

## Note from Head Coach

Welcome to the 2012-2013 season. We are well underway to another great year Piranha Swimming.
First of all, congratulations to all those who swam in our championship meets in July! It was a crazy month. The Tiger Senior Championship in Stockton followed immediately by Junior Olympics in Concord. The Jo meet was one of our most successful meets of the year. We had many personal bests and some new sectional qualifying times. Plus our 10under girls relay and 13-14 boys relays had so much fun and raced well.

The weekend of July 27-29 were two very exciting meets: Sectionals in Santa Clarita with Trystan Brown and Curtis Shinn, while the rest of the team had great success at RESL Championships in El Cerrito. We finished off the season in San Jose at Far Westerns with more great performances.

Next I would like to say a big welcome to all our new swimmers and families. We have 30 new swimmers in September already. I am so pleased to see all the new faces, and I am looking forward to getting to know each one. I hope you enjoy all the new challenges and push through the winter. You will be amazed how far you will go by the time you reach our first Piranha Progressive Series meet in March.

By the time you read this we have already attended our first meet in St. Helena and held our annual lap-a-thon fundraiser. The Santa Rosa meet is right up after that.

Awards night is September 29! This is going to be a more formal awards ceremony this year. I want all swimmers to dress nicely. Everyone will be receiving recognition, even our most recent members. Please come and join our celebration of a great year and welcome our newest athletes. Remembe,r we will also be having our famous slideshow. If you have any pictures from the 2011-2012 season, please get them to Michelle Spratt ASAP.

Our season is just beginning, but we must already be thinking about our weather changing. We had very nice summer, but now our daylight is getting shorter, the fog is rolling in, and it is very important for all swimmers to keep warm and stay healthy. (continued on page 5)

## PERSONAL BEST TIMES



## PERSONAL BEST TIMES




## PERSONAL BEST TIMES



## Swim Camps and All-star Meets

## By Curtis Shinn

## Swim Camps and All-star Meets

The sport of swimming is not only about being as fast as you can be. Though that is important, it's also really important to have fun. Some might ask, "What can be fun about swimming back and forth in a pool?" Well, once again, swimming isn't only about training and swimming laps. First of all, during practice you can socialize with friends. Even more than that, swim meets can open a door to meeting even more interesting people who wouldn't have met if it hadn't been for swimming. Also, though many swimmers on our team are a little young, there other great events where you can meet other fast swimmers held by Pacific Swimming, including swim camps and all-star meets. I'll talk about the camps first.

There are four different swim camps held by Pacific Swimming. The two camps for older swimmers are the Olympic Center Distance Camp and Leadership Camp. I haven't actually been to those two, so I can't say anything about them. I've been to the other two, though. They are the Swim Camps for 9-10 year-olds and 11-12-year olds. At these camps, there are swimmers (approximately 48) from all over Pacific Swimming that you can meet. You might not know a single person there, but by the time the camp is over, you'll have met people and made friends from all over the Bay Area, through games and activities. In addition, you also get to train under coaches from other teams, getting tips on your technique from them. With the good, there is also the bad (well at least what I consider the bad). To begin with, you have to be really fast to get into these camps. There is no 100 percent guarantee that you will get in. First, of you have to meet the standard to even apply. When I went 2-4 years ago, I had to have the old AA times (which are more or less Far Western Cuts). I think they changed this rule so that now when you are 9-10, you have to compete at Far Westerns, which implies you have to have a Far Westerns cut. If you are 11-12, you have to competes at Junior Olympics, which implies you have to have a JO cut. They then choose 48 swimmers from the people who applied. Second of all, the camp is really, really, really hard. This is to be expected because you and the other 47 swimmers are some of the fastest people in Pacific Swimming. For both camps, there are two practices a day (I don't remember how long they were, I just remember they were really long and hard). For 9-10 year-olds, it's a one-day camp while for 11-12 year olds, it is a two-day camp (at least it was when I went). Finally, the camp costs a good amount of money. Though it's difficult, if you can pull through it, it is a really good experience.

Now the other events are the All-star meets. All-star meets are very similar to normal championship meets like RESL except your team, depending on the level, consists of really fast swimmers representing either swimmers from your zone (ours is Zone 3, which is consists of North Bay) or the entire Pacific Swimming that
like the Camps There are four. The lowest level is Zone all-star, above that are Western Zones and Pacific Coast, and above that is the most prestigious, NACC, or North America Challenge Cup. I've been to all of them except Pacific Coast, but luckily my brother Kenneth has, so I know a bit about all of them. All of them are extremely hard to get into, significantly harder than the Swim Camp, especially the three upper ones because if you get into these, you're basically more or less one of the top 16 fastest swimmers in Pacific Swimming. Zone allstars is an all-star meet where you represent your zone, and compete with the other Zones: Zone 1 North, Zone 1 South (they're the South Bay Zones), Zone 2 (East Bay) and Zone 4 (Nevada/California border area cities like Reno) This All-star meet is not as hard to get into as the others; our team always sends multiple swimmers to this All-star. You meet fast swimmers from other teams in Zone 3 like Napa, Marin, and Santa Rosa. In the other three, you are representing all of Pacific Swimming.

