

## Serpent Times

newsletter for

Southeastern Aquatics

Racine Family YMCA Swim TEAM

est. 1984



### TEAM SEA's Mission:

*To empower the youth of Southeastern Wisconsin in a safe and supportive environment to be champions in life through excellence in swimming.*

January 9, 2025

### Neil's Notes

Hello 2025! We hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Year!! It feels so good to be "back to normal" after the long two-week holiday season.

On behalf of all the coaching staff, thank you for the thoughtful cards, gifts and treats received during the holiday. You spoil us!

After a month of no meets, we kickstart 2025 with this weekend's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Penguin Challenge. If your swimmer is not entered in the meet and you would like them to race, please email me no later than 8 PM tonight. Read all about this event in the next section of the newsletter and good luck TEAM SEA!

We will be training at Carthage College a few days this month as the RAC is either closed or hosting a high school dual meet. We will be at Carthage College on the following dates, January 14, 20, and 21. Practice times will be: Bronze and Silver 6:15-7:15 PM, Gold 6:15-7:45 PM, and Senior 6:15-8:15 PM. View more information about where to park and enter the building in the weekly newsletter emails.

If you are not current with your monthly swim tuition payments, please ensure you get caught up. Thank you.

We were accepted into the ChaseStrong Invite again! We are allowed to add entries through January 19<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to attend, please reach out and we will slot your swimmer into the meet. Take advantage!

We have added a meet on Saturday, February 8. We will be attending NBSC's Valentines meet. Please note, this meet is two days in length (February 8 and 9), but we are only attending Saturday, February 8. The mile is offered Saturday for those interested. We are only attending Saturday as we have our Conference Champs meet on Sunday.

Reminder, please ensure your swimmers carry a YMCA membership - either a youth membership or part of your family membership.

Save the date 8&U swimmers! We attend one annual 8&U only meet this season and it's scheduled for January 26 in Whitewater. It's a great/fun event and we hope all our amazing 8&U swimmers are able to attend. Meet information is on our website.

I can be reached at 262.994.3157 or [south.eastern.aquatics@gmail.com](mailto:south.eastern.aquatics@gmail.com). Please contact me when you have any questions, concerns, or comments.

Are you social? TEAM SEA is - find us at Instagram (seaswimteam) and Facebook (SEA Swim Team - this page is set to private and you'll need to request to join).

### Penguin Challenge Meet Information

This weekend we will host our 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Penguin Challenge at the Racine Aquatic Center.

Warm-ups begin at 8:00 AM, the meet gets underway at 9:05 AM and is scheduled to end by 12:30 PM both days.

Heat sheets will be posted on the meet landing page on Friday. Please note, because of the brevity of the meet this weekend, we will not be staffing a concession stand ... please plan accordingly.

Drive safe, swim fast, have fun!

### Upcoming Meets

Date	Meet	Entry Deadline
Jan 11-12	SEA Penguin Challenge	1/9
Jan 19	Conference Meet	1/10
Jan 24-26	Chasestrong Splash	1/19
Jan 26	J-HK 8&U All Star	1/17
Feb 8	NBSC	1/20
Feb 9	Conference Champs	TBA
Feb 21-23	WI LSC Regionals	TBA
Feb 28-2	WI LSC Senior State	2/22
Mar 1-2	WI LSC 10&U State	TBA
Mar 7-9	WI LSC 11-12 State	TBA
Mar 15-16	YMCA Sectionals	3/1
Mar 21-23	YMCA State	TBA
Mar 31-4	YMCA Nationals	3/24
May 3-4	SEA Early Bird	TBA
Jun 6-8	SEA Pirate Plunge	TBA

Jun 20-21	SEA Summer Sizzler	TBA
Jul 18-20	WI LSC Regionals	TBA
Jul 25-27	12&U State	TBA
Jul 31-3	13&O State	TBA
Aug 7-10	14&U Zones	TBA
Oct 10-12	OZ Fall Classic	TBA
Nov 2	SEA Pentathlon	TBA

### **Mid States All Star Championships Highlights**

The WI LSC (Wisconsin Local Swim Committee = the arm of USA Swimming in our state) recently attended the Mid States All Star Championships in Indianapolis last weekend and two of our swimmers, Jordan Borzynski and Harrison Yanke were selected to attend.

