

THE CHANNEL CAT CHAT



Official Newsletter of the
Tri-City Channel Cats Swim Team
P.O. Box 1668, Richland, Washington 99352
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Your contributions are welcome (photos, too)! The deadline for submitting items for the next newsletter is **November 30**.

Well we're off and swimming..... many Channel Cats attended the Trick or Treat Invite in Moscow and good swimming was done by all ☺

From the President



Congratulations to Coach Todd and Coach Jen for being selected as Inland Empire's Coaches of the Year at the ASCA World Clinic in Las Vegas last month. It is quite an honor and we feel very lucky to have two long standing coaches, who are very passionate about swimming, working for the Channel Cats organization.

If you get a chance please extend a "thank you" to our Treasurer's, **Todd Schaefer** and **Cristy Bratton**. These two parents work tirelessly to handle all the finances of our organization and it is a HUGE job especially at the beginning of the new season with all the forms, setting up new families etc.... Please be respectful when requesting clarification on an invoice, or any other questions you may have of the Treasurers. I know financial issues tend to get emotions running high but remember we are a parent-run organization and our Board members are "volunteers."

This newsletter should find many of our new families "oriented" to the team. Thank you to **Markie Henry** for coordinating a new parent orientation on October 30.

And finally the Coaches and Board are available to answer any questions you may have and welcome your input. Which reminds me we had 6 parents show up at our October board meeting. THANK YOU for taking the time to come and ask questions and get clarification. It is great to see these parents getting involved - maybe even some future Board members were in the crowd☺

See you on deck,

Mary Blanchard, President



Jillian Hendry

Benton City, WA

Age 10, Blue at CBRC

10 months as a Channel Cat

Favorite stroke: Fly

Favorite event: 100 free

Favorite meet: Summer Solstice in Spokane; I love swimming Long Course and I dropped a lot of time in almost all of my events.

Favorite swim meet snacks:

Bagels and cream cheese

Proudest swimming moment:

When I was 1 second away from an "A" time in the 50 breast.

2008 swimming goal:

To get at least one "A" time

Best advice from our coaches:

"Putt the ball breathing and swim shallow!" --Coach Jen

When I'm not swimming, I like to:

Hang out with my friends

Favorite book:

Ramona series

Favorite movie:

"Alvin & The Chipmunks"

"The coaches are awesome and I have made a lot of really cool friends."

Coaches' Lane

If the **2008 Trick or Treat Meet in Moscow, Idaho**

was any indication of the season to come, Channel Cats are going to have a great season!!

Seventeen swimmers competed as a Channel Cat for the first time, or in their first short course meet as a Channel Cat. The team brought home 3rd place with Claire Schaefer earning the 8 & under girls high point award. Ten swimmers had all best times and the team earned 420 best times total. Wow! That's some kind of swimming!

There were quite a few amazing swims like **Sarah Olsen** busting almost a minute and a half off her mile time! Our 9-10 girls 200 Medley Relay broke the meet record (**Kelsey Olsen, Alexis and Blair Murphy and Alyssa Musick**), **Stephen Antoniak** beat his best 500free time by nearly 32 seconds and **Claire Schaefer** (8 years old) swam the 500 free for the first time ever and did it in 7 and a half minutes. More notable time drops were: **Natalie Burke**-18 sec. in the 200free, **Courtney Comrie**-14 sec. in the 100IM, **Alex Fievez** nearly 20 sec. in the 100IM, **Taylor Fievez** almost 25 sec. in the 500 free, **Chyna Fish** in 3 events took 16 sec, 12 sec. and 12 sec. off in her 200IM, 200free and 100IM. **Ally Fuller** dropped 17 sec. in her 500free and about 10 in her 200free while **Jillian, Jordan and Joseph Hendry** all busted time in 3 events: **Jillian** 16 sec in the 200free, 19 sec. in the 50 fly! And 10 in the 100 free. **Jordan** took off 28 sec. in his 200free! He also had a 14 sec. drop in his 100 back and 11 in his 100 free. **Joseph** was 11 in

