

Wedgwood Pool News

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BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY

Scores of people keep Pool programs running, supplementing the great job performed by Wedgwood staff and Board members who volunteer their time to help manage specific tasks such as Swim Team, Membership and the Newsletter.

It is impossible to list every non-Staff, non-Board person who contributes, because so many people do. But a few individuals deserve special mention for the incredible volunteer contributions they make. It is easy to say that without these folks, Wedgwood wouldn't be what it is.

Sally Clausen, backed by Kathy Kripps, runs the highly regarded Swim Team food concession. It is a high quality operation because of the incredible amount of time and attention to detail that they contribute.

Karin Fosberg plays a special role for swim meets, quickly tabulating race and meet results on the computer. Her approach to tracking meet participants and results is a model in the League. Karin also serves as a wealth of knowledge for the Swim Team Committee, and is always willing to lend an extra hand (out of the nine or ten hands that she must have in order to get done all the things she does!).

Mary Lippold teams up with Karin to coach the Adult Swim Team. The Adult Team simply wouldn't be there (and wouldn't be the championship team that it is) without Karin and Mary's leadership and skill.

JoEllen Hathaway is another individual who provides extra special assistance to the Swim Team Committee. She has years of knowledge about meets and team operations, and provides knowledgeable assistance whenever it's needed. This year JoEllen served as meet director at Northern Divisions (which ran like clockwork).

Rick Lippold and Dale Hoff have continued to contribute their construction and engineering skills, respectively, to the South Wall project, assisting Board member/architect Mark Snyder in bringing that project to fruition.

Mike Schirmer has continued as director/photographer/producer extraordinaire, each season producing a Swim Team film more spectacular than the year before, and 2005 was no exception. This year Mike received a special director's award (and a director's chair) for his work, and this Wedgwood Oscar was well-deserved!

These are just a few of the individuals we depend on for such a great Pool and great community. To these and to the many others who volunteer their time and effort: THANKS!

--Hugh Spitzer, Board President

From the Coach to Team Swimmers and Parents

At the start of the summer I set four goals for the team: improve sportsmanship, improve teamwork, put more emphasis on technique, and have fun. Through the accomplishment of these four goals, I figured that growth and improvement would follow close behind.

To improve sportsmanship, we asked our swimmers to remain in the pool until all lanes were finished with the event. We were pleased with the visible display of sportsmanship throughout every meet. Numerous parents and coaches from other teams complimented me on our constant displays of positive attitude and sportsmanship that took place 72 events per meet.

To improve teamwork we placed more importance on the 15-18/8 & Under buddy system, making sure that positive role models were available for the youngest and newest members of the team. We changed the overnight into a more team oriented event. Although I could have used a lot more sleep that night, it helped me get to know more of the members of the team and hopefully provided an opportunity for the team to do the same.

To refocus on technique, we scheduled two start and turn clinics as well as a "free private lesson" day that allowed us to give one-on-one attention to those who wanted it. As coaches, we also tried to be in the water with the younger swimmers as much as possible.

Finally, between the two fun days, Robbie's outfits, Katie's hair in the morning and my toes, we definitely had fun. I was impressed with our development throughout the summer and feel like we were successful in all four of the areas I wanted to focus on. Although we can still improve, we have started many things this year that will continue into the next several years.

I want to thank the graduating seniors for all they have done for the swim team and the Wedgwood community. This year we had a fantastic group of swimmers that logged countless hours in the pool and with their teammates to make this team more fun and more successful. I couldn't be happier that this is my first graduating class as head coach and will remember them always. I think I speak for everyone when I wish them all the best of luck in everything they do. They will all be sorely missed. I would also like to thank all of the parent volunteers. Without them, I wouldn't get anything done and this team would fall apart at the seams. Katie, Robbie and I are forever in your debt and can't imagine the patience that most of you must need to put up with us on a daily basis. Thank you all for the incredible year. I can't wait until we can resume the fun next year.

--Matt Miller

Swim Team News

The swim team committee would like to extend our gratitude to everyone involved with swim team this year. We had a very successful and exciting season thanks to our enthusiastic coaching staff, our fabulous pool management and staff, our tireless volunteers, and our fantastic swimmers. We enjoyed some new activities such as tie dye day and mini-stroke clinic, and we saw the overnigher return to immense popularity. We also hosted another successful and smoothly run Northern Division Championship. We could not have done it without all of you and we are grateful to everyone for his or her commitment to the swim team and we look forward to next year! Thank you!

