

WETNOTES

The International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics Newsletter

IGLA Adds to Our Lives by JON BAUER, Pacific Co-President

I have been an IGLA representative or board member since 1991. IGLA is a unique organization in that it's members span the globe and we meet so infrequently that it is difficult to identify and pursue common interests beyond swimming. The IGLA executive board has overcome geographical obstacles by communicating often, sometimes daily, over the Internet.

An IGLA representative with a less frequent Internet commitment has an even more difficult task connecting with the IGLA process. Prior to becoming a board member, I was frustrated as an

IGLA representative with the overwhelming task of assuring that IGLA decisions represented the interests of each IGLA member. During a conversation with John Brown, newly elected Atlantic Co-chair, I was recently reminded of the frustration an IGLA representative or swimmer might feel towards IGLA. I am humbled and motivated to help representatives and athletes stay connected.

IGLA has two missions. First, IGLA seeks to bridge the gap between communities: gay women, gay men, and the straight community. Second, IGLA works to insure the best possible aquatic competition at the Gay Games. We work on these daily, and we are succeeding. IGLA championships have been terrific models for the numerous, enjoyable, smaller meets that have evolved. ACC's Labor Day weekend meet and Washington DC's Columbus Day meets are model examples of what IGLA has inspired. West Hollywood's relay meet is probably Southern California's most efficiently run meet and has inspired SPMA leaders to approach WH2O about running a regional championship.

On a more personal level, following IGLA 1995 in Montreal, John Brown, Atlantic Co-chair, returned to Atlanta with vigor and enthusiasm and built ART into the swimming giant it is today. Georgia now has mixed swimming meets and ART receives a great deal of respect from the straight community. Also inspired at IGLA 1995, Doug Fadel, IGLA Secretary, founded QUAC (Queer Utah Aquatic Club). QUAC's 85 swimmers comprise almost one-half of Utah's USMS registered swimmers.

Additionally, IGLA helps bring men and women closer together. I have a better understanding of many women's issues that I otherwise would had no exposure to had it not been for swimming. I feel supported and loved by the women I have met through swimming. Some of them have become my dearest buddies.

These bridges and IGLA successes create a unifying sense of pride. I am proud of my team's accomplishments and IGLA's successes. I am proud of Atlanta's quick rise to success, San

Diego's return to prominence, Paris's commitment to sanctioning, the German's sensitivity toward discrimination, and the development of European teams. I am motivated by New Zealand's and Sydney's commitment to the IGLA cause despite their geographic isolation. I am awestruck when I see the efficiency of the rules and regulations committee chaired by Jessica Seaton and Phil Hayman in reducing mounds of documents into a concise IGLA handbook.

As for our second mission, IGLA's commitment to the success of aquatics in the Gay Games movement is unmatched by any other organization. The collective influence of IGLA member teams insures the quality of aquatics at the Gay Games. This has never been more evident than it is now. Our Federation of Gay Games representatives, Charlie Carson and Suzanne Shriner, and our Atlantic Co-President, Roberto Mantaci, have been patiently obtaining information about the 1998 Gay Games and diplomatically guiding the Federation and Amsterdam leaders toward our needs. Misinformation on the 1998 Gay Games website has been challenged and clarification will be forthcoming.

IGLA works. Nevertheless, through more active communication, it can work better. The IGLA board must communicate effectively with IGLA representatives via the Internet and Wetnotes. IGLA representatives must remain actively involved with their teams (attending most if not all team board meetings) to keep their teams informed. I encourage you to include IGLA announcements with your team announcements and include Wetnotes articles in your team newsletters. Finally, plan to attend IGLA general meetings and bring all your buddies with you.

Have a terrific year. Jon

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Notes from Pacific Co-chairs

by JESSICA SEATON & JON BAUER

As co-chairs of the Pacific Basin, we represent all the IGLA teams west of the Mississippi, as well as western Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and we hope at some point, South America and Asia.

The entire IGLA Board welcomes suggestions, feedback, and comments from everyone, regardless of their geographic location. However, if you have concerns which are more particular to the Pacific region, please feel free to contact Jon Bauer or Jessica Seaton at any time by e-mail, telephone, or (oh no!) snail mail. We are here not only to be your link to IGLA, but also to help you in any team related matters you may have. We each have extensive experience, and we would like to share this with you.

The Pacific region is different from the Atlantic region, in that the different teams, with a few exceptions, are not geographically close to one another. While we feel it is important to support each other's meets, we also recognize that this is not always geographically, or financially feasible. At this point, it is important to have any information about your meet disseminated over the Internet via the Internet Coordinator, Paul Boisvert, r25654@uqam.ca

New Perspective

by JOHN BROWN, Atlantic Co-Chair

Being one of the newest IGLA Board members and relatively new to IGLA, I want to share a few observations of the organization in this, my first newsletter article.

