



May 7, 2010

THE PATRIOT PRESS

A Preferred Source of Swim Team (mis)Information for Years!



IT'S SWIMMIN' TIME!!

PRACTICE MEET TOMORROW 9:00 a.m.

Time for the kids to swim!! The Practice Meet will take place tomorrow **SATURDAY MAY 8th** at the Huntwick Pool. You must arrive for the practice meet and check-in with **Coach Shannie or Asst. Coach Scott Dickson** by no later than at 8:15 a.m. or you may be scratched!! **10 and under warm-ups begin at 8:15 a.m., with 11 and up warm-ups following at 8:30 a.m.** We will not be swimming against another team, so the meet might go quickly. Okay, I'm lying, practice meets never go quickly. Be sure to complain loudly to the nearest timer or official, or any other volunteer, they just love it! Above all, please try to avoid crowding at the ready bench, which is sure to be chaotic, particularly with the 6 and unders, as we have lots of new young swimmers. The women over there aren't really former Nazi lieutenants, they just need to maintain order and discipline so that the meet doesn't last into the evening. Also, be sure to stay after the meet to help with takedown and for the inevitable impromptu "Happy Several Hours of the Afternoon", as the pool'll be open, the kids'll be swimmin' and the beer'll be flowin'. Huntwick--Mayberry with alcohol!

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

TEAM PHOTOS

Everybody is always extremely concerned about ensuring that their swimmers are at practice on the day of team photos. This year, our fearless leaders **Giff Wilkderson** and **Scott Newell**, have decided not to tell anyone when photos will be, forcing all swimmers to attend every practice. If you don't like this new policy, please let **Giff** and **Scott** know (and don't forget, **Giff** is kind of hard of hearing, so speak loudly – or just shout/yell at him), and maybe they'll share this information with the rest of us by next week.



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. Last week's was great fun, until it got canceled because of the rampant outbreak of ennui. **But ... there is one TODAY!!!!** Each family needs to bring a 12 pack of soda, water or Gatorade as admission. Feel free to bring Kroger or Randall's brand, so we can all make fun of you for the next decade (it's a new decade, so **Dan's** off the hook, at least 'til 2020). Drinks (including beer/wine) and snacks will be served. The sodas and water are sold at home meets (4, including the Practice Meet and Divisionals!) so you are helping the team by attending Happy Hours and drinking/eating to excess..



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. Then buy grandma and grandpa an iPhone or a Droid, and they can upload their webservers to the Facebook page for myspace and text YouTube to come and film each meet! That's how this new-fangled stuff works, right?



MEET SCHEDULE

- May 8 **Home** Practice Meet
- May 15 **Away** vs. Heatherwood (115 swimmers)
- May 22 **Home** vs. Champions Park (130)
- May 29 **Away** vs. Terranova West (140)
- June 5 **Home** versus Lakewood Forest (150)
- June 12 **Away** versus High Meadow Ranch (120)
- June 19 Central Region, Division 2 Championship:
at . . . **Huntwick!!**
- June 20 Swim Team Annual Awards Banquet

Other than the Practice Meet, warmups for home meets begin at 7:15 a.m. (get that coffee brewing!!) and warmups for away meets will begin at 7:45 a.m. (don't forget caffeine for the kids too!).



So you're probably wondering why some privileged few, like the **Wilkersons** and the **Newells**, have reserved parking for all home meets (including

Divisionals!). Well, either they run stuff, and they decided to award themselves this benefit in the ultimate act of hubris, or they contributed \$250 as a sponsor to the team. I'm sure we can reserve additional spaces, so if you haven't already, cut your check for \$250 to Barnes Darwin, our treasurer (who will soon flee with his family to the Woodlands, so we need a new treasurer).



