a>

## PRESIDENTS LETTER

The Board has enjoyed hearing his ideas and has been impressed with where Zach sees the club going. A few of Zach's goals are as follows:

- **To have our club participate in the USA Swimming Club Excellence Program.** The USA Swimming Club Excellence Program is a voluntary program that identifies and recognizes USA Swimming clubs for their commitment to excellence in performance and for their support of the sport. In addition to recognizing the top club teams, the program provides grant funding for resources that enable clubs to expand and/or enhance the services they already provide for athletes.
- **The exploration of an Aquahawk Swim School** – two of the goals would be to use the school to help offset the fundraising requirements on the members and to use the funds to attract and pay higher salaries for coaches.
- **Obtaining more media coverage for Aquahawk Swimmers and the program**
- **Increase Team building efforts at all levels**

### Volunteers

As a parent run organization, the Board and Coaches would like to thank the families who help make this organization possible. We understand the time commitments families are dealing with on a day to day basis. What many of you may not realize is that one of the largest income generators for our club is the hosting of swim meets. The income generated from these meets is essential to the budget of the Aquahawks. Without these meets and the income generated thereby, the monthly dues of all members would be significantly higher than they are today. As a result of this fact the Board is reviewing and revising the prior volunteer policy. As a Board and as parents we have witnessed the parents who volunteer at our hosted meets and it remains a consistent core group of parents. We need more participation from our swimmer parents. With this in mind the Board will be reviewing other teams' volunteer policies to determine what can be done to foster a more volunteer oriented club. Other teams have a mandatory number of hours per year or per meet with a financial penalty for failing to comply. We will be looking at many options. If anyone has ideas please forward them to any Board member for discussion.

### Credit and Debit Card Payments

The Board is pleased to announce that effective with the February, 2010 statements you will be able to use your credit card or debit card to pay your invoice. There will be a flat \$5.00 per transaction fee charged for this convenience. This fee will cover the administrative charge associated with offering this service. Instructions will be available on line at our web site.

### Late Payments/Out Standing accounts

The Board understands the struggles of paying bills and we have attempted to work with those that are working or making an effort to get and stay current. The club is not a bank and our ability to pay for pool rental, coaches' salaries and other operating needs is contingent on our members paying their invoices timely. Given the present economic environment, we have seen an increase in the number of dollars outstanding on members' accounts. We want to remind everyone that we need accounts paid timely and current. While regrettable, we may need to act in the near future on certain accounts by denying swimmers access to swim meets and practice if their accounts are more than 30 days past due. We hope by offering the credit card and debit card payment option these outstanding accounts can be brought current.

### Acknowledgements

We want to thank everyone for supporting the Board and the coaches. As a Board we have heard from many of you and appreciate and encourage your words of support and critique. We would like to thank **Clark Campbell** and **Megan Edwards** for their service on the Head Coach Search committee. Their input and effort was invaluable to the club. Thank you.

### On Going Board Activities

- A Mission Statement is being developed
- A Swim School Model is being developed
- A Volunteer Policy is being drafted
- Long Term Planning