At IGLA '95 in Montreal, I was overwhelmed that I was swimming at the site of the 1976 Olympics. Games that were for an 11 year-old age-group swimmer, the greatest ones ever. What made this remarkable for me, more than memories of John Naber or Shirley Babashoff, was the fact that this meet was so normal. It was just like the countless other meets I had attended in 22 years of competitive swimming. There were people warming-up, chewing on goggle straps, leading cheers (albeit men in cheerleading skirts) stretching,

psyching-up: all the usual behaviors. The fact that the participants were gay men and women really was secondary. The fact that they could be such normal swimmers was the reality that hit home. It was my first impression of IGLA and one that reaffirms, to this day, our equality as athletes and as human beings.

The second important observation I have made is the incredible energy that comes from this group. After Montreal, nine innocent Atlantans returned home eager to start our own gay and lesbian swimming team. Fresh off a much-contested small team victory, we had great intentions of being the next large team champions. And no one from IGLA or anywhere else (including our local Masters Committee) told us we couldn't do it. In fact, the IGLA board supported us and stood behind us as we grew. Team members from other cities, most notably Team New York and DCAC, gave us the encouragement and advice that has proved invaluable. This energy and support we saw again in Philadelphia at the FINS inaugural meet. And the success of IGLA '96 speaks volumes of this group's talents. I witnessed in Washington, after the IGLA board elections, that this is a unique group in another, very important way. While most organizations tend to be managed by a small group interested in maintaining the status quo, I found after I and two of my teammates were elected to the board, that this is a group open to new ideas, welcoming of fresh faces and supportive of healthy debate. You have on your board and as your committee members, delegates who are deeply devoted to swimming and are highly motivated to provide the IGLA member teams the best representation possible.

My final observation is one that I spoke of in Washington and one that will be a primary focus of mine over the next two years. It is that IGLA may not be "giving back" to member teams as much as possible. A complaint I've heard from more than one team is that "IGLA just takes the money and we (the teams) do the rest." While this is not a totally accurate statement, it is the expression of a feeling that is present among our teams and thus becomes important. I want to address that in depth over the coming months. I will tell you, however, that in the two months since DC, this board has addressed more issues than most will in a year. Look for your Federation of Gay Games representatives to become increasingly busy representing swimming to the organizers of Gay Games V in Amsterdam. I want to make it easier for new teams to be successful. And look for new programs that should help the

membership recruit and keep new members.

However, we cannot do the work of the organization without your input. It is critical that your representatives have your feedback and suggestions on the job we are, or aren't, doing. Throughout my life, the organizations that I have been associated with that are run by the members, rather than the "boards," I have observed to be the most successful. IGLA should be no different.

I am especially excited to be working for all of you and welcome your comments and criticisms (do I dare open it up?) I can be reached easiest on e-mail. My address is 2004354@mcimail.com.

I wish everyone well in the New Year and hope you each meet your goals in swimming and otherwise. See you in San Diego. John.

IGLA has "I" in it but that means U, U & U

by ROBERTO MANTACI, Atlantic Co-President
mantaci@liip.ibp.fr

When Doug Fadel (IGLA Secretary) asked us for a short biography, stating that most IGLA swimmers know little about IGLA board members, I asked myself, "Do they really care?" Unobtrusively and on a one time basis, I offer you some experiences and impressions from this "I" about IGLA, experiences and impressions that could be the same (and I hope that they are) as those of most of "U".

What most people do not know is that I am Italian and proud of it and not French. I was born in Palermo, in Sicily (but, PLEASE, I am sick and tired of jokes about the mafia). I was nine when my parents, worried by my chubbiness, which my love handles still betray, decided I should join a swimming team. I quit swimming when I was sixteen, and shortly thereafter I started my college studies as a math major. I moved to Paris in 1988 to start a Ph.D. program. I now hold a doctorate in Computer Science from the University of Paris 7 and a doctorate in mathematics from the University of Rome, and I have a tenure position as associate professor at the University of Paris 7.

In 1990, I joined Paris Aquatique, the local gay swimming team. At that time, P.A. was a totally 'amateur' team, they had one work-out a week, where the fastest swimmers swam less than 1,500 meters. They did not participate in swimming meets (even

though some of them were planning to take part in GGIII in Vancouver, which I missed), they were more of a social club than a swimming team. Coming from a swimmer's background of six workouts a week, 6,000 to 8,000 meters per workout, I was not satisfied with the team. I did not feel, however, ready to play an active role in it.

In 1991, and again in 1993, I lived and worked for a few months in Montreal, where I joined the great team "MEN" (now called A Contre Courant). I am grateful to them for showing me what a gay swimming team can really achieve. Nevertheless, I was not ready to get involved with the team at home yet. 1994 was a capital year. First, I moved to San Diego for five months to work as visiting professor at UCSD, and there I got in touch with DSST. Boy, what a team, what energy, what high-quality workouts, what camaraderie! That was also the year of Gay Games IV, and the DSST coaches, Cherry Robinson in particular, trained me for New York where I still swam for Paris.Aquatique, which sent fifteen swimmers. Cherry's workouts made me swim the best times I have ever achieved as a masters swimmer, she is a great coach and a great woman.

