

Ridge Swim Club Newsletter

Spring 2009

A letter from the Editor.....

Stacey Medve...ridgeswimclub09@aol.com

Hello! The school year is flying by and we are gearing up for another wonderful summer at our pool, relaxing and soaking up the sun. I can't wait! So, in keeping with the need for better communication amongst the membership, this is the first newsletter for 2009. I'm planning on another 2 or 3 before the end of the summer.

Many changes are occurring at the Ridge Swim Club in order to better serve the membership. Remember that the Executive Pool Board is made of members just like us. They volunteer countless hours to make our club a better, more enjoyable place. Please consider helping out in any small way you can.

I am trying to update the membership email addresses. Please forward this to any member that you know of who did not receive it and have them contact me at the above address so that they will get future newsletters. Thank you.

Change of Guard...

Patty Washabaugh

The Ridge Swim Club has had a change in guard recently and we don't mean "lifeguard". Recently Brian Dennis, President of the Ridge Swim Club stepped down from his duties as a result of a work promotion. Allen Daytner, current Board Member was nominated to succeed Brian on Feb. 25, 2009 and was unanimously voted by the Board of Directors to assume the President's role.

The last few years have been extremely busy and eventful as we said goodbye to our old pool built in 1963 and undertook a complete renovation of the facility. It took dedication, hard work, long hours and incredible patience to see the project through. Brian's leadership was steadfast which steered the renovation project down the right path. Many members have enjoyed the facility as well as the new amenities which Brian also helped to install. If the pool pumps were not working correctly the Pool Manager would call...not Ghostbusters...but you guessed it Brian to help resolve the problem. Without hesitation Brian would be at the pool trying to fix the problem. Before he left he usually would begin other tasks such as power washing the deck or installing speakers etc. Brian always kept a low profile but his work at the pool was anything but low profile...it ensured that the day to day operations were a seamless effort.

Brian has been a member of the pool since it opened in 1963 as his parents were one of the first members of the Club. Because of this commitment to ensure that the Ridge remained a landmark in Mt. Airy, for current and future families, Brian gave many devoted hours free of charge to the pool which saved hundreds if not thousands of dollars against our bottom line. Fortunately for us Brian will remain on the Board until his term expires in Jan. 2010 but we would like to thank him for the endless hours and work that he devoted to make the Ridge a better place.

We welcome Allen as our new President and wholeheartedly believe that the transition will be a smooth one. Allen has been on the Board of Directors since Jan 2006. Allen's wife attended the General Membership Meeting back in 2004 as we began our venture to build another pool facility. I was the Building Chairperson and had many a sleepless night thinking about what was in front of me with the overwhelming project. Allen's wife generously volunteered his expertise to the cause and we have been grateful ever since!! (Thanks Theresa!!) Allen came to the rescue when he volunteered his time as a project manager. Allen has many years of construction experience and his knowledge and expertise are first class. The Ridge hit the lottery with Allen's assistance and the new project became a reality. The Ridge's luck will continue as Allen now assumes the President's responsibilities. His skill set will serve him well as he works hard to maintain the facility and keep down operating expenses. Please feel free to introduce yourself to Allen when the Ridge re-opens for the 2009 summer season and provide any feedback you believe would be useful to direct the pool's mission moving forward. You may also contact Allen by email: daytnera@yahoo.com.

Pool and Grounds...

The Ridge will be using a new computer-based sign-in system this summer to help us keep track of who is using the pool and their guests. With this system, you'll be required to use one of the key fobs or membership cards that were provided to each family. Each family member will be photographed individually, and when your card is scanned, the family members who are present will be signed in. If you're a member of Health Unlimited, then you're familiar with this type of system.

We're moving to this system for several reasons: increasingly, members are failing to sign in, and a significant number of non-members are coming in either without a member present or without paying the guest fees. In addition, accurate information regarding pool usage is very helpful in planning schedules and operating hours in the future.

One of the anticipated "log jams" will be capturing a digital image of all members. We're planning to have the system ready a few weeks before the official opening, and anyone who is able to come by can be photographed in advance. More information on this will follow. Lost cards or additional cards can be purchased for \$5.

As with anything new or different, some bugs may need to be worked out, so we would appreciate everyone's cooperation and patience. Once we all get used to the process, we'll find it to be very fast and easy.

Mark your calendar.....It's time for a Spring cleaning!!

Pool and Grounds clean up days are scheduled for Sunday, May 3, 12PM to 4PM & Saturday, May 16, 8AM to 12PM. Let's get out there and get ready for summer!

The Ridge Swim Club will open on Saturday, May 23, 2009!!!!!!!

Events Committee Chair...

