

# SEPTEMBER 2019

# DRAGON TALES

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE DRAGON DREAM TEAM



## IMPORTANT DATES

**Tuesday, September 3, 2019**  
Board Meeting  
6:00 PM at Craftsmen Dining Hall

**Saturday, September 14, 2019**  
Space Camp Meeting  
After practice in pavilion

**Saturday, September 28, 2019**  
Race - Indianapolis, IN

**Tuesday, October 1, 2019**  
Board/Committee Meeting  
6:00 PM at Craftsmen Dining Hall

**Saturday, October 5, 2019**  
Clean Boats  
General Membership Meeting

**Sunday, October 6, 2019**  
Making Strides Walk  
Akron, Ohio

**Saturday, October 10, 2019**  
Gala Pre-Planning Meeting  
Gina's House time TBD

**Saturday, October 19, 2019**  
Marketplace

## SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

*Members: If we have omitted your birthday, please let us know*

### SEPTEMBER

5 – Pat Testa  
6 – Rene Petrovich  
7 – Dorothy Farkas  
11 – Susan Kolarik  
12 – Gina Fortunato  
14 – Kathy Weichl  
16 – Joanne Johnston  
18 – Carolyn Bernstorff  
19 – Doreen Hazlett  
23 – Karen Koch  
24 – Sarah Butler  
29 – Nancy Dapra

### OCTOBER

4 – Cheryl Deitch  
Linda Latham  
5 – Darlene McCarty  
12 – Chris Lutz  
23 – Jean Zorko  
28 – Lynn Fritz

## PRAYERS

*if a DDT member is in need of prayers or support, please contact **Deb Merrow**, Sunshine Chair*

### News from the Sunshine Committee

We have been sending special thoughts and prayers to Amy Synk, Joanne Johnston, Monica Siko, Jill Schieve, and Judy Gibson this month. We will continue to remember Tara, Deb, Deann, Mary, and Monica in our prayers.

*Tough times never last, but tough people do*  
~ submitted by Deb M.

# DRAGON MESSAGES

## Message from Team Operations

Kudos to both teams for a job well done at the Chautauqua Lake races. It was a wild ride but we held our own against a bunch of young men and women! Great job Coaches Allen and Sara for keeping us afloat during such rough conditions! Thanks for all you do for us!



## **White River Alliance Dragon Boat Race Indianapolis, Indiana**

It looks like we will be taking 2 boats to this race. We are working on securing hotel rooms and more details about the venue. Please stay tuned for more information soon!  
~ submitted by Juanita and Barb



## Message from the Non-Paddlers Committee

I know there are many of you out there, but only 2 of us came out this summer. Let's get together, talk, and decide what kind of things we'd like to do. We can discuss at practice on Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup> or please give me a call if you have ideas and would like to participate. ~ submitted by Dawn

## Message from Public Relations/Marketing Committee

### **Florida Space Coast Dragon Boat Camp – Spring Training Camp 2020 – April 19-25, 2020**

There will be an informational meeting about the Florida Training Camp after practice on Saturday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. All team members are encouraged to attend. Camp registrations will be due on Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. There will be an overview of the training camp schedule, a discussion of accommodation options, sharing of registration information, and a discussion of other anticipated costs for the week, including rental cars and airplane flights. ~ submitted by Toby

## Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Akron Walk - Sunday, October 6, 2019

Thanks to those who have joined our walk team for the American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk in Akron on October 6th. We welcome: Lee Runkle and Monica Siko who joined the walk team this month. Our other walkers are Sarah Butler, Luci Bullock, Janeen Nelson, Deb Merrow, Erica Whitmer, Terri Snyder, Nancy Peteya, Carolyn Bernstorf and Toby Bothel. We have raised \$570 to date.

Even if you aren't planning on walking, please consider signing up and helping at welcome table. You can join the walk team at following link: <http://main.acsevents.org/goto/DragonDreamTeam>

Thank you,  
Toby and Carolyn



## **THANK YOU!**

My mother's recent passing taught me a few unexpected things. I've always known how much people loved her, and I knew there would be a big outpouring of love and support from her friends and family when she passed. What I didn't realize is how many people are there for me in my life who were willing to drop their plans to pay respects or take a few minutes to call, text, send a card, or just give me a hug. Among those who did this were so very many of my DDT friends!

My God mother commented to me just recently that breast cancer was one of the best things that ever happened to me. She's right because it brought this awesome sport and all of you into my life. From the bottom of my heart-thank you!

My mom passed peacefully while my sister and I held her hand. This was a true blessing as both of us have had so much anxiety about her for years. She has been so frail, and I worried that she would experience pain, be alone when she passed, or that I would not be there. In spite of all of her ailments (Alzheimer's, stage 4 breast cancer...), she stayed positive and funny up until the day before she died.

She was able to continue to play the piano daily up until two days before she died and even completed a final painting two weeks ago! I consider myself blessed and so properly cared about by so very many people, particularly my teammates. ~ submitted by Jill

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Just wanted to let you all know that I have moved to Columbus to be closer to my grandchildren and am so sad I will no longer be able to be a part of the team. Thank you all for welcoming me to the Dragon Dream Team and I loved being a part of such an incredible group of women. You are all such an inspiration!! ~ submitted by Janeen Nelson



## **COACHES' CORNER**

### Experience

On August 10<sup>th</sup>, we raced on Lake Chautauqua. This normally tranquil lake turned ugly for our visit. It was cool and windy. And when winds come down a long lake, whitecaps result. Needless to say, race conditions were less than optimal.

But memory is a strange thing. We don't remember the easy stuff. We recollect and tell stories about the tough stuff – the races in which water comes over the bow, the races with waves over the paddlers' heads, the races in which drummers can only hang on and the races where you almost lose your steer (heaven forbid!!!). That's where we learn just how tough we are and that was Chautauqua!

It's been said that, "Mother Nature is a hard teacher! First, she gives the test, then the lesson." While we all got wet (some soaking wet), we managed to return to the dock as many times as we left .....with the boat. Mother Nature taught us a lot. And for years to come, we'll say, "Remember Lake Chautauqua?".....And nod wisely.

Paddles Up! ~ Coach Allen

### **Have information and photos to share?**

**Send to Monica Siko ([msiko42@gmail.com](mailto:msiko42@gmail.com)) by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month and it will be included in the following month's Dragon Tales, issued by the end of each month.**

The Dragon Dream Team is Ohio's first group of breast cancer survivors participating in the team sport of dragon boating. Inspired by the courage of the dragon and the power of the paddle, our mission is to support and care for each other, increase self-esteem, physical and emotional wellness through paddling. The Dragon Dream Team demonstrates that life after breast cancer can be full, active and beyond all expectations. Our "Boatloads of Hope" community outreach program offers encouragement and support to breast cancer survivors and their families during the treatment phase of their cancer journey by the delivery of pashminas in area hospitals and cancer facilities, along with a powerful message of hope. The Dragon Dream Team is a 501(c)(3) organization.