In New York, I heard about IGLA for the first time. Jacques Leroux, then the IGLA representative for MEN, suggested that Paris Aquatique join IGLA and that I represent it at the general meeting. I dashed off a check for P.A. only a few hours before the meeting just to be able to participate. I found myself in this meeting room where I saw all these "important" people talking about "important" matters. I was impressed. I thought we still had a long way to go in Paris. Somebody nominated me to chair the European Committee. I declined.

Back in Paris for the 94-95 season, something had changed. P.A. started to participate in European gay swimming meets. Thanks to the Gay Games, an atmosphere of enthusiasm reigned in the team. A new and dynamic board was elected, and I was part of it! We started an amazing process of team improvement, a successful process that is still in progress.

In 1995, the IGLA Atlantic co-chair (and co-president) position was vacant. Gilles Pettigrew, newly elected co-president of the Federation of Gay Games, had to resign. Jacques Leroux, then IGLA secretary, approached me to take the interim. What should I do? I discussed the possibility with my team's board, which was supportive. I decided to tell the IGLA board that I was willing to accept the interim. Was I a bit reckless to

accept it? Perhaps, since the work and energy that the position demands are sometimes beyond all my original expectations, but I have no regrets in the world about having made the decision.

The IGLA Board decided to appoint me, they even asked me to consider running for the position at the following general meeting in Montreal, which I did, and I was elected for the two following years. I must honestly say I was very honored.

That happened only one and a half years ago but what an intense period! I have experienced lots of great moments, like the joy of being IGLA Co-President at the Championships in Montreal, which was the biggest meet in IGLA's history, the one with the greatest facilities, organized with the unique 'a la québécois' taste. I have had the pleasure of working with very valuable colleagues that I appreciate very much. I have settled into a nice collaboration with Jon Bauer, my pacific counterpart. I have seen IGLA grow larger, stronger, better organized, more professional. I have seen it gaining respect within the gay community as well as within the swimming community. If I may say so myself, I like to believe that I have worked a bit toward this growth. I will be (hopefully) Co-president again for the Championships of the decennial in San Diego, hosted by DSST, the team that I love so much.

On the other hand, I have also witnessed maybe the most serious crisis in IGLA's history, (the infamous and too famous Small Team Trophy issue after the championships in Montreal), and its consequences, including the sadness of seeing my friend Jacques Leroux resign from the IGLA Board. I have learned a lot. I have learned about swimming, especially thanks to Jessica Seaton and Charlie Carson, my all-knowing and always available consultants. I have also learned a lot about people.

But I love to be part of this. I love to meet the tons of friends that I have made through IGLA once a year at the IGLA championships, even if the time that I can spend with each one of them is never enough. I love to see that not only for me but also for most IGLAites this feeling of friendship in transversal and not limited within each own's team. I love to see how we united when faced with problems such as a fire at a hotel. At the coaches meeting, that morning, we had to announce that the swimmers of the 800 M Free had to be paired up in lanes to make up the time that we had lost waiting for the swimmers coming from the hotel, and nobody, from slower swimmers to Olympic champions, complained. I love to hear somebody say

to Jack Markey then: "You are facing the unexpected and you are doing really great." (for the record, Cherry said that, but many others might have as well). The team spirit is of course one of the powerful forces for our organization, which probably would not exist without it. Each individual is an "I" that makes IGLA stronger with the intertwining relationships that s/he establishes with others beyond her/his own team. Team reps, your task is also to transmit this message to your teammates: swim and care for your team, but give more importance to camaraderie. From there, the only way is up. Swim Well, love better. Roberto.

Federation of Gay Games Report

by CHARLIE CARSON & SUZANNE SHRINER, FOGG Delegates

For those of you who were not present at the IGLA meeting in D.C., let us give you an overview of what we learned at the Annual Meeting of the Federation of Gay Games in Sydney this past October.

Stichting Amsterdam, the organizing committee for Gay Games 1998, has not yet announced which sports will receive "demonstration" status. Therefore, we have nothing new to report on the status of diving. It should be noted that our divers put on a great letter writing campaign, and we have hopes that diving will be offered in 1998.

As many of you may be aware, Stichting posted "work plans" for each sport on their web page (http://www.dds.nl/~gay_games/index.html). IGLA is very concerned about the information posted for swimming and has begun a dialogue with Stichting on our concerns. It appears that some of the information is misleading or incorrect. We have requested that the web page be removed until the discrepancies are clarified. We will keep the IGLA membership up to date on any new reports we get. Meanwhile, we ask that you send any questions directly to one of us, Charlie or Suzanne, rather than contacting Stichting.

The main news is that the Sloterparkban pool that is under construction in Amsterdam will not be ready in time for the Games. Therefore, swimming is almost certain to be held at the national pool in Amersfoort, which is

35-45 minutes east-southeast of downtown Amsterdam. Stichting has already indicated to the swimmers at the recent meet in Frankfurt that they plan to offer bus transportation from the train to the pool in Amersfoort. This will obviously affect accommodations as well. We will let you know as soon as we know more because soon it will be time to make group travel plans.