This year, we will be organizing an Events Planning Committee. The goal of the committee is to develop fun activities for both the kids and adults of the Ridge Swim Club. We need some help to get this committee up and running, so please consider spending a little time this summer to help ensure your family has some extra fun at the pool! This is a great way to meet other members of the pool and to get involved in a fun way. Interested members should contact Lisa McLaurin at lmclaurin@gmail.com. Thank you!!!

Stretching Our Dollars

By Patty Washabaugh

Everywhere you go these days we hear doom and gloom about today's economy. As a result each one of us is finding ways to cut back our expenses and stretch the almighty dollar as far as it can go. The Ridge Swim Club Board of Directors understands that in this shaky economy one less worry should be increasing the Ridge Annual dues for its members. It is with great pleasure that we pass along some good news for a change...the 2009 Summer Season annual dues will remain at \$450.00.

This was a hard decision for the Board Members because we are faced with continual rising costs to run the pool facility. Since we opened the new pool facility in June 2005 our electricity expenses have doubled due to rate hikes. Last year we spent \$19,089 on all utilities used at the pool. Minimum wage continues to increase each year and in July 2009 the minimum wage will be raised to \$7.25/hr. which impacts our bottom line significantly. Employee wages is our second largest expense totaling \$40,270/yr. Our largest expense is the mortgage payment which equates to a grand total of \$98,841 annually.

To hold the line on the annual dues the Board has proactively taken steps to reduce expenses in any category possible to pass the benefits to all valued members. One large step which will be taken shortly is re-amortizing our mortgage. Currently our monthly mortgage payment is \$8,236. Over the 4 years that we have paid on the loan we have made significant progress, however, as our expenses have increased and the interest rates have decreased we decided that it would be an opportune time to re-amortize the loan for a period of 20 years and reduce the payment to \$5,575 per month based upon an interest rate of 5.70.

What else can we do to keep expenses in check? We can all help when we frequent the pool to ensure that children are not playing in the shower or toilet stalls. Long hot showers consume lots of \$\$\$ that would be better spent on other expenses. Sometimes the water is turned on in the shower stalls and left to run until someone realizes that no one is even in the shower stall. Again a costly mistake that each member eventually pays for. Most of all maintaining the pools, equipment and amenities to reduce repair expenses will also help our bottom line as well. We need all members to become the eyes and ears of the facility and to speak up when misuse of the facility is taking place.

As we begin the 2009 Summer Season at the Ridge we hope that everyone can think of ways that we can maximize our dollars to help defray costs. If you have any helpful comments please feel free to email any Board Members or drop off your suggestions in the Comment Box located on the office desk as you enter the facility. We welcome your thoughts and hope that this little bit of good news will be the beginning of better economic news for all of us this coming year!!

The Ridge Swim Club Treasurer's Report March 2009 For the year Ended December 31, 2008

Income

The Ridge Swim Club took a big hit to our cash balance during 2008. Our income for the year totaled \$208,849.61. This included Dues of \$157,467.50 and Membership/Bond Fees of \$24,017.50. We had "Summer Only" Membership income of \$11,300.00 and Guest Fees of \$4,134.00. Income was also received from swim lessons, fundraisers, the Ridge Seals Swim Team and interest from our bank balances.

Expenditures

Total expenditures for the year were \$239,400.97. Our largest cash expenditure is the mortgage. Our mortgage payments totaled \$98,841.36 during 2008. Wages for the year were \$40,270.39. Utilities are another large expense. Our electric bill for the six month period of May through September was \$9,033.87. Electricity for the entire year

was \$10,142.53. Our water bill payable to the Town of Mt. Airy was \$3,143.53. In May we paid an outside vendor \$4,400.00 to fill the pools for the season. That brings the total water bill to \$7,543.53 for the year. Total Utilities for the year were \$19,089.82 (includes electric, water, phone and trash collection). Insurance premiums for Workers Comp and Property & Liability coverage were \$7,237.00. Property Taxes for the year were \$14,933.26.

Maintenance and Repairs cost \$13,998.25 for the year. Significant repairs were made to the pool/deck tiles and caulking before the swim season began. These repairs totaled \$9,048.89. Day to day expenses of maintaining the pool included chemical costs of \$5,035.64, cleaning services (bathrooms) of \$2,700.00, lawn maintenance of \$2,740.00 and equipment purchases of \$4,469.18 (including a freezer for the Snack Shack and an automatic pool cleaner).

Results

With total Income of \$208,849.61 and total cash expenditures of \$239,400.97 our cash balance dropped by \$30,551.36. As of December 31, 2008 our total cash was \$42,153.21.

Cash at 1/1/08	\$ 72,704.57
Add: Income	<u>208,849.61</u>
Subtotal	281,554.18
Less: Expenditures	<u>(239,400.97)</u>
Cash at 12/31/08	<u>\$ 42,153.21</u>

Save the Shack!

