



**IMPORTANT DATES**

Swim & Tennis Sign-Ups  
 Sunday, April 25th  
 1:30-3:30pm, Room 402  
 Troy Community Center

Spring Cleanup  
 Saturday, May 1st  
 8am until Noon  
 Rain Date - May 8th

New Member  
 Wine & Cheese Reception  
 May 19th 7pm @ Beachwood  
 Followed by a Town Hall  
 Meeting for all members  
 At 7:30pm

Friday, May 28th 4pm  
**BEACHWOOD  
 OPENS!**

**A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT**

Greetings Beachwood members, it is my pleasure to write this note again, not only because being a member of Beachwood has been a great experience for me and my family, but because if I am writing the spring newsletter, summer must be around the corner! (One can hope, even if the reality of Michigan spring is much uglier than that.) As always, we plan to open on Memorial Day weekend this year, and I am confident we will be ready to go. Jim Slaughter will be returning as the club manager. Jim is currently in the process of filling out his staff.

The 33rd BWRA annual meeting was held on November 11, 2009 at the Troy Community Center. At that time 5 board members' terms had expired: Teri Brune, John Rice, Phil LaBelle, Dave Kozlowski and myself. There were no members interested in running for the board, so after the election formality, the board members and their respective positions remain unchanged. As a reminder, anyone can run for the board. All you have to do is submit your name to the Secretary, Pat O'Neill, prior to the meeting. If you are interested, feel free to talk to board members about what being on the board entails.

I want to cover five topics of interest in this note:

Club Financial Condition - BWRA remains in strong financial condition as evidenced by the following:

- Positive cash flow over the winter
- A very good and ever improving short term debt position
- A successfully completed audit by an independent accounting firm that reported positively on some of the operational and cash management controls and practices that have been implemented
- A wait list for the club that still exceeds 150 families and 2-3 years

Club Improvements - I am pleased to say we were able to put a new roof on the pavilion last fall, and we will be looking at the roof of the club house this spring. In addition, we will be doing some maintenance on the pool pump mechanics and the baby pool heater. As I said in the fall newsletter, our next big project will be improving and repairing the tennis courts. Any members who have experience with tennis court repair or who would like to support the board in this project, let me know.

Added Attractions - The board will be looking at adding some additional chairs, longer hours, and new activities for the coming summer. Some members have suggested table tennis, 4 square, and basketball - all great ideas that we will look into implementing. If you have any other ideas, let me know.

Rule Changes - The board wrote some new rules concerning membership and eligibility for membership. These rule changes will be published on the web site prior to the club opening as well as in the directory we publish every year. I think you will see that our intent was to clarify some positions in the rule book that were not as clear as they should have been.

Volunteerism - Beachwood has a staff to run the club, keep it clean, coach the swim and tennis programs and manage the lifeguard staff. All the other things that happen on the swim team, the tennis team and in the social schedule require volunteers. Over the winter the board discussed many times a financial stick and carrot system to encourage more volunteer participation but decided to hold off one more year to see if we can encourage more participation in the events that need to be done....Spring clean up, tennis tournaments, swim meets, A finals, Fourth of July, kids parties, adult parties...they all require substantial help from members.

Luckily we have a strong core of 30-40 families who do most of the heavy lifting. We just need some help around the edges. Please consider helping out a little more this year. If you have a high school age student, they can get credits for volunteering. In addition, there is not a separate budget for the swim and tennis teams. There is only one budget for Beachwood, and both programs contribute to the top line number on the financial report. Not helping the tennis team out because your kids are on the swim team, and vice versa, is not an acceptable position to take. Not helping w

for a social event, only means that those events are less likely to occur, which will have an affect on our special summers at Beachwood.