Amsterdam has set out the number of days, times, and minimum/maximum participants for all sports. Swimming will be held Sunday, August 2, 1998 through Friday, August 8, 1998 with the minimum participants placed at 1200 and the maximum at 1400. Water polo will be Monday and Wednesday only, with a min/max team number set at 20. We are still unsure as to what the minimum numbers mean. Rest assured, it does not mean cancellation of an event.

A potential hassle for male competitors is Amsterdam's gender equity plan. All sports have a goal of 50% female participation. When male registration reaches 50% of the maximum, registration will be cut off. Once registration has closed, any vacant female participant slots will be filled off a waiting list of men who registered after the cut-off. Amsterdam could not explain how this would be implemented in mixed sports, such as water polo, but the goal for water polo is 25% women.

Registration is scheduled to begin in August 1997, with a pre-registration possibly starting earlier in the year. I would recommend that all those who can, register early. Actual registration is scheduled to end April, a full six months ahead of the games. The fee will be around US \$120 for registration.

On the entertainment side, Amsterdam is planning to take over the center of town and build a "Friendship Village." And the Cultural programs will be many and varied. For the first time, Cultural participants will be paying participation fees and marching in the opening ceremonies, like the athletes.

Each of us are now Chairs of Committees: Charlie of Policies and Procedures, and Suzanne of Financial Development. By virtue of these honors, we are now both on the Federation's Strategic Planning Committee with the Executive Board. This means more travel and more work but certainly more input as well.

Again, please approach either of us with any questions, concerns, or comments about the Federation and its processes. We are always glad to share whatever information we can.

See you at the pool!

1997 Team Registration

by DOUG FADEL, IGLA Secretary

In November, I mailed each person on the 1996 IGLA directory a 1997 registration form. Some teams have already responded. The deadline for registration is March 31, 1997. However, the soon I receive registration information, the soon I can prepare an updated IGLA directory. The 1996 IGLA directory is disturbingly outdated.

At the general meeting in Washington, D.C., the general membership voted to increase IGLA dues for 1997. The increase reflects the increased cost of ensuring that IGLA is represented in Federation of Gay Games matters. International plane tickets don't come cheaply.

The 1997 team registration form asks you to list your team representatives and e-mail representative. The team representatives will receive all IGLA mailings which should be forwarded to the entire team. The e-mail representative receives almost daily updates regarding IGLA matters. Select your representatives wisely. Inadvertently omitted from the registration form is your Water Polo Representative. Please contact me as soon as possible to inform me who your water polo representative will be.

If you have not yet received a 1997 registration form, please contact me as soon as possible. Doug Fadel, 170 West 400 South, Bountiful, Utah 84010, (801) 232-7961, chrisndoug@sisna.com.

E-Mail Paul

Paul Boisvert will continue to serve as IGLA Internet coordinator. He is the electronic eyes and ears of IGLA. He can provide you with information or distribute your information to the IGLA membership. Paul also manages the IGLA website. If you wish to add a webpage to the site, contact Paul. r25654@uqam.ca

Thank You DCAC!

On behalf of all IGLA swimmers, the IGLA Board would like to thank DCAC for hosting an outstanding IGLA 1996 Championships! Jack Markey

and his team of efficient and friendly water folk welcomed the swimmers of the world to dip their toes into the waters of Washington, and we jumped in with both feet. We love you for your hospitality. We love you for your efficiency. We love you for your contribution to swimming excellence in IGLA.

IGLA '96 Team Rankings

LARGE TEAMS

1. DCAC	1,948.5
2. Atlanta Rainbow Trout	1,067
3. West Hollywood WH2O	840
4. Queer Utah Aquatic Club	597.5
5. Team New York	526
6. San Francisco	435.5
7. Different Strokes San Diego	329
8. Philadelphia FINS	258
9. Ann Arbor	239
10. Chicago Smelts	124.5
11. Colorado White Water	66

SMALL TEAMS

1. Nadadores de South Beach	183.5
2. Greater Ohio Swim Team	172
3. Southern Cal. Aquatic Club	154
4. Minnesota	97
5. Out to Swim London	93
6. Sacramento	89
7. Paris Aquatique	87
8. Ottawa	82
9. Havana, Amsterdam	58
10. Different Strokes Calgary	57
11. Seattle Orcas	54
12. Berlin	47
13. Downtown SC Toronto	45
13. Vermont	45
15. Team Dallas	36
16. Different Strokes Boston	35
17. Oregon	34
17. DC Masters	34
19. Switzerland	23
20. Sun Coast	22
21. DC Recreation and Parks	18
21. Irvine Novaquatics	18
23. Brussels	17
24. Greater Columbus	11.5
25. A Contre-courant	11
26. Montreal Olympic Park	
26. English Bay, Vancouver	
26. New England Masters	
26. Strawberry Canyon	

IGLA '96 Record Breaking Performances

Competitors from 19 teams set 114 new IGLA records at IGLA '96 (the existing short course meters records were all established at the 1994 Gay Games in New York). Of the 114 new records, 33 are women's records, 65 are men's records and 16 are relay records.