One of the fixtures at the Ridge Swim Club has been the infamous “Snack Shack”. Kids have great memories of standing in line to get their goodies and parents have equal memories of trying to find extra cash to pay for all the goodies!!

In the past we have had lifeguards man the operations and the Pool Manager would stock the Snack Shack. Once our new pool facility was opened we needed the lifeguards to watch the pools and hired a group of teenagers to work the day to day operations. A gracious adult would volunteer his/her services to stock the Snack Shack for all the many customers it serves. However, over the past several years the Snack Shack has not returned a profit. There are many reasons why this is the case but the two main reasons are wages and pre-packaged foods. Minimum wage will be \$7.25 this July and our Snack Shack does not have a three partitioned sink mandated by the Health Department to sell food that is not pre-packaged.

We know how much the Snack Shack is loved by our members but we need to decide how to move forward this season as we cannot continue to operate in the red. One suggestion has been to resort to vending machines. Another has been to install the three partitioned sink but we would need a plumber to volunteer his services to accomplish this task. If you have experience in this area and believe you can change the Shack from red to black by all means let's discuss your ideas. Feel free to send your comments to patty.washabaugh@hughes.com so we can Save the Shack!!

Membership....

My name is Cyndi Conway and I am now the Membership Chairperson for the Ridge Swim Club. I'd like to thank Christy Huber for all of her work in this position for the last few years and for making the transition so easy for me. We are currently at full capacity for the summer 2009 season. We have a total of 370 family memberships at our pool. If you know someone who would like to be put on the waiting list, please have them contact me at cyndiconway@msn.com. At this time the Board of Directors has not decided if we are offering summer trial memberships or August memberships. I will keep you all informed as soon as I know anything. It's going to be a fun summer at the Ridge and I look forward to getting to know you and your families.

Ridge Seals Swim Team.....

Believe it or not, plans are underway already for The Ridge Seals Swim Team 2009! With your help, we're looking forward to a fun and successful 2009 swim season. Swimmers that can swim a minimum of 25 meters freestyle and are under the age of 19 as of June 1 are welcome on the team.

Early Bird Registration
Monday, March 23 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Wednesday, March 25 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Mount Airy Library, Large Meeting Room

We hope you can join us on one of those nights. There will be no formal presentation at this meeting, but all swimmers and their parents/guardians are invited to sign up for the swim team, meet the coaches, and sign up for volunteer duties. Please bring completed registration forms and payment.

Registration forms are posted on the www.rsst.org website. The RSST website contains the handbook, volunteer information, directions to the meets, and a printable calendar of events. Check it out! The meet schedule and tentative practice times are on the last page of the registration form.

If you don't make it to registration night, mailing instructions are listed on the first page of the registration document.

Our new local suit supplier, Streamlines Swim & Sport, will be available both nights for suit sizing and orders, along with other accessories. If you need to mail in your registration, call Streamlines directly at 301-829-9444 to order a suit.

Looking forward to a terrific 2009 season!
Julie Carter
RSST President
301-363-8682

Fundraising EVENT:

what: Greene Turtle Funds for Friends Event

when: Tuesday, May 12

11 am - 10 pm

**where: Greene Turtle, Mount Airy
1604 Ridgeside Drive**

why: 10% of sales donated to RSST

Your support is essential in helping our volunteer led organization provide its young swimmers with quality coaching, equipment, pool rental, and awards for the summer season. Spread the word-come out with your family, friends, and neighbors. Enjoy a good meal, a good time, and support a great cause - your child's #1 summer activity - RSST! Wear your RSST apparel when you go and look for your teammates!

Manager's Corner

Christy Huber

Preparations in meeting the Club's staffing requirements are underway and I am pleased to announce that most of our guards from last year are returning. We will, however; have a few new faces this year in the line up. Please make it a point to introduce yourself to the staff.

Pool Executive Board

- President, Allen Daytner.....toadd@daytnercorp.com
- VP Grounds, Bob Elam.....bobelam@executive-drywall.com
- VP Administration, Margaret Kerschner.....mkershner@od.nih.gov
- Secretary, Kirsten Meehan.....CALDEV8@aol.com
- Treasurer, Amy Kell.....alkell@verizon.net
- Patty Washabaugh.....pwashaba@hns.com
- Todd Sheffer.....tilc@comcast.net
- Bryan Baker.....Bakerbhlg@aol.com
- Bridget Perry.....bbperry1@verizon.net
- Lisa McLaurin.....lmclaurin@gmail.com
- Laura Heck.....mtairyhecks@comcast.net
- Brian Dennis.....bedennis4@comcast.net

