

# OtterGram



www.villageotters.com

March 27, 2008

## Welcome Otters!

Hello everyone! Welcome to the first OtterGram of the 2008 season. The OtterGram will be published weekly during the season to keep everyone informed with the swim team happenings. If you have any questions or would like to have something published in this newsletter, please call 281-319-1300 "The Otter Hotline" and leave a message or email [registrar@villageotters.com](mailto:registrar@villageotters.com).

Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us and have great fun during the summer! GO OTTERS!



## Information

Don't forget to sign up for volunteer positions at registration. We have 3 home meets (plus Time Trials) this year making the need for volunteers even greater than in the past. We require families to volunteer 6 times this year. Please refer to the Otters Handbook for information on volunteering. Questions?? [ottervolunteer@yahoo.com](mailto:ottervolunteer@yahoo.com)

## Team Swim Suit



This year we will have the same team suit as last year. The style is called "Quantum" for girls and "Axcel" for boys by Speedo. Suits will be available at Lane 4 on Nortpark drive. We will also have goggles, caps, practice swimsuits and other swimming supplies available during the season. Girl's swimsuits will likely be in the \$45 price range and the boy's should be in the \$25 range. See the web page for pictures of the swimsuit under team information. The swimsuit is not a requirement for swim team participation.



## COACHES CORNER

We are thrilled to welcome back **all** former Village Otter swimmers/coaches for our 2008 Coaching Staff. The coaches will be:

### Tyson Beaman – Head Coach

This is Tyson's second coaching job with the Otters after taking a leave for his mission with his church. We are glad to have him rejoin the group.

### Kim O'Connor

### Jordan Bennett

### Samantha Johannsen

This will be Kim's 3<sup>rd</sup> year coaching with the Otters and the first for Jordan and Samantha. Kim and Jordan graduated from Kingwood last year and Samantha will be graduating in the Fall. All three of them, along with Tyson, have been long time Otters. Starting from when they were young until now, they have a combined time with the team that is near 40 years. We are Extremely Proud of all of them and look forward to them leading the Otters this year.

## Parent Orientation



There will be a Parent Orientation meeting to discuss the swim team organization and to answer any questions that you may have about the swim team.

The meeting will take place as follows:

**When: April 22, 2008 at 7:00 pm**

**Where: Elm Grove Pool**



## Rookie Camp – April 21 – 25

Rookie camp is a chance for first time competitive swimmers to learn the basics of the various swim strokes.

The schedule will be as follows for rookie camp:

### At Elm Grove Pool

Age Group	Time
6 & Under	4:30 - 5:15
7 & 8	5:15 – 6:00
9 and up	6:00 – 6:45

For our younger swimmers, the determination will be made at the end of the rookie camp if they will be able to stay on the team. The coaches base that decision on a few things: 1)Are they water safe? 2)Can they jump in and swim? 3) can they swim the width of the pool? 4) Can they kick on their front and back?

Safety must come first for **all** our swimmers.

**PLEASE!**

**ONLY NEW MEMBERS AT ROOKIE CAMP.**



## Juvenile Diabetes Swim-A-Long

During the Swim season we will hold, as our **only** official fundraiser for the season, the Juvenile Diabetes Swim-A-Long. The Otters swim laps during a practice to raise money for this worthy cause. Not only do the kids get to practice their swim strokes but they can also win fabulous prizes in the process. More information on this fundraising event will follow.

Should you choose not to participate in the Swim-A-Long, you must pay the \$25 opt out fee.



**281-319-3100**



<b>May 10</b>	<b>Time Trials</b>
<b>May 17</b>	<b>Atascocita Forest</b>
May 24	At Atascocita Contry Club
<b>May 31</b>	<b>Newport</b>
<b>June 7</b>	<b>Oaks of Atascocita</b>
June 8-9	Summer Champs Invitational
June 14	At Eagle Springs
June 21	Divisional Meet at TBA
June 28-29	All Stars Invitational
June 28-29	Ponderosa Invitational

**Home meets are in bold type.**

## Practice **SCHEDULE**

After school practices will be starting April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Elm Grove Pool	Hunters Ridge Pool
11 & 12 4:30 – 5:45	6 & U 4:30 – 5:15
13 & Up 5:45 – 7:00	7 & 8 5:15 – 6:00
	9 & 10 6:00 – 7:00

See the web for summer practice times!



Any child 10 years or younger who will be leaving practice unsupervised **MUST** have a permission slip signed by his/her parents.

## PARENTS-WE NEED YOU!



We are in need of parents willing to get trained and certified to be an official on our team. It costs you nothing but a little time and it would be a great service to your team and fulfill your parental volunteer commitment. There are several areas in which you can be certified: Stroke & Turn, Starter, and Referee. Most require only a 2 hour lecture and one on deck session. More info can be found on the league website at [www.nwal.org](http://www.nwal.org) or you can call April Leger at 281-358-7420.