Overall, DCAC broke 40 IGLA records. West Hollywood was second with 14 new IGLA records. Queer Utah Aquatics and Greater Ohio tied for third with 11 new records each, and Atlanta rounded out the top five with 7 new IGLA records.

The top five teams in each category are as follows:

Men		Women	
DCAC	17	DCAC	16
GOST	9	QUAC	9
WH20	8	A2QUA	4
ART	5	WH20	3
DCS	4	ART	1
		TSUN	1

Relays

DCAC	7
WH20	3
QUAC	2
GOST	11
ART	7

Individually, Jay Griffin of Atlanta and Michael Mealiffe of West Hollywood each set five IGLA records. On the women's side, Bethany Williston of Ann Arbor and Priscilla Kawakami of QUAC tied for top honors by setting four new IGLA records each. In all, 16 women and 29 men set new IGLA records. Congratulations to all of the new IGLA record holders.

WORLD RECORDS

Dean Putterman DCAC Age: 30-34
50 Breast Time: 29.21

US MASTERS RECORDS

Neill Williams DCAC Age: 25-29
100 IM Time: 58.36
100 Breast Time: 1:05.09

Todd Radel GOST Age: 20-24
100 Breast Time: 1:05.52
200 Breast Time: 2:22.78

DCAC Women Age: 76-99 800 FR
Gretchen Hurley, Sarah King,
Merilee Robinson, Eliza Barcus
Time: 9:47.25

ART Men Age: 100-119 400 FR
Jay Griffin, Robert Hermanet,
Art Bailey, Bruce Hayes
3:39.80

DCAC Men Age: 100-119 400 MR
Stephen Smith, Matt Kinney,
Neill Williams, Corey Carlisle
4:02.26

GOST Men Age: 120-159 400 MR
Joe Reinhardt, Todd Radel
Thomas Boyd, Kevin Tunstall
4:06.27

DCAC Men Age: 120-159 800 FR
Neill Williams, David Michaels
Stephen Smith, Erik Kielen
8:01.80

Congratulations go to the swimmers from Atlanta, Greater Ohio, and Washington D.C. for putting IGLA '96 on the world map with 10 United States National Masters Records and one FINA world record.

Financial Statements

by BRIGITTE BASSAC

The financial position shown here today is not the final one, but it should not change much between now and the end of the financial year. REVENUES: The number of member clubs now stands at 37. The European clubs have shown a growing interest in IGLA and several of them have joined, including Brussels Starfish, HH2V and Plons/Netherlands. The total amount of dues paid (US\$ 3,155) is much higher than last year. This is because there are more large clubs. A "Rules Booklet" item was added this year and shows US\$ 895. This brings the total revenues to US \$4,150.

EXPENDITURES: Some of the expenses paid in 1995 were not posted to that year's accounts, which causes some items to show larger amounts in 1996. This is the case for the "Telephone" item, but this expenditure should diminish in the future as greater use is made of the internet for communications between IGLA members. The "photocopying" item stands at US \$576. Some of this was the cost of producing the rules booklet, which is still available for the price of US \$5.

The travel expenses for the two IGLA representatives to the Federation of Gay Games General Meeting in Sydney came to US \$2,179. Expenditure on postage came to US \$505. Total expenditures amounted to US \$4,943.

This leaves a deficit of US \$793 for 1996. However, the surplus of US \$3,638 from 1995 covers this and leaves a surplus of US \$2,845 at the end of the year.

Operating expenditures are up, reflecting the greater and more diversified activity of IGLA. This is why I think the General Meeting's decision to increase the 1997 IGLA dues was absolutely necessary.

I wish you all the very best for 1997. Brigitte

Policies & Procedures

by JON BAUER & ROBERTO MANTACI

The IGLA Policies and Procedures Committee was created at the IGLA championships in Washington DC and is co-chaired by Roberto Mantaci and Jon Bauer. The other committee members include Paul Boisvert, Charlie Carson, Scott Charney, Albert Di Vittorio, Dave Ferguson, Ralph Doore and Marcy Yeisley.

The Committee is currently reviewing all IGLA minutes and other documents that could contain IGLA policies and procedures. Committee members comments from their review of these documents will be sent to Paul Boisvert by January 31, 1997. Paul will send a compilation of this information to Roberto and Jon who will summarize the committee's input and send this summary back to committee members for their review and discussion and additional responses by February 28, 1997.

The committee will respond with additional input and comments by March 31, 1997 and a working model for policies and procedures will be available to all IGLA representatives for review by April 30, 1997.

The Policies and Procedures Committee remains open to all members who wish to participate. Your desire to do so can be communicated to any member on this committee or any IGLA board member. The committee also welcomes new ideas for the operation of IGLA.