Both swimmers gained valuable experience at the Central Zone level and made friends within the LSC and Central Zone.

Jordan posted two best times in the individual events he raced: 50 Free @ 25.89 (10<sup>th</sup> all-time for TEAM SEA) and 50 Back @ 29.99 (7<sup>th</sup> all-time for TEAM SEA) scoring points in both and cracking into the Top Ten all time in the history of TEAM SEA.

Harrison posted three best times of his five individual events: 50 Free @ 32.97, 100 Back @ 1:23.47 and 200 IM @ 2:51.81.

Congratulations boys!

### **Single Age State Recap & Highlights**

Solid efforts during Single Age State. When the waves settled, TEAM SEA scored 326-points (5<sup>th</sup> overall in Division 2 or 15<sup>th</sup> overall out of the entire state), 65% best times individual (41 of 63 splashes), 100% best times for relays (10 of 10), and no DQs!

Congratulations to Harrison Yanke on his State championship! Harrison won the 9-year-old 50 Breaststroke touching in 39.30.

Notching USA and/or YMCA State qualifying times for meets scheduled in February and March of 2025 included Ellie Staniger 9-10 100 Freestyle 1:11.85, Evan Steenrod 11-12 100 Breaststroke 1:30.04, Nate Steenrod 9-10 100 Backstroke 1:27.04, Rhemy Thompkins 11-12 50 Backstroke 36.89, Harrison Yanke 9-10 100 Freestyle 1:09.98, and Vivienne Yanke 11-12 100 Butterfly 1:11.89.

Posting some of the fastest times in our team's history were Matilda Gutjahr 8&U 10<sup>th</sup> 50 Freestyle 36.40, 8<sup>th</sup> 25 Breaststroke 20.73, 9<sup>th</sup> 100 IM 1:33.40, Bennett Menken 11-12 9<sup>th</sup> 100 Breaststroke 1:13.64, 10<sup>th</sup> 50 Breaststroke 33.05, and Harrison Yanke 9-10 7<sup>th</sup> 100 Breaststroke 1:24.61, 8<sup>th</sup> 50 Breaststroke 39.30.

Posting 100% best times: Matilda Gutjahr, Bennett Menken, Olivia Speers, Rhemy Thompkins, and Harrison Yanke.

Dropping five or more seconds in an event: Amalia Ehmcke -5.26 100 Freestyle, Nate Steenrod -6.61 100 Backstroke, and Harrison Yanke -5.11 100 Butterfly.

Athletes standing tall on the podium included Jordan Borzynski, Ireland Byrne, Matilda Gutjahr, Bennett Menken, and Harrison Yanke.

A special nod of the swim cap to all our relay swimmers who helped score a lot of points for the team and posted 100% times: David Binder, Silas Coughlin, Tovi Papillon, Madelyn Kaminskis, Ella Kirchenberg, Emma Masaya, Summer Gustafson-Binger, Aviana Gelden, Rowan Glassen, Rhemy Thompkins, Olivia Speers, and Brynn Widmar. Thank you to their parents for making time to attend the meet as well.

Way to go TEAM SEA!

### **TEAM Travel Meet Details**

This season we will be heading back to Center Grove, Indiana (just south of Indianapolis) to participate in the ChaseStrong Splash Prelim/Final meet, January 24-26 (this is the same event we attended last year). This is a great meet and affords our swimmers an opportunity to race in a Prelim/Final meet where it's pretty easy to score a second swim. In addition, the venue is on the campus of Center Grove High School and the pool is 50-meters with ample deck space and spectator seating.

Our entries were accepted into the meet and we are now allowed to make changes and updates through January 19. If you would like to attend ... there's still time. Contact Coach Neil today!

