

MUSCATINE SWIM CLUB NEWSLETTER

September 2006

It is that time of year again, the leaves are changing, the weather is cooling down and the smell of chlorine in your child's hair is just around the corner. Here is some important information for you as the 2006-2007 swim season nears.

MANDATORY PARENTS MEETING:

There will be a mandatory parents meeting on **Thursday, October 26 at 6:30 in the MHS Cafeteria. ONE PARENT MUST ATTEND THIS MEETING.** Just for Kicks will be present to place your team suit order. There will also be a variety of caps, goggles and practice suits to purchase if you would like. This meeting is a great opportunity to ask questions, meet the coaches, and sign up for the meets you will be volunteering.

REGISTRATION:

Attached to this newsletter is a registration form. A registration form must be completed for each swimmer in your family. If you need more, please photocopy your form. Registration deadline is **Thursday, October 15, 2006 for returning swimmers.** There will be a \$10.00 late fee for registrations received after **October 15, 2006.** Please send your completed registration and check payable to the Muscatine Swim Club to PO Box 504, Muscatine, IA 52761.

The fees for this year are **\$135.00 (this includes 1 team suit)** for the first swimmer in the family and **\$125.00** for each additional swimmer in the same family. Parents who have assisted with the football fundraising will receive credit based on number of games worked to offset the cost of registration.

Swimmers must also have a **current Y membership.** The fees for new swimmers will be held for the first two weeks of practice as a trial period. **Scholarships** for the YMCA and swim club **are available.** Please contact Jocelyn Paxton at the YMCA at 264-9996 for scholarship information.

IMPORTANT – A SWIMMER CANNOT ENTER THE WATER UNTIL THE REGISTRATION IS COMPLETED, SIGNED BY A PARENT, AND THE FEES ARE PAID. WE HAVE TO ENFORCE THIS RULE BECAUSE OF INSURANCE COVERAGE!

VOLUNTEERISM:

The Muscatine Swim Club is a **PARENT RUN volunteer** organization. It is imperative that **ALL** parents volunteer in some capacity to make the season a success. We understand that all families have different schedules and situations; therefore there are many ways each family can help. We have 4 home meets this year. We would like to see 100% participation from all parents. Please sign up to help with at least 2 home meets. There are things to be done before, during and after the meets. Remember, **if all people help a little – no one has to do it all!**

Sign up sheets will be available at the October 26th parents meeting. You may also contact Tammy Wagner at 264-2118 or e-mail at tamwagner32@yahoo.com.

PRACTICE TIMES:

Practice times for all swimmers will be announced at the October 26th parents meeting. Due to the growing size of the Club, practice schedules will be established as the registration forms are received.

Swimmers 8 & under will swim at the YMCA pool. Swimmers 9 & up will swim at the Carver Pool at the Muscatine High School **Monday-Friday**.

Swimmers may need to come dressed for swim due to the availability of locker rooms used by the boy's high school team. The coaches will keep you informed on this matter.

PRACTICE CANCELLATION:

There **will be** practice on scheduled early dismissal school days. If school is cancelled due to inclement weather, there will be **no** swim practice on that day at either location. Also, if the Carver Pool is to be used for a Muscatine High School or Middle School home meet, we either **will not** have practice or hold a practice at a different time. Currently we are aware of conflicts on the following dates: November 7, December 7 & 19, January 4, 18 & 23, and February 28. Please check the board for practice time changes.

MEET SCHEDULE:

The winter swim meet schedule is attached. In order to participate at sectionals, swimmers need to compete in **three** meets by February 4, 2007. Swimmers must compete in the sectional meet to qualify for the state meet.

STATE MEET INFORMATION:

The state meet will be held in Marshalltown on March 3 & 4. The girls meet will be on Saturday and the boys meet will be held on Sunday. Muscatine has reserved a block of rooms at the AmericInn in Marshalltown and the Meskwaki Hotel in Tama. To make reservations for the AmericInn, you must call the hotel directly at 641-752-4844 to receive our rate of \$89.90 per room. If you call the 800 number or book online – you will NOT receive this rate. To make reservations for the Meskwaki Hotel, call 1-800-728-4263 to receive our rate of \$64.00 per room. These blocks of rooms will only be held until February 11, 2007. The reservation rate is on a first come, first serve basis. Once our block of rooms is full, no one is guaranteed the discounted rate. If you cancel your reservation in less than 24 hours prior to your scheduled arrival, you will be charged the full price of the room.

REGIONAL MEET INFORMATION:

The Midwest Regional Swim Meet will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota on March 31 & April 1 at the University of Minnesota. Muscatine has reserved a block of rooms at the Radisson University Hotel for March 30 & March 31. To make reservations, please call 612-379-8888. Our nightly rate is \$99.00. This block of rooms will be held until March 5, 2007.

MEET SIGN UP:

It is the responsibility of the swimmer and parent to notify the coaches on whether the swimmer is going to participate in the upcoming meet by the **Monday prior to the meet**. For your convenience, we have placed sign up deadlines on the meet schedule. **We will make no exceptions to this rule**. Meet entries are due to host teams by 12:00 on Wednesday. Coaches need time to enter events for each swimmer and put together relay teams.

OFFICIALS CLINIC:

YMCA Swim Officials

Date: **November 5** Time: **12pm-4pm**

Location: **West Community Room, Burlington YMCA**

Number of hours: 4

This course is designed to certify (beginners, currently certified USA, high school, and collegiate swim officials) or recertify (currently YMCA certified) individuals as officials in the YMCA of the USA's Competitive Swimming Program. The course focuses on events, procedures, and the duties and responsibilities of the officials prior to, during, and after the meet. A score of 80 percent must be achieved on a 100 multiple choice and true-false content item test in order to be certified or re-certified. Upon successful completion of this course, participants will be certified to officiate in the YMCA of the USA's Competitive Swimming and Diving Programs.

Expiration date: Three years

IMPORTANT DATES – MARK YOUR CALENDAR:

October 26:	Mandatory Parent Meeting	6:30 PM
November 5:	Official's Clinic in Burlington	12:00 PM – 4:00 PM
November 6:	Practice Starts	
November 23-24:	No Practice – Thanksgiving Vacation	
December 22:	No Practice – Christmas Vacation	
December 26 - 30:	Practice Schedule TBA	
January 1, 2007:	HAPPY NEW YEAR!	
January 2, 2007:	Practice Schedule TBA	
January 3, 2007	Regular Practice Schedule Resumes	
February 11, 2007	Last day to reserve room for State Meet	
March 3 & 4	State Meet @ Marshalltown	
March 5	Last day to reserve room for Midwest Regional Meet	
March 8	Swim Team Banquet	6:00 PM
March 31 & April 1	Midwest Regional Swim Meet @ Minneapolis	

CLUB COMMUNICATIONS:

In an effort to make correct information available to all parents, we ask that you provide us with an accurate e-mail address. This is the most efficient way for us to contact everyone when there is a change in a practice schedule or to notify you of an upcoming event. If you do not have any e-mail address, please find a friend to contact you with the information. Unfortunately, we are not able to call everyone individually. The Swim Club's website is www.muscatineswimclub.com.

MUSCATINE SWIM CLUB OFFICERS:

President:	Bob Calegan	288-3491	calegan@machlink.com
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