On other money-related issues, our capital campaign to finance real-time satellite transmission of meets was less than a total success, so we are abandoning that plan and applying funds already contributed to our new capital campaign to fix the Huntwick Pool. So what's wrong with the pool, you may ask?? Well, with the advent of laser-sighting technology, NWAL



(pictured) has determined that our pool is not in fact 25 meters, but 25 meters, 8 inches. As a result, our pool deviates by almost a full 1% from

compliance with NWAL standards. In order to meet certification requirements, we will need to rip out the side of the pool closest to the clubhouse, resetting rebar to decrease the length by 8 inches, backfilling the empty space with a composite mixture designed to flex with temperature changes to avoid subsequent cracking of the pool wall, then repouring concrete, followed by plaster, coping, tile, etc. Estimated cost is approximately \$50,000, so open up those checkbooks! Look on the bright side -- our kids will break a lot of pool records when the rebuild is complete!

HEY, HERE'S AN IDEA . . .

After the meet --stick around to help with takedown -- many hands make light work (especially at night). Besides, your day is shot, so you might as well hang out at the pool with your sweaty, smelly neighbors!

Surviving Practice Meet

So, it's your first meet! Your kids can't sleep the night before, in giddy anticipation of the fun ahead, and neither can you (as you are filled with a mixture of excitement and dread)! Here are some tips:

Pop-up tent, set it up the night before (during Happy Hour). Or, come early Saturday, steal a spot, and move someone else's tent out to the parking lot (it really is a great prank, especially on **Gary Buck!**). Or, take the easy way out, and just set your folding chairs up under someone else's tent (again, think **Gary Buck!**) -- a great way to meet your neighbors! Stop at the **ATM**, we need your money, and these kids need junk food. You will, too.

Bring **SUNSCREEN**. Then bring some more, because yours will be lost. Then bring some more, because all your kids' friends will use yours, because they forgot theirs. Just don't give any to the 15-18 girls (maybe we should include the 13-14's as well), because then they'll be looking for one of the boys to apply, and as a dad of two of these girls, I'm not a big fan of that. However, feel free to volunteer to apply to any attractive woman over the age of 18 (or just sneak up behind them and apply liberally without warning, they'll take it as a compliment!)



Pick up a **heat sheet** (early, they will run out) and note your swimmer's races. Be sure that swimmers check in with **Coach Shannie (or Asst. Coaches Scott and Peter)**, or they are subject to being scratched (which means they can't swim, and then they cry, and then some lady from another team feels compelled to enforce rules to a ridiculous extreme and not let the kid swim, which in turn causes other parents to find creative ways to circumvent said rules, resulting in another lady getting really mad because you ignored her repeated orders to not walk in through the out door).

Check the heat sheet and listen for your swimmer's events. Events will be swum whether or not your swimmer gets to ready bench or blocks on time. It's all about the kids, collectively, not your kid, individually (but, if you've got cash -- large denominations only -- the computer people can manufacture a delay to allow your kid to swim).

Make sure your swimmer is properly **hydrated** and on their second sausage on a stick no later than 10:30. **Results** are posted on the board sporadically, be sure to pester the computer volunteers if they aren't immediately posted, they like that.

SAME LOGO!



As Obama has now been repudiated, the Patriots have decided to stand up against change and will continue using the 2009 logo (which in the spirit of change in the air at that time, replaced the 2008 logo, for those who pay attention to these things).

However, provide your own economic stimulus to the local Huntwick economy, throw out the old spirit items and contact Julie Purdes (832-295-1431 or jpurdes@comcast.net) to purchase new t-shirts, shorts, caps, towels, coffee cups, commemorative coins, plates, etc. For swimsuits:

D&J Sports, Inc.
11407 Spring Cypress Rd, Suite 100
Tomball, TX 77377
www.djsports.com
281-370-7946

Letters to the Editor

Dear Mike Holley:

We would appreciate it if you would please come to a few home meets this year, preferably before 10:00 a.m., as we are tired of carrying you on our backs.

Sincerely,

Jeff Flinn
and the grill team

Dear Jeff:

Two kids out for the year with broken bones?? If Monica shows up with so much as a blemish I'm calling the cops.

Yours,

Mike Holley, Grill King

Dear Patriot Press:

Every time I ask Giff a question about swim team, he is real polite and all, but I never actually get an answer. Does he even know what's going on??

Gotta Know

Dear Gotta Know:

Of course not, between Giff's job and disappearing for tennis with his beer buddies 2-3 times a week, I'm surprised he even knows our kids' names (and by the way honey, I've decided to name the cute little new one "Lily").