his 200free, 17 in the 200 breaststroke and 11 in the 200IM. **Luis Hernandez-Mejia** dropped 12 sec in his 200IM, **Alex Killian** dropped 12.5 in her 200free while **Danica Marlin** took off 12.5 in her 100 fly and 14.5 in her 200IM and sister **Dominique** dropped 13 second in her 200free, 12 in her 100IM and 13 in her 100 back. **Elizabeth McCarthy** bested her times by 12 sec. in the 200free and 200IM and 10 in the 200 back. **Hailey Murphy** broke 20 minutes in her first ever mile swim, **Ashton Pollick** took off 13 sec and 10.5 sec in his 500 free and his 100 breaststroke. And finally, **Mackenzie Ruby** had tremendous underwater kicks off ALL her walls, well past the flags! She even earned a few victories in tight races over her competitors quite obviously by having the determination to work the kick off the walls even at the end of her races. Congrats to these Cats who had some great swims!

In addition to the best times we have milestone swims. Swimmers that break :30 for the 50 free, 1:00 for the 100, 2:00 for the 200 and 5 minutes for the 500free (and so on) earn a big candy bar at our annual Awards Banquet in May. Already we had a bunch of milestones! **Nick Connors** and **Miles Phillips** earned it in the 200yd free, **Max Timm-Ballard, Nolan McCants** and **Joseph Hendry** in the 100yd free, and **Taylor Fievez, Katelyn McLoughlin, Micah Cruz** and **Nolan McCants** in the 50yd free as well. **Nolan** gets two! That doesn't happen often. Nice swims everyone.

The ten swimmers with all best times were **Alex and Taylor Fievez; Chyna Fish; Jillian, Jordan and Joseph Hendry; Alex and Tristan Killian; Sean Stephens and Max Timm-Ballard. Chyna** not only had all best times but if you noticed above, she dropped lots of time in 3 events as well. Well done Cats!

(Continued on Page 3)

Get to know...



"Kenzie"

Mackenzie Ruby

Richland, WA

Age 13, Silver at TCCC

2 years as a Channel Cat

Favorite stroke: Backstroke

Favorite event: 200 fly

Favorite meet: Zones because you can do whatever you want

Favorite swim meet snack:
Strawberries

Proudest swimming moment:
Making Zones

2008 swimming goal: Make Senior Sectionals

Best advice from our coaches:
Coach Todd always tells me to get in the pool . . . the water isn't getting any warmer!

When I'm not swimming, I like to:
Watch High School Musical 3

Favorite book: Saving Grace

Favorite movie:
"High School Musical 3"



Natilee Ruiz has been selected to attend the 2008 Speedo National Select

Camp in Colorado Springs, CO on Jan. 22-25. Natilee and Coach Todd will be there with 59 other swimmers and coaches from around the US. In order to qualify, Natilee had to be one of the top two 14 & under girls in her event (100 free) in the US.

Our new Channel Cat swimmers and swimmers who competed in their first short course meet as a Channel Cat were **Tanner Collins, Micah Cruz, Estelli Garcia, Alex, Gracelyn and Patrick Lee, Nolan McCants, Katelyn McLaughlin, Mylie Oberg, Addison Pollick, Emma Pope, Cheyanne Rollins, Max Timm-Ballard, Amanda and Dante Vega,**

Gabby Villareal, Porter Withers and Skylar Younkin. Hope you had a fun time! We are very glad you are a part of our team!

The best times list is as follows:

13 best times: Taylor Fievez.

12 best times: Chyna Fish, Max Timm Ballard and Sean Stephens.

11 best times: Nolan McCants.

