



May 29, 2009

THE PATRIOT PRESS



Forget the Meet, LET'S DANCE!!!

Patriots Storm Sharks!!

John Dickson, Abby Hite Lead the Way

The Huntwick Patriots, led by notched their first win of the year, narrowly beating the Spring Creek Forest Sharks **270-258** in a long, yet storm-shortened meet. Huntwick built a big lead in the freestyle and managed to hold off the surging Sharks, with the Patriot victory all the more surprising given the large number of swimmers playing in holiday soccer tournaments or out of town, resulting in Huntwick swimmers being outnumbered 134 to 102, with the meet coming down to the last nail-biting events, ending with a hotly disputed cancellation of the last 6 butterfly events and all 10 afternoon relays due to thunderstorms -- déjà vu all over again, ala Memorial Day 2007. Last week the Patriot Press prophesied, "Expect a close meet, with exciting races, every age, every stroke," and sure enough, exactly that came to pass. **John Burman** and **Griffin Warner** led off with a strong 2-3 finish in 13-14 Boys 100 Free, followed by **Blair Dewing** bringing home Huntwick's first blue ribbon of the day in the 13-14 Girls 100 Free in All



Star time. **Kevin Gravesmill** followed with a personal best, qualifying for Ponderosa and taking 1st in 15-18 Boys. The 6 and under Boys led off the morning relays,

with **Stephen Russell**, **Michael Hill**, **Marcos Bell** and **Paul Prim** cruising to an easy win, followed by one of the most exciting races of the meet, 6 and under Girls Free Relay. Despite strong swims by **Sabrina Dill**, **Annie Shouse** and **Courtney Koehler**, the heavily favored Shark relay team had built a large lead as **Charlotte Foster** began the Huntwick anchor leg. The crowd stared in disbelief as **Foster** quickly overtook the SCF anchor in a blur and winning going away, as the team dropped an astounding 11 seconds off their seed time. **Gina Mangione**, **Abby Hite**, **Emily Traynor** and **Grace Russell** dropped 6

seconds in 7-8 Girls Medley Relay, notching the second Huntwick underdog victory of the day, and the 9-10 Boys Medley Relay of **Sean Foster**, **William Sklenka**, **Blake Newell** and **Kyle Wilkerson** also captured 1st place over a favored Shark squad,, while the 9-10 Girls team of **Sarah Traynor**, **Kelly Fahy**, **Amy Rose Barthelemy** and **Grace Merkel** sailed to an easy win. Spring Creek Forest rebounded to take the next two relays, but the 13-14 Boys Medley Relay foursome of **Brian Gravesmill**, **John Burman**, **Griffin Warner** and **Mason Adams** trounced the opposition, with the B relay also beating the SCF A team. **Kathryn Flint** followed with a terrific backstroke leg leading off the 13-14 Girls Medley Relay, and **Mattie Bunkers**, **Sarah Darwin** and **Blair Dewing** followed, capturing Huntwick's 7th morning relay. Despite dropping over 4 seconds, the 15-18 Boys Medley Relay suffered a rare defeat, losing by a scant 9/100ths of a second to a determined SCF team, but Huntwick led **58-56** heading into the freestyle events.

The Patriots dominated the Freestyle events, winning 10 of 12 events. **Stephen Russell** and **Paul Prim** started off with a 1-2 finish in 6 and under Boys, with **Luke Castle** dropping 10 seconds and nearly making it a sweep, finishing a close 4th and **Carson Purdes** improving 6 seconds and finishing 5th. **Charlotte Foster**, still breathing hard from her amazing relay, managed a 2nd place finish in 6 and under Girls, with **Courtney Koehler** dropping 7 seconds, finishing 5th, and **Sophia Norwood** cutting nearly a minute from her previous best. **John Dickson**, **Robert Dill** and **Nate Martin** combined for the first Huntwick sweep in 7-8 Boys, with **Alejandro Vasquez** (3 sec.), **Garrett Hardisty** (10 sec.) and **Andres Vasquez** (9 sec.) showing great improvement. **Abby Hite** continued the Patriots' winning ways in 7-8 Girls, with **Emily Traynor** improving 2 seconds and



