

Parents and swimmers,

Welcome to the **Berkeley Barracudas**. This is a great opportunity to meet some of the fellow members of the Berkeley Swim Club and a perfect way to improve your swimming skills. We hope this letter will give you some information on the season and what is expected from each Swim Team family.

The **coach** of the swim team is Al Ledgin and he can be reached at phone 217-521-9595 or [al8576@aol.com](mailto:al8576@aol.com).

The **swim team coordinators** are: Melissa Curtis  
464-1714(H)/418-0648(C) [melissajcurtis@yahoo.com](mailto:melissajcurtis@yahoo.com) Elisa Probst  
464-8613(H)/400-7104(C) [eprobst5@verizon.net](mailto:eprobst5@verizon.net)

The league that the Berkeley Swim Club participates in is the **Town and Country Swim League** which starts on June 25th and concludes on Saturday, July 30 with the Championship All-Team Meet. This Championship meet is with all of the teams in the league. The All-Team swimmers are determined towards end of season by Coach Al.

Mark your calendars for **Parent Meeting/Swim Suit Fitting on May 17<sup>th</sup>**, 7:30pm in the Berkeley Heights Public Library meeting room (lower level). We will have a sizing kit for new suits.

The **full time practice schedule** below will start once the Berkeley Heights Schools are done (June 21<sup>st</sup> is the last day). Prior to that, there will be practices scheduled after school and/or on weekends. We will notify you as soon as that is determined.

Full Time Swim team practices Monday – Friday **\*\*times may alter slightly\*\***

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM Children 13 and older or any 10 and older swimmer who qualifies by ability

10:30 AM – 11:30 AM Children 8-12 and any 13+ who are not ready for the older group

11:30AM-12NOON – 6/7 year olds

**NOTE:** Final group placement will be at the discretion of the Head Coach. Younger swimmers may be moved into older practice groups and vice versa, depending on ability.

**Meet Times:** Saturday meets start at 9:30 AM and Evening meets start at 6:00 PM

Children are usually advised to get to the meet approximately one hour before scheduled to start. The coach will advise exactly what time he wants them there. The extra time before the meet is used to warm up and allow the children and parents to check the roster and write down what events they are swimming in. **If your child cannot make a swim meet, you must notify Coach Al in writing at least 4 days prior to the meet via e-mail.**

#### **2011 Meet Schedule:**

Saturday, June 25 @ BSC                      Tuesday, June 28 @ Noe Pond                      Tuesday, July 5 @ Fish & Game

Saturday, July 9 @ Minisink                      Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> @ BSC                      Saturday, July 23 @ BSC

Saturday July 30 – All Team Meet @ Clearwater (This is a championship meet with all of the teams in the league. The All Team swimmers are determined towards end of season by Coach Al)

There is a **booster fee** for each family. The fees are as follows: \$60 for 1 child, \$85 for 2 children and \$95 for 3 or more. The booster fee helps support the purchase of various supplies for the swim team and helps offset the fee for joining the Town and Country league. Each swimmer is also given a team t-shirt that they will wear to each meet.

**Team swim suit and fins** will remain the same as last year. If you are not able to attend the parent meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup>, please be sure to get your form to us as the **Order deadline is June 1.**

Fins required for practice – Speedo Optimus Training Fin (short fin). Cost is approximately \$30.

We are going to try a coordinate a “Fin Consignment”. So if you have fins that are too small and need fins, please e-mail us and we will organize a list for you to fins your new fins. More details to come on this.

**Berkeley Barracuda Spirit Wear** will be offered for sale. Some of the things offered are sweatshirts, t-shirts & gym bags. There are quite a variety of items available with the logo. As mentioned there will be samples available at the Parent Meeting. Orders will be due July 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Swim Family Commitment:**

**Swim Meets:** In order for the meets to take place and run smoothly, we need each family to volunteer for 1 job at a total of 3 meets. **If you cannot work during your assigned time it will be your responsibility to find another parent to cover that meet.** We also need more volunteers to learn how to Score a meet, please let us know if you are interested in learning how to Score.

**Family Donations:** For each home meet we run a concession stand to further cover team expenses (we have three this season). We look for donations of baked goods, fruit and beverages (water, Gatorade, soda).

**\*\*\*NEW THIS YEAR\*\*\*** We are going high tech this year. Instead of sorting paper, you will be able to sign up on-line for your job assignments and concession stand donations. We will be using the site that pictures were posted on last year. You will need a username and password. It is recommended you try your codes prior to June first to make sure you have access. The website is <http://berkeleybarracudas.shutterfly.com/> The portal will be open on June 1. You will receive an email when it is available. You will also be able to view a full description of each job's duties. Positions will be available on a first come first serve basis. Please go onto the meet date you would like to work and select the job. It will work the same for concession stand donations based on items needed. We will post the volunteer and donations sheets on our board the week of each meet as a reminder.

This year in lieu of the Friday Team Spirit Dinners, we will be organizing at least two Team building Events. The First is a T-shirt team **Tye dye party** on June 22 after the last practice. It will be a BYOLunch format. We will also be hosting a **Team Bowling Event** for swimmers and their families on July 6 from 3-5pm. We will send out more details as the events get closer.

***Your participation is necessary to make the team function. We need parent volunteers in many areas. If you'd like to help out, please let Melissa or Elisa know.***

You will see your child's swimming skills develop tremendously by participating in this team. The friendships that they make will create happy memories that last a lifetime.

Thanks & we look forward to a fun season for your children and Berkeley Swim Club!! Please let us know if you have any questions.

Melissa & Elisa