I know that the number of times and repetition of me harping on this issue, is probably getting a little annoying, but this is an important issue that goes directly to the heart of what Beachwood is all about. It needs to be taken seriously. If our volunteer participation does not improve, we will be forced to look at alternative methods to encourage volunteers, as most other swim clubs in the area have done. I would welcome any comments or question on this position.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your President of Beachwood. It is truly a great place to be, and I can not wait for the summer pool and tennis fun. Please feel free to contact me at [Brian.Perham@att.net](mailto:Brian.Perham@att.net), anytime.

## VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This should be another great summer at Beachwood. The improvements that were made over the last two years have been very well received, and your board is hard at work making sure that Beachwood is a club we can all be proud of.

We welcome back Jim Slaughter as our Club Manager. Jim did another great job last year. He promises to make this another enjoyable year for you and your family.

We will be having a New Member Reception to welcome our new members to Beachwood. This will be a great opportunity for new members to learn more about Beachwood, the programs we offer, and to find out about ways to get involved. The Reception is open to all members. Please come and help welcome our new members.

We continue to put a lot of thought into our website ([www.beachwoodrec.org](http://www.beachwoodrec.org)). Last year we went paperless with our communications. The website is our primary means for communicating with our members away from the club. We have been compiling e-mails and created a mailing list for notifying members of news/postings on the website. If we do not have your e-mail address, or if your e-mail address changes, please send me an e-mail at [jrice44@wowway.com](mailto:jrice44@wowway.com) so we can update our list. Also, please visit the website, throughout the year, for updates related to Beachwood.

Beachwood's success is based on the dedication of our member families, staff and board. There are many opportunities for you to help keep Beachwood a summer haven for all of us. We need your involvement, thoughts and ideas. Please let us know what you think.

Thank you for allowing me to serve on your board.

John Rice  
(248) 515-9484 or [jrice44@wowway.com](mailto:jrice44@wowway.com)

## SPRING CLEAN-UP SATURDAY, MAY 1ST 8AM-NOON

Spring Clean-up is Saturday, May 1st from 8am—Noon. In the event of severe weather (a light sprinkle is not severe weather), the back-up date will be May 8th. This is a great opportunity for new and returning members to get to know each other while helping to spruce up Beachwood.

This is also a great community service opportunity. High School students can earn community service hours for the National Honor Society. Scouts can also use the hours toward their community service requirements.

This is a family event. Parents are welcome to bring their children to help pitch in. Volunteers are not obligated to stay the whole time. Any amount of help is greatly appreciated.

Tools to bring include: rakes, shovels, gloves, trash bags, lawn/leaf bags, gardening tools, wheelbarrows, hedge trimmers, edgers and anything else you can think of to help beautify your club.

Coffee, juice, doughnuts and bagels will be served.

If you would like to adopt a flowerbed for the season, please let me know. I think this would be a wonderful way to tap into the talents of many of our members while adding your own personal touch.

Contact John Rice (248)515-9484 or [jrice44@wowway.com](mailto:jrice44@wowway.com)



## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

With warm weather around the corner, Beachwood's membership process is keeping me quite busy. The due date for dues has come and gone, now comes the fun part of telling families that the wait is over, they're now invited to be members of Beachwood.

Unlike many of the clubs in the area, Beachwood is in a very fortunate position in that we have a healthy wait list. The turnaround for membership, however, isn't the five years many of us experienced. The wait is currently approximately 2 – 3 years, so it's a great time to tell your friends, family and new neighbors about Beachwood. Where else can people enjoy (and own) such a wonderful facility and keep their family busy for a relatively low investment? Beachwood is easily one of the best things that has happened to my family.

Speaking of new members, in the latter part of May we will have a "welcome to Beachwood" event to welcome the new families to the club. Watch Beachwood's web site and your e-mail for info on this get-together and plan to come "meet and greet" our new members.

If you have any questions about your membership or the process of becoming members, please feel free to contact me. With my crazy work schedule, e-mail is probably the best way to get me.

Enjoy your summer, and we'll see you at the club.