vaulting from a 6th seed to finish 3rd. **Kyle Wilkerson** nipped a favored Shark, taking the blue ribbon in 9-10 Boys, with **Amy Rose Barthelemy** and **Grace Merkel** finishing 1-2 in 9-10 Girls. **Merkel** cut almost a second and a half off her personal best, jumping from 5th seed, while **Kristen Russell** significantly improved, leaping from a 10th seed to finish 4th. **Michael Bell**, **Will Harrison** and **J.P. Hite** collected the 2nd Huntwick sweep of the day in 11-12 Boys, while **Chase Williams** and **Matt Strickland** both knocked over 2 seconds off their seed times. In one of my favorite races of the day, **Kelly Flint** and **Madison Bourg** combined to finish a strong 1-2 in 11-12 Girls, while **Brian Gravesmill** (in Ponderosa time) and sisters **Abby** and **Samantha Buck** (with **Sam** also qualifying for Ponderosa) took 1st place in 13-14 Boys and Girls and 15-18 Girls. In 13-14 Boys, **Joe Stewart** and **Ben Granger** and **Byron Barthelemy** all significantly dropped time, while **Laynie Hardisty** also showed great improvement, cutting almost 3 seconds off her seed time, in 13-14 Girls, and GND Lillian Sharp earning points for her 3rd place finish in 15-18 Girls. As a result of such a dominating Freestyle performance, the Patriots held a whopping 40-point lead, **131-91**, which would be challenged, but not relinquished.

The Sharks climbed back into the meet in the Breaststroke events, but Huntwick still managed to capture 1st place in 5 of the 10 events. **John Dickson**, **Robert Dill** and



Sam Shouse swept 7-8 Boys, and **Abby Hite** earned her second blue ribbon of the day in 7-8 Girls. **Emily Traynor** also had a strong swim, knocking almost 10 seconds off her personal best. **William Sklenka** was out-touched at the wall, finishing 2nd in 9-10 Boys, but **Kelly Fahy** took 1st for the 9-10 Girls by 3/10ths of a second, with **Grace Merkel** and **Adeline Slagle** each dropping 2 seconds from their seed time. **Ben Hardisty** nearly captured 11-12 Boys in an upset, losing at the wall, with **Hayden Wilkerson** improving 3 seconds. **John Burman** captured 2nd place in 13-14 Boys, with **Byron Barthelemy** and **Ben Granger** cutting 3 seconds from their personal bests. **Mattie Bunkers** put the Patriots back on the winning track, improving almost 2 seconds, taking 1st in 13-14 Girls and qualifying for Ponderosa, with

Tyler Darwin rolling to victory in 15-18 Boys and **Elizabeth Fauser** swam well in a 3rd place finish in 15-18 Girls. However, despite splitting the 10 events, SCF narrowed the lead, with Huntwick up **170-142**.



Stephen Russell chalked up his 2nd win of the day in 6 and under Backstroke, with **Paul Prim** and **Luke Castle** completing the sweep for Huntwick and **Ben Davidson** knocking 36 seconds off his previous best.

SCF rebounded, sweeping the 6 and under Girls, then ran off a string of victories in IM, taking 7 of the 8 events, with only **Michael Bell's** victory in 11-12 Boys averting a complete SCF sweep. Even though SCF's performance in the IM was pretty amazing, Huntwick swimmers turned in fine swims in most age groups, including **Kristen Russell** (improving 10 seconds) and **Amy Rose Barthelemy** finishing 2nd and 3rd in 9-10 Girls, **J.P. Hite** (improving 11 seconds) and **Austin Fahy** joining **Bell** in a sweep in 11-12 Boys, **Madison Bourg** dropping 4 seconds and finishing 2nd in 11-12 Girls, **John Burman** and **Griffin Warner** earning points for finishing 2-3 in 13-14 Boys, and **Blair Dewing** and **Samantha Buck** taking 2nd in 13-14 and 15-18 Girls. Suddenly, the supposedly insurmountable lead Huntwick had built in the Freestyle a few hours before had all but disappeared, with the Patriots clinging to a mere 8-point lead, **207-195**.

