



THE MUDTOADS JOURNEY

A Publication of the MRA Swim Team Committee

April 18, 2014

Volume 14, Issue 1

Registration!

Mark your calendar! The first Mudtoad registration was held on Wednesday, April 16, 2014, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the clubhouse. Please note **MRA membership is required to swim for the Mudtoads** (club membership is a GPSA rule). MRA membership forms and fee are to be sent to our MRA membership chair, Belinda Hicks. You can contact Belinda directly about membership questions – bhicks109@cox.net.

If you missed registration, deliver in person or by mail your completed Mudtoad registration form, registration fee and volunteer form to 305 Ludlow Dr. Seaford, VA 23696. If you have any questions, contact Shannon Butler at (757)532-6568 or sbutler@ycsd.york.va.us. Register early as space is limited and registration closes June 1, 2014.

Swim Team Committee

The swim team committee is made up of the team President, GPSA representatives and various parents and committee chairs. The committee seeks to make decisions regarding the team in order to make this year the best ever!!!

Swim Team Committee

Shannon Butler, President
Nancy Yeager, GPSA Rep
Connie Slayton, GPSA Rep
Cille Honig
Patty Mastracci
Jill Reames
Celena Hale
Pam Abercrombie
Lisa Lynch
Pattv Schlosser

Team Suit

Our apparel co-chairs announce our team suit is the Endurance royal blue suits from Speedo. These suits also have the custom Marlbank embroidery in yellow. We met with representatives from the Swim and Sport Stop and learned that they recommend ordering by the beginning of May for timely arrival. Please stop by the Swim and Sport Stop located at 13641 Warwick Blvd. in Newport News, (757)874-7496. Girls' suits are \$65, boys' jammer suits are \$45, and boys' brief racers are \$37. Time trials are June 14 and the first meet is June 16 in Poquoson against the **Poquoson Piranhas** – **so we'll need our colors right away!**

Other swim supplies are also available at <http://swimoutlet.com/marlbankmudtoads>. Please always use the Mudtoad link as SwimOutlet.com contributes a small percentage of team sales to our team. The year before last we earned over \$100!

Apparel and Mudtoad Gear

Team T-shirts will be ordered by June 1, 2014 and will have every Mudtoad listed on the back. Lisa and Tom Lynch have worked hard to create a great shirt! T-shirts will cost \$10 and orders will need to be given to Lisa by June 1, 2014.

Traditional latex caps will be provided with registration. Upgrades to silicone caps will be available at \$9 each.



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Welcome Prospective New Families!

Thank you for your interest in the MRA and our swim team. We are glad you are considering joining us this summer and know you will have lots of questions!

We want all Mudtoad families to feel at home in Marlbank! So PLEASE don't hesitate to seek answers to questions you may have from any of our veteran families, the swim team committee, or **Pam Abercrombie and Caroline Herath, our new member coordinators!**

Welcome all NEW Mudtoad Families!!!

Pam and Caroline will be holding a new parent information session on MAY 30 at the pool from 4:30-5:00. They have a great Q&A Handout prepared and are happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Coaches Corner

We are pleased to announce that **Logan Bissell** is returning as Head

Coach Logan's Contact Info:
lgbissell@gmail.com
c: (757)876-3894

Coach of the Marlbank Mudtoads for the 2014 Season! Coach Logan was a York High swimmer and currently swims at Gannon University. He is an experienced summer league coach and has been a Marlbank coach for the past 2 seasons. Last season, Coach Logan coached nearly half of our kids to City Meet qualifying times! We are confident that he'll guide our children's team to its maximum potential again this year!



It is exciting to report that **three former Mudtoads accepted assistant coaching opportunities this summer, Bonnie Knox, Zachary Romeo and Liz Quamme.** Zach Romeo is completing his final year at Fork Union Military Academy. Zach swam for Fork Union and has spent the last 15 summers as a Mudtoad. Bonnie Knox is wrapping up her freshman year at Radford University. Bonnie has been a Marlbank lifeguard and Mudtoad swimmer for many seasons and she swam at York High before graduating in 2013. Liz Quamme, finishing her freshman year at Virginia Wesleyan, returns as a Mudtoad assistant coach this year! Prior to last season, Liz volunteered with the 6 and under swimmers the previous 2 years.

Important Dates

Please note the following key dates:

- Team registration event – April 16, 2014
- After school practice starts – May 27, 2014
- Registration Closes – June 1, 2014
- Time Trials – June 14, 2014
- First B Meet – June 16, 2014 at Poquoson
- First A Meet – June 19, 2014 at Tabb
- GPSA Mini Meet – July 19, 2014
- GPSA City Meet – August 2, 2014
- Mudtoad Banquet – August 3, 2014



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Practice Schedules

Beginning Tuesday May 27, after school practices will be held at the pool. Practices will be held every afternoon until June 11. There will be no practice on June 13 because of YCSD graduation ceremonies.

Age Group	Time
Middle & High School	3:30-4:30
All 6 & Under & New 7 & 8's	4:30-5:00
Elementary School	5:00-6:00

Coaches will determine if a swimmer needs to move . to a different practice time.

Summer practices start Monday June 16, 2014 and are held weekdays until the season ends, holidays excluded. Practice times are subject to change or alternate arrangements can be made per coach's discretion.

Age Group	Time
6 & Under, 7 & 8's	8:00-9:00
9 & 10's, 11 & 12's	9:00-10:00
13 and up	10:00-11:00

Swim Team Sponsorships Available!

On behalf of the Mudtoad swimmers, Swim Team Parents and members of the MRA, I'd like to thank our past sponsors for their financial commitment to the Mudtoad Swim Team. Their commitment to the success of our team is greatly appreciated and needed.

Please consider the attached flyer regarding 2014 Mudtoad sponsorship opportunities. Sponsorship revenues are critical in maintaining our coaching staff and competitive swim team registration fees. Sponsorship funds help offset the costs of coaching compensation, GPSA fees, swim team equipment, and supplies. While all members are encouraged to reach out to local businesses for support, **we are seeking a fundraising chair interested in securing sponsorship and other fundraising funds.** Please contact Shannon Butler or any member of the swim team committee if you have any questions about sponsorship or want to learn more about this opportunity!

Shannon Butler's Contact Info:
 (c) 532-6568
sbutler@ycsd.york.va.us

Date	Event	Date	Event
W April 16	Swim Team Registration	M June 30	B Meet vs. Kiln Creek (Home)
Tu May 27	After School Practice Starts	Tu July 8	Rain date if needed
Sun June 1	Last Chance to Register	Th July 10	A Meet @ James River CC
F June 13	No Practice	W July 16	B Meet vs. Coventry (Home)
Sat June 14	Time Trials (Home)	Sat July 19	GPSA Mini Meet (Fort Eustis)
M June 16	B Meet @ Poquoson	M July 21	A Meet vs. Glendale (Home)
Th June 19	A Meet @ Tabb	W July 23	Intrasquad Meet (Home)
M June 23	B Meet @ Windy Point	Th July 24	Rain date if needed
Th June 26	A Meet vs. Colony (Home)	Sat Aug 2	GPSA City Meet (Fort Eustis)
Sat June 28	Friendship Meet @ Edgehill	Sun Aug 3	Mudtoad Banquet (MRA Clubhouse)

2014 Mudtoad Schedule: