

PORTLAND GAY MEN'S CHORUS

One Night Only!



Adult's Only Cabaret!

Under the direction of Greg Bowers, PGMC's new Associate Artistic Director. Join members of the Portland Gay Men's Chorus along with some sick and twisted friends for an evening of debauchery, pure and simple.

As in years past, this event has been not for the weak of heart nor appropriate for grandma, unless she's known for her "mouth like a sailor", her filthy blue humor and keeping the assisted living staff on their toes way past lights out! This year proves to be no different.

Special guests include Portland's own Poison Waters and Carol Reise.

This concert is a One-Night Only, Not-To-Be-Missed Event!

Saturday, October 19, 2002 @ 8:00 p.m.

Kaul Auditorium, Reed College

To Purchase Tickets : Online @ www.pdxgmc.org
or Contact PGMC @ 503-226-2588

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PHOTO BY JULI ROXX

Heading upstream

Portland spawns a queer swim team

BY JULI ROXX

What's cuter than pups? (Well, OK, maybe kittens, but nothing else for sure.) In this case the Pups are Portland Upstream, a queer community swim team featuring a friendly group of stunningly in-shape men and women.

Although not yet competing as a team, the Pups hope to grow in members, speed, swimming skills and aerobic endurance in preparation of tournament participation. A few are competitive swimmers already and in the future might participate individually in gay swim meets and races.

The Pups hook up weekly at the 25-meter, outdoor heated Grant High School pool. Jason Coryell started and named the team after relocating to Portland from San Francisco. "Athletic groups play a vital role in furthering positive self-image among gays and lesbians," he says.

Having swum competitively since he was 9, Coryell also coaches the team. Members benefit from his incredible knowledge about swimming technique and from his obvious patience as a teacher of these skills.

"I come from a long background of swimming," he says, "and have competed for the San Francisco gay swim team, Tsunami, at local and international meets. There are incredible opportunities through a local gay swim team for health, friendship and personal development, even for those who don't want to compete."

Pups member Megan Tatum has been an avid swimmer most of her life and has worked as a lifeguard. "Jason has a lot of swimming skills and is very helpful with our stroke development," she says. "We are lucky to have a gay person with such initiative and knowledge come to Portland and contribute to our community."

Tatum originally began swimming with the team to further her goal of competing in

triathlons, where swimming and endurance are of premium importance. "Now I look at practices as Megan Time," she asserts. "I feel a spiritual oneness with the water, and it is therapeutic in that it soothes and relaxes me through the inner feeling of peace I get from the quietness, aloneness." She also describes "wonderful feelings" of "the water on my stomach and skin as I move through it."

Although the Pups membership is pretty small right now, they had a booth at Portland Pride 2002 and marched in the parade. You might remember Tatum in her bikini. "Most of the female members wear one-piece suits to swim in when we practice, but when I swim it feels better...in a bikini." Their booth sported hard bodies with skinned messages like "Body by Pups."

The team's future goals include building membership, increasing practices to three days a week, getting the most talented swimmers fast enough for competitions and getting all the members more healthy and in better shape.

They're also thinking about fund raising in the form of a pledge-based swim-a-thon

and a car wash with your choice of cute boys in Speedos or bikini-clad girls to suds your vehicle. Seeing these Pups in action leads me to believe that when the time comes there will be a lot of clean cars in Portland. **JR**

PORTLAND UPSTREAM practices from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Thursdays and from 10:30 a.m. to noon every other Sunday at Grant High School, 2300 N.E. 33rd Ave. The first two practices are free, after which monthly dues are \$20. Visit the Pups at www.geocities.com/swimpxd or e-mail gbay214@aol.com.



Coach Coryell helps gays improve their stroking

JULI ROXX is a dyke whose only swimming feat was crossing the Willamette River a few times and surviving the speedboats, the tugboats and the pollution.