

GATOR BITES – FEB 2008

New Facility Update

First off, within the next several days you will receive your first solicitation for the new facility by mail. I will let the letter in the mailing do most of the talking. So, keep an eye out for it and please read through it when it arrives and give it some strong consideration. In the meantime, we recently visited a pool in Burlington, NC that uses the same enclosure system that we intend to use with the new facility. Not that we thought otherwise, but we walked away convinced it is the way to go. Progress continues to be made with the county on our site plan and we still anticipate breaking ground in May or June.

Senior Champs Update

I took a big chance of being maimed by Kelly Noga by not having this first, so everyone, do me a big favor, and sign up for your role at Senior Champs. This is the biggest meet for us during the year, a real feather in our cap that we get to host it. And it takes an army of volunteers from the Gators to make it happen. Thanks to all who have already volunteered. For those who haven't, Kelly soon will be making offers that you can't refuse. Sign up for your role at the Bubble.

Grocery Cards

I'm told several Gator families have been spotted in Harris Teeter and Giant recently. The next time such a travesty occurs, we will be letting the air out of your tires. Re-up those Kroger cards!

Meet Update

I can't speak first-hand about the meet in Radford as my kids didn't swim there, but I found the recent meets in Cary, NC and at Woodberry Forest to have been great experiences for our kids and parents. Kids are dropping some serious time and connecting as a team more than I ever remember seeing in the past. We're looking forward to the upcoming B/C Champs next week in Roanoke and then A/BB Champs the following week in Lynchburg. Meet and hotel information is available on the website. And then, soon thereafter, Senior Champs will be upon us.

Swim-a-Thon Coming Soon

We will be holding our second annual Swim-a-Thon March 24-26. We'll need all swimmers to play a big role by getting lots of pledges from friends and family beforehand. More information will be coming soon.

Three-Month Option for "Summer Swimmers"

We're pushing a three-month program as a warm-up for the JSL season to get new swimmers involved with the Gator program. More information is on the website, but if you have friends who should be involved, please spread the word.

Officials Training

Thanks to Meg Keeley, Callie Keller, Laura Nelson, and John Williamson for beginning their training as USA Swimming officials. As I've mentioned before, we are in need of more officials, so if you're interested in participating, please send me an email at jim@greenmonstermarketing.com. We'll be setting up another round of training in the near future.

Looking Forward to Summer Long Course Season

Already we are thinking about the summer long-course (or as JJ likes to call it, "Olympic Course") season. For those who have never swum with the Gators through the summer, please think about it. It's the best way to keep progress and momentum going through the summer and into the fall.

Bubble Down, with any luck our last Bubble Down, is currently scheduled for May 10th.