

Swim Team News – March 2010

There are just over two more months to wait until the 2010 swim season begins! While the schedule of meets, fun days, mini clinics and other team activities has yet to be finalized, we have some important information to communicate during this off-season.

New Coach

While we were sad to have to say goodbye to one of our wonderful coaches, Jill Kripps, we are thrilled to announce that Sara Behrens (2009 “graduate” of the WW swim team) will join the coaching staff of Matt Miller, Michael Matsumoto, and Peter Hoff. We’re looking forward to another fun-packed season with these four great coaches leading the way.

Dues Increase

For several years now the swim team has consistently cost the club more money than it brought in. The losses can be considerably less, or non-existent, when we host one of the big championship meets (i.e., Northerns or All City) but that is not always possible or desirable to do. The Board has monitored this situation and has agreed to offset these deficits with the revenue it makes from swim lessons and pool rentals because of the vital role the team plays in the life of the club.

In reviewing the 2010 budget, the Board considered how to reduce or eliminate the swim team deficit. While we will continue to carefully manage our costs, we decided not to make cuts to our biggest budget expense – paying for four coaches. We then considered how to increase our income (i.e., raise dues, charge higher margins on concession items, sweats and T-shirts, etc.) and determined that it was time to raise the dues. The Board last raised the swim team dues in 2004, from \$60 to \$65 per swimmer. A survey of the dues charged at other Seattle Summer Swim League pools in our area revealed that other clubs charge between \$75 and \$125 per swimmer. As a result, the Board agreed that it was time to raise our dues to \$75 per swimmer in 2010.

Keep in mind that the dues cover five practices per week, two meets per week during the peak season, snacks for the entire team after several practices, fun days, ribbons, trophies/patches, swimmer-of-the-week recognition items, gifts for the coaches and graduating seniors, and an amazing end-of-year banquet. When you compare swim team dues and all that comes with them to what you pay to participate in other team sports, we hope you’ll agree that \$75 is still a great value.

Volunteer(s) to Run Concessions

Speaking of income for the swim team, for the past few years, the amazing group of concession volunteers has earned between \$5,000 and \$8,000 for the team each

season. This amazing feat was due in large part to the tireless leadership and work of Lenee Arnett, Diana Black, and Kelly Crow. We are grateful for all of their efforts! But these women want to take a break from concessions and give to the team in other ways.

As a result, we are looking for one or more volunteers to organize our group of concessions volunteers for the upcoming 2010 season. We will be hosting five home meets (including Wedg v. Wood) and possibly a post-season meet. If you have questions or are interested in volunteering for this valuable position, please contact one of us on the Swim Team Committee. We will be glad to help you get started and support you all the way through. It's actually a fun way to get to know other Wedgwood parents and do something positive while you attend your child's meets.

More Swim Team Details to Follow

Be on the look out in the coming months for emails and newsletter articles with information related to registration, practice and meet schedules, and other volunteer opportunities.

Thanks and keep dreaming of summer!

*Patty Cannon, Jacque Ives and Erin Manca
Swim Team Committee*