On the next tier are Pacific Coast and Western Zones. Pacific Coast is the shortest of the three; Zone All-stars is only two days long (that's basically all I know about it). In Western Zones, you compete with all-star teams representing other states. It is a week long, and of all the All-star meets, is the most fun. Everything about it is fun. First of all, unlike Pacific Coast, you have a week to meet and bond with your team members. Second of all, the atmosphere is much more relaxed than NACC. Remember RESL? It's not just the best times, but the great team atmosphere. Now imagine it for two weeks and with much more people in your team. Sounds pretty fun, huh?

The highest tier is NACC. If you make this meet when you are 11-14, you are representing the fastest team that Pacific Swimming could possibly put together. You have to be the fastest in your event to make this meet. In this meet, you are competing against All-star teams representing Washington state, Southern California, and the teams representing the fastest people in Canada and Mexico. This is probably the least fun mainly because of a mixture of several things. First of all, there is the giant stress of having to do well. Second, you have to live in tiny dorm rooms. Lastly, you have to wake up at 5:00 am every day. Despite this, you get to meet some of the fastest swimmers in country; the honor of being part of this team is amazing.

Like the Camps, they have similar disadvantages. As mentioned before, they are really hard to get into. Along with this, like the Camps, they cost a significant amount of money (apparently, Pacific Swimming pays 2/3 of the actual cost). All-star meets have similar disadvantages, too. A in the camps, you meet lots of great people, but unlike the camps, many of these people are actually your teammates (well at least for the time being) making you even closer to them. So, if you can afford and make the team, it is well worth your time and money.


## Note From Coach (continued)

Please come to practice with warm clothes, shoes, jackets, hats etc. to put on after you swim. You may feel warm because you just trained and your body is still releasing heat (you sweat in the water when you are working hard). You must not allow yourself to cool down too quickly. Keep warm while you wait for your ride and during your ride home.

Drink H2O (water)! Stay hydrated-all day long. The day may be cool, but you are going to sweat when you train. You should also bring water to practice every day. Drinking water also helps your body flush out toxins, germs, and waste. This will also help you stay healthy during the winter cold and flu season

Eat right, and think of your body as a fine-tuned world-class race car. You would never think of putting cheap poor quality fuel in you race car, so don't put poor quality food in your body. GO t the USA Swimming website and look up nutrition. There are some great ideas on how to eat for training and now to eat on meet days.

Wash your hands when you are out and about this cold and flu season Viruses and bacteria are just waiting on doors and desks. Everywhere where you can pick them up and then touch your face, nose, eyes, and mouth means a greater risk of infection. Keep your hands away from your face, and wash your hands frequently.

Sleep: It is very important to get enough sleep. Keep up on your homework so you can get to bed on time.

When you do get sick-sometimes, it's just best to stay home and rest. The first day or two of a cold is not fun, but sometimes swimming is good to get over a cold because you can get all that mucous stuff moving and out. Never swim with a fever. If you have an elevated temperature or you have nausea, it is best to stay home and rest.

Practice: If you are going to miss practice, please let your coach know. Find out the best way to contact your coach. We really notice when you are gone. Knowing about schedule changes can help the coaches better plan for training and condition of each swimmer.

Enter meets: please be sure to talk to your coach about upcoming meets you should enter and which events are appropriate for you. Attending meets and competing gives meaning to daily training. It also allows you to set short, intermediate and long term goals, and track progress toward those goals.

Set Goals: if you have not set any goals yet, and you are not sure what they should be, try to set up a goal meeting with your coach. Coaches get excited when we know swimmers are focused and eager to achieve. It makes for a great training environment.

Teamwork: swimming in many ways is individual, but it is unique in that it requires teamwork as well. No athlete can train a high level by themselves. Even though a swimmer will race the clock to achieve personal bests and reach time standards, a swimmer needs others around to motivate, to push, and to encourage them. If you get faster, your teammate gets faster and then you get faster again. Come to the pool each day, ready to push each other to be the best we can all be as a team and you will achieve success. Plus, its really fun to swim fast!

Best of luck to all of you this year I hope it the best ever!!
See you on deck,

## Annette




MEETS SCHEDULE FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR

| DATE | MEET/Event | HOST/Location | Groups Attending |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 29-Sep | Awards Night |  | ALL |


MANY THANKS
TO OUR

SPONSORS FOR MAKING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE!
Gold Medal (Over \$ 1000)
ADTS
A Catered Affair
Silver Medal (\$600\$999)
Dr. Craig Davis
Joseph T. Callinan
Construction
King Buffet
Oak Grove Construction

Bronze Medal (\$350-\$599)
A1A Performance
Muffler
Annalise Carismith, D.D.S

Cruise Planners
Mary's Pizza
Operating Engineers
Local 3
Dr. Nichole Smith
Sport Authority
Air Doctor
King Buffet

Blue Ribbon
Sponsor
Buchanan Food Service
CK Doud Construction
Cheri's Grocery Outlet
Thomas Fitzgerald,
DPM
Straw Hat Pizza

Dive Block Sponsor
Thomas Fitzgereald