With ominous clouds gathering as Backstroke began, the trio of **Robert Dill**, **Jake Purdes** and **Evan Newell** swept the 7-8 Boys, with **Purdes** leaping from 10th seed to nearly win the event, and **Alejandro Vasquez** and **Garrett Hardisty** posting big improvements. **Katie Koehler** surprised a heavily favored SCF Shark, taking 7-8 Girls, with **Grace Russell** dropping 5 seconds, **Vivian Slagle** dropping 12, and **Danielle Dockery** continuing her rapid week-to-week improvement, cutting 18 seconds off her seed time. In 9-10 Boys, **Sean Foster** captured 2nd place, with **Devon** and **Dallin Corrington** each knocking nearly 6 seconds off their seed times and **Travis Woodward** improving over 4 seconds. **Kelly Fahy** added a 2nd place finish in 9-10 Girls. **Will Harrison** and **Chase Schlemeyer** finished 2-3 in 11-12 Boys, and **Madison Bourg** took 2nd in 11-12 Girls, with **Natalie Holley** doing a flawless flip turn and improving almost 3 seconds. **Brian Gravesmill** ended the SCF victory march, taking 13-14 Boys,

followed by **Kathryn Flint** nearly upsetting a heavily favored SCF Shark in 13-14 Girls. **Kevin Gravesmill** cruised to the blue ribbon in 15-18 Boys, with **Jack Harrison** taking 3rd, but SCF had taken 6 of the 10 Backstroke events, and the Huntwick lead had shrunk to **249-243**.

John Dickson captured his third blue ribbon of the day in the first Butterfly event, 7-8 Boys, with **Evan Newell** and **Jake**



Purdes mastering the stroke for the first time, as **Scott Newell** was off eating a cheeseburger and not officiating. **Abby Hite** and **Gina Mangione** finished a strong 2nd and 3rd in 7-8 Girls, with **Katie Koehler** establishing a personal best. **Scott Williams** jumped from 5th seed to finish 2nd in 9-10 Boys, **improving by over 4 seconds**, and **Amy Rose Barthelemy** took 1st place in the final race of the day, 9-10 Girls.

As lightning, thunder and rain began to threaten the day, officials for the host team disagreed as to whether to continue or suspend the meet, but cooler heads prevailed, and the Patriots had held on for a **270-258** win. Coach Shannie Sharp was ecstatic after her first win as head coach: "Our younger swimmers really stepped up today. SCF had strong 15-18 Boys, and we couldn't even field a relay in 15-18 Girls. We swam really well in the morning, and held off their late charge. We still would have won if the meet continued, as we had swimmers favored in the older Fly events, but I was glad to get out with the win."



MEET SCHEDULE

May 9 **Home** Practice Meet

May 16 **Home vs Windrose (275-367 loss)**

May 23 **Away vs Spring Crk Forest (270-258 WIN)**

May 30 **Home vs Canyon Gate (170 swimmers)**

June 6 **Home vs Raveneaux (110)**

June 13 **Away vs Spring Creek Oaks (170)**

June 20 Central Region, Division 2 Championship:
at Tomball Aquatic Center

June 21 Swim Team Annual Awards Banquet

June 22 Swim Team Parent Annual Hangover

Tale of the tape (points/possible points):

	<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
6 and under	22/23	8/23
7-8	35/41	25/41
9-10	20/50	33/50
11-12	27/41	16/41
13-14	27/50	27/50
15-19	20/50	10/50
Total	151	119

Points Points Points

Boys:

John Dickson 15

Robert Dill 11

Michael Bell 10 (+2 relay)

Kevin Gravesmill 10 (+2 relay)

Stephen Russell 10 (+5 relay)

Brian Gravesmill 10 (+5 relay)

John Burman 9 (+5 relay)

Girls:

Abby Hite 13 (+5 relay)

Amy Rose Barthelemy 11 (+5 relay)

Madison Bourg 9 (+2 relay)

Kelly Fahy 8 (+5 relay)

Samantha Buck 8

Blair Dewing 8 (+5 relay)

Shock the Shockwaves!!