Julie Monroe, Membership chair

monroej@wowway.com

## SOCIAL STATUS

It was my pleasure to serve as the social chair for Beachwood last summer and I look forward to the summer ahead. Our first event of the season, the Beachwood Winter Happy Hour at Goodnight Gracie, was a lot of fun. Who says just because the club is closed we can't get together to socialize? We have to prepare ourselves for Flamingo Fridays, which will be more frequent this coming season. Also returning will be the ever popular movie night, hopefully this year we will have better weather. I will have a sign up for movie suggestions on the social board. Also on the social board will be dates for upcoming social events and how to get involved. Have an idea for an event? I love suggestions for new and fun things to try, so please don't hesitate to give me a call or send me an email. The tried and true events of past years - euchre, ladies & men's night, and 4<sup>th</sup> of July, will return again. I am going to be setting up a committee to help with this year's 4<sup>th</sup> of July festivities, it's always more fun in a group. Pray it doesn't rain. Moonlight swims were quite popular and I hope to add a few more to this year's calendar. Think Spring!!!!!!

Teri Brune



Euchre Night



New Member Wine and Cheese Reception - May 19th 7pm @ Beachwood



Slot Car Racing

## TENNIS

Hello fellow tennis enthusiasts. Spring is shortly upon us and that means it's time to get your tennis game in order! As always the tennis staff will attempt to offer a tennis team, class, lesson, or program for all who are interested regardless of your age or level of play! Tennis sign-up is Sunday April 25<sup>th</sup> from 1:30–3:30pm at the Troy Community Center, Room 402. If you cannot attend then you can download the form using the link above and mail it with a check to Beachwood Recreation Association, P.O. Box 542, Troy, Mi 48099. Please write the name of the class on the memo line.

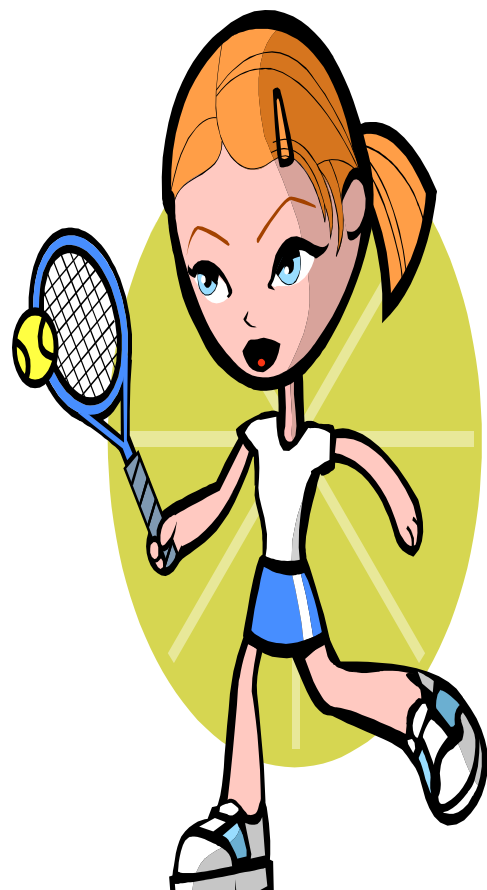
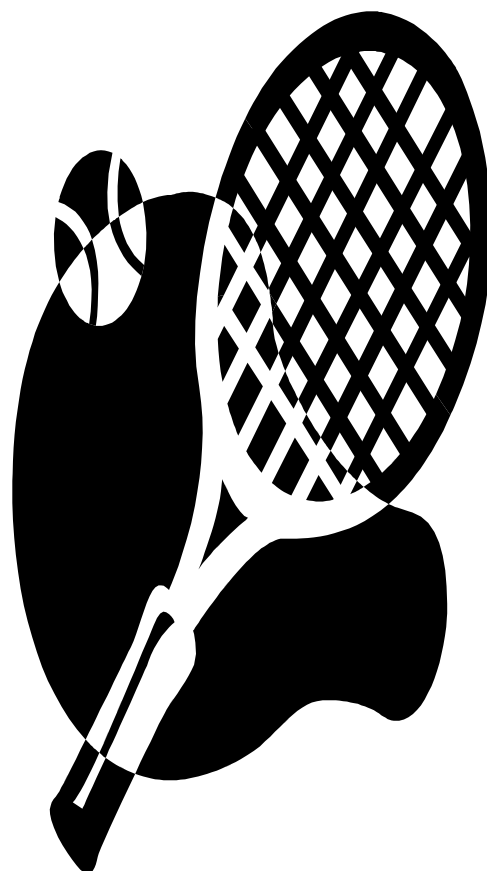
After last year's championship summer, Paco, Eric, and returning staff members (Grace Keating, Alex Meyers, Danielle Bridges, Jason Chen, and Jordan Keller) have high expectations for both our A & B teams. The tennis staff has made some changes for the betterment of the program; all challenge matches and scores will be emailed online to:

