

## **SMOKE SIGNALS**

### **January/February 2011**

Welcome to the new year! We have much to catch up on. Here's what you'll find in this issue:

- Sport Fair highlights
- Recognition of new members
- Holiday thanks
- Coach for hire!
- Practice Schedule
- Meet Schedule
- News & Notes

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### **SPORT FAIR HIGHLIGHTS**

Another exciting Sport Fair Winter Classic unfolded last month with the usual combination of poise and peak performance for FGAC swimmers. There were many highlights throughout the weekend, with fantastic individual accomplishments paving the way for a 10<sup>th</sup> place team finish. Here are some of the categories which highlight our performance:

- **Percentage of lifetime best times overall:** 76%
- **Swimmers who finaled and/or scored:** David Altobelli, Kieran Broder, Alejandro Chavez, Daniel Chavez, Marcela Chavez, Katherine Cleary, Liam Cleary, Michael Cleary, Morgan Daily, Joey Devlin, Sean Gallagher, Rachel Jaffe, Sam Jaffe, Moira James, Madi Kalen, Andrew Latona, Jake Ryan, Margarita Ryan, Jessica Schipani, Colin Schwartz, Kaitlyn Sheapp, Kylie Sheapp, Rachel Sigwalt, Spencer Sterling, Justin Strang, Emily Stutzman, Kristen Toth, Kaitlyn Toth
- **Age Group Championship Qualification:** Marcela Chavez, Liam Cleary, Callie Collins, Jake Ryan, Margarita Ryan, Rachel Sigwalt, Kristen Toth
- **PVS Championship Qualification:** David Altobelli, Kieran Broder, Daniel Chavez, Katherine Cleary, Michael Cleary, Morgan Dailey, Rachel Jaffe, Sam Jaffe, Andrew Latona, Jessica Schipani, Kylie Sheapp
- **Speedo Eastern Zone Southern Sectional Qualification:** Sean Gallagher, Daniel Chavez, Katherine Cleary, Joey Devlin, Colin Schwartz, Kylie Sheapp, Women's 400 Medley Relay - Moira James, Jessica Schipani, Kylie Sheapp, Katherine Cleary, Men's 400 Medley Relay - Sean Gallagher, Alejandro Chavez/Kieran Broder, Daniel Chavez, David Altobelli
- **NCSA Junior National Qualifications:** Spencer Sterling, Men's 400 Medley Relay - Joey Devlin, Sam Jaffe, Spencer Sterling, Colin Schwartz
- **USA Swimming Junior National Qualification:** Spencer Sterling

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### **NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION**

With each new season we're especially proud of the participation and contribution from new members. Anyone who has gone through the process of joining a team or being "the new kid" in school can empathize with the anxiety and apprehension it can present. Getting used to an unfamiliar environment, braving the process of meeting new people and getting comfortable with an established club can be difficult for kids of any age. So we would like to recognize the following swimmers for taking that leap this season in joining our flock. We wish them the best of luck as they continue and strive to see their willingness and courage rewarded:

**Ben Ailinger, Helen Castelli, Deanna Chirigos, Nora Collins, Noah Ferguson, Amanda Kassa, Caroline Kelly, Keara Lindsay, Kathleen McCullough, Meghan Nolan, Griffith Potts, Anton Sajin, Jessica Schipani, Brittany Sickinger, Weston Sirk, Harrison Sturges, Alexa Weisman, Abigail Willis, Bethany Wright, Brittany Wright**

Which in turn brings us to our current members, who deserve much of the credit for welcoming these guys with open arms. As coaches there is nothing more satisfying than seeing children reach out to one another for acceptance and we are always delighted to see friendships forming, relationships with coaches blossoming and groups of athletes gelling.

As our mission states, we aspire to develop individual potential and achievement in the sport of swimming by first and foremost providing a healthy environment for positive personal growth. In no way is this better reflected than by the successful inclusion and contribution from new members.

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## **HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES**

We'd like to thank Bruce Kalen once again for sponsoring our Holiday Greenery Sale fundraiser. Thanks to Becky Sterling and Jill Cleary for their support in organization and delivery as well.

We are also exceedingly grateful to Lynn DeVore and Diana Markel for stepping up to organize the holiday party and to all who brought in party favors. It was a tense few days and moments leading up to the occasion and it was wonderful to have things so warm and festive!

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## **IS YOUR SUMMER LEAGUE TEAM LOOKING FOR A COACH?**

If there are any summer league team reps out there looking to fill a coaching vacancy, we wanted to let you know that our own Kevin Vallario is currently searching. Anyone who has watched Kevin work knows his passion for the sport and attention to athletes. With a lifetime of competitive swimming experience including summer league, USA and collegiate swimming, several summers of coaching experience and now two years in the USA Swimming coaching ranks, he's readily prepared for a head coach's or head assistant coach's job.

Anyone who's interested can contact Kevin, Dave or Dan directly after practice or email us at [fgac@earthlink.net](mailto:fgac@earthlink.net).

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## **PRACTICE SCHEDULE**

We are entering that phase of the short course season when facilities are burdened by a high demand for swim meets hosted by USA, High School and YMCA swim leagues and therefore have the resulting changes to our practice schedule:

- Sunday 1/23 No practice @Fairland All Levels due to January Open
- Friday pm 2/4 No practice @Takoma Levels 1-3 due to swim meet at the facility
- Sunday 2/6 No practice @Fairland All Levels due to swim meet at facility
- Friday pm 2/18 No practice @Takoma Levels 1-3 due to swim meet at facility
- Sunday 2/27 Practice @Takoma All Levels on following schedule:
  - L4 & L5 11:00-1:00 pm
  - L2 & L3 1:00-2:30 pm
  - L1 & Dsquad 1:30-2:30 pm

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## MEET SCHEDULE

The Winter Gator Mini Meet was cancelled due to scheduling conflicts with the host facility. We are currently working on a substitute and will make an announcement as soon as we have decided. At this point we are leaning toward running our own intersquad meet to be held during a Sunday practice. This will likely include all 9 & unders.

- January Open 1/22-23 @Fairland - *entries closed*
- February Distance Meet 2/13 @Fairland - *entries due Sunday 1/30*
- RMSC Qualifier 2/19-20 @Fairland - *entries coach select*

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## NEWS & NOTES

1. Thanks for everyone's swift response on resolving 2009-2010 program fees. 2009-2010 meet entry fee summaries are currently being issued.
2. January 15<sup>th</sup> program fee installments are due for members following payment plan options 2 and 3.
3. Parkas are due for delivery within a week, making all apparel orders for the 2010-2011 season final. Please reply if anyone still has not received a team issue cap or t-shirt. Additional team caps are available for \$5.00 if replacements are needed.
4. Thanks to everyone who helped us get through our recent winter weather practice. The precipitation wasn't much but it couldn't have hit at a worse time!