

Calverton Swim Club Newsletter

WELCOME LETTER 2010



Checkout our website at
www.calvertonswimclub.com

Message from the President—Nikki Munro

CSC WELCOMES YOU

Dear Members,

Happy Summer! And, welcome to the Calverton Swim Club and Summer 2010. About mid February, when we were digging the cars out of the snow, again, it seemed like forever before the pool would open. In fact, we counted the days down on Facebook. Now, summer is here, and we're finally ready to relax.

Your Board of Directors met many times over the winter season and considered ways to improve the pool, raise membership, maintain safety and have fun. Believe me—that wasn't an easy task. Each of the members of the Board worked incredibly hard using their talents and ideas (and a lot of sweat equity) to create the clean and safe community atmosphere that you will see when you walk into the pool today.

We didn't fix everything. Given budgetary restraints, we did the best we could, but we are pleased with the result and hope you are too.

We welcome back, with great enthusiasm, our manager Dan Feher. We also welcome all of our new members—especially the little ones that were born to current members during the off-season and the new members by marriage. Congratulations to the expanding families of the Calverton Pool. Congratulations also to our high school and college graduates. We celebrate with you all. It is truly you who maintain the pool's sense of community that has been present for 35 years.

We have a great season planned—lots of new activities and the old favorites, too. So, smile and take a dip! Summer memories await.

Nikki Munro, President, CSC Board

Please remember to read and follow our club rules. They are there for your safety and the safety of all of our members. Remind your children to listen to the lifeguards and we will all enjoy a safe and fun-filled summer.

Family Social Events

Family Movie Night - Grab a blanket, a lounge chair, some popcorn, and a soda because Calverton will sponsor two free family movies nights. We have a blow-up screen, a projector, and a stereo system so you will feel right at home outside under the stars. The June movie will be rated PG. Movie night may go until 11:00 pm, so maybe it's a good idea to leave the very little ones at home. On Labor Day weekend, when it gets dark earlier, we'll have a G movie for the whole family. It will be a blast.

Family Camp Out - Soon you will start to see notices advertising The Family Campout. If you are new to the pool, you may not have been introduced to this wonderful event. John Neidermair and family have been doing the campout for many years. It is an opportunity for pool members and invited guests to spend the night in tents at the pool. We have a bonfire and smores of course. There are organized games and prizes for the children. Later we have Ghost Stories in the volleyball pavilion before the children go to bed. After this the parents are left to themselves to do what parents do best- Talk and stuff like that!

In the morning, we have a breakfast with coffee and orange juice, donuts and coffee and eggs and sausage and ham and coffee-you get the idea! It is FUN! Be there! \$5/tent. Questions? Ask John!

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:

We have made some improvements to the pool—fans in the bathrooms, fresh coats of paint in both bathrooms, new Adirondack and slingback chairs, new decking on the volleyball pavilion, new concrete at the snack-bar, lights up at the picnic and bocce ball area, sand on volleyball courts 2 and 3, and parking lot striping, in addition to some necessary upgrades to the filtration system. To keep costs down, we used volunteers to make as many improvements as possible. A special thanks goes out to the Board, their families, and the many volunteers who gave their time and energy to clean and improve our pool.

CSC Horseshoe League

CSC will again sponsor its popular doubles-team Horseshoe League. Frank Cockrell & Terry Thomas continue as co-commissioners. Please contact either one to sign-up ASAP for exciting, & competitive matches!! Entry fees remain at \$5/person to defray maintenance costs of the regulation size pits. Scheduled match play occurs on Friday nights from 6:30-9:50 pm. A total of 7 matches must be played with different teams to qualify for the League Tournament on Friday August 27. Separate tournaments open to pool members will be held on July 4 & Labor Day weekends. See you at the 'Pits'!!

2010 Swim Team News

The Calverton Chargers Swim Team is looking forward to this season. We are in the H Division along with Chevy Chase Rec, Inverness Forest, Palisades, Wildwood Manor and Rockshire. "A" Meets" are on Saturday mornings starting June 19th and run until the Divisional Meet on Saturday July 24th. The Chargers also have "B Meets" scheduled on most Wednesday's thru out the season. That means everyone gets to SWIM in a Meet.

Through out the season the Swim team has many activities for the whole family, including Pasta Dinner, Pancake Breakfast, Ice Cream Float Night and Pep Rallies. So, whether you are an experienced Competitive Swimmer or not, ages 6 to 18 come join the fun, you just need to have your "PATCH" and a desire to have fun and succeed! Parents are asked to become part of the FUN, from being an on Deck Official to helping with the snack bar during Meets.

