Notes from the President...

Happy Almost Spring to all of you. I’m not sure about you, but one storm provided me with all of the snow shovel time I needed for this year, and I can’t wait for sun screen season to get here.

The Swim Club has a couple of things in the works for the coming season, and I’d like to share a bit with you. First, the Club’s budget has been a real challenge for the Board of Directors this winter. We are trying to keep dues at the same level as in 2015, while dealing with two major expense items.

First, the minimum wage has gone up once since last season ended, and it will go up again on July 1. That means that we have to come up with a way to provide a significant pay increase to many of our guards.

Second, the parking lot needs some major work. It is too much to do all in one year, but even spreading it out over a couple of years means an annual expense on the order of $25,000 – spread among all the members, that is more than $40.00 per family.

At this point, we think we can make it work without a dues increase. If that becomes impossible, you will hear from us.

On to some good – or at least better – news. According to the replies to the Survey Monkey questionnaire we sent out late last year, there are at least 50 families who have expressed some level of interest in a Club organized cruise from Baltimore to Bermuda (and back). So, we are moving forward with putting an idea together for you to think about.

Look for more information later this spring about the cruise. We are thinking about a sailing date around the first of August in 2017 for a cruise of about one week. As soon as we can get some details together, we’ll send it along. One thing – this will not be limited to Calverton members, so we would encourage you to invite friends and family to come along. Stay tuned!

Duncan Munro, President

Stay Connected:
There are more ways to find out what is happening at the Club.
Follow us on Facebook.
@calvertonswimclub

Follow us on Instagram.
@calvertonswimclub

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Thank You for Completing our Survey!

Recently Calverton Pool Members were asked to complete a survey which included questions about swim team. We thank you for your feedback and would like to address some of the issues that were raised that kept kids from joining.

Unable to attend morning practice: We offer practices both morning (Mon-Fri), and afternoon/evenings (Mon-Thurs, with exceptions for Wednesday B Meet, and CSC Pool socials). The practice schedule is posted on the team bulletin board and on our website www.calvertonchargers.com.

Needed more information, not welcoming: We have 3 Team Reps who would be happy to give you information about the team or answer any questions, Mary Ellen Hernandez (chick1288@aol.com) Karen Rolle (ksrolle@verizon.net) and Angie Holmes (angieholmes228@gmail.com). At the start of each season, we hold an informational parents meeting which is publicized.

Swim Team is “cliquish”: Potentially true. Many of the athletes have been swimming together since Pre-Team, so being the “new kid” can be tough. But, if you go to practice and social events you will get to know other swimmers and will become part of the team. The team reps and coaches are available if a swimmer is feeling unwelcome and needs some assist with getting to know other kids.

Child does not have a patch: This is a safety issue and is mandated by the Board of Directors. Coaches are trying to supervise many swimmers at a time, they practice in deep water, and the lanes can be crowded. This is not safe for swimmers who have not demonstrated skill in the water. The lifeguards offer swim lessons geared at teaching the lifesaving water safety skills of floating and treading water.

Practice is intimidating: Absolutely. Diving into those lanes is like getting into rush hour traffic with your learners permit. Again, we offer Pre-team and “Mini-bolts” that are much less stressful to start, we have a limited number of participants and a higher coach to swimmer ratio to get them used to swim team. For older kids, once the coaches get to know you, they place you in lane by speed and ability. Starting swimming at an early age is best, but even older swimmers who attend practice can make significant gains in a short amount of time. What a great thing to accomplish!

My kids play other sports: Most of our swimmers are not full time club swimmers, many participate in other sports such as hockey, soccer, baseball and softball. Swimming is excellent cross training for all sports. There is no better cardiovascular workout and it greatly benefits young athletes to have a break from their year-round sports.

Too much volunteer time: Agreed! But meets cannot be run without volunteers and once you get involved you'll see it is a great way to meet other parents and for kids to become friends as well.
Membership

PayPal and Credit Cards are now an option for paying your dues. Please go to the pool website www.calvertonswimclub.com and follow the instructions.

Please remember that your dues payment can not be processed without your 2016 dues invoice. You may scan and email it to calvertonswimclubdues@gmail.com or return it with your payment (if paying by check). Please send your payments to PO Box 171, Beltsville, Maryland, 20704. Every year we have a few members send payments to our physical location (12615 Galway Drive) and those payments are lost because we are not able to receive mail at that address.

