**8th annual Steve Barden Memorial Swim Meet~ SAFETY PLAN**

**1-MILE, ½ mile and 200 meter Open Water Swimming Race**

**September 14th, 2013**

**Hosted by Asheville Masters Swimming, Inc.**

1. Karen Foley (c: 828.670.6103) is the Recreation Director for Biltmore Lake, and will act as Safety Coordinator for this event. The Biltmore Lake Home Owners Association does regular water quality testing from May 15-September 15, and results are available to all home owners and groups using lake. Water temperature in mid-September averages 77F.

2. On day of race, Buncombe County Emergency Services will provide onsite EMS Personnel from 2pm until conclusion of race. They will also be responsible for any emergency evacuation, medical aid and transportation to land-based services. This will be re-confirmed by Ken Shields, Buncombe County EMS Operations Office Assistant, 828.250.6217.

3. Asheville Masters Swimming Coach Andrew Pulsifer will act as Race Director and will set up course on Friday evening, Sept 13th, confirming set up on Saturday, Sept 14th, prior to warm-ups.

 a. Course is a triangle loop, approximately 800m around three buoys

 b. Course will be clearly marked with large yellow and orange floating race buoys

c. 200 meter course will be out-and-back, counter-clock wise to one yellow buoy at 100 meters from shore

4. Safety boats: At least 6 (maximum of 8) kayakers will be spaced at regular intervals throughout course (approx. 100 yds apart). One row boat will be stationed in middle of course triangle.

 a. Biltmore Lake **prohibits all motor boat traffic**

 b. All safety boats and Race Director will have 2-way radios

5. Two lifeguards will be stationed on course with rescue tubes, whistles and pocket masks.

 a. Lifeguard #1 will be in row boat

 b. Lifeguard #2 will be on shore at start/finish area

6. A safety briefing will be given prior to warm-up period and race start.

a. Swimmers must wear the swim cap provided, must have their race number on their arms, and must follow all announced safety rules without exception

 7. Time limit: Swimmers competing in the 1-mile swim who have not passed the half-way mark at the start/finish buoy by 30 minutes after start of race will be stopped and their time will count towards the half-mile competition.

8. If a swimmer needs assistance and is able, they are to stop swimming and raise their hand.

a. Any swimmer who signals or is observed in distress will be attended to immediately by closest safety personnel

9. Delay and/or Cancellation: Decision will be based on race day weather conditions and is at the discretion of Race Director & Safety Coordinator.

a. Lightning, delay of at least 15 minutes

b. After race start, any lightning observed will activate the emergency exit procedure (3 short whistle blasts and voice commands) with swimmers being directed to shore, then into Biltmore Lake Home Owners Association building

*SAFETY IS OUR PRIMARY CONCERN*