We ask that you sign up before time trials as we are giving away a nice prize to one lucky family. This year we have decided that each family will donate \$20.00 to the snack bar instead of donations so please add this to the total cost when you fill out the registration. Also, we have added a "Code of Conduct" that both parents and swimmers are to read and sign. The coaches will also sign a "Code of Conduct" so we are all on the same page.

This year we will have the family meeting on **Tuesday June 1st at 6pm**. Please come to ask questions and meet the coaches. We look forward to seeing you at the Pool!!!

Reps. David Clifford & Ellen Carroll

2010 Dive Team News

Welcome back for what we are sure is going to be another fun and exciting diving season at CSC. The word this year is new: new head coach, new dive reps, new code of conduct, and hopefully a lot of new divers. Our new head coach, Dana Simms, comes to us from Brandeis University where she has been on their dive team for three years. She was also on her high school dive team and gymnastics team and has taught both gymnastics and swimming in the past. Her assistant coach will be Devon Rinkel who returns from last year's season with renewed dedication and enthusiasm for a great year.

We have two new dive representatives this year who are sharing the job. They are Ondine Doore, mother of Merissa who has been diving for three years on the Calverton team and Kim Griffith, mother of Haley and Montana who are starting their third year on the team and Dylan who is starting his first year on the team. Their contact information is on the dive team webpage and you can contact them anytime with questions or concerns.

Another new addition this year is our code of conduct for divers, parents, and coaches. The code of conduct is a set of guidelines for safe and smart behavior intended to help everyone have a fun and injury free season. Practice starts on June 1st, and we hope to see all of our seasoned divers from last year as well as many new ones too!

Question of the Day

Where can I be during Swim Practice, Dive Practice, and Swimming Lessons?

- During Swim and Dive Team practices that take place when the Club is not open for regular operations, we require parents/caregivers to remain on the upper deck area, above the ramp.
- During swim lessons, parents, or caregivers, of students may use the chairs and lounges on the main deck, or the picnic tables under the blue and white awning.
- We discourage parents and caregivers from bringing non-participant children to practices and lessons. If non-participant children do attend, the children must remain with their parents /caregivers at all times, and are not permitted to use the playground or other amenities.

Thanks for your cooperation.

Volleyball News

CSC volleyball will be in full swing this summer with league play beginning Wed, June 16th. The courts have fresh new sand and the posts have been newly padded for those who just HAVE to get that ball! Coed pickup is slated for 6/4 and 6/11 6:30-9:50 PM; 6/5, 6/6, 6/12 and 6/13 from 2-4 pm.

Youth clinics for ages 10-14 will be held from 5-6 pm on 6/11, 6/18 and 6/25 at no charge for members. Please contact Karen & Dan at masz00@verizon.net if you have children that are interested.

Doug Young will host an adult clinic on Sunday 6/13 from 1:30-2:30 PM . He can be reached at dyoung51@verizon.net if you have any questions. League fees are \$8/person per league. For more info check out the volleyball bulletin board.

The Board Operations Committee Addresses Some Survey Issues

Thanks to all the members who took the time and effort to respond to our survey last year. We received a lot of feedback, and some good and interesting ideas. Many of your suggestions will be incorporated into the Club's budget for 2010, or will be stressed as part of staff training and orientation. We hope you will notice changes and improvements in many of those areas.

However, because we could not address all of the issues raised, we thought we would respond to some of them. So, here are answers to some of those suggestions. Again, we thank you for taking the time to provide them. We only included some of the suggestions, so if you find your questions not answered below, or with a specific change to the facility, contact Nikki Munro.

How about extended lap lane times? Actually, we did extend the times a bit this season. Lane ropes will be up from Opening until 1PM Monday through Saturday, and Opening until 2PM on Sunday, and from 6PM until closing every day. Lap lanes will not be open during dive meets and some other club activities. The Manager has the authority to extend lap lane hours if conditions permit.

Guest passes are too expensive. We work to balance guest charges with the cost of dues. While we recognize that it is good for the Club for members to be able to bring guests to the facility, it should not be more economical to come as a guest than it is to be a member. In addition, we note that our guest fees are similar to other local swim clubs.

Open at 10 or 11 on Sunday. While the idea of having longer operating hours might be intriguing to some, there are several issues which prevent us from allowing it. First, the Club operates under a Special Exception to the Residential Zoning of the property. One of the conditions of the Special Exception is that our declared operating hours on Sunday begin at Noon. If we were to open earlier, we run the risk of violating the conditions of our Special Exception. We also have to be concerned about causing a disturbance for our neighbors, and increasing operating costs.

Allow Bocce balls to be checked out using a Pool ID so kids can use it. A child sized and weighted set of bocce balls was acquired last year, and is kept by the Bocce court for use by children.