Julie Wilkerson



Don't

- bring dogs inside pool area (Sure, squishing around barefoot sounds like fun, but it is kind of disgusting, at least to some people)
- be late for meets or volunteer assignments (it's just plain rude)
- encroach on people's areas without asking (not really rude, actually kind of funny, but some people just have no sense of humor)
- lose your sense of humor
- complain about the heat (and it will suck tomorrow, see Glenn's forecast)



- complain about the Patriot Press (oh, go ahead, it will be ignored anyway)

Do

- support all swimmers, coaches and meet officials
- praise your kid's and other kids' effort
- meet other parents, volunteer to help, get involved!



Planning a Vacation??

Please, please, please, please **turn in a vacation form at least one week in advance of any meet to be missed.**

Entries must be finalized several days before each meet. Failure to turn in these sheets may result in fines and other penalties, while repeated failure can result in being in charge of Divisionals parking. Be considerate of those of us who will be there at the meet sweating our brains out while events have to be re-seeded and let someone know ahead of time.



Swim Lessons!!

It's amazing what a few private lessons can do to improve your swimmer's times and enjoyment of the sport. We are lucky to have with us this year Assistant Coach **Peter O'Brien**, who is a 2010 Collegiate All-

American Honorable Mention in breaststroke and IM (which means he's pretty good at all 4 strokes!) and was a high school All-American at Cy-Creek a few years back. Along with Peter, **Kristen Flint**, a senior this year at Cy-Creek recently named All-State in both swimming and water polo, and sophomore sister **Kathryn Flint** (be sure to watch them this weekend in the pool!), are also offering swim lessons. Contact info is posted at the pool, but here it is anyway:

Peter O'Brien: 281-787-2280

Kristen Flint: 832-816-3597

Kathryn Flint: 832-332-1440

Annual Board Meeting Report

The Patriot Swim Team Board held their annual meeting last week at an undisclosed location.

While the official minutes were kept by **Kate Foster** (contact Kate if you'd

like to get a copy), here my notes (or in the immortal words of Roger Clemens, "misremembered"):

- Julie** makes really good jambalaya. Good food really helps attendance (surprised some people didn't just show up, eat and leave . . . oh, wait, forgot about **Mike Holley**)
- Giff, Scott** and **Barnes'** weekend retreat to San Diego went really well, observed swimmers at the beach, have lots of great new ideas for the team, well worth the expense. Glad they brought Snuffie along.
- Some people really like to talk a lot, I think just to hear their own voice. Others, like me, prefer to see their voice in print.
- Uh oh, running low on beer. Probably should have brought a few extra.



- We need new people with young kids to be more active, particularly on the officiating side (hey, if **Karen Buck** can do it and remain calm, anyone can). If people don't start stepping up, will call them out in the Press (ooh, big threat . . . I'll bet they're trembling!).



- Meeting running longer than anticipated, should have brought extra beer or two.
- Great concern over effect of Gulf oil spill on availability of shrimp for future jambalaya-based meetings.
- Lots of new faces, who are these people?? Sure look serious (and young). They need to stay late at Happy Hour so I can get to know them. When did drinking to excess become socially unacceptable – is this Obama's doing?? Heck with it, I'll just dredge up old stuff about **Chris Conrad** and **Milt Cooper**, no one will notice.

- New person signed up for food prep—lots of knowing, sympathetic looks from older mothers—job must really suck.



- Between the **Dicksons** and **Darwins**, they've been on swim team since Vietnam. **Castle, Newell & Wilkerson** (sounds like a really bad law firm on TV) will still be on swim team when we land on Mars.
- Too bad **Julie** vetoed sno-cones, syrup would have created cool tie-dye look on living room carpet; maybe meet next year at **Castles**.

- Team doing well financially (maybe two kegs of Keystone Light at Awards??).

- Giff's** yard looks great, guess he really wanted "Yard of the Month" -- thanks for setting the bar so high for the rest of us.



- Must think of way to fill up Patriot Press when there are no swimmers or meets to talk about. Maybe ramble on about nothing in particular until I've filled up a few pages . . . yeah, that's the ticket.