

Duck



Tales

### **Ice Cream Social and Registration**

As hard as it may be to believe, it's that time of year again. We are doing things a little differently this year, so the Ice Cream Social will be earlier than it has been for the past few years. This year's Ice Cream Social is scheduled for Thursday, April 18, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Barn (Ben Lomond Community Center). You will have an opportunity to meet with some of this year's coaches and share a bowl of ice cream with friends.

The Ice Cream Social will be the kick off point for registration. (We will also accept registrations at the remaining Winter Clinic sessions, and at the annual yard sale.) We will have the web site set up to accept on-line registration soon. This year, the cost will be \$150 per swimmer for anyone who can swim the full length of the pool on opening day. The registration form will be available soon on the team web site under the Documents tab (you have to click on "Documents" to find it), and we will have extra copies with us at the Ice Cream Social.

This year's registration fee has been restructured from previous years. In the past, we have had multiple discounts, depending on the way you paid (cash or check vs. credit card), when you paid or the number of swimmers that were registered for one family. To simplify everything, we determined the average fee that everyone paid per swimmer, and that is the basis of our fee this year. We are also including the cost of a team suit with registration, so you won't have to worry about getting that separately.

Team t-shirts, suits, caps and bags will be handed out during the first week of practice. It is important for everyone to register **before** the season starts to ensure that we get your suits in time for the first swim meet.

### **Return of the Duckling Program**

For those of you who have children who would like to join the team, but are not able to swim the full length of the pool yet, we are bringing back the Duckling Program. This is run in conjunction with Splashdown, and is swim lessons which are geared toward getting these swimmers to be able to swim the length of the pool with both freestyle and backstroke. The program will be broken down into three two week sessions with a 50 minute lesson every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday starting June 3. If they meet the goals of the program, the swimmers will graduate from the Ducklings to join the team, and participate in meets. The cost for our Ducklings Program is \$175. Any swimmer who is registered for the swim team and is unable to swim the length of the pool at the first practice will be given the opportunity to join the Ducklings.

### **Opportunities for FREE Registration**

Wouldn't it be great if your child could swim with the Ducks for free? This year, there are three opportunities for that to happen. Every sponsor you get for the team is worth a chance to get free registration for one swimmer. The drawing will be at the Ice Cream Social. This is an easy way to help the team, and possibly get something in return. Last year's winner was Sarah Wheeler, who also happened to bring in the most sponsors. Who will it be this year? It could be you, but only if you bring in a sponsor before the Ice Cream Social.

The remaining chances for free registration are specifically to provide an incentive to fill two volunteer positions. We have a great group of people who help with concessions, but we really need someone to step up and organize everything for our 4 home meets (Time Trials, Virginia Oaks, Lake Manassas, and Westridge). We also need someone who can make sure that ALL volunteer positions, including timers, recorders, runners and more, are filled for each meet. In recognition of the amount of effort that these positions take, we will give free registration for one swimmer to each person who takes on these responsibilities. Please contact a board member if you are willing to take on one of these positions.

## **Yard Sale**

Are you planning to do your spring cleaning soon? Do you have bags or boxes of stuff you've already set aside? Please donate your items to the 5th Annual BLST Flying Ducks Yard Sale. Items requested: Children's clothes, books, games, toys, household items, furniture, bikes, tools, jewelry, etc. Please NO computers or monitors (they do NOT sell and are difficult to dispose of). If you have items that just won't fit in your car, just let us know. We are planning to rent a U-haul to pick up items in the surrounding neighborhoods.

So you say you already did your spring cleaning, and didn't keep anything for the yard sale? That's OK. We are also asking for baked goods that we can sell. We will gladly accept cookies, cakes, pies, brownies, etc. This is our primary fundraiser for the season, and the proceeds from the sale are used to keep the cost of team membership down, so help us out with all your unneeded items or baked goods.

The sale will be held Saturday, May 18, at the Rowe's home at 7600 Dublin Drive in Manassas. This is right on the corner of Dublin Drive and Sudley Manor Drive and is a fantastic location for a yard sale. Please watch for upcoming announcements regarding drop-off times and locations. If rain is forecast, please consider loaning us your tent/cabana for the event. (We know there are one or two out there.)

As always, we need people to help with this sale. We need parents and swimmers to help set up, sort and price items on Friday evening and to help during the sale on Saturday morning. The more the merrier! The past sales have produced a fantastic response from the team and earned over \$1,000 for the team. This is a great volunteer opportunity for all families to help come out and pitch in for the Flying Ducks.

## **2013 BLST SWIM MEET SCHEDULE**

June 8 Time Trials 2013

June 15 @ Stonewall

June 22 @ Urbanna

June 29 vs Lake Manassas

July 6 vs Virginia Oaks

July 13 vs Westridge

July 20 @ Old Bridge

July 27 Divisional's (@ Westridge vs. Meadowbrook)