



Barracuda Bits

Ashland Barracudas Swim Team
Week of May 31



ashlandbarracudas.swimtopia.com

Kevin's email: AshlandBarracuda@comcast.net

Practices for Summer- A reminder that we will begin our summer schedule on Monday, June 1. The schedule is posted on the [team website](#).

A New Tradition for 2026!- So apparently *Flat Stanley* is making a comeback in elementary schools these days. And while we don't want our swimmers to be smooshed violently, we would love to see where folks are headed this summer. So... when you're travelling this summer, take some pictures of your swimmer(s) wearing Barracudas merch wherever you are. If you're at DisneyWorld, snap a pic in our tshirt or cap at Cinderella's Castle, or if you're at Monticello on a Virginia250 trip, represent our team, or if you're at grandma's fishing on a hot June day, do it in a Barracudas tanktop and share it with us. We'll hope to post lots of pictures of our swimmers representing our team anywhere and everywhere. Send your pictures to Kevin at ashlandbarracuda@comcast.net.

Silent Auction- Our Silent Auction is back, and we will open it online on June 8. You'll have 8 days to bid on tickets to parks, museums, games, races and zoos, as well as the coveted prime parking spaces for our home meets. And of course, there'll be a 2027 Carter Park pool pass up for bid also. [Check out the items up for auction here](#) and plan your bids in anticipation of the auction's start next week.

Diving Certifications- We will be conducting diving certifications individually at practice this week for swimmers who could not attend last week. Later in the week, we will send out a list of swimmers who will be starting races in the water, diving off the wall, and diving off the block at the first meet.

Canterbury Meet- Our first meet will be this Wednesday at [Canterbury](#). We haven't travelled to Canterbury in a few years, so this will likely be the first meet at their pool for most of our swimmers. And of course, we realize that this is the first meet for a huge chunk of our team. New families... be sure to read the email sent to your mailing list regarding the meet.

If you know that your swimmer(s) will be late to the meet, please email us and let us know. But if you realize enroute that you didn't plan for Henrico traffic or there's a long, slow train in Ashland, or if there's another reason you'll be late unexpectedly, text us at **432-4653** to let us know. We'll check your kid(s) in for you. Here are proactive answers to a lot of your questions about the meet:

- Plan to arrive for check in and warm ups at **5:10**. We must submit our final check in at 5:30.
- Please check the list of swimmers who have alerted us to their absences for this meet in the Sunday email. If you need to add your swimmer(s) to the list, please [send an email](#). We close down the [Meet Absence Form](#) for each meet when we send out the team email.
- There is limited parking at Canterbury, so make attempts to carpool if you can. Also be sure to budget time for West End traffic, and make sure that your teenage drivers leave with plenty of time to get there safely. Overflow parking is available along Covent and Walbrook Roads. If you utilize the overflow parking option, bear in mind these requests from Canterbury:
 - Please park on one side of the street only.
 - Respect street side lawns and plants.

- Do not block driveways, hydrants or walkways. If you think you might be encroaching on a driveway, you probably are and should respectfully consider another spot.
- Please pick up your trash.
- Park at your own risk. Canterbury is not responsible for damage or theft while parked in the neighborhoods near the club.
- Please do not park along Pump Road. While you may witness this behavior, you do so at your own risk of being blocked in or ticketed by Henrico County Police.
- A Henrico County police officer will be on Pump Road from 4:00-7:00 to assist with pedestrian traffic.
- Our team area will be on the right as you enter the facility. Look for the team banner. There is also a spectator area to the left when you enter. It's always a good idea to bring your own chairs to any swim meet.
- The Clerk of Course will be behind the diving boards. Please remind your kids to stay off of the diving boards when they go to the Clerk.
- We will send out a list of non-dive certified swimmers who will start in the water or off of the wall. If your swimmer is on this list, mark his/her LEFT shoulder with the corresponding X or O in black sharpie.
- Concessions will be available at the pool from 5:00-9:00, including selections from Chick fil-A, Marco's Pizza, and Jimmy John's. The concession stand is cashless, so be prepared to use a card or tap-to-pay. The club snack bar will also be open with options like hot dogs and ice cream. It is also cashless and will remain open until 9:00.
- Since this is the first meet, we will send out event entries on Tuesday night. They will also be available at the pool on Wednesday morning, and you can always access your kids' entries through the SwimTopia app. Look for two files to arrive on Tuesday... (1) will contain individual events for all swimmers, and (2) a file that will include relay entries for 8/under swimmers ONLY.
- We will mark the hands of our 12/under swimmers at practice on Wednesday with their event numbers and strokes. Please note: this hand marking and dive certification X and O marks are the only ink allowed on swimmers. They may not have Sharpie marks on their backs or legs, and they cannot have glitter or hair dye on their bodies. Fake tattoos are also discouraged.
- As a reminder, all swimmers must compete in a one-piece suit, and swimmers may not compete in sleeved shirts or suits. Swimmers do not have to have team suits, but their suits must meet the criteria listed here. This will be the case for all meets. If you have not gotten your team swim cap, see Amanda McDaniel at practice this week or at the meet on Wednesday. Our expectation is that our swimmers wear their caps in competition.
- For swimmers who are 9/older, we will post relay events AFTER WARMS UPS at the meet on the team banner. If you have a swimmer who is 9/older, be sure he/she checks the relay posting on our team banner to see if he/she will be swimming a relay. We do this because there are often changes to relays at the meet. So by posting them at the meet, we are able to make adjustments in real time. This will be a particular change if your swimmer is 9 years old and accustomed to having relays marked on their hands as an 8 year old. Swimmers will need to check the following events when they are posted...
 - 9/10 year olds Event 52
 - 11/12 year olds Event 53
 - 13/14 year olds Event 54
 - 15/older Event 55

