

April 2, 2010

Dear Sandshark Parents,

On behalf of the Sandshark Board, I would first like to congratulate our coaches and swimmers on a very successful short course season. Swimmers at all levels made significant improvements, and our Senior season culminated with sending three qualifying swimmers to the US Junior Nationals. Some of our college swimmers also successfully competed at the NCAA level. The news from ECSL's was that it, too, was a great team weekend! Overall, the team continues to support its mission to provide the spectrum of competitive swimming to this community.

With the season behind us, we are once again preparing to host our **14<sup>th</sup> Annual NC Open Water State Championships at Seven Lakes on June 4-5**. **The profit from this race weekend represents a substantial portion of our fundraising income for the year.** It is very critical to our fundraising efforts that SSS continues to earn the right to host this State Championship. **The success of this race is contingent upon every family fulfilling their volunteer obligation to work that Friday evening and Saturday.** I've provided some quick facts about the race's history for those who may be new to our program:

- Because we do not have a Championship pool, our team is unable to host NC sanctioned swim meets throughout the year. The good news for SSS parents is that we are therefore not required to work multiple weekends in a swim season as other NC teams require their parents. Bad news: we don't have large meets as an income source.
- In years past, SSS parents were required to work two weekends/year parking cars at Rockingham Speedway. Although we netted \$16,000 for these endeavors, it was hard work, and often very cold during the February race! Our Open Water race serves to replace this significant budget amount.
- Our Open Water Championship has received National recognition since its inception. It continues to grow every year with expected Age Group and Masters entries exceeding 650 swimmers this year. **It is one of the largest amateur events hosted in Moore County. We expect at least 1500 parents, coaches, and spectators to attend.**
- We raise money from this event through entry fees and sponsorship opportunities (i.e. T-shirts sponsors, race sponsors, swim cap sponsors, heat sheets). ***PLEASE BEGIN TO THINK OF SPONSORS WHO MAY CONSIDER THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT OUR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION!***

The countdown to race time has started. Please be aware of all postings at the pool and on the website. Section leaders are being assigned, and sign-up sheets will be posted soon. Meetings with the section leaders will follow as the race gets closer.

Again, thank you for everything you do for the Sandsharks. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

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