--Shelly, Martha and Carolyn

Congratulations Wedgwood!

What a season! After a somewhat wet and cool start to the swim season, one hundred and eighty-seven Wedgwood swimmers enjoyed new and old friendships and some great competition. There were many new swimmers this year, some of whom made it all the way to All City's! We had an excellent dual meet season with a 7-1 record, and our swimmers enjoyed the home pool advantage to place 2nd at the Northern Division Finals. Finally, our All City swimmers concluded the season with a very respectable, and much deserved, 3rd place finish at the All City Championships!

Four new Wedgwood records were set during the 2005 swim season. Seniors Kathleen Hall and Kim Kripps went after their own records making sure to leave their mark on the record board! Kathleen Hall shaved off another .06 in her 50 breast with a new record of 32.52. Kim Kripps posted two new records dropping .07 in the 50 fly to 26.47; and she made a new mark on the record board by breaking a 1993 record and posting a 28.32 in the 50 back. Lastly, who could forget our 15-18 boys and their dramatic finish to Northerns?! The team of Andrew Hale, Nick Hathaway, Michael Matsumoto, and Peter Hoff broke the 2001 record in the 200 Free Relay by .39 for a new record of 1:29.89. Way to go!

Congratulations to all Wedgwood Swimmers, and many thanks to coaches Matt, Katie, and Robert!

Sweats and Pictures

If you ordered sweats or t-shirts from the second sweats order, they have arrived! You can pick them up at the pool office. They are in bags and labeled with your name. If you have any questions, please contact Leslie Neiman at 524-8903 or leslieneiman@mac.com.

The long-awaited swim team pictures are here! The pictures are at the pool for pickup. If they haven't been picked up by Labor Day they will be mailed to your house. To avoid the mailing expense, please try to pick up your pictures in person. If you have any questions, please contact Ann McKee at 525-2720 or annmckee2720@msn.com, or Kirsten Yelin at 525-0687 or kyelin@msn.com. We apologize for the long wait and hope you enjoy your pictures.

Good Luck 2005 Seniors!

The swim team bids a fond farewell to the class of 2005. We want to thank you all for your dedication, hard work, and spirit. We know it is time for you to move on but you will all be missed. We look forward to seeing you next year at the pool, and on the adult swim team. Best of luck as you start a new journey both in the water and out.

A big thank you to: Jim Cairns, Marcus Gladden, Andrew Hale, Kathleen Hall, Kim Kripps, Michael Matsumoto, Nicole Shema, Claudia Spitzer & Johanna Spitzer... we couldn't have done it without you!

ADULT SWIM TEAM OVERFLOWING WITH TALENT!

The secret is out! The Wedgwood adult swim team is the place to be seen in the summer! Our ranks expanded again this year by over a dozen swimmers, ranging from speedy new graduates to "mature" adults looking to return to their swimming roots as well as those looking to improve their swimming styles. Most evenings saw 35-40 adults in the water at workout, and we had an unbelievable 72 people sign up for the adult swim meet! The season ended with the adult meet hosted by Sheridan Beach. Wedgwood had, by far, the most swimmers participating as well as the most spirit, with teammates ringing the pool with their presence and cheers. For the second year in a row, Wedgwood successfully took 1st place at the meet - this year by almost 300 points! As always, coaching you all is such a fun experience for Mary and me. We want to profusely thank everyone for the generous gift certificates that you gave us (Mary has already used 1/2 of hers!). It makes us feel a little guilty that we made you do all that butterfly..... See you next year!!!

--Karin Fosberg and Mary Lippold

Landscaping Committee

In response to the south wall construction schedule, the fall landscaping day has been cancelled. But don't despair, it's only 8 _ months until the spring event...Keep up your back exercises this winter. Sharpen your tools and be prepared for next year.

A Final Thought....

We still have a few weeks of great times at Wedgwood in 2005, but after that we're on our own until May. Remember these soft late summer days when it's January, 40 degrees, and dark at 3:30. And then, if you really can't wait until May to get in the water, just step outside and use your imagination. Who knows, the rain that hits you in the face at the Summit might help fill our pool next season, so don't complain.

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