

South Zone Report August, 2006

The South Zone held two meets for our athletes this year. The Junior Zone Championship was held February 3-5, in San Antonio, Texas. We appreciate Melanie Wallace and the Cygnets who hosted the meet at the University of the Incarnate Word facility. We were fortunate to have Candie Deatherage in charge of scoring. The meet was well attended.

Our Senior Zone Championship, graciously hosted by Kris Olson, the Northern Virginia Nereids, and the Potomac Valley Association, was held March 9-12, in Alexandria, Virginia. Our thanks go to Dave Olson, who worked as our scoring chairman. We were very excited to have Gail Pucci, National Team Coach, to attend our meet to critique routines. Both athletes and coaches were grateful to have Gail share her expertise in providing insight to improve routines at that time in our season.

Recipients of the 2006 South Zone Awards are:

Athlete of the Year:	Sara Cook, Austin Angelfish
Coach of the Year:	Carole Mitchell, Richmond Dolpholinas
Contributor of the Year:	Joy Cushman, Houston, Texas

The officers elected for the upcoming two-year term are as follows:

Chair: Karen Norris
Education: Cheryl Cook
Officials: Kris Olson
Technical: Beth Moore
Treasurer: Barbara McNamee
Secretary: Stacie Rossow

Over 150 athletes attended the annual zone clinics held in November this year. Our zone education chairperson, Cheryl Cook, organized the clinics to serve various skill levels. One for all skill levels was held at the University of Incarnate Word and conducted by Kim Wurzel, head coach of UIW. A second clinic was held in Daytona Beach, FL for Intermediate and 13 & Under Age Group swimmers conducted by Charlotte Davis, assisted by Kendra Zantotto. The third was held in Orlando, FL, for 14 & over swimmers conducted by Gail Emery, assisted by Kendra Zantotto. All the response we received was extremely positive.

The competitions hosted in our zone this year are as follows:

U.S. National Championships	Fort Lauderdale, FL
U.S. Open Championships	Orlando, FL

The South Zone remembers those whom we have lost this past year. In September, **Jessica Beck**, a former standout of the South Zone as member of Richmond Dolpholinas and a senior with Ohio State University Synchro, passed away. **Peg Hogan**, former coach for University of Richmond and the Octopi of Richmond, as well as a master swimmer and national judge, died after a lengthy illness in October. **Jean Eytchison**, who passed away in January, was a long-time volunteer at so many meets over the years and the wife of national judge Ike Eytchison. In June, **Diana Hahn**, 17 years old and a team member of the Richmond Dolpholinas, died from injuries in a car accident. We will miss these members and will always be grateful for their contributions and involvement in our sport.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Norris
South Zone Representative