If you are not returning as a member this year, please email calvertonswimclubdues@gmail.com now to place your name on the sales list. You may remain on the sales list (without paying dues) until May 14.

Please remember that if you add any names to your membership, we can not enter them in the membership data base until Government issued ID is received (you may email and scan to calvertonswimclub-dues@gmail.com or email us so we can meet you to see the ID). This ID must match the address on your membership. Children may use report cards matching the owner's address. Until the IDs are checked and the names added to the data base, you will need to purchase and use guest passes for these individuals.

This year we have added a One Person Lifetime Membership. This is for one adult (21 years of age or older) with a lifetime membership. This is for those that are not eligible for Empty Nest at the present time.

Please email us with any questions you have. You may reach us at calvertonswimclubdues@gmail.com.

Volunteer Days

Volunteer days will be Saturday, April 30 and Sunday, May 15.

Note we are avoiding Mother’s Day weekend this year. Hopefully, this will allow for more volunteers. Saturday, 4/30 will be from 9:30 AM—4:00 PM. Sunday, 5/15 time to be determined. Please come and help prepare the pool for opening. We will be washing chairs and bath houses, cleaning the office, painting and doing gardening and yard work. Please bring your own gloves and garden tools so that we have enough for all. As always, you will be rewarded with a sheet of guest passes for each family that volunteers at least two hours of work. Hope to see you one of the days.
Empty Nest Information:

**CHANGES TO EMPTY NEST RULES COMING IN 2016.**

At the regular Board of Directors meeting on April 16, 2015, the Board approved a change to the rules governing Empty Nest Membership/ Dues for Club members.

Beginning in 2016, the minimum amount of time that a family applying for Empty Nest Membership must have been a member will be changed from the current 10 years to 15 years. The other rules governing Empty Nest membership (limited to two persons over the age of 18 residing in the same household, limit of 75 Empty Nest families, priority for membership based upon seniority of membership, application deadline, etc.) will not change. In practice, this change of rules will not adversely affect any current Empty Nest members. The change was done primarily in reaction to the current realities that apply to Empty Nest members. Since we are limited to 75 Empty Nest memberships, and since they are approved based upon seniority of membership, the ‘newest’ member to be approved for Empty Nest membership in 2015 joined the Club in 1998. That family has been a member for 17 years.

The real effect of the change in the rule is that we will have fewer families applying for Empty Nest membership only to find that they are not within the most senior 75, which leads to disappointment and frustration. We think it’s better to have a realistic rule that does not give way to false hopes.

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**Save the Date!**

Empty Nest Dues - must be postmarked by Saturday, April 9 (maximum of 75 that qualify are accepted)

Discounted Family Dues - must be postmarked by Saturday, April 23

1st Volunteer Day - Saturday, April 30

Family, Two Person & One Person Dues - must be postmarked by Saturday, May 14

Late Fees Assessed for Lifetime Dues payments - Sunday, May 15 and later

Opening Day - Saturday, May 28 at 11 AM

General Membership Meeting - Sunday, June 5 at 5:30 PM

Swim Team Time Trials at CSC - Saturday, June 11

General Membership Meeting - Sunday, September 4 at 5:30 PM

Pool Closes (Labor Day) - Monday, September 5 at 9 PM

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Friday, May 27 from 6-9 PM

No swimming, but grounds will be open for those that would like to grill with other pool members and play horseshoes or volleyball.

Weather permitting.
Join the Calverton Chargers Swim Team!

The Chargers Swim Team teaches life swimming skills, promotes self-confidence and self-esteem, and encourages both fun and healthy competition. The Charger roster includes athletes with a variety of skill levels and we welcome those who are new to the sport. The summer swim season includes A (competitive), and B (instructional) meets as well as fun social events for parents and kids.

The Chargers also offer a Pre-Team program for swimmers aged 5-7 who have earned their patch but are not quite ready for swim team, and a Mini-Bolts program for swimmers age 4-5 who are comfortable in the water (can put their faces in), but have not yet mastered the basics.

The Chargers are looking forward to competing in Division K for the 2016 MCSL season. The team website, www.calvertonchargers.com is a great resource for swim team information. Registration will open May 10. For questions please contact one of the team reps Karen Rolle (ksrolle@verizon.net), Mary Ellen Hernandez (chick1288@aol.com), or Angie Holmes (angieholmes228@gmail.com). The following schedules for A and B meets should help you make your summer plans.