[eric.bwratennis@yahoo.com](mailto:eric.bwratennis@yahoo.com). We are trying this out this summer to see how it works. New this year we will have some Saturday challenge days for designated age groups so that each participant will have an opportunity to earn their appropriate spot on the ladder. We need parent volunteers for a number of events: The kickoff party, the banquet, B finals, and all A and B home matches. The signup sheet and A & B team schedules are posted on the website. We strongly recommend that you utilize the Beachwood Website and check your emails for regular updates. You can help us serve you better by providing the staff with a current email address and phone number.

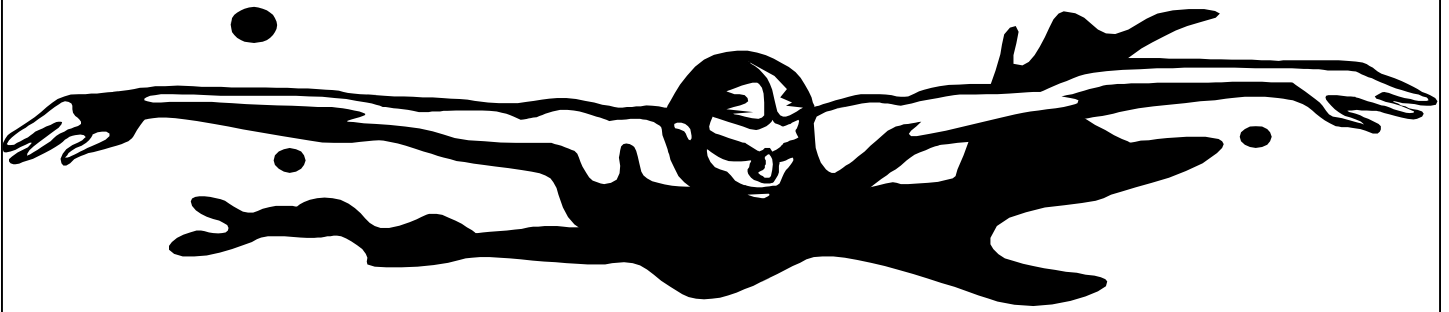
If you have any questions or concerns please contact Eric Sturgis by email at [eric.bwratennis@yahoo.com](mailto:eric.bwratennis@yahoo.com) or Paco Trinidad at [Ptrinity@hotmail.com](mailto:Ptrinity@hotmail.com). Hope to see you on the courts!

Lobbingly yours,

Rob Olmstead (Beachwood Tennis Chair [olmstead.rob@gmail.com](mailto:olmstead.rob@gmail.com)).



## SWIMMING



### Beachwood Barracudas 2009 Swim Team News

Please Note:  
Swim Team Registration  
Troy Community Center  
April 25, 2010 1:30-3:30

Another fun-filled year of Beachwood swimming is right around the corner!! We had a terrific 2009, and are looking for better things in 2010. The Beachwood Barracudas finished fifth in the league at the 2009 A Finals—ensuring that we would remain in the highest division for, oh, the umpteenth consecutive year. Our B Finals swimmers swam tremendously—many with personal bests. While we continue to strive to achieve the highest possible league placing, as always, our primary goal is to make sure that the kids have fun, improve their strokes and times, and enjoy the experience as much as possible. To that end, I encourage you to let me know if you have ideas on how to make the Beachwood swimming team experience better. All associated with Beachwood swimming want the best for our kids.

