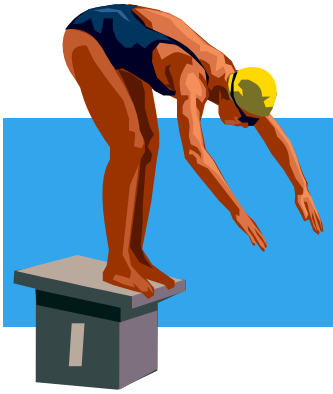




## NEW KIDS ON THE BLOCK

While last Saturday's Practice Meet, held at the Huntwick furnace . . . I mean pool . . . saw many perennial Patriots like **Kevin Gravesmill**, **Sarah Darwin** and "Spiderman" **Carson Purdes** already showing mid-season form, new names and faces were everywhere. In the 6 and under Boys events, **Michael Hill** and **Stephen Russell** led the way, with **Luke Castle**, swimming back for the first time, blasting through the pool to a 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish. Newcomer **Rhett Kahldren** finished a strong 4<sup>th</sup> in free, while other notable performances came from **Wyatt Crawford** and **Ben Davidson**, who both significantly improved from last year. On the Girls side, **Charlotte Foster** nearly set a personal best in winning the free, with **Kristen Hill** taking back honors. **Courtney Koehler** and **Annie Shouse** swam well, with a trio of 5-year olds, **Olivia Rathbone**, **Caroline Young** and **Ashley Stivers** also placing high in the standings. In 7-8 Boys, **John Dickson** captured three 1<sup>st</sup> place ribbons, with **Nate Martin** taking top honors in back. Other top finishers in the group included **Evan Newell**, showing great improvement, **Sam Shouse**, **Alejandro** and **Andres Vasquez** and newcomer **Kevin Ireson**. For the Girls, **Abby Hite** took two blue ribbons in free and breast, with **Grace Anne Potter** winning back and **Emilia Buckalew** victorious in her first butterfly event ever. Other notables included rapidly improving **Grace Russell**, **Emily Traynor** and **Katie Koehler**. **William Sklenka** led 9-10 Boys with three 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes, with **Kyle Wilkerson** taking fly. In one of the highlights of the meet, 9-year old **Blake Newell**, swimming in his first IM ever, finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the grueling event. **Scott Williams** also swam well, cutting time from his 2008 personal bests. **Allison Hilpert** was a standout in 9-10 Girls, taking top honors in free, breast and IM, with **Amy Rose Barthelemy** winning back and fly. **Kelly Fahy**, **Rachel Brewer**, **Sarah Traynor**, **Kristen Russell** and **Brooke Lynn Brown** also had strong showings in several events in what is sure to be a strong age group for the Patriots. **Michael Bell** did really well, he never fell, as you can tell, not a hard story to sell, mom **Kim** did yell, then called on her cell, it being

hotter than one might think for early May, nipping **Austin Bell** at the wall in free by 4/10ths of a second, then again in the IM, this time by only 8/100ths of a second. **Fahy** cruised to victory later in the day in fly, with **Ben Hardisty** taking breast. **Wren Strickland** and **Tommy Watson** swam well in several events, while **J.P. Hite** in his 1<sup>st</sup> meet in the longer 50 meter races, led 11-year olds. **Hannah Nelson**, **Rachael "Rae-Rae" Bell** and **Kelly Flint** battled throughout the day in the 11-12 Girls events, which is sure to be competitive all year, **Bell** narrowly beating **Nelson** and **Flint** in free, **Nelson** taking breast and back and **Flint** winning IM and fly. **Rachel Johnson** swam a strong breaststroke, while 11-year olds **Madison Bourg** and **Natalie Holley** also did well swimming 50's for the first time. In Boys 13-14, **Brian Gravesmill** took both free events, back and fly, while **Mason Adams** and **Griffin Warner** won breast and IM respectively. **John Burman** also had a fine day, taking several 2<sup>nd</sup> place ribbons and qualifying for the A relay team. On the girls side, **Sarah Darwin** matched **Gravesmill**, taking both free events, IM and fly, with **Mattie Bunkers** beginning 2009 where she left off in 2008, as champion in breaststroke. **Kathryn Flint** beat the field in her signature event, backstroke, while **Aiden Sklenka**, **Ellen Dickson** and **Laynie Hardisty** also had good days. This age group will be even stronger in coming weeks, adding **Blair Dewing** and **Abby Buck**. **Kevin Gravesmill** dominated in 15-18 boys, winning 5 of 6 events, and finishing second to **Tyler Darwin** in breast. **Jeffrey Bell** and **Matt Hite** had good meets, and John Henry Barthelemy improved significantly over 2008 times. The older boys group this year is strong and deep, with a record eight swimmers showing up for the Practice Meet. Conversely, only two 15-18 girls participated, **Kristen Flint** and **Elizabeth Fauser**, but their ranks are expected to swell with the return of **Samantha Buck** and **Suzanne Bay** from soccer and **GND Lillian Sharp**. Following the speedy (3 hrs, 15 mins) meet, **Coach Shannie Sharp** was pleased: "It's great to see the kids back in the water racing, there's been a lot of improvement from last year, and we will be seeing even more this week - **GO PATRIOTS!**"



## Sting the Stingrays!!

With the reshuffling of divisions this year, our first divisional meet is this Saturday at 8:30 a.m. at the Huntwick pool versus the Windrose Stingrays!