We have a block of rooms at the Home2Suites by Hilton location ... 5215 Noggle Way. Phone is 317.851.8518. We have a block of twenty rooms (four King @ \$149 and 16 double Queen @ \$160). The hotel does offer Breakfast and free parking. Rooms are blocked under Southeastern Aquatics. Hope to SEA you racing in Indy!

### **Become an Official - no experience needed**

One of the important cogs in TEAM SEA operations is maintaining a strong stable of parents who are officials.

No experience is necessary and TEAM SEA reimburses any expenses associated with becoming certified.

Please contact Coach Neil if you are willing to step-up and become an official and he'll help get you started.

### **World Record Holder Jason Lezak On His Way**

Save the date! Saturday, April 12 world record holder Jason Lezak will conduct a swim clinic for all TEAM SEA swimmers. Jason was USA's anchor leg of the unbelievable 400 Freestyle Relay during the Beijing Olympics where the USA men came from behind to touch out the French team and smash the world record by four seconds (the record still stands today). We hope to SEA all TEAM SEA swimmers and parents in attendance for this amazing opportunity to learn from one of the greats!

### **2025 13&O Training Trip**

Since 1999, every two years all athletes' 13&O are extended the opportunity to attend a week-long training trip with their teammates and TEAM SEA.

Our next trip is tentatively scheduled for June 22-29. A minimum of 14 athletes must attend this trip for it to take place. This year's trip is "sold out."

The trip has averaged out to \$1200-\$1500 per swimmer over the years and we usually drive, stay, and train in the Panama City Beach, FL area.

Attending (if you have not yet, please forward \$100 for the down payment) includes:

#### **GIRLS**

Kealey Aalderks, Hannah Daams, Ash Fahy, Jessica Gonzalez, Evelyn Gutknecht, Lindsey Hohnl, Fiona Marini, Sophia Marini, Ashlyn Malzewski, Allie Mertins, Gabi Peterman, Kylie Thomas, Kaylee Staniger, Aubree Van Dyke, Molly Warren

#### **BOYS**

Caleb Bergman, Jack Borzynski, Nathan Breit, Max Carlson, Nathaniel Foster, Nicholas Foster, Levi Jansen, Grayson Kirchenberg, Ryan McGillis, Brennen Meyer, Brady Moore, Zack Steenrod

#### **CHAPERONES**

Maria Peterman, Melissa Hohnl, Kim Wright

#### **COACHES**

Parker Palermo, Neil Wright

### **RaiseRight Fundraising Information**

SEA offers RaiseRight (formally SCRIP) sales as a fundraising option for our families. This has proven to be an easy way for many families to meet their fundraising requirement! RaiseRight offers gift cards for many favorite merchants and restaurants, including Kohl's,

Walmart, Pick 'n Save, Target, Kwik Trip, Starbucks, Amazon, iTunes, and many more. They make great gifts and are easy for families to use for personal use while fundraising. Take a look at the list, watch for specials, and see how easy it is to raise funds while you shop. Read the "how to" pages linked on our RaiseRight webpage ([www.sea-y.org/scrip](http://www.sea-y.org/scrip)) - you can also read about PrestoPay on that page too.

Your order can be placed at [www.shopwithscrip.com](http://www.shopwithscrip.com) by use the SEA enrollment cord (please email Coach Neil at [south.eastern.aquatics@gmail.com](mailto:south.eastern.aquatics@gmail.com) for the code) and registering for PrestoPay at least two days before placing your first order. DO NOT place your first order until the PrestoPay registration process is complete. PrestoPay is safe, simple and the only payment method accepted by SEA.

RaiseRight delivery is in the pool balcony/bleachers, but individual arrangements can also be made. You may also take advantage of re-load and ScripNow options in between deliveries. Thank you for shopping!

