



2012 Benicia Stingrays President's letter

Can you believe we are only a few months from starting our 2012 season? I, along with your Stingray Board, want to welcome you back to what will be another great year of swimming as a Stingray. I am going to do my best to keep this letter as short and to the point as I can, but you will see your Board has been hard at work in the off season to get ready for the 2012 swim season. Below are a few of the highlights:

New Website- As you can see, we have moved into the modern age of doing business. We felt that it was imperative to move our team in this direction and it affords our team many advantages that only a web based system can give. As you get to know the site, you will see that you can register online, sign up for volunteer units, and sign in and out of meets, just to name a few. Also, the new website will save Board members and Core Volunteers countless hours now and in the years to come. Please take some time and look around your new site. A GREAT deal of time and effort has been put into making the new website more functional and informative. www.bsrswwim.org

Coaches- We are proud to announce that Coach Kevin, Kristi and Kate will be returning. We are also working on a fourth coach which we should have finalized by mid-February. Our goal this year, as in the past, is to make sure that every swimmer that desires and strives to improve will have a coach to help them with their goals.

Practice times- You will see on the site that practice times have changed. During the off season, we tasked the coaches to come up with a way to give more attention to swimmers that need technique help. After many hours of thought and deliberation, these hours are the best fit for our team. With very few exceptions, the new practice times are going to be the times our swimmers need to adhere to, to make this schedule work. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Scoreboards- Thanks to your hard work during last year's Lap-a-palooza fundraiser, we are in the process of obtaining the last two lines of our scoreboard. We will soon have 4 total score lines and you should notice that you will be able to see your swimmer's finish times for a longer period of time.

County- We will be attending County as the Benicia Stingrays for the 2012 season for those swimmers who qualify and want to attend. But please remember there are other meets during that time of the season. If enough of the team wants to attend, we will look into attending as a team.

Fee- As many of you know, we have not raised fees in some years. The Board did a very hard look at our budget this year and the fees do not cover the cost of running the team. We project that if we can keep our fundraising about the level it is now and with all our major expenses of new equipment out of the way, we should not have to raise fees again for some time barring any major shifts in expenses. If you look around our league and other teams in our area, you will find that our fees are still average to below average. To be a Benicia Stingrays, it is a mere \$3.50/day per swimmer, and we believe this is a very modest cost for such an outstanding and fun recreational swim team!

In closing I would like to say I am very proud of your Board they have worked diligently this off season to make the coming 2012 season the best it can be. Also my hat is off to Coach Kevin. He is always willing and available to answer the Boards calls and continues to work on making the Stingrays the best it can be.

I look forward to seeing you all pool side.

GO STINGRAYS !