#### Swimming Team Registration

Registration for the competitive swimming team will take place on April 25 from 1:30 to 3:30 at the Troy Community Center. For your convenience, the registration form can be downloaded at our website, [www.beachwoodrec.org](http://www.beachwoodrec.org). We've also attached it to this newsletter, so you can fill it out and mail it in or drop it off on April 25. We welcome all swimmers aged 4 through 18. Join the great experience that is Barracuda swimming!!

#### Coaching Staff

We are delighted that Mike Venos returns for his ninth season as head coach. He is currently finishing the hiring of his coaching staff. You'll see Mike at the Registration. I will report back on the entire coaching staff once it is in place.

#### The Beachwood Drift and the Rookies Guide

The Beachwood Drift is our swimming team e-newsletter. It will contain a lot of important information. If you are new to Beachwood swimming, or are a veteran but want to be reminded of a lot of helpful information, please read the "Rookies Guide," which is posted on the website. In fact, the web site is a good place to wander for interesting and helpful information regarding all things Barracuda swimming. Due to server constraints, I will email a notice of the availability of the Drift, and you can find it at the website. It should be published each Monday during the season.

#### Spring Pre-Season Practices

The plan is to have the pool up and running (and heated!!) by early May. This will allow us to conduct pre-season practices at Beachwood at a lower cost in lieu of renting pool time at local indoor facilities. These workouts are a chance to keep things going if you've

swum over the winter, or, to get back in the swimming groove if you're a summer swimmer. Daily pre-season practices will start Monday, May 10, 2010. Practice times are as follows: Monday through Friday: 8 and unders: 4-5 pm; 9-10s: 5-6 pm; 11 and ups: 6-7:30 pm; Saturdays: 13-ups: 7-9 am; 11-12s: 8:30-10 am; 9-10s: 9:45-11 am; 8 and unders: 11 am - noon. We realize that May and early June are a busy time for our active families; however, we encourage all swimmers to attend as many practices as possible—it's a short season, and our swimmers' times will improve the most with more training.

### **Regular Season Practices**

Troy Schools last day is Monday, June 21; consequently, Barracuda daily regular season practice times (which are the same as the Saturday times mentioned above) will start on Tuesday, June 22, and continue (with certain exceptions about which we will let you know) throughout the remainder of the season.

### **Swimming Meets**

The schedule for the 2010 season is on our web site. We will hold our annual Barracuda Invitational Beachwood-only time-trial meet on Saturday, June 12, starting at 9 am. Our dual meet schedule is as follows: Friday, June 18, away meet at Heart of the Hills; Monday, June 21, home against Forest Hills; Thursday, June 24, home against Huntington Woods; Monday, June 28, home against Farmington Glen; Thursday, July 8, away against Beechview, and Monday, July 12, away against Cranbrook (maps to the away meets are on our website) (note: because the June 21 home meet against Forest Hills is on Troy Schools' last day, we are likely to move the date of the Forest Hills meet to Tuesday, June 22). Please note that all three Beachwood home meets are compressed into the span of one week—a Monday (Tuesday), a Thursday and the following Monday. Keep in mind, then, that until A Finals, your dual meet volunteering opportunities are all within that tight schedule. B Finals will be on Saturday, July 17 at Waterford Mott High School; A Finals will be on Saturday and Sunday, July 24 and 25 at Beachwood. And, while summer is the time for vacations, if it's possible, when scheduling your vacation, please look to schedule around the dual meets and especially A and B Finals weekends.

