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COMMUNITY NEWS

TRI SHARKS Take Bite Out of Business Networking

BY STACEY BOMSER



TRI SHARKS members pose with professional triathlete and former Olympian Manny Huerta.

TYPICALLY, TRIATHLETES THRIVE ON COMPETITION, but a new business networking group has South Florida executives and business owners working together to develop business relations and support local philanthropies. TRI SHARKS is a one-of-a-kind professional networking group for triathletes.

TRI SHARK Founding President Heath Eskalyo, a Weston triathlete and principal partner and CFO of Kelley Kronenberg Law Firm, says many of his current business relationships started by meeting other

executives who were also involved in the sport, so he decided to organize and take the network to the next level.

"Triathletes share the common characteristics of a heightened competitive spirit, self-driven motivation and the constant pursuit of their personal best," said Eskalyo. "It is no secret that people prefer to do business with individuals they like and associate with on a regular basis. We may compete against each other on land and sea, but in TRI SHARKS we opt to work together in business and charity."

In its first two months, TRI SHARKS already had 20 active members who travel from as far away as Palm Beach and Miami for the breakfast meetings at Midtown Athletic Club. Eskalyo says all types of professions are represented from lawyers and construction professionals to realtors, restauranteurs and entrepreneurs.

Members meet monthly to network, share news of their latest triathlon accomplishments, and listen to inspirational guest speakers share their stories of success both professionally and athletically.

This month's speaker is Hector Picard, a double-amputee triathlete and founder of DontStopLiving.org. Last month, TRI SHARKS welcomed Leanda Cave, a British triathlete and the first woman in the history of the sport to win both the Ironman Triathlon and the

Ironman 70.3 World Champion in the same year.

Next month, the group will host its quarterly Happy Hour and business brainstorming session. Eskalyo says this is an opportunity for members to discuss issues they face in business and obtain advice from other professionals on how they have handled similar situations.

In addition to business networking, TRI SHARKS supports charitable causes, decided upon by its members. Eskalyo says so far they have supported Medals 4 Mettle (an organization that collects donated runner's medals and presents them to people battling serious illnesses), the Victory School (a not-for-profit school for children with autism and other related disabilities), and Schott Communities (a local non-profit organization that serves the needs of the deaf and disabled).

TRI SHARKS meet the second Wednesday of each month from 8-9:30am at Midtown Athletic Club in Weston. The membership fee is \$250 per year, which includes a healthy meal at the breakfast meetings, dynamic speakers, happy hours, distribution of member bios, and participation in philanthropic ventures.

To learn more about TRI SHARKS, contact Heath Eskalyo at (954) 370-9970 or follow them on Instagram at http://instagram.com/tri_sharks/.