1 for IGLA

by JOHN BROWN, Atlantic Co-Chair

At the IGLA Annual meeting in Washington DC, the teams approved a fund-raising plan to help IGLA cover its expenses and increase its outreach to members. We are calling this program "1 for IGLA" and are asking entrants for a VOLUNTARY \$1 US donation to IGLA. Host teams would simply forward payment to the IGLA Treasurer based on the number of donations received. We feel this is a simple way for us to raise funds without assessing members or further increasing team dues. Please forward payment, made payable to IGLA in US dollars, to :

Brigitte Bassac
348 Av. Napoleon-Bonaparte
Rueil-Malmaison
92500 FRANCE

within 30 days of the completion of competition. Teams who have already sent entry forms for upcoming meets may disregard.

1997 IGLA Championships San Diego, California

The 1997 IGLA Championships will be held **October 17-19, 1997** in San Diego, California. This is one week later than originally planned and one week later than Canadian Thanksgiving/Columbus Day weekend (weekend of the 1995 and 1996 championships). The change was made in the interest of respecting diversity. It seems that Yom Kippur, one of the holiest Jewish Holidays, begins at sundown on October 11 and runs through October 12, 1997.

1997 Meet Calendar

- Jan. 19: TNY One Hour Swim
David Patterson (212) 581-6552
- Feb. 1: West Hollywood Relays
jseaton@aol.com
- Feb. 1: San Francisco, USF
ddahlin@uop.edu

Feb. 14-17: Salt Lake Ski & Swim
chrisndoug@sisna.com

Feb. 15: Auckland, NZ

Feb. 22: Sydney, AU
<http://www.kwic.net/igla/mardi.html>

Feb. 22: Ottawa
kinsella@istar.ca

Mar. 15: Seattle
Betzco@aol.com

Mar. 29: The Hague, Netherlands

April 26: Boston
David O'Brien 617-288-2896

May 10: Philadelphia FINS
John Culhane (215) 625-4858

May 17-18: Ann Arbor
<http://members.aol.com/a2qua/SwimMeet.html>

June 20-22: Eurogames in Paris
http://eurogames.blm.de/magazine/english/paris_english.html

**Canceled June 28: Toronto

Aug 30: Portland
ericb@agora.rdrop.com

Aug 30: Coupe de Montreal VI
<http://www.kwic.net/lgb-sports/teams/MontrealSwim/meet.html>
Paul r25654@er.uqam.ca

Oct 17-19: **IGLA '97 San Diego**

Swim Atlanta

Atlanta Rainbow Trout will compete in the Georgia Master's St. Patrick's Day Invitational, March 15-16 in Atlanta. This is a "straight" meet but is the biggest meet in our LSC. We will provide host housing for those that want to participate and will send out once we get it. More importantly, we are planning on hosting a meet in June or July at the Olympic Pool. We need to finalize the date with the folks at Georgia Tech so we can't give a specific date right now. It'll most likely be June 21 or July 5, 1997.

Swim Your Heart Out 7

The Chicago Smelts invite you to Chicago for their seventh annual Swim-a-thon & Pool Party on February 15, 1997 at Northwestern University. Through the Swim Your Heart Out Program, the Smelts, Chicago's mostly Lesbian and Gay swimming team, have raised over \$130,000.00 for AIDS service organizations and women's health organizations.

The Smelts will join forces with Tri-Women Chicago (a mostly Lesbian triathlon group), Frontrunners/Frontwalkers Chicago, and Ann Arbor Queer Aquatics in presenting the Swim-a-thon. This year they're expanding their outreach and inviting swimmers and participants from all over.

For more information, contact the Chicago Smelts through their hotline (312) 409-4973, or Steve Young (773)935-2440.

First Annual QUAC Ski-n-Swim Weekend

Do you have plans for Valentine's Day? Do you like to ski? Would you like to ski on Olympic quality runs?

Queer Utah Aquatic Club is celebrating its one year anniversary by sponsoring the First Annual QUAC Ski-n-Swim Weekend in beautiful Sal Lake City, Utah.

QUAC has put together not only a swimming meet, but many other events as well, including moonlight snowshoeing, ice skating, cross country skiing, Valentine's Day fun, hosted dinners, hosted housing, and more! Be the first on your block to ski on the very slopes that will boast the 2002 Winter Olympic Games.

QUAC has scheduled the event for February 14-17, 1997. This happens to be President's Day Weekend--so it will be easy to make a long weekend of it. The snow is deep, light and fluffy!

If you or anyone on your team has not yet received a meet information packet, David Ferguson would love to solve that problem. Contact David at (801) 582-3552 or (801) 288-8170 and leave a voice message including your name, phone number and mailing address. Also, you can contact Doug Fadel by e-mail chrisndoug@sisna.com.

USF Women Take Hawaii by Storm

The USF Masters Women captured 1st place at the Maui Channel Relay Swim (from Lanai to Maui), beating the Olympic Club and Stanford Masters.