Should be allowed to eat at tables near baby pool under awning. Sorry, but food means spills, and spills attract bees, which are not a good combination with bare feet. With all of the space we have, finding a place on the grass should be no problem.

One volleyball game per hour – they kick us off the court. We are guessing a little on this one, but we think that you mean the priority given to league play on weekends and evenings. Since, for many adults, the scheduled league games are their only chance to play, giving scheduled games priority seems fair. Also, the fees that league players pay cover most of the maintenance costs for the courts. Generally, Court 3 seems to be open a lot of the time on weekends.

Bird messes on seats need to be cleaned. This is one of the hazards of outdoor activity. There is usually a hose connected to the water fountain by the big grill that can be used, or a napkin or damp cloth can be used to clean up the droppings.

Install toilet seat cover dispensers in each stall. Because children are often allowed to visit the rest rooms without adult supervision, and children can be mischievous, we want to avoid having the plumbing be the victim of their curiosity. We will look for dispensers for alcohol wipes to wipe down seats.

There are 5 grills in the grill wall. Have 5 separate seating areas. I know tables get moved around, but once established, they will likely continue their "designation". We are sorry, but we don't agree that this suggestion is a practical alternative to allowing folks to move tables around as needed to accommodate the size of their particular party. We'll stick with an open-seating first come first served policy.

On occasion, I have thought it might be nice to have WiFi access. Are you sure you don't want to leave work at home for a couple of hours? More seriously, we'd have to install and pay for wireless service for 12 months, but only use it for 3 months, and that doesn't seem cost effective right now.

Hanging a large white canvas/screen somewhere (under a canopy?) for displaying movies or playing Wii? It stays so light in the evenings for so much of the summer that a screen is only usable for movies for about 3 or 4 weeks each year. Right now, we are fortunate to have a member who is willing to loan us an inflatable movie screen for the two movie nights we expect to have this season. Also, we're not sure where we'd put a permanent screen that would not be in the way of other activities.

When submitting a Party Request, it would be nice to be able to just specify the number of guests and provide specific names later. We agree, and so does the Manager. As long as the numbers are good, the names can be provided closer to, or on, the actual date of the event.

At some point, maybe an electric golf cart type vehicle could be acquired for hauling trash instead of the louder and fuming tractor. Environmentally, this is a good idea. When, and if, the current tractors cease being cost effective to maintain and operate, they will be replaced, probably with a utility type vehicle better suited to our needs. Whether an electric vehicle would be the best choice will be evaluated at that time.

Do we have enough ping pong tables? While table tennis is popular, two tables seem to be about right at this time.

Open up the non-pool area some Saturday / Sunday afternoon / evenings in September? It's an option, and has been done in past years for some volleyball play, etc. We'd require a Board Member to sponsor and supervise any such activity. Please approach your friendly Board Member prior to the second Thursday in August so your idea can be addressed at the August Board meeting.

The card system for entry seems labor intensive, unnecessary and over done. Recommend have members show their cards as they enter and keep their cards. Do away with the current system. The Membership Committee is currently looking at several options to completely revamp the membership registration and access system. We think it will be at least 2011 before any changes are ready to go.

Teen night, pre-teen night; pool should remain open for lap swimmers until at least seven – cannot believe they would have any impact on the function. Sorry, we disagree. Just as lap swimmers enjoy, and feel a little possessive about, their exclusive use of part of the Club's facilities, our younger members look forward to those times that the Club is "just for them". The Board of Directors constantly works to maintain balance among a lot of varied, and sometimes competing, interests.

Free standing grills between the pool and the basketball court (because it gets a lot of shade). Over the years, members have donated charcoal grills that they no longer use and they have been placed in various locations. Due to use, weather exposure, and sometimes rough handling, none of them are serviceable any longer. If any member wishes to donate 'no longer used' charcoal grills (no gas grills, please), we'd be glad to make them available as long as they are safely serviceable.

I completely agree with having smoking areas, but would it be possible to have one of them in a shaded area? I am not complaining, I just wanted to ask. We'd be glad to look at any suggestions to relocate any of the current smoking areas or add another designated smoking area. Please contact Nikki Munro with a location idea.

Email members upcoming events. If you do this now, I am not aware of this. We are trying very hard to expand our electronic mail system to include every member. We use a list-serve and Facebook to send out information, and would like to go completely electronic, if possible. What we need is for our members to let us know their e-mail addresses. Please take a moment to become a Calverton Swim Club fan on Facebook and a member of the Yahoo list-serve under the Community Tab at www.calvertonswimclub.com. You can also provide your e-mail address when you complete the family's membership registration every spring.

Speaking of the web site, feel free to send us any other suggestions you might have to operations@calvertonswimclub.com.