

The Channel Cat Chat

www.TriCityChannelCats.org

APRIL 2010

Wrapping it up in Moses Lake

Thirty-two Channel Cats took a trip to the Moses Lake Invitational on March 13 & 14, and showed everyone there that they came to SWIM!

Leading the way was **Aiden Kirkham**, with 10 out of 10 best times! Awesome! **Cheyenne Rollins** went 9 for 9 best times with huge drops in the 200 IM (25.8 secs) and the 500 Free (29.8 secs!!!) Amazing! **Joseph Hendry** was 8 for 10, sister **Jillian** was 8 for 9 and, brother **Jordan** went 7 for 10! The Hendrys were on fire that weekend! **Jesse Fink** had 8 out 10 best times; **JaZee Griffith** had 8 out 9 best times, and **Jake Douglas** had 7 for 7 best times, with huge drops in his 200 IM (24.9 secs), his 500 Free (23.7 secs) and in the 200 Free a 9.4 second drop! It was a fun, relaxed meet, perfect for all our amazing kids to have a successful meet!

The best times list shows just how great the weekend was:

10 Best Times: Aiden Kirkham

9 Best Times: Cheyanne Rollins

8 Best Times: Jesse Fink, JaZee Griffith, Jillian Hendry, Joseph Hendry

7 Best Times: Jake Douglas, Jordan Hendry, Addison Pollick

6 Best Times: Victoria Heard

5 Best Times: Cameron Edwards

4 Best Times: Ruth Chrisman, Philip Fishburn, Lauren Hall, Jeff Kern, Porter Withers and Skyler Younkin

3 Best Times: Daniel Dohnalek

1 or 2 best times: Blaine Broberg, Katelyn Broberg, Alexis Day, Makaylah Ferritto, Justyne Fink, Cheyenne Griffith, Abby Grimmitt, Luke Harrison, Kjersten Jordheim, Ryan Monrean, Jonathan Peacock, Linnea Peacock, and Emma Pope

Way to wrap up the Short Course Season, Channel Cats! On to summer and Long Course!

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FOR YOUR CALENDAR



April 23-24

IE Swimposium in Moscow, ID

May 5

Scrip orders and payments due to Renee Schroder

May 6

Channel Cat Spring Plant Sale Delivery Date

May 8, 4:00-6:00pm

Annual Awards Banquet
Columbia Community Church

May 14-16

Boise Y Spring Fling Meet
Boise, ID

June 4-6

Tri-City Invitational Meet
Pasco, WA

June 8, 7:00 p.m.

Channel Cat Board Meeting,
CBRC Activities Room
Everyone is invited!

June 18-20

Summer Solstice Meet
Spokane, WA

July 9-11

Pendleton Invitational Meet
Pendleton, OR



Senior Sectionals . . . A Recap

The first night of Senior Sectionals started off with a bang as **Nick Connors** dropped 10 seconds in his 1000 free and went 9:49. **Nathaniel Weinman**, swimming in the very next heat, dropped 5 seconds and went a 9:47. The girls 200 free relay, consisting of **Stephanie Tixier, Natilee Ruiz, Christine Tixier, and Kristen Bennett**, broke the Channel Cat record with a 1:40.5. Nice job getting this meet started off right!

The second day got off to a slow start in the 100 free. We had no best times, but **Natilee Ruiz** did manage to make it into finals. The next event improved a little with **Kristen Bennett** getting things started off with a 2 second drop in the 200 breast. Also swimming well, but not quite their best times were **Christine Tixier** and **Tyler Pickett**. In the 3rd event, the 200 back, the Channel Cats really started to heat up. **Max Timm-Ballard** dropped 2.5 seconds and qualified for her first NCSA Junior National cut with a 2:04.45. Congratulations Max! **Natilee Ruiz** qualified for her second final of the day in the back. The boys also got into the action with a one second time drop by **Nathaniel Weinman** and a 2.5 second by **Nick Connors**, who swam a 1:57.75. In the final event of the day, the 200 fly, the Tixier contingent swam great! **Christine** dropped 4 seconds, and **Stephanie** and **Danny** both dropped 2 seconds. In finals, **Natilee** dropped another second in the 100 free and 200 back and swam a 51.80 and 2:03.02 respectively, setting new 15-16 yr old records for the Channel Cats. Congratulations!