10 best times: Ashton Pollick, Dominique Marlin, Tristan Killian, Luis Hernandez-Mejia, Joseph and Jordan Hendry and Nick Connors. Micah Cruz, Katelyn McLoughlin and Cheyanne Rollins

9 best times: Alex Fievez, Alex Killian, Danica Marlin, Elizabeth McCarthy, Alyssa Musick and Claire Schaefer. Tanner Collins

8 best times: Justin Smith, Sarah Olsen, Lindsay Nelson and Ally Fuller. Gabby Villareal and Skylar Younkin.

7 best times: Lisa Bratton and Alexis Murphy. Emma Pope.

6 best times: Mackenzie Ruby, Hailey Murphy, Maddie Henry, Courtney Comrie, Natalie Burke and Stephen Antoniak.

5 best times: Jillian Hendry, Miles Phillips and Nathaniel Weinman; Estelli Garcia, Patrick Lee, Mylie Oberg, Addison Pollick and Porter Withers.

4 best times: Blair Murphy and Amelia Burke. Gracelyn Lee and Amanda and Dante Vega.

3 best times or less: Cole Westendorf, Nicole Weinman, Cyrus Stephens, Kelsey Olsen, Nate Higgins, Lucy Hernandez-Mejia, Andrew Blanchard, Josie Bear and Eric Blanchard. Alex Lee.

The coaching staff was very pleased with the first meet of the season! We were also happy to see our new swimmers attending and enjoying the meet. **Matt Lanzara** and his parents even made the trip on Saturday just to watch! A special thanks to **Krissy Ruby** and **Mary Blanchard** for helping when **Coach Todd** was so sick. We made it through Sunday because of your generosity. And finally, thanks to the parents who officiated and timed as well. Your representation of and for the Channel Cats is outstanding and is very much appreciated. Our next meet is the Turkey Trot Invitational, November 21-23, in Cheney, Washington. Make your hotel reservations soon and we look forward to seeing you there.



NEXT BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, November 11th

7:00 p.m.

CBRC Conference Room

BOARD MEETINGS
ARE OPEN TO ALL
CHANNEL CAT MEMBERS!
These meetings are usually
held on the 2nd Tuesday of
each month.

Come join us!

2008-2009 Board of Directors

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FOR YOUR CALENDAR

- Nov. 1** Outreach applications due
- Nov. 3** Poinsettia orders due to Joan Wertz
- Nov. 11** TCCC Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Nov. 21-23** Turkey Trot Invitational; Cheney, WA
- Dec. 5-7** Christmas Invitational; East Wenatchee, WA
- Dec. 9** TCCC Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- Dec. 17** Tryouts, 6:30 p.m. at Tri-City Court Club
- Dec. 18-21** State Senior Championships; Federal Way, WA
- Jan. 24-25** TCCC hosts 10 & Under Champs & IMX Meet

*Don't forget, Poinsettia
orders are due to Joan
Wertz by November 3rd!*



Channel Cats Host Meets in January

TCCC is hosting the **IES 10 and Under Championship meet**, and the **IMX Challenge meet** on the 24th and 25th of January, 2009. This meet is at the Central Washington University Aquatic Facility in Ellensburg. Parents are needed to perform all of the tasks necessary to host these events. The formats have been adjusted so that no events will occur on Friday, which will hopefully result in some savings to our IES parents. However, we will need to enter the aquatic facility in Ellensburg at 7 am on Saturday morning to set up and be ready for warm-ups at 10am, with a meet start time of 11am. The 10 and under Championship will probably last until 3 pm, and then, after a warm-up, the first two events of the IMX Challenge will be conducted. The balance of the IMX events will be run on Sunday, and it is hoped that we will complete the meet mid-afternoon. Exact timelines depend on the number of entries.

Joan Wertz is serving as the meet director and will be working with the coordinators to enlist the help of all our parents. For the Championship meet we do get assistance from the participating teams in timing, but for the IMX Challenge, which is an invitational meet, we are responsible for all timing. Thanks in advance for your support of this important team event.