You must arrive and 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.** Windrose is moving down from Division 1, but pre-season rankings have them third in the division, so expect a close, exciting meet.

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

## TEAM PHOTOS

Allison Merton of “**Images**” was here on **Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>**, for individual and team pictures. Hope you didn’t miss her.



### “Cool! Wicked Cool!”

So said **Chris Castle** regarding the new scoreboard integrated into the new computer timing system. Although some problems (like power) arose, this is a tremendous new tool (or toy, depending on how you look at it), so be sure to thank the following families, all of whom contributed:

**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**



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](http://www.huntwickpatriots.org) We are always looking for pictures of Huntwick kids, so send yours in for posting, otherwise it will just be pictures of the dads (and we don’t want that!):



## MEET SCHEDULE

- May 9 **Home** Practice Meet
- May 16 **Home** versus Windrose (215 swimmers)
- May 23 **Away** versus Spring Creek Forest (130)
- May 30 **Home** versus Canyon Gate (170)
- June 6 **Home** versus Raveneaux (110)
- June 13 **Away** versus Spring Creek Oaks (170)
- June 20 **Central Region, Division 2 Championship:**  
at Tomball Aquatic Center
- June 21 **Swim Team Annual Awards Banquet**

Other than the Practice Meet, warmups for home meets begin at 7:15 a.m. (WAKE UP!!) and warmups for away meets will begin at 7:45 a.m. (WAKE UP EARLIER!!).



Please please please please remember:

**NO GLASS IS ALLOWED IN THE POOL AREA!!**

Wine and beer bottles in the pool area create a very real safety hazard for our kids and a liability issue for Huntwick. Pour your beverage into a plastic cup before entering the pool area. Failure to adhere to the foregoing will result in being drawn and quartered, or at least forcibly ejected from the pool area (well, okay, you'll probably be asked nicely to leave, this is Huntwick, after all). More importantly failure to adhere to this rule may result in adult beverage being prohibited permanently, which is a very long time (quick, somebody get the paddles, **Bob Warner** just keeled over).

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I went to the Rockets game last night, which started late, then went out afterwards to celebrate, probably over-imbibed (Shots?? What was I thinking??), got home really late, and now am not sure whether or not I can make it to Happy Hour today. What should I do.

Sincerely,  
Rocket Fan (BEAT L.A.!!)

Dear Rocket Fan:

I feel your pain. I mean, I really feel your pain, personally, like it was my own. Exactly like it was my own. First, you probably went with someone like **Mike Holley** which would have been a big mistake, because if you celebrate with his posse, they all played football and are really big. Second, I'd be willing to bet the shots were your idea, because from your letter you just seem like that kind of guy. So, no sympathy from me, get over to Happy Hour and quit whining.

Editor

## SWIM LESSONS!!

Don't you want your son or daughter to be the best swimmer they can be? Lower times and improved stroke technique are only \$15/half an hour away! Many older swimmers (like Kristen & Kathryn Flint at 281-893-1259) would love to teach your kids. Call!



## Planning a Vacation??

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 create a lot of problems -- be considerate and let someone know ahead of time.

## Credit Crash Hits Huntwick

### Darwin, Flinn Investigation Continues

**Barnes Darwin**, Patriot team treasurer, announced that all swim team funds had been invested in credit default swaps, and the money was now "gone". **Darwin** was quick to point the finger at **Jeff Flinn**, who had recently returned from an AIG corporate



outing in Hawaii: "The way **Jeff** explained it, it sounded like a sure thing, promising a much higher return than our investment last year with that Nigerian warlord and definitely better than my friend **Bernie Madoff** promised." **Flinn**

remained hopeful: "The money's not really gone, it's just not there right now. With the billions you . . . I mean the government . . . gave us, we have plenty of money, and I'm sure the Patriot money will be found eventually. It's just hard right now to find your money when we've got all this other money, and quite frankly, we're not really sure whose any of it is or where it all goes, so we'll probably just keep it." When challenged as to the propriety of recommending such investments, Flinn had this to say: "These swaps were never meant to actually be drawn on. I mean, come on, they totaled in the trillions, more than the entire world economy -- can you count that high?? I know I can't."



**Pam Darwin**, not a focus of the investigation, said: "I told him just keep it under the mattress like always. It's the safest place, since he rarely gets out of bed before noon anymore." Swim team co-chairs **Giff Wilkerson** and **Scott Newell** were unconcerned: "We've already filed our bailout request with the new administration, pretty soon we'll be back in the black, which is good, because the Nigerian warlord apparently needs more money."