There were only two individual events on the 3rd day, the 200 free and the 400 IM. We started off the day with the 200 free and **Max Timm-Ballard** dropped one second in her race and **Tyler Pickett** and **Nick Connors** both dropped two seconds. **Nathaniel** and **Danny** were both just off of their lifetime bests. In the 400 IM, **Nick** had a great swim, dropping 12 seconds. **Tyler** dropped about a half second in his race. The prelim session ended with a great 800 free relay from our boys. **Nathaniel Weinman** led off with a personal best 1:45.53, followed by **Nick Connors** 1:46.83, **Tyler Pickett** 1:48.02, and **Danny Tixier** 1:46.26. Their time of 7:06.64 is less than a second off of the NCSA Junior National cut. Nice job boys!

We got the 4th day started off right with **Max Timm-Ballard** turning in her second NCSA Jr National time of the meet. She swam a 58.58 in the 100 back. **Natilee** followed with a 57.44 in the 100 back for a new 15-16 girls Channel Cat record. In the 500 free **Tyler** broke 5:00 for the first time, dropping 12 seconds and turning in a time of 4:49.97. **Nick Connors** turned around and swam a 4:44.48 in his heat, dropping five seconds and **Nathaniel Weinman**, not wanting to be out done, swam a 4:44.47. Nice 500's guys! The 100 breast saw **Christine Tixier** drop a second from her entry time and swim a 1:08.64. Last but not least we had the Tixier contingent all swim the 100 fly. All three were right on their entry times.

The only swimmer to make finals that day was **Natilee Ruiz** in the 100 back. Her finals time was right on what she swam in prelims.

The final day of Senior Sectionals got off to a rough start. After four long days and losing an hour to daylight savings time the swimmers were a bit groggy. **Danny Tixier** managed to match his entry time in the IM, while everyone else on the team were a bit off. The 50 frees went a little better with both **Stephanie Tixier** and **Natilee Ruiz** qualifying for finals. **Nolan Hill** turned in a personal best time, dipping into the 22's in his 50 free. The final event saw **Nathaniel Weinman** and **Nick Connors** both drop 12 seconds in their miles, turning in times of 16:37.16 and 16:29.53 respectively. Nice job boys, way to finish the meet!

OUR COACHES

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Check this Out!



Treasurer's Tidbit . . . See if your bank has a bill payee service. Most banks that have online banking offer this service. If they do, you can submit your Channel Cat payment to your bank online, and they will cut the check and mail it to our PO Box!

Channel Cats Shine at Age Group Sectionals!



Scott Francis continued his streak in the 100 back, placing 3rd in Finals. He also placed 4th in the 50 back, 4th in the 50 fly, and 5th in the 200 IM.

Age Group Sectionals were held at the King County Aquatic Center in Federal Way, Washington March 19th-21st. Sixteen Channel Cats traveled to our country's biggest meet of the year with over 1300 swimmers in attendance. Competing against swimmers from Hawaii, Alaska, Montana, Oregon and more, nine of our Channel Cats made finals! Way to go **Lisa Bratton, Scott Francis, Mackenzie Gant, Sarah Olsen, Ashton Pollick, Hailey Rankin, Mackenzie Ruby, Max Timm-Ballard, Nicole Weinman and William Wertz** whose total points earned the team a 19th place finish out of over 180 teams. Channel Cats were tied for 19th and in a close race with the team from Mt. Hood most of Sunday. But we had one more finals swim than the Mt Hood team, which pulled us ahead and into the 19th spot. Woo-hoo that was a close race! Way to go team!

Scott Francis lead the way in the finals department making the trip to four finals out of six events (100 bk, 50 fly, 50 back and 200IM). Nice swimming Scott! **Lisa Bratton** (200IM, 500free, 400IM) and **Ashton Pollick** (200 fly, 200 free, 400IM) both qualified for 3 finals, **Sarah Olsen** (200 fly, 1650 free), **Hailey Rankin** (200 fly, 100 breaststroke) and **Nicole Weinman** (500 free, 1650 free) made 2 finals, and **William Wertz** (50 free) and **Max Timm-Ballard** (200 back), and **Mackenzie Ruby** (200 back) made one final each.

We had some fantastic swims as well. Three of our swimmers got first place and were gold medal winners: **Mackenzie Ruby** blasted out her first Senior Sectional cut in an amazing 200 yd backstroke dropping well over 4 seconds, **Lisa Bratton** smoked the field in the 400 IM, also getting her first Senior Sectional time, and **William Wertz** won a very close 50 yd free dropping over a second from his previous lifetime best. Congrats you three, nice swimming right there!