This week's meet will be the first time Huntwick has ever faced Canyon Gate, a subdivision located at the east gate of the Grand Canyon in Arizona. Be sure to welcome these visitors, who have traveled a long way to swim against us. Okay, maybe not, but they are moving down from Division C1, and were ranked 1st in our Division at the beginning of the season. **You must check-in with Coach Shannie or Asst. Coach Scott Dickson by no later than at 7:00 a.m. or you may be scratched!! 10 and under warm-ups begin at 7:15 a.m., with 11 and up warm-ups following at 7:30 a.m.** Canyon Gate's color is green, so wear red/white/blue but NOT GREEN!

Let coaches know TODAY if you do not plan to swim.

Major Improvement

Byron Barthelemy 50 Free (2 sec.)
John Henry Barthelemy 50 Back (3 sec.)
Madison Bourg IM (4 sec.), 50 Back (3 sec.)
Julia Brewer 50 Breast (2 sec.)
Brooke Lynn Brown 25 Fly (5 sec.)
Mattie Bunkers 50 Breast (2 sec.)
Luke Castle 25 Free (10 sec.), 25 Back (3 sec.)
Dallin Corrington 25 Back (5 sec.)
Devon Corrington 25 Back (6 sec.)
Ben Davidson 25 Back (36 sec.)
Ellen Dickson 100 Free (3 sec.)
John Dickson 25 Breast (2 sec.)
Danielle Dockery 25 Back (18 sec.)
Elizabeth Fauser 100 Free, 50 Breast (2 sec.)
Ben Granger 50 Free (4 sec.), 50 Breast (3 sec.)
Ben Hardisty 50 Breast (2 sec.)
Garrett Hardisty 25 Free (10 sec.), 25 Back (9 sec.)
Laynie Hardisty 50 Free (3 sec.)
Kirsten Hill 25 Back (4 sec.)
Michael Hill 25 Back (2 sec.)
Abby Hite 25 Breast (2 sec.)
J.P. Hite 50 Free (2 sec.), **IM (11 sec.)**
Natalie Holley 50 Back (2 sec.)
Courtney Koehler 25 Free (7 sec.), 25 Back (2 sec.)
Katie Koehler 25 Back (2 sec.)
Grace Merkel 25 Free, Breast (2 sec.)
Sophia Norwood 25 Free (56 sec.)
Carson Purdes 25 Free (6 sec.)
Jake Purdes 25 Back (6 sec.)
Grace Russell 25 Back (5 sec.)
Kristen Russell 25 Free, Fly (2 sec.), **IM (11 sec.)**
Annie Shouse 25 Back (2 sec.)
Frank Sklenka 50 Back (2 sec.)
Adeline Slagle 25 Breast, Back (2 sec.)
Vivian Slagle 25 Back (12 sec.)
Joe Stewart 50 Free (2 sec.), 50 Back (6 sec.)
Matt Strickland 50 Free (2 sec.)
Wren Strickland 50 Breast, Back (3 sec.)
Emily Traynor 25 Free (2 sec.), 25 Breast (9 sec.)
Alejandro Vasquez 25 Free (3 s.), **25 Back (14 sec.)**
Andres Vasquez 25 Free (9 sec.)
Griffin Warner IM (3 sec.)
Kendall Wendt 50 Free (2 sec.)
Hayden Wilkerson 50 Free (2 sec.), 50 Breast (3 sec.)
Chase Williams 50 Free, Breast (2 sec.)
Scott Williams 25 Fly (4 sec.)
Travis Woodward 25 Back (4 sec.)



