

### Upcoming Events and Meet

Feb 22-25	J.O.s in Gainesville
March 15-18	Spring Senior Champs in Clearwater
March 23-25	Area 3-5 in Sarasota Family YMCA
March 24-25	All-Stars in Ft Pierce
March 26-31	Age Groupers off – spring break
April 6	Friday Night Stroke Clinic
April 20	Friday Night Stroke Clinic

### **PRACTICE THIS SUNDAY FOR J.O. SWIMMERS.**

**9:00 AM TO 10:00 AM WITH COACH BROWN OR 1:00 PM TO 2:00 PM WITH COACH WATTS**

## Sharks Friday Night Swim Clinics

### **Parents drop your kids off and go on a date!**

Fun, Pizza, Swimming, and stroke improvement!

April 6<sup>th</sup>, Fly and Backstroke

April 20<sup>th</sup>, Breast and Freestyle

### **Time & Place**

6:30 to 9:30 pm

ESJ YMCA, Selby Pool

### **Cost**

\$65.00 for both Clinics, \$35.00 for one Clinic.

Second and third child is half the cost.

### **How to Sign Up**

Swimmers register (front desk) at the Berlin or ESJ YMCA by March 30<sup>th</sup>.

No late registrations will be accepted. March 30<sup>th</sup> is the deadline.

We will set a limit of 40 swimmers, ages 6 to 12.

### **Use This Registration Number – 50704-Friday Night Swim Clinics**

### COACH SHOFE

I want to thank everyone who volunteered to help run the Senior Circuit Invitational in January, the dual meet with IRCC, and the YMCA closed Invitationals, this past weekend. As you all know, hosting meets, at home, prevents us from traveling for competition and costing families/swimmers money for hotel, gasoline, and food.

We continue to have a group of parents who unselfishly work every session of our meets. Most of these folks who offer their time are key people that we need to run meets. They will not be here forever, plus many are getting tired of going above and beyond while others do not help at all. Unfortunately, we are going to have to put a system in place where we charge people who do not work. I am and have been against this, but I have become frustrated when we have to ask for timers over the PA system at the beginning of meets. We should never have to do this. More information will be out, in the future.

We will be holding two annual parents meetings each year, one in June and one in August. The next newsletter will have the dates and hopefully we will be able to hold these meetings at Pine View. I would suggest that a representative from each family attend these meetings.

The new Speedo team suits are in the Shark Shop, which is open Monday & Thursday nights. We, the coaches, expect all Shark swimmers to wear team suits at all meets. Apparently these suits last longer than the other team suit we had, so please get on as soon as you can. Nothing better than looking like a team at home and away meets.

We have three major Inivationals coming up, Area 3/5 Championships – March 23-25, 2007, the Memorial Invitational – May 18-20, 2007, and the Shark Open – June 21-24, 2007, that we are hosting. Please mark you calendars and plan on helping out at these meets.

The Annual Sarasota YMCA Sharks awards ceremony is fast approaching. It will be held Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> @ 3:00 PM at the Pine View School. We will be honoring our High School Seniors and the team and individual accomplishments from the past year. And as always we will get the chance to watch the annual slide show that is put together by Bob & Ginger Clark.

On May 2007 the Sharks Tri-Club is hosting an Olympic Distance Triathlon. All proceeds from the events will be split between the ESJ Teen Center and the Sarasota YMCA Sharks Swim Team. So, I am hoping that many of you will be able to volunteer your time for this event. As our facility ages and most of the swim team related purchases in 2000 are in need of replacement, events like this Triathlon will help us keep the family assessment where it is. In the future, we will still need to hold fundraisers like the swim-a-thon, auctions, and possibly a golf tournament.

We are always in need to officials. The bigger official base we have the better chance that our current officials will not need to work every session of home and away meets. On big benefit of being an official is that you have the best seat in the house, you can write off out of town meet expenses, if you officiate, and you are helping our team have the best and biggest group of officials in the State. We are getting very close to a rule being put in place by USA / Florida Swimming, that the only people allowed on deck will be officials, coaches, and timers. Because of liability only USA Swimming registered officials and coaches will be allowed on pool decks. That means that, no parent will be allowed

anywhere on the deck, at a meet. So, get involved, be an official. Contact Dave Evenson to learn about becoming an official.

If you have a swimmer in the Junior or Senior groups, you will be receiving meet information for travel and hotel if you would like your child to travel with the coaches. We tried to send the appropriate meets in every letter. If you are missing on that your child will be attending, let your coach know. We have sent these out so you can determine if your child needs to travel with the coaches or you will be taking your child to the meet. Also, it will help you plan financially.