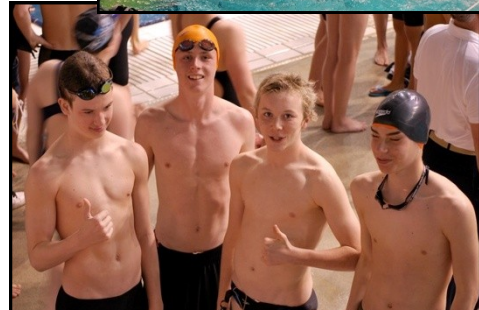
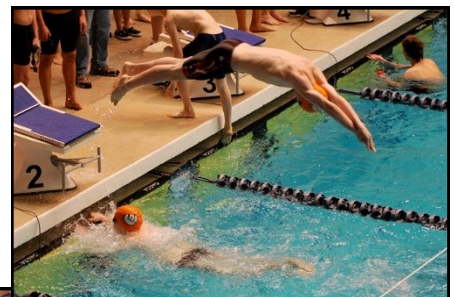
Before recognizing our best times it is important to note that our first time Age Group Sectional swimmers did a nice job as well. It can be a scary meet as big and fast as it is and our swimmers did a great job! Having said that, **Hailey Rankin** led the best times list with 8 best times. Nice job Hailey, way to go!

The best times are as follows:

- 8 best times:** Hailey Rankin
- 7 best times:** William Wertz and Scott Francis.
- 6 best times:** Ashton Pollick and Lisa Bratton.
- 5 best times:** Luke Jackson (5 out of 5 even!!)
- 2 best times:** Mackenzie Gant and Cole Westendorf.
- 1 best time or less:** Micah Cruz, Ryan Francis, Mackenzie Ruby and Nicole Weinman; Skyler Younkin, Max Timm Ballard, Katie Schroder, and Sarah Olsen.

The coaching staff was very pleased with the finish to our short course season. Everyone swam very well. We are already looking forward to a successful Long Course season as well. And don't forget the IES Swimposium and the banquet coming up at the end of April and in early May! See you there.

Our 13-14 Boys Relay Team of **William Wertz, Ryan Francis, Ashton Pollick, and Micah Cruz.**



From Our President

Channel Cats Families –

Plans are in place for the May Awards Banquet. The Banquet will recognize TCCC swimmers for their many achievements over the last year. The Banquet will be followed by a parent meeting where elections for 2010-2011 Board of Directors will be held. Many policies and guidelines have been developed by the BOD over the last year, however no by-law changes will be proposed. Please bring drinks to the banquet; what is left we will utilize for our June long course meet.

Have you driven by Memorial Pool? It looks fantastic! We are very excited about the new renovated pool, it is a great facility. As for our swim meet, please get signed up for one of the many tasks, we need you all on deck contributing. The summer meet continues to be one our biggest fund-raisers for the team, and we will not be successful without all of your help. The duty signups have been posted on the website.

Lastly, with the renovated pool and very experienced, hard-working parents, we have placed a bid to host the 2011 long course championship swim meet. This is a four-day meet that we have hosted in the past when George Prout was a 50 meter pool. The bids will be reviewed and voted upon by Inland Empire Swimming in April. We will let you know the results as soon as the vote becomes finalized. We would not even consider placing this bid without the parents! TCCC parents continue to lead by example, keep up the good work.

Chris Musick, President—TCCC Board of Directors

Board of Directors Elections

The BOD is currently seeking candidates for all positions to serve on the Board during the FY10/11 swim year. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the team and everyone is encouraged to consider running for a position. The elections will be held at the upcoming parent meeting in May and positions will be effective starting September 2010. If you have any questions regarding specific position duties or would like your name placed on the ballot (incumbents included!) please contact Todd Schaefer by email (hschaefer@verizon.net) or phone (967-5137).

2009-2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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2010 Channel Cats Awards Banquet

Calling all Channel Cats and their families for:

What: The Annual Channel Cats Awards Banquet

When: Saturday, May 8, 2010, 4-6 p.m.

Where: Columbia Community Church Gymnasium
150 Gage Blvd. Richland, WA 99352

Come and share an afternoon of fun and celebration with other Channel Cats team members and their families! Pizza and cake will be provided.