Ribbon Distribution- After each meet, we will have ribbon boxes which we will leave for swimmers and families to pick up their own ribbons at practice. You will be able to access the ribbons boxes after improvement ribbons are written (which is usually the morning after the meet) and get any or all of your kids' ribbons- or swimmers can get their own. If your swimmer does not have a ribbon for the meet and he/she wants a participation ribbon, these ribbons will be available at one per swimmer. But, in general, our team does not promote participation awards.

For new families: In GRAL meets, the top 6 finishers in each division in each event (not each heat) will receive ribbons. So this usually means, for example, that only 8-10 swimmers in the 25 free

events will get ribbons- about ¼ of the swimmers. The placings for events will be posted at the meet, and you should be able to access your swimmer's placings through the SwinTopia app. We have made it a point to write improvement ribbons for younger swimmers who do not place in the top 6 but who do earn recognition based on swimming best times. We value improvement ribbons as awards that are earned.

Meet Absences- Regarding meets for beyond this week... thank you to folks who have filled out the [Meet Absence Form](#) at this point. If you know you're going to miss a meet later in the year, please fill it out ASAP. Again... we will be closing the meet absence report for each week's meet on Sunday, so if you find out after Sunday that you'll miss a meet, you need to email.

Volunteering Process- We have a huge chunk of our volunteer responsibilities for the Canterbury meet covered already. But our process for volunteering sign ups for this meet and those in the future revolves around SwinTopia. You will get an email from our Volunteer Coordinator, Kelly Sweeney, letting you know when volunteer slots are available for each meet. At that point, you can use the [calendar function on SwinTopia](#) to click on the Job Sign Ups link. For new parents... enjoy the Canterbury meet as you acclimate yourself to the controlled chaos of a swim meet, and jump into volunteering during Week 2 when the Church Run meet link opens.

As an aside... we will have far more volunteer responsibilities for home meets as we are required to provide the workers for a lot of home team mandated positions... and because we will have 8 lanes or timers. So when our first home meet arrives during Week 3, the volunteer listing will be much more substantial.

Team Pictures- Our team picture will be on Tuesday, June 9 this year. We will take individual and/or family pictures throughout the morning practices, and the team picture will be at 10:00 between the second and third practice sessions. So for our swimmers in the 8:00 practice... please make every effort to stay at the pool or return at 10:00 on that day. Look for more information to be posted soon.

Events That are Coming Up- Several other big events will be held later in June. Mark your calendars.

- Our annual Jamie Hess Swim Marathon will be held during practice on Tuesday, June 23. There is a lot of information [on the team website](#) about this event, and we will send updates in Barracuda Bits as it approaches. We have some really exciting news regarding this year's swim marathon that we will let you know about in a few weeks.
- Family Float Night at Carter Park Pool- This will be held on Sunday, June 28 from 6:00-9:00. Look for information to come out in the next few weeks about this annual, family-friendly fundraiser at the pool.

Congratulations to the Class of 2026- Congrats to our 6 graduating seniors who walked across the stage last week. We will honor them at our July 7 meet against Raintree. We hope you got the chance to meet them through [our Facebook posts](#).

Swimmer

Theo Dingman
Caleb Givens
Hunter Schrum
Thomas Senfield
Mackenzie Sweeney
Marley Sweeney

High School

Patrick Henry
CodeRVA (and J. Sargent Reynolds)
Patrick Henry
Patrick Henry
Patrick Henry
Patrick Henry

College in the Fall

University of Mary Washington
Virginia Tech
Virginia Tech
Bucknell University
J. Sargent Reynolds
J. Sargent Reynolds