The Sarasota Family YMCA, Inc. is currently in the middle our Caring Campaign. This campaign is to raise funds to help out families in need to enable them to participate in YMCA sponsored programs. I am hoping many of you can help in this campaign. You can donate as little as \$ 5.00. There are families that participate in the sharks program that qualify for this assistance. We will be sending this information this weekend.

Many thanks to the Clarks for maintaining the Sharks website. If you have not been on the site lately, it has changed and it looks great. Many thanks to both Bob and Ginger.

Anyone who has a swimmer in 8<sup>th</sup> grade and above, who would like to gain my insight on High School student/athletes and how their academic/swimming performance relates to the College Admission process, please attend a meeting I am planning on holding. Having coached almost 300 student/athletes who have gained admission, to the college of their choice, with their academic and athletic ability, I feel I can be a great source of knowledge. Having been on both sides of the process and knowing many college swim coaches in the Country, I can help you to understand exactly what colleges are looking for. Examples: Do you need to be a straight A student? Do you need to take honors courses? Do you need to have partaken in many school activities? What if my child gets a "B"? Do you need to be a USA Swimming National level swimmer? I will hold this meeting Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> @ Selby @ 6:30 PM.

#### SENIOR I – COACH SHOFE

Any swimmer who is in 10<sup>th</sup> grade or above, and meets USA Swimming requirements, academic & athletic, for Academic All-American, needs to apply for the USA Swimming Academic All-American Award. If figure we have at least 20 that would qualify for the award. You should have received the paperwork at home by now. If not we have it in our offices.

We have some great upcoming competitions:

YMCA State Championships - February 9-11, 2007

USA Swimming Grand Prix – Missouri – February 16-19, 2007

Florida Junior Olympics – February 22-25, 2007  
Florida Senior Championships – March 1-4, 2007  
Florida Senior Circuit Championships – March 16-18, 2007  
Area 3/5 Championships – March 23-25, 2007  
USA Swimming Spring Nationals – March 27-31, 2007  
YMCA Short Course Nationals – April 2-5, 2007

Good Luck and Go Sharks !!!

### **ESJ WHITE / NOVICE**

Welcome new swimmers! Just in time for our beautiful Spring weather! Our Developmental Meets are scheduled for February 10th, March 10th and April 14th. We will have the summer schedule out soon!

Please continue to check the Sharks website ([sysharks.org](http://sysharks.org)) on your own to find answers to frequently asked questions. There is also a new info board which is displayed by the bleachers during practice. On the board, the White Group can see their workout and parents can check on the Next Meet (info and maps), as well a list of names of swimmers we may be waiting on birth certificates or other paperwork.

Congratulations to all swimmers who came out in the rain last weekend to compete in the Y-State qualifier meets! It is wonderful to see such great time drops on all four strokes -- it is a result of alot of hard work!! Good luck to all entered in the Y-State Championships! Don't forget, new team suit and team cap at the meet!  
Coach Piper

From Coach Mark

We are in the midst of the busy swimming season, very important for the kids to take care of themselves. Dress warm, get lots of sleep and stay ahead of your school work. Congratulations on a fine performance at the Ymca State meet, I thought you all swam well. A special congrats to Pablo Suarez who made his first 13-14 JO cut in the 200 fly. Good luck to all the sharks at JO's at the end of the month in Gainesville, bring home the hardware.

From Rick Walker/Sharks Masters Coach:

Several weeks ago all Senior Sharks swimmers were sent a letter announcing a \$1000 award to be given to a graduating Sharks swimmer towards further education. The application process is very simple. At this point we have no applicants. SENIORS: Don't miss out on an opportunity to earn some cash towards your continuing education! Contact me at [rickmile@aol.com](mailto:rickmile@aol.com) or see me at the pool. Thanks.

From Coach Watts

Hey gang,

We will run a practice Sunday for J.O. swimmers. This keeps the swimmers wet and prevents the let down on Monday. We will offer two times for your convenience – 9:00 am to 10:00 am with Coach Brown, 1:00 to 2:00 pm with Coach Watts.

What a great meet (Y-States) with many best times and a lot of fun. We swim fast and dance well. I think there was a sea of black and yellow all weekend. Teams can get pretty tired of the Sharks and some will look for a reason other than swimming to find criticism. Along with being fast, lets be great sports and kill everyone with kindness.

We have J.O.s, 3/5s, and All-stars just around the corner – PLEASE DO NOT MISS PRACTICE. What a critical time for practice!

Looking forward to the next 5 weeks - Lets get fired Up!

Coach Watts