(new in bold)

John Dickson 25 Free
Brian Gravesmill **50 Free**, Back
Kevin Gravesmill 50 Back, **100 Free**, **IM**
Samantha Buck 50 Free
Mattie Bunkers 50 Breast
Kristen Flint 100 Free, IM, 50 Fly
Charlotte Foster 25 Free



Mason Adams 50 Breast, Back
Ben Alexander 50 Back
John Henry Barthelemy 50 Breast, **Back**
Jeffrey Bell 100 Free
Michael Bell 50 Free, Back, IM
John Burman 50 Breast, **IM**
Tyler Darwin 50 Breast
Brett Dewing 50 Free, Back
Woody Dewing **50 Free**, Fly
John Dickson 25 Breast, Fly
Robert Dill 25 Free, Breast
Austin Fahy **50 Free**, Back, Fly, IM
Sean Foster 25 Back
Brain Gravesmill 50 Fly
Kevin Gravesmill 50 Fly
Ben Hardisty **50 Free**, Breast
Jack Harrison 100 Free, 50 Back
Will Harrison 50 Free, Back
J.P. Hite 50 Free, IM
Matt Hite 50 Breast
Travis Morland 50 Back
Tyler Morland 50 Back
Stephen Russell 25 Back
Chase Schlemeyer 50 Free, Back
Williams Sklenka 25 Breast
Wren Strickland 50 Free, Breast, Back
Griffin Warner IM
Tommy Watson 50 Breast
Kyle Wilkerson 25 Free
Scott Williams 25 Fly
Amy Rose Barthelemy **25 Free**, Fly
Suzanne Bay 50 Free, Back
Rachael Bell 50 Fly
Madison Bourg 50 Back
Abby Buck 50 Free
Samantha Buck Back, Fly, **IM**
Mattie Bunkers 50 Free, Back
Sarah Darwin IM, 50 Fly
Blair Dewing 50 Free, Breast, Back, **IM**
Kelly Fahy 25 Breast
Kathryn Flint 50 Back
Laynie Hardisty 50 Free
Allison Hilpert 25 Free
Abby Hite 25 Breast
Hannah Nelson 50 Free



So how much publicity does donating to the fund for the new scoreboard and timing system get you? At least one more week of being listed here – Thank you all!!



Photo of the Week
Submit a caption to the photo below, and the cleverest/funniest submission will receive free tickets of an indeterminate number and value for use at the next home meet!!

Flinn, Johnson, Wilkerson (2x), Dickson, Barthelemy Russell, Koehler, Holley, Slagle, Williams (2x), Shouse, Darwin, Prim (2x), Spin, Merkel, Gravesmill, Buck, Morland, Newell (2x), Fahy, Hilpert, Dill (2x), Foster, Bell (Bob and Kim), Crawford, Purdes, Stivers, Vasquez, Woodward, Wendt, Flint

Planning a Vacation??



Leaving the team in the lurch while you enjoy fun in the sun? That's okay, but in order for us to miss you, you've got to tell us you're going – **so turn in your vacation form in advance of the meet to be missed!** Entries must be finalized with the opposing team several days in advance of the meet. Failure to turn in these sheets causes problems with fielding relay teams and causes many meet-day headaches. Be considerate (or you may get your house egged while you're gone, but not by me, of course).



Please remember:

NO GLASS ALLOWED IN POOL AREA!!

Other things not allowed in the pool area:



Sorry, but the mess is incredible, and the kids will play in it.

A great way to get to know people and to socialize with swim team parents is to come to the **Happy Hours** that take place every Friday in May, which means . . . **there's another one TODAY!!!!** Each family needs to bring a 12 pack of name-brand soda, water or Gatorade as admission. Drinks (including beer/wine) and snacks will be served. The sodas and water are sold at home meets so you are helping the team by attending Happy Hours. Come early, stay late.

The Huntwick Patriot Website is back!! For latest on practices, meets, results, pictures, just click on www.huntwickpatriots.org We are always looking for pictures of Huntwick kids, so send yours in for posting, otherwise I'll post photos of ugly people in Speedos (and you know I will!)



Loaded nuclear weapons are dangerous around kids, please leave them at home.



