

Happy 2014 Stingray families! We are looking forward to, and busy preparing for a great swim season this year. Our excellent coaches Steve and Joe will be back to lead our swimmers and team to another successful and fun year. I'll highlight a few items here but the website is updated regularly so you can count on it to be current.

I'll start with the biggest news - our team is back in the Twin County Swim League (TCSL), which means we'll swim in the League Finals at the beginning of August. We are happy to be swimming all the teams in the League at our dual meets and are finalizing a schedule that may include some of our favorite teams outside of the League as well. It is shaping up to be another exciting season, with new incentives to participate in the end of season League Finals). See the website for details.

Joe and Steve are cooking up some great ideas for creative poolside workouts, spirit-building activities and of course – world-class workouts. We all know how great they are at the meets – poolside and fully-engaged and now they will be supported by a super team of junior coaches – most of whom have been long-time Stingray swimmers.

Be sure to register early again this year before we open registration up to the public. Online sign-ups begin next week – January 25th, and open to the public on February 15th. Certain age groups fill up fast so act as soon as you can. We will be actively recruiting for new swimmers around town again this year so please invite new swimmers to join us for “Bring a Friend” week at the beginning of the swim season.

We have several new members on the Stingrays Board this year, including Jen Lassahn serving as Secretary and Kathleen Sauter as Social Director. Robert Freeman isn't going anywhere and continues to advise the Board as past president. We are busy working on a food concession plan with the City of Benicia and hope to have a local vendor sell great food at our home meets.

Our first event is the “Welcome Back Fiesta Night” despite what the Benicia Magazine says. The Stingrays switched from a crab feed fundraiser to our popular fiesta night when so many other organizations began holding crab feeds. Join us on April 25 for a terrific night filled with great information and friends.

The success of our team relies heavily on all of our families as a well-organized swim meet requires many volunteers. We understand that the commitment is greater than other sports around town and sincerely appreciate all the volunteer hours everyone dedicates to creating a great season. Check out the website for the very latest on volunteer opportunities and be sure to sign up online as soon as volunteer hours go live. As always, you can contact any of the Board members by email by visiting the contacts page at bsrswim.org. We look forward to hearing any ideas or suggestions, and most of all working with everyone to ensure an enjoyable and fulfilling season for all swimmers and families.

All the best,

Kari Birdseye

Stingrays President 2014