

Dear Orca Family:

Save the Date: Splash Day is Sunday, March 6!

Normally, this event is held on a Saturday, but the TL Rec Center is booked that day.

So Sunday it is. Please join us from 11 am – 2 pm for all the usual activities at 670 Del Ganado. You should bring:

- **Your calendar** to make note of the volunteer positions and dates you'll be signing up for (see info below).
- **Your checkbook and insurance cards** to enroll your children for this season. Fees are \$275 for 1 swimmer; \$175 more for second swimmer from the same family; and \$150 for each additional swimmer. [Payment plans are available; sorry, no credit cards.]
- **Your high school swimmers** — they're only \$49 this season — spread the word for the deal of the century.
- **Your swimmers** because Suits Marin will be there with swim suits.
- **Your swimsuits, towels and goggles** because the pool will be heated and open.
- **Your sensible shoes** for the Jumping Tent.
- **And your appetite** for barbecued burgers, hot dogs and chicken at our not-yet world famous Orca BBQ Pit.

Come and Play, Then Stay for the Swimming.

New families should sign up at 11; returning families from Noon to 2. The team is open to all families with kids 5 – 18 years of age, of all swimming abilities. The Orcas emphasize fun first. We teach swimming and competition skills, self-improvement, good sportsmanship, self-esteem and teamwork. Meet our great coaches Luiz Rigney, Alon Golan and Alessandra Lollini.

Sign-up for Six Volunteer Commitments Per Family.

As always, each family needs to commit to six volunteer slots throughout the season. If you've comfortably filled a certain slot in the past, we recommend you do it again. And if you sign up for a certain task this year, please do it each meet. Familiarity breeds success.

We're fortunate to have a new Volunteer Coordination Committee this year: Lois Roth, Kris Geller and Sue Gitlin. They will be in charge of your time commitments, offering weekly reminders to each Orca parent who volunteers for certain slots. It takes approximately 100 parents to put on a home meet — and we'll have three in 2005 -- plus the usual Parent Party, Pasta Night and Awards Dinner.

NOTE: The positions listed here by Mike Pauley will carry a higher weight towards your six slot commitment. We'll explain this when you sign up at the Rec Center on Splash Day.

Mike Pauley thinks we need the following this year (descriptions are below):

- At least 2 parents from returning 8&U to train as Stroke & Turn officials.
- Could use a Trainee Starter.
- We are for once well stocked on the computer desk.
- We need Colorado Operators and Colorado Assistants, preferably a crew of 4 to rotate through Time Trials and the 3 home meets.
- We do need Announcers, again 3-4 for the same events.
- A set-up crew of 6 for the same events.
- A take-down crew of 6 for the same events.
- Head Timers (4) covering Home and Away typically.
- Ribbon desk crew (2+) for home and away.
- 8&U coordinators (2) for the season.
- 8&U parent crew (4) for the season.
- 9-10 Parents (2) for the season.

These volunteer positions are described below by Mike Pauley:

- Colorado is the name of the console/system used to track and control the swim meet. The **Colorado Operator** will require a period of buddy-training, so we hope that experienced parents will step forward to assist any interested novices
- The **Colorado Assistant, aka Event Packet Producer** is responsible for collating the hard copy output of heat results with the hand-entered lane sheets delivered by the lane runner for passing to the computer desk/Easy Meet operator.
- **Stoke and Turn, Relay Exchange and Starter** are each Meet Official roles which require attendance at an MSL or US Clinic for initial, and then follow-up buddy-training at meets. Their responsibility in general is to ensure a fair and equal competition between the teams and swimmers according to the rules of US Swimming and, where superceded, by MSL rules.
 - **Stroke & Turn Officials** monitor each swimmer in their allocated lanes for adherence to the technical requirements of each stroke. (Accommodation is made for lower heats of 8&U events).

- **Starters** are responsible for the correct procedure by each swimmer at the start of each heat, executing the start command, and verification of a fair start by each swimmer on that command.
- **Announcer** is also a trained role, but is always by another team parent. Their job is to announce the swimmers in each event based on the heat sheets, and to take care of general broadcasts throughout the meet.
- **Head Timers** are typically past timers and are responsible for the monitoring and instruction of the **Lane Timers**.
- **8&U parents** are responsible for marking of kids with their heat assignments, recording attendance of swimmers, and marshalling of swimmers from their meeting area to their lanes, in time for their events.
- The same is true of **9-10 parents**, but we need less of them based on swimmers experience.
- **Ribbon Coordinators** are responsible for sticking the label with the swimmers' heat result, printed by the EasyMeet system, on the ribbon commensurate with their place, and placing those ribbons in the family folders for collection by the families.
- We'll need **Bartenders** for parent parties and **Snack Bar Workers** (AKA Snack Baristas) for the three home meets, too. Again, we'd like experienced parents for each home meet so we won't have to train new people each time.
- We will also need a Picture Day Coordinator.

We Need Help Selling Orca Gear.

Felicia, our committed Orca gear salesperson, won't be here next Sunday. So if you want to help sell our great assortment of Orca gear, please reply to gil@zeimer.com ASAP. It's a great way to meet the other Orca families.

Tell A Friend and Earn \$20 in Orca Bucks.

Please forward this email to any friends who may want to join the Orcas this season. If they sign up and mention your name, You'll receive \$20 in Orca bucks, good towards Snack Bar foods at a home meet.

Want to Advertise in the Orca Newsletter?

Just contact me and I'll send you a rate sheet.

See you at Splash Day!

Gil Zeimer

Orca Communications Director