Gay Games IV Videos Available

Charlie Carson and Team New York Aquatics have completed the Gay Games IV video. The video highlights the 1994 Gay Games in New York. To order your copy of the video, contact Charlie Carson, 450 Broome Street #4W, New York, New York 10013, (212) 226-1573, cacarsonjr@aol.com.

IGLA Board Biographies

Jon Bauer IGLA Co- President hwcoyote@aol.com

Jon has been swimming with West Hollywood Aquatics for eight and a half years. He is predominately a breaststroker and sprint freestyler. He has been enjoying the gay swimming scene by participating in all Gay Games and IGLA championships since 1989.

Jon Bauer is serving the second year of a two year Pacific Co-chair office. This is Jon's second term as Pacific Co-chair. He was an IGLA representative for two years prior to being re-elected in 1995. Jon has also served on several of WH2O's boards.

Additionally, Jon is co-chair of the IGLA Policies and Procedures Committee, and has made the creation of a policy and procedures manual his top priority for this year.

When he is not in the water or on the Internet addressing IGLA matters, Jon practices dentistry in Hollywood, Ca. He is beginning his twentieth year of private practice.

John Brown Atlantic Co- Chair

2004354@mcimail.com

John Brown has been swimming competitively for 24 of his 31 years. John grew up in Knoxville, TN, swimming with local age group teams as well as high school and USS teams. His school teams were two time state high school champions and John competed at YMCA Nationals and Junior Nationals his junior and senior years. John swam for Auburn University for part of his freshman year and managed both the men's and women's teams for the remainder of that year. He has coached several age group teams in Tennessee as well as at Auburn.

John is one of the founding members of the Atlanta Rainbow Trout team that won the small team trophy at IGLA 95 in Montreal. He is also chairman of the Trout executive board and helps with coaching responsibilities. He has been active in Masters swimming for two and a half years. John finds his involvement with the Trout perhaps the most rewarding thing he's ever done in swimming. According to him, "I think our group is unique in IGLA and in Masters Swimming because of the close-knit, non-cliquish atmosphere we have. It is also critical that we have a very strong and very active core of women swimmers helping to guide our success."

Out of the pool, John is a Marketing and Promotions Manager with MCI Telecommunications in Atlanta. He travels frequently for work as well as pleasure. His other interest (when he has time) include reading, architecture and music. He received a degree in Political Science from Auburn (which he doesn't use) and served for four years as an officer in the U.S. Navy after graduating.

Jessica Seaton Pacific Co- Chair jseaton@aol.com

Growing up in New York and Pennsylvania, Jessica learned to swim at four and spend most of her summers at the pool. When she was twelve, she moved to Europe (Austria and Switzerland) and swimming was replaced by hiking and skiing, and unhealthy activities which defined the 60's and early 70's. Adopting a healthier lifestyle in the mid 70's, she started running (ultimately completing three marathons), cycling (non-competitive century rides), and even did a few little triathlons (swimming being the weak leg). Although wanting to swim on a team as a child, she did not

begin swimming on a team until after Gay Games III in 1990. Jessica was the team doctor/chiropractor for Team LA and was treating several of the West Hollywood swimmers. Their encouragement ultimately got her to join the team. "There was a lot of good spirit, support, and excellent coaching, which enabled me to learn the strokes I didn't know, and improve those I did."

In 1991, Jessica was elected to the Board of WH2O as Vice President-Administrative. In 1992, she was re-elected, and also served on the board of Southern Pacific Masters Association (SPMA, the local USMS group) as Member-at-large. For the next two years, she also attended meetings of the Greater Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Sports Alliance (basically the local Gay Games organization group). She began chairing the Sports Medicine committee for SPMA in late 1994. In 1995 and again in 1996, she was one of the SPMA delegates chosen to attend the USAS/USMS convention. West Hollywood Aquatics elected Jessica President in October 1995, a position she held until October 1996. At the 1994 IGLA General Meeting in New York City, Jessica volunteered to co-chair, along with Philip Hayman, the Sanctions Committee (now renamed the Championship Rules Committee). At the most recent IGLA General Meeting in Washington, D.C. the membership elected her as Pacific Co-chair. Jessica swam at the IGLA Championship meets in 1991 (LA), 1992 (Seattle), 1995 (Montreal), 1996 (DC), and at the 1994 Gay Games in NYC. She also swam at the 1993 and 1996 Short Course National Championship Meets in California.

Charles Carson, FOGG Delegate cacarsonjr@aol.com

Charlie Carson boasts 32 years of swimming experience. He began swimming as a child and continued to swim through high school. In college, he was the manager of the University of Tennessee Mens Swimming & Diving Team from 1972 through 1976.

Charlie is one of the few people to compete in all four Gay Games. It was at the 1987 games that Charlie attended the meeting that eventually formed IGLA. In addition to participating as a swimmer, Charlie served as Swimming Co-chair for Gay Games IV. Charlie was elected IGLA delegate to the Federation of Gay Games for 1994-98.

