

For those of you who have never heard of the Fraternity of Flyers the following is a brief history. Those of you who already know the legendary story what are you doing here? Go sign up!

The Fraternity was founded in the ancient times so long ago no one had ever heard of cell phones or the internet, in fact it was so long ago that everyone thought the FAX machine was cool!

It was a dark time on our planet. Homes only had one TV and two phones, and the phones had to be dialed! (Do kids today even know what a dial is?) We only had three channels to “babysit” the kids, cars had no seat belts and you had to manually roll down the window. Triathlon was not even a bar bet yet, swimmers trained without goggles, and they were forced to compete using only three strokes.

The bland crawl stroke, now known as freestyle, as if a name change can increase what the stroke lacks in beauty and grace.

The backstroke was also an option for those who were afraid to get their face wet.

And last the breaststroke, for those who enjoyed unnatural stress on knees and could not stand the idea of getting their hair wet, in the olden days while breast stroking it was illegal to let your head go underwater.

Lucky for the swimming world a few individuals recognized the human body was capable of amazing beauty and grace while swimming. These brave men and women began copying the movements of the dolphin and the over arm recovery that resembled the flight of a great and powerful bird. The first butterflyers were indeed remarkable men and women even if they were a bit off between the ears, come on these folks thought the 200 fly was a good idea! They had no clue creating the butterfly stroke would lead to the 400 IM, the pain of unintended consequences.

In a matter of months swimmers from around the globe were attempting to swim in the fashion of the great winged animal. The Olympic committee, needing a fourth stroke for the IM, allowed butterfly as a new event in the 1956 Olympics. And from that day forward butterfly has stood as the eternal symbol of athletic grace, beauty, aquatic performance art and human potential.

A problem soon became apparent, only a few swimmers did the Butterfly and lived to talk about it. Several swimmers were lost in the early years attempting to swim the Butterfly without proper instruction.

To protect the sacred teaching of Butterfly and ensure only worthy individuals gained the secrets of Butterfly knowledge the Fraternity of Flyers was formed.

In the early years, the Fraternity of Flyers guarded the teaching in the belief that only a few would ever be willing to attempt this amazing stroke. For years, the Fraternity existed in secret, spreading small bits of instruction to a few chosen swimmers here and there. Then at a secret meeting in an undisclosed location an amazing event occurred; the founding fathers discovered by promising t-shirts for those willing to learn Butterfly they would be able to pass the secret Butterfly teachings on for generations to come. For over three decades now swimmers of all abilities have learned the Butterfly and proudly joined the exclusive aquatic club now known as the Fraternity of Flyers.

The only requirement for membership is a willingness to learn butterfly, and of course annual membership dues.