**2016 A Dual Meet Schedule** (Saturday mornings)

June 11: Time Trials @ Calverton

June 18: Calverton @ Whetstone

June 25: Ashton @ Calverton

July 2: Calverton @ Norbeck Hills

July 9: Clarksburg Town Center @ Calverton

July 16: Calverton @ Somerset

July 23: Divisional Championships (Location TBD)

**2016 B Dual Meet Schedule** (Wednesday evenings)

June 22: Calverton @ Robin Hood

June 29: Conn Belair @ Calverton

July 6: Adelphi @ Calverton

July 13: Stonegate @ Calverton

*Mini-Meet for Pre-Team/Mini-Bolts will be held @ Calverton on Sunday, July 17.

*Calverton Invitational B-Relay Carnival will be held @ Calverton on Wednesday, July 20.

Team Banquet: Saturday, July 23 @ Calverton
**Operations News**

Operations are a part of the Pool Board and we ensure that the grounds and the buildings of our pool are maintained and improved. This year the OPS Committee has several projects that will help to improve our wonderful pool and the grounds.

First, we have started an upgrade and maintenance program for the pool’s diving boards. This year the boards themselves are being resurfaced and the parts of the platform that allow easy adjustment of the boards for the divers are being replaced. The boards will eventually be reseated and adjusted. This project is costly and will span several seasons. We will also set up a regular maintenance program for the boards.

We have plans to improve large portions of the pool parking lot and to continue to upgrade the safety lighting all around the pool. Regarding the lighting, the advent of efficient solar lights has helped us improve safety without having the expense of adding electrical wiring.

A large number of our chaise deck chairs are being rebuilt and re-webbed this year. We had been doing maintenance on these in house, but the overall age of the chairs and rising costs of materials made more drastic measures necessary.

Last year, the ladies shower area got a face lift! This year, we start on the Men’s side. I know, us guys were really comfortable with our area, but the Pool Inspector has insisted. So pink it is! Sorry. The ladies used all the blue paint!

As always, there are many projects going on in the upkeep of our pool. Many of these are for the professionals, but some are projects that volunteers can complete! We hope you will come to one or both Volunteer Days in the new season to help with these!

John Niedermair  
Chairman Operations Committee
Lawn Care Report from Kevin Morris

Kevin Morris is a member of the Club who also contracts with us to take care of maintaining the Club’s grounds through a program of fertilization and turf care. We thought his ideas for taking care of our grass would be worthwhile passing along to our members.

The Calverton Pool board receives many inquiries from members about how the lawn at Calverton Pool is maintained. Our goal is to maintain the lawn for the members’ enjoyment while enhancing the environment. So, how do we do it?

Mowing is the most important practice for a lawn and at the pool, we mow weekly during the highest growth period (May – September). Regular mowing helps develop healthy grass plants. Also, we mow high (as you should do), from 3 – 3.5”.

Fertilization is very important as grass plants need feeding. Nitrogen and potassium are the most important nutrients needed by your lawn. We apply a total of 2 lbs. of nitrogen and 1 lb. of potassium per 1000 sq. ft. of lawn area per year. Nitrogen only fertilizer (along with crabgrass preventer) is applied in April, and nitrogen and potassium is applied in September and November. To duplicate what we do, purchase fertilizer at a big box or hardware store and follow the instructions. Using fertilizer that contains at least 20 - 50% slow release nitrogen will keep your lawn green and healthy longer into the season. These practices align with Maryland Department of Agriculture regulations to protect the Chesapeake Bay.

Weeds are controlled because weeds are not as good as grass in preventing runoff and erosion. Besides preventing crabgrass (as mentioned above), we practice careful, targeted spraying of weeds. Clover (the one with white flowers), is controlled because we cannot have barefoot children stepping on bees (this is a potential health hazard). No spraying is conducted during the pool season.

An automatic irrigation system applies water if needed during the pool season. At your home, watering will help your lawn survive but in most years, grasses not watered will recover and become green again after fall rains.

Social News!!

Members please make sure we have all your email addresses to communicate all the exciting events this year!

Some of these events include Pre Teen Nights, Noodle and Float Nights, a Family Deck Party, Family Bingo Night and Family Movie Night just to name a few.

Please stay tuned for details!