Especially in Ready Bench area. Maribeth and Tanya thank you!

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

So why did the meet end early? They had whittled our lead to just about nothing, did we just luck out or what?

Lucky and Loving It

Dear Lucky:

It's never luck when you win, it's **always** skill (conversely, luck can conveniently be blamed whenever you lose, if no one else is around to blame).



The rules state that it is up to the home team meet referee to delay until 15 min from last thunder, up to 2 hours in the aggregate. Of course this is for safety reasons and safety is always a primary concern (unless of course it intrudes on having fun). The meet referee has final authority to call it quits if weather persists. If the meet is called after Event #58, it's a valid meet; if not, it must be re-swum at a later date (and good luck with that one). The SCF team rep saw their swimmers leaving and said "It's a wrap," while the referee was aware of the narrow close point spread and resisted. The SCF team rep continued to insist the meet be called, and since Event #58 had been run, the referee gave in. **Game Over, Patriots Win!** Incidentally, if Huntwick is hosting, seek cover, but please don't leave until Paul or Wade officially calls the meet (which we will always encourage, as we can tap the keg sooner, I mean, as we worry about the safety of the kids).

Your NWAL Rep

Dear Editor:

Was that the longest short meet ever or what?

TGIO (Thank Goodness It's Over)

Dear TGIO:

Clearly SCF faces challenges with a 5-lane pool, only 3 of which can be used for younger age relays. So too, disorganization at the SCF Ready Bench highlights the tremendous job **Maribeth, Tanya** and their crew do at our meets, as well as the quick pace maintained by our starters **Barnes, Rich** and **Wade** and refs **Paul** and **Wade**. Of course, SCF didn't help matters by stopping the meet for dance contests, talent shows, adult swimsuit competitions and moments of prayer. Hopefully, we will keep these activities to a minimum.



Dear Editor:

Against my attorney's advice, I must respond to the issues raised last week regarding the 5 free snowcone marketing plan. No children were fatally injured, and most criminal negligence charges have now been dismissed. As to the adults, I had no idea they would participate. Can't **Rick Gravesmill** control himself, or at least cough up fifty cents for a snowcone?

Judges, cooks, timers, other volunteers, and pretty much anybody who asks gets one for free anyway (they're snowcones, after all, not gold bullion). They have no reason to trample kids, they are accountable for their own actions, it is no fault of the snowcone marketing and business development committee. We believe in our 5 free snowcone marketing plan, and will continue it at all future home meets, so be ready sometime around Event #20 for the big announcement. And remember, it's not our fault, we are merely responding to the hyper inflated snowcone market.



Midseason Meeting/Review

Wilkerson/Newell Pat Selves on Back

An invitation-only meeting of the heads of various parts of the Patriot Swim Team machine met last Tuesday to assess the season at its midway point and search for ways not to screw it up too badly in June.

Jack Burman, representing the men who man the grill, surprised everyone by coming out strongly in

favor of a new "healthy choice" menu, following up on the success of the new turkey burgers, featuring veggie and tofu burgers as well as bean curd pie and cabbage breakfast tacos.

Donella Newell opposed the motion, arguing in favor of more

meat offerings, including veal, and since she has spent two months with newborn twins, nobody dared cross her and it will be veal for everybody this Saturday! **Chris Castle** suggested that we adopt

more "kid-friendly" activities during home meets, including dance contests (ala SCF), jugglers and a puppet show. Alas, **Kate Foster's** curt response "Is this guy a total [expurgated] idiot!"

was not shared by the group, and Chris' puppet show, featuring a duet by **Rich Johnson** and **Sir Mix-a-Lot**, is scheduled to raise curtain after the 6 and under Backstroke. Concessions raised many issues, including whether the recent price increases were appropriate, given the state of the economy, so a blue-ribbon commission, led by **Jeff Flinn**, was appointed to canvas other teams' pricing policies. "He's clearly the best man for the job," remarked NWAL rep **Giff Wilkerson**. "His career at AIG has made him an expert with numbers, and we think he can get us bailout money from other clubs."