We are asking that each family bring a case of beverages (soda, Gatorade, bottled water, etc.) for the banquet. Any leftover beverages will be used for our summer meet. See you there!





Tri-City Channel Cat Spring Plant Sale Pick-Up



When: Thursday, May 6th, 11:00am-4:30pm

Location: 601 S. Young Place, Kennewick (the Bell family has generously let us use their shop space this year).

Directions: Head south on Columbia Center Blvd past Clearwater Ave. Turn left on W. 4th Ave. Go three blocks and turn right onto S. Young Place. The Bell's house is on the left. Please park on the street until you have turned in your checks and confirmed your orders. Please understand that this year, we will be doing some number crunching at the distribution, so it will take a little longer than previous years.

You **MUST** pick up your plants or arrange for someone else to do so. If you need help with directions, please call Jennifer at 531-8022.

We need help sorting plants! If you can help sort plants starting at 8:30am on the 6th, please contact Jennifer at kissee-stephens@pocketinet.com or 967-0839. Thank you!



Summer 2010 Hotel Blocks

Boise Y Spring Fling (May 14-16) – SpringHill Suites held under Spring Fling, \$69.00/night 208-939-8266. We don't have a block, so if you are going to this meet get reservations at this hotel ASAP!

Spokane Summer Solstice (June 18-20) – Quality Inn Valley Suites held under Tri-City Channel Cats, 20 rooms at \$109.95/night. Cutoff date of 5/28/10. 509-928-5218

Inland Empire LC Champs (Spokane July 29 – August 1) – Quality Inn Valley Suites held under Tri-City Channel Cats, 25 rooms at \$109.95/night. Cutoff date of 7/8/10. 509-928-5218

The next Scrip order will be placed on the 5th of May.

THIS IS THE LAST SCRIP ORDER TO COUNT TOWARD DUES OFFSET FOR THIS YEAR!

Please email your orders to Renee Schroder at prschroder@hotmail.com and mail your check to TCCC at
**P.O. Box 1668
 Richland, WA 99352**

FROM OUR TREASURER

DON'T FORGET: Monthly bill payments are due by the 10th and considered late if not postmarked by the 20th!



Meet Justin Smith

Justin (Bronze at Kia Ora) is 14 years old and an 8th-grader at Desert Hills Middle School. He lives in Kennewick and has been a Channel Cat for 2½ years. When Justin isn't swimming, you can find him reading or watching TV!

Favorite stroke: Freestyle

Favorite event: 50 free

Favorite meet: Tri-City Invite because I can go home afterwards

Favorite swim meet snack: Oranges

Proudest swim moments: Breaking 30 seconds in the 50 free

Swimming goal for this year: Break 26 seconds in the 50 free

Favorite piece of advice from a coach: There are way too many to keep track of!

Favorite books: Fablehaven series by Brandon Mull

Favorite movie: "League of Extraordinary Gentlemen"



Meet Shaylee Kieffer

Shaylee (Blue at CBRC) is 15 years old and a 9th grader at Hanford High School. She lives in Richland and has been a Channel Cat for 1 year. In her spare time, Shaylee likes to play cello, piano and basketball; sing, do homework, pull-ups, and breathe!

Favorite stroke: Butterfly

Favorite event: 200 IM

Favorite meet: Moscow. I met my goal of improving all of my times.

Favorite swim meet snack: Dark chocolate and Sunchips

Proudest swim moments: Every night that I can't move after practice

Swimming goals for this year: Earn best times in all of my events and go under 1:00 in the 100 free

Favorite piece of advice from a coach: There is no specific advice, but the constant push and encouragement makes me strive harder.

Favorite movie: "The Blind Side"

P.O. Box 1668
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www.TriCityChannelCats.org

Newsletter Editor
Wendy Francis,
BOD Secretary



Providing athletes with the environment to realize their potential and learn skills that will enable success in swimming and in life.

Have you signed up to help at our Tri-City Invitational meet yet?

Remember, this is a HUGE meet and it takes all of us to pull it off!

Go to www.tricitychannelcats.org, log in to your account, click on the "Events" tab, and then click "Job Signup" next to the name of the meet.

Choose a time and job that work for you . . . And remember, it all counts toward your 26 hours/family volunteer requirement! Any volunteers you recruit give your family credit, just use your family name to sign them up.