

The Dreaded Detour -- DON'T SPEED

We deeply apologize for the detour through Dunlora. We received all of 36 hours notice that VDOT and the railroad would be closing the bridge for three weeks. Thankfully they look to be making quick progress and the weather hasn't been an impediment. **IMPORTANT: DO NOT SPEED IN DUNLORA!!!!** In addition to the fact that there are a whole lot of small children in the neighborhood, particularly that last stretch before you go through the fence, the police have promised to be on the prowl for speeders and we've already seen some out there. Let's be courteous to our friends in Dunlora as they certainly didn't ask for this.

Update on New Pool

I want to be careful about what I call "big news," but the fact that we have selected a company to build the new pool(s) probably qualifies as such. I want to be sure a contract is signed before I provide you with the name, but we at least can tell you that this is a nationally renowned organization that has built many, many pools along the lines of what we will ask them to do. Plans remain for a 25-meter by 25-yard competition pool and a two-lane, 25-yard instructional/warm-up pool alongside. The site plan process also is moving ahead and will ultimately dictate our schedule. It looks like breaking ground in February is not in the cards, but there's no reason to suspect it should be delayed much longer beyond that. Again, we're looking at an aluminum-frame, vinyl panel structure to cover it. Much more on that soon as we start our fundraising effort, which also is progressing.

Team Suits & Apparel at Freestyle

Anyone who hasn't purchased a team suit or is looking for sleek new apparel to go along with those suits should visit Freestyle. It all makes great holiday gifts.

Kroger Cards! Kroger Cards! Kroger Cards!

All right, remember the days not long ago of the SFF/fundraising commitment? None of us want it back. Shop at Kroger and use your Gator gift cards! We're definitely not where we need to be with those and I will again point out that recently after blowing out a lawn mower, I went to Kroger and purchased Lowe's gift cards before crossing the street to get the new lawn mower. And the new mower purrs like a kitten by the way. And if I might add, our lawn is looking fantastic right now.

Upcoming Meet -- All Hands on Deck

EVERYONE, regardless of whether your kid is going to swim, needs to volunteer in some capacity. Also, we soon will be assembling a meeting for new USA Swimming stroke-and-turn officials. We need about 10-12 new bodies for this. Please let us know if you can participate and then can begin your apprenticeship at our home meet. Please let any of us know if you are confused or unsure how you could help or fit in regarding volunteering for the meet, about being an official, etc...

Great Performance at the Radford SWAT Meet

The kids did fabulously at the meet in Radford almost two weeks ago. Everyone seemed to be dropping time. Check out the articles on the website ([LINK](#)) about the meet. It's a real testament to the hard work

the kids are putting forth in the pool and also I think a byproduct of the new practice schedule that is allowing for more one-on-one time with the coaches.

Get Your Friends Engaged with the 3-Month Plan over the Winter
You know the people who were kicking the tires on the Gator program in the fall. Give them a call, send them an email, and let them know about the various programs we have available, most notably the three-month option for those who just completed their fall sports. And if you have other kids from your family you've been thinking about putting in the water, the Swim Gym or the three-month program are great options.

Coming Together as a Team

Last, we are extremely pleased about the way the team is coming together. At the meets, at practices, and at the recent Friday-night party, we've never seen the team bond like this and we want to do everything we can to perpetuate a team atmosphere.

Information on this weekend's meets in Newport News and Waynesboro will arrive separately. Everyone swim fast and, parents, take pictures and share them and we'll post them for all to see.

Also as a reminder CHECK all the MANY sources we have available to get info; email, web site, bulletin boards for info. AND meet sign-ups, boxes. Reference the Parent Handbook.

Last, best of luck to all our high school swimmers going through tryouts this week...we know what hard work it is. You'll do great!

Jim C.