#### **Order Dates**

<i>Order By</i>	<i>Delivery On</i>
December 16	December 19-20
January 20	January 23-24
February 17	February 20-21
March 17	March 20-21

If you have any questions or need help, please reach out to Coach Neil at 262.994.3157 or at [south.eastern.aquatics@gmail.com](mailto:south.eastern.aquatics@gmail.com).

### **OST (Off-Season Training)**

OST will be offered between the end of the Fall & Winter Season and the beginning of the Spring & Summer Season (March 24-April 17, 2025).

OST represents an opportunity for our athletes to "bridge the gap" between seasons. It allows them to keep a feel for the water during the off-season and affords them a change to really focus on the little things that make for fast swimming (starts, breakouts, turns, and finishes).

OST will be offered for four weeks (Monday-Thursday, March 24-April 17) and lead by Coach Joanna and Coach Parker. Bronze and Silver will swim 5:00-6:00 PM and Gold and Senior will swim 6:00-7:30 PM with each week covering starts, breakouts, turns, and finishes for one stroke each week (the order by weeks is Freestyle, Backstroke, Breaststroke, Butterfly).

The fee for Bronze and Silver is \$120 for all four weeks or \$30 per week. The fee for

Gold and Senior is \$160 for all four weeks or \$40 per week. Swimmers can al-a-carte which weeks they would like to attend.

To attend, simply email Coach Neil stating which week(s) your swimmers plan on attending and forward payment on the first practice they attend.

All practices will be held at the RAC.

### December Birthdays

Ale Arteaga, Caleb Bergman, Ethan Bergman, Olivia Bottoms, Logan Buska, Hannah Daams, Sebastian Davalos, Nathaniel Foster, Ava Kerbawy, Delilah Kuhl, Brennan Meyer, Cash Peterson, Lauren Schneider, Mac Thomas, John Westfall.

### Extended Calendar

#### January

11-12 19<sup>th</sup> Annual SEA Penguin Challenge  
19 Conference Meet  
24 January payment due  
24-26 ChaseStrong Splash Prelim/Final  
26 J-HK 8&U All Star

#### February

9 Conference Champs  
15 WIAA Boys Sectionals  
21-23 WI LSC Regionals  
22 WIAA Boys State  
24 February payment due  
28-2 WI LSC Senior State

#### March

1-2 WI LSC 10&U State  
7-9 11-14 WI LSC State  
15-16 YMCA Sectionals  
21-23 YMCA State  
24 Tryouts, 5:30-6:30 PM @ RAC  
24 OST begins (runs through April 17)  
31-4 YMCA Nationals

#### April

12 Jason Lezak swim clinic  
28 First day of Spring & Summer practice

#### May

3-4 16<sup>th</sup> Annual SEA Early Bird

#### June

6-8 10<sup>th</sup> Annual SEA Pirate Plunge  
20-21 16<sup>th</sup> Annual SEA Summer Sizzler

#### July

18-20 WI LSC Regionals  
25-27 12&U State  
31-3 13&O State

#### August

4-28 OST

#### September

22 Tryouts for new families  
23 Fall & Winter Season begins

#### October

## 24 Annual Halloween Party

### F.A.Q.

- 1) Where can I get one of those awesome TEAM SEA swim caps and how much do they cost?
  - a. Coach Neil
  - b. \$20 for silicone, \$5 for latex
- 2) How do I sign-up my swimmer for a meet?
  - a. Email Coach Neil and let him know you would like your swimmer entered in "x" meet (please indicate what days of the meet if it takes place on multiple days)
- 3) I'm new to the team ... how many practices should my swimmer attend per week?
  - a. Bronze and Silver = 2-3
  - b. Gold = 4-5
  - c. Senior = 5-6
- 4) I'm not receiving emails; how can I be placed on the email list? Contact Coach Neil and he'll be happy to add your email address to the list.
- 5) Where do I sit if I plan on sticking around during practice? Please sit in the stands.
- 6) Got a question you need an answer to? Please reach out to Coach Neil at 262.994.3157.

*Caring \* Honesty  
Respect \* Responsibility  
Build \* Promote \* Achieve*