

UW Triathlon Team Newsletter



Volume 2
Issue 9



www.uwtriathlon.com
Corrections, questions,
concerns:
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Team Meeting Notes

For those of you unable to attend the team meeting on Tuesday due to the sub-zero temperatures, here's an overview of what is going on.

Fundraising: Everyone who wants discounted racing needs to do three fundraising and three volunteer events. Each visit to the Community Center counts as a separate event. Future volunteer events include the Polar Plunge, and the Bucky Blood Drive. The letter writing campaign has been reopened to those who missed it in the fall. Turn in the names and addresses of 5 people to Diana. She will send them a letter requesting donations. Working the Bike Swap on January 14th-15th counts as another fundraiser. Others will be the Bucky Books, Calendars, and another Community Day at the Boston Store. Don't let these slip by and end up paying too much to race. Any other suggestions for

event? Email Diana at dmbrau@wisc.edu. Nationals: They are in Reno, NV this year. Due to the price of traveling, the team will not be able to afford to use University vehicles. If you are interested in racing, contact Chelsey ASAP chelseygreen@wisc.edu. The team will pay for the race fee, and hotel and flight reservations will be worked out from there. Spring Break: The next deposit for Spring Break is due February 2nd. More details, including a detailed packing list coming soon. Bike Swap: This is January 14th and 15th. This is an ideal opportunity to purchase a bike if you do not yet have one. The Tri-Spot this week will be on purchasing a bike. It at 4PM on Sunday, Dec. 11 in 1217 Humanities. Officer Position: The Treasurer position has opened up. If you are interested in applying, fill out the application in your email from Heidi, ASAP. Send it to hjadams@wisc.edu. This is a very time consuming position; be ready to play some catch-up!

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Special points of interest:

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Words from Our Spiritual Advisor by Nick Rhoads

What's a spiritual leader?

I received this question at the recent "formal" UW Triathlon Team dinner plus drinks. Frankly, I was bit stumped. To be perfectly honest I made up the position to boost my ego (which is very fragile J). But, to take myself seriously for once, I believe the position should live on following my impending death. As with any permanent position it seeks to be defined and now shall be.

The Ministry of John Piper states, *"Spiritual leadership is aimed not so much at directing people as it is at changing people. If we would be the kind of leaders we ought to be, we must make it our aim to develop persons rather than dictate plans. You can get people to do what you want, but if they don't change in their heart you have not led them spiritually."* Well said Mr. Piper, but I'm not sure if this brings our train to a halt just yet. Plus, I think Piper may be conversing directly with "God" on the big red phone with the blinking light, which simply will not fly in the age of cell phones that take pictures, show music videos, and are strictly secular. But, the concept of non-dictating is important. The spiritual leader never dictates, their main job is to listen and advise if necessary.

This job description then obviously requires the ability to listen. The ability to listen is actually quite simple, you shut up, stare deep into the speakers' eyes and then comprehend their words. The hard part comes when it is necessary to advise.

Advising takes a bit more skill on the Spiritual Leader's part and ill-advising can have disastrous effects (just ask the guy who told the chicken to cross the road).

Before advising it is absolutely necessary for the Spiritual Leader to actually know what they are talking about. If knowledge does not exist the S.L. (as it shall be known, due to the many letters required to type the whole phrase) will be prone to ill-advising with potential disastrous results (perhaps death or disfigurement). Thus, this requires the S.L. to be knowledgeable. In what particularly we shall see later.

The wise old words say "With age comes knowledge." This, unfortunately, isn't always true. Life's knowledge is like a bell curve, it starts low, climbs steadily, peaks, and then plummets. This means that with a certain age someone's S.L. ability will diminish in respect to giving you the right advice for the times. What was best then might not be the best now. In conclusion, sometimes old is not the way to go.

Another issue arises when knowledge of a certain subject is cross-referenced with age. In other words, certain topics have an ideal age to which a person would be most knowledgeable. Thus, the S.L. for one topic may not be the best choice for another topic.

The UW Triathlon Team S.L. should be a person who is most knowledgeable in issues that perplex UW Triathlon Team members. These issues, include among the many, triathlons, college, injury, partying, injuries from partying, part-time jobs, coffee, cheap food (mainly tuna), and maybe that classic question "What the hell am I going to do with my life?!?!?!?!" With insight on these issues the S.L. will most effec-

tively listen and then advise.

Upon further review of the play I can see that I may be out of bounds as a S.L. but not because I'm not knowledgeable but because I define life's goals differently. What is best for me may not be best for you. The best I can do as S.L. is to listen, hear your problems and their bearing on your personal goals and then advise, never dictate, a course of action based on my fictitious knowledge.

Hopefully, we can maintain the Spiritual Leaders position in this club and hope to improve its effectiveness in the many years to come. Upon perfection we will meet Nirvana.

Thank you and best of luck,
Your current Spiritual Leader,
Nicholas Baron Rhoads

"Life's knowledge is like a bell curve, it starts low, climbs steadily, peaks, and then plummets."



Movin' Shoes



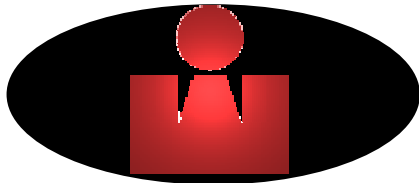
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Corrections, questions, concerns:
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MISSION STATEMENT

As a club sport of the University of Wisconsin Madison, the Triathlon Team strives to provide competitive and social opportunities for athletes of all abilities and interests to experience and enjoy triathlons. The Triathlon Team seeks to offer knowledge, experience, motivation, and a connection to many resources. The Team engages in volunteer activities on campus and in the community and aims to provide an organization for exercising, racing, socializing, and building friendships through the sport of triathlon.



Upcoming Races

Arizona Rock 'n' Roll Marathon
January 15

Wow, this is still STILL empty—
what else are people doing?

"Always dare to be the very
best."
—Buddy Edelen, set at least
10 American records as a
marathon runner

Boulders Climbing Gym, one of fantastic sponsors is having a climbing party this Saturday, December 10th from 8pm-Midnight. Climbing and drinks are included for \$5.

The gym is located at 3964 Commercial Av on the east side. It's a block south of the intersection of Stoughton Rd and East Washington.



Officer Reports

I am planning to change up the format of the newsletter over Christmas Break while I have some downtime. Any suggestions would be greatly welcomed. I plan to add a column that will highlight a certain team member each newsletter. Great thanks goes out to Nick for providing fodder for this newsletter's readers.

Hope finals are easy, hope you don't fall walking down Bascom, hope your holidays are fantastic, and your snow stays white.

GO TO THE TriSpot ON SUNDAY!! 4PM in 1217 Humanities. Learn all about choosing and purchasing the perfect bike for you. Experienced team members who know all about bike buying are encouraged to attend, since this will be in a discussion format, not a lecture and all points of view are helpful for us newbies!