Speaking of A Finals, Beachwood will host the season-ending championship meet for the 18<sup>th</sup> straight year!! Because it requires a lot of volunteers, I ask that whether you are an A Finals or a B Finals family, you reserve time that weekend to help the swim team and the club put on what is unanimously regarded as the best meet at the best facility around. I also am looking for good ideas—so call, email me or see me at the pool if you have been ruminating since last year how better to do this or that at A Finals.

### **A Note on Young/Beginning Swimmers**

We have a variety of abilities on the team—and all get to compete. Our only rule is that a child must be able to swim one length of the pool without stopping. Our coaches will evaluate all kids wanting to swim, and work with the child and the parents to determine whether the competitive team, the “pre-team” (see the Rookies Guide for details) or Beachwood's swim lesson program is the right choice. And, we don't hold kids back, either—we've had many kids move from the pre-team or the lesson program “lane line grabbers” to the competitive team as the season progresses. We really encourage all kids who are interested to check things out, even if they just want to watch a practice or two. Questions? Talk to me or Mike.

### **Volunteering**

Merri Lee and I are back for another year—but more than ever, the great machine that is Barracuda Swimming needs your assistance, from pre-season to the post-A Finals banquet. We will be calling on all of you for help; all families need to take a part—many hands make light work!! For the new swim team families—volunteering is a great way to get to know the Barracuda family—we have the BEST parent involvement in the NSSL—let's keep it that way. Email me at [kmhjones@wowway.com](mailto:kmhjones@wowway.com) to let me know how you can help. I will schedule a swim team committee chairs' meeting in May—stay tuned.

I look forward to another great year—see you at the pool!

Kyle Jones  
Swimming Team Representative  
[kmhjones@wowway.com](mailto:kmhjones@wowway.com)  
(248)-816-8790

## OPERATIONS

Good Day. My name is Phil LaBelle. My family and I have been part of the Beachwood community for the past 7 seasons. 2010 will be my second season representing you on the board.

In my position as operations chair, I work with our club management team. We focus on providing great service to Beachwood member families. We assemble a team and ensure they are properly trained so members can enjoy the many benefits of a Beachwood summer in a safe and secure environment. I will be assisting with recruiting, hiring and training of staff positions, though most of our key team members are returning for another year. In addition, we will work to standardize the day to day operations of the club to make certain there is a proper balance between great service and fiscal responsibility.

The summer is short and I want the weeks spent at Beachwood with family and friends to be thoroughly enjoyed by all. I am committed to driving service at our club and developing a "service-first" culture among our staff. Some of the areas I will focus on for the upcoming season will be staff service and safety training, daily maintenance of key club areas and consistent forecasting of both labor and operating costs.

Whether you are a new or long-time member, I encourage you and your family to take full advantage of our great facility and the talented team of tennis and swim professionals we have assembled for another great season.

I look forward to serving you for the 2010 season.

Come on summer.

Phil LaBelle

[plabelle@wowway.com](mailto:plabelle@wowway.com)

## FACILITIES

Hi everyone, my name is Dave Kozlowski and I support Beachwood as the facilities director. My family and I are really looking forward to getting the club opened this year so everyone can start enjoying the warmer weather by the pool and tennis courts. The spring clean up event is right around the corner, please help if you can spare an hour!

This is our second year using a pool safety cover during winter. It is performing well by keeping leaves, debris and critters out of the pool. The cover will help us realize a cost savings on our annual water bill since we no longer have to empty the pool during the off season.

Looking forward to May and the club opening, projects we have scheduled include replacing the sand in the main pool filter system and replacing the water pump motor. Both the media and pump have reached the end of their useful life. Other projects we have planned are replacing the drain grates at the bottom of the deep end to comply with a new federal law, as well as some improvements to the wading pool drain system. Finally, we are collecting info on repairing and replacing the main building/bathhouse roof and skylight system.

If you know of something at the club that requires attention, please communicate it and we can work on a plan to fix the problem.

We continue to work to improve the club to keep it safe, fun and enjoyable for people of all ages.

Hope to see you there!

Dave

Cell 248-703-7181