Charlie was a founding member of Team New York Aquatics, and Charlie served as IGLA representative for Team New York from 1987-1994.

Charlie had the unique opportunity of serving as the Assistant Swimming Competition Manager-Implementation at the 1996 Olympic Games in Atlanta.

In addition to his swimming and friend of swimming activities, Charlie wrote a Sports Illustrated for Kids book entitled *Make the Team: Swimming & Diving*.

Suzanne Shriner FOGG **Delegate** *pcssls@is.arco.com*

For those who don't know Suzanne, she is the one who is usually seen pacing the deck during West Hollywood water polo games. She first started playing water polo in college; after years of swimming it was a welcome change to chasing the black line. She began playing with the U.S. National Team directly out of college and had the opportunity to become deeply involved in the sport as an athlete and as a team representative to US Water Polo.

After three years of travel and competition, she came out of the closet and left the U.S. Team in one fell swoop. She was coaching a collegiate team in 1993 when she was approached by a West Hollywood member about coaching WH20. She agreed, and one year later at Gay Games '94, she found herself agreeing again, this time to a position on the IGLA board. As the IGLA Alternate Delegate to the Federation of Gay Games, she works closely with Charles Carson on the issue near and dear to IGLA's heart. She is a voice for water polo (as well as swimming and diving) on the FGG Sports Committee. She also serves as the chair for the Financial Development Committee (money is power after all).

Suzanne says that discovering the WH20 and IGLA family has brought her much happiness over the past three (almost four) years. It has brought back her love for the sport and given her a great respect for our community. She takes great pride in working with the people and the teams that make up IGLA.

Brigitte Bassac IGLA **Treasurer** *biba@altern.com*

Brigitte's father taught her and her brothers and sisters to swim. He also enrolled her in her first swimming club when she was seven years old. She stayed with the club until she was fourteen, perfecting her style and competing in swimming meets.

She then stopped swimming to devote herself to her newfound passion, tennis. She returned to swimming as an adult and joined Paris Aquatique. She participated in the New York Gay Games in 1994. Subsequently, she made a real commitment to Paris Aquatique, where she currently serves as treasurer. She

tries to participate in all the swimming meets that she can, in Europe and elsewhere, gay and straight. Brigitte swam in the 1995 IGLA Championships in Montreal and the 1996 IGLA Championships in DC.

Brigitte Bassac

C'est mon père qui m'a appris à nager ainsi qu'à mes frères et soeurs. C'est aussi Ini qui m'a inscrit dans mon 1er club de natation quand j'ai eu 7 ans. Cette période de club a duré jusqu'à l'âge de 14 ans. J'ai pu ainsi me perfectionner et participer à des compétitions.

Puis, je me suis arrêtée pour me consacrer à un autre sport qui me passionnait: le tennis. Je suis arrivée à Paris Aquatique en mars 1994 sans avoir nagé depuis mes 14 ans. Mais en juin 1994 j'ai tout de même participé aux Gay Games de New-York. Depuis juin 1994, je me suis beaucoup investie à Paris Aquatique dont j'occupe le poste de trésorière de l'association. J'essaye de m'inscrire aux plus grand nombre de compétitions, quelles soient en Europe ou ailleurs, quelles soient gays et lesbiennes ou hétérosexuelles. J'ai notamment participé aux compétitions IGLA 95 à Montréal et IGLA 96 à Washington.

Doug Fadel IGLA Secretary *chrisndoug@sisna.com*

Born and raised in the beautiful, little town of Bountiful, Utah, Doug began his competitive swimming career at age five, winning a blue ribbon in the 25 yard drowning-while-gasping-for-air. Subsequently, he competed in USS and high school swimming. In 1987, Doug began coaching. He has coached USS teams, country club teams, high school teams, recreation teams, and masters teams. In the last ten years, He has coached over 5,000 men, women and children, including state and national champions. In 1989, He was voted Utah Swimming Coach of the year. Doug has been coaching the Steiner Masters Aquatic Club for the past six years. Last year, Doug founded QUAC, Queer Utah Aquatic Club which has grown from eight swimmers to over 85 swimmers in one year. Doug proudly boasts that "QUAC has received overwhelming support from the straight swimming community in Utah." For his success with QUAC, Doug was voted Utah Masters Most Motivational Athlete in 1996.

In addition to coaching, Doug loves swimming. His most rewarding swimming experiences have been as an adult. Not having swam in college, Doug continues to achieve life time best times. He has traditionally been a distance butter flyer, but has recently explored the

world of distance freestyle. Doug has competed in two IGLA championships, 1995 Montreal and 1996 DC. Also, Doug swam in the 1995 LC Masters Nationals and the 1996 SC Masters Nationals. He completed the 1996 LaJolla Gatorman Swim, the 1994 Escape from Alcatraz swim and the 1995 Escape from Alcatraz triathlon. Additionally, he swam with the West Side YMCA relay team that won the 1996 swim around Manhattan.

Out of the pool and off the pool deck, Doug is a full-time high school English teacher and a part-time general practice attorney.