



May 11, 2010

Hunting Hills Members,

We are getting closer to opening on Memorial Day weekend, and it's time to get the pool cleaned up and start thinking about swimming and socializing! Below you will find an update and information about some swim activities offered at Hunting Hills Swim Club. As the season approaches and during the summer season, we will update activities and social events by email, so please make sure we have yours!

Clean Up Days

We had our first clean-up day this past Saturday and I want to thank those that turned out for their commitment and hard work. We were a small crew but got a lot done. Attendance was quite low with only 7 out of ~ 300 families represented. I realize that this was Mother's day weekend so I am sure that many were preoccupied with shopping and traveling for that worthy holiday. I also realize that May is a very busy month with school coming to a close but ***please make an effort to attend next Saturday and the following Saturday*** so that we can get the pool ready for this exciting summer season.

Pool Services

Hunting Hills will continue offering swim lessons; however, this year; we are planning two sessions of swim lessons especially geared toward pre-schoolers (ages 3-5). These two sessions will be Monday to Thursday, and will occur in the weeks before school aged children are home. These two weeks are separate sessions and are \$25.00 for each week. Each lesson group will only have eight spaces available. We are planning for two instructors for each lesson group, so we can give your children our best attention to create the most positive and fun water experience. We will plan for two groups during each session, so only 16 spaces per week are available.

We also plan to host the ever popular Friday Drop In, but will be tweaking the registration process to allow pre-registration. This small change is necessary to plan staffing and activities. Parents who register for the eight week, Friday morning session of swim lessons can add the Drop-In to their registration when they register, so they can plan their spa, I mean grocery shopping.

We look forward to another winning season for the Hunting Hills Hammerheads! We swim against several new pools, so prepare for some competition! We encourage all of our young people to sign up for swim team, and to that end, we are tweaking the registration costs of swim team to encourage families with multiple children to register.

In addition, families have the option to make multiple payments to accommodate their budgets. This year registration is \$100 for one swimmer to accommodate a rise in event fees for the Divisional and Straehle meets. CMSL pointed out that fees had not been raised in several years, even while costs associated with these meets have been rising. We have modified our pricing to maximize participation, and the good news is that after the first swimmer registration, the second and third swimmers are \$50 each, and the family cap is now \$200. These fees still include all meets, swim team events, awards, and fun for the whole summer. Swim Team is a great way to meet other parents and kids, if you are new to the club. We need swimmers of all ages to rally around the Hammerhead banner, so join the team!

Registration

The registration process for club activities is being overhauled to help us become more effective in our communications, finances, and maintaining appropriate records. Now, more than ever, our board acknowledges that our responsibility to be fiscally responsible and oriented toward safety is necessary. We have contracted with a company to help us streamline this process. Beginning this summer, members will register for swim lessons and swim team on-line via our website. Many of you are already familiar with the Active registration system through sports clubs. Now, families are able to pay by e-check, credit card, or Visa/MC debit. This service allows us to efficiently import swimmer information into our HyTek database required for managing swim meets. Not only does this service help us maintain an accurate database, it delivers a schedule of meet volunteers and time slots as parents sign up during registration for volunteer positions at the swim meets. Likewise, for swim lessons, parents will have access to real time information about the number of spaces available in any swim lesson session.

Online registration makes the swim club more efficient in many ways. It helps families budget; after an initial deposit to register for activities, parents can choose a pay schedule up to a predetermined deadline. It is eco-friendly and cost effective because it eliminates volumes of paper and the time of printing. More importantly, online registration improves the safety of our swim club by allowing the pool to collect and maintain consistent records such as home addresses, email addresses, and medical alerts for all members and children. We are migrating toward on-line registration for other pool services and activities, so keep an eye on our website in the near future.

Staff Announcements:

Swim Club Manager: Karina Shipp will return for a second year, so expect her to continue popular programs from last year, and hopefully, to add a couple of new ideas to make our swim club a community destination. The Shark Shack promises to remain an entry level job experience for our young people; and in addition, members can look for the menu to expand through weekly specials. Ideas and comments are always welcome; you can reach her at manager@huntinghillsswimclub.com.

Pool Manager: Sara Jane Glover will return for a second year, and she will use her Water Safety Instructor experience to plan swim lessons and monitor the operations of the pool along with the guards to keep the pool water as sparkling as last year!

Assistant Manager: Amanda Sellers will also return as the Assistant Manager. She will organize and implement the in-service trainings for our guards to keep them in tip top form as well as work with newly certified guards to welcome them into the Hunting Hills community.

(You will see the faces of people you probably didn't think were old enough to be guards—I know the feeling!)

Head Coach for Swim Team: Our new Head Coach this year is Erin O'Donnell. Erin is a student at Georgia Tech on a swimming scholarship and is working on a degree in Management. During her two years at Georgia Tech, she has become an ACC Squad Team member and is continuing to excel at her sport. Erin grew up here in the Baltimore area, swimming at North Baltimore Aquatic Club (NBAC) and was coached and trained by world class coaches including Bob Bowman. While at NBAC she was a Nationals qualifier (100 & 200 butterfly), a Sectional winner (100 butterfly), National Age Group Record Holder (400 Medley relay), Top 16 in the Nation (13th in 100 Butterfly, 1st in 400 Medley Relay), and our personal favorite fact, Erin was and is a Central Maryland Swim League Record Holder in multiple events and age groups. She was an Assistant Coach at Meadowbrook for a summer, has taught swim lessons for four years, and was a lifeguard for two years. What we are happiest about is that although Erin is an accomplished competitive swimmer, she loves summer swimming and is very excited about this position. She picked our club over another club's offer, and guess why....Tye Dye Night! She said we sounded more fun and is looking forward to a fun and competitive season. Please make her feel welcome and do not hesitate to speak to her about any questions or concerns.

Assistant Coach: Tara Archer, our favorite Kindergarten teacher returns as an Assistant Coach this year. Tara did an excellent job with our swimmers last year and will work with a wider range of ages this coming summer. Her structure and organizational skills will help practices become even more effective for our whole team. Again, please do not hesitate to speak to her about any questions or concerns.

Coaching Assistant: Rachael McCloud, Catharine Shipps

Volunteer Positions

The swim team and social events are the two major activities offered by Hunting Hills that require several volunteers therefore it is helpful to have two separate coordinator positions for these efforts. These two individuals will interact frequently with the Pool Board and the pool staff in an effort to coordinate these efforts. These positions have been simplified somewhat this year because many administrative and fiscal duties are either handled now, or will be handled soon, by the Active Network's online registration

process. This will allow these two positions to better focus on coordinating events with the pool staff and calendar, recruiting the volunteers, and working to make each event successful and enjoyable for our pool community. If you are interested in either or these positions and want to find out more about the responsibilities of the position, please send an email to President@huntinghillsswimclub.com. If you are not interested in leading either of these efforts, please think of other related tasks and activities for Hunting Hills that you can volunteer for.

I look forward to a great season and will see you poolside!

Clay Shipps, President
Board of Directors of Hunting Hills Swim Club