

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 21, 2026

Neil's Notes

Our swimmers have raced well during the last two meets (our Penguin Challenge and last Sunday's Conference Meet). Thank you to all the families who volunteered during our 20th Annual Penguin Challenge! Read all about our swimmers' successes later in this newsletter.

Please take some time and review your calendars to select the meets you plan on having your swimmer race at during the final two months of the season.

Please note there is no practice this Saturday, January 24.

Personalized TEAM SEA towels have been received and are available for pick-up during practice beginning tonight. Additionally, a small batch of TEAM SEA towels are available for purchase (\$40 per towel). Contact me if you would like one.

Please be sure you are up-to-date on your swim tuition payments if you are paying monthly. Additionally, the meet escrow account document on our website is current through last Sunday's Conference Meet. Please zero out your account by forwarding payments to any coach on deck.

Don't forget about our upcoming Swim for a Cause event! Be sure your out there collecting pledges for our February 1st event. It's for a great local non-profit!

Please note, the information in our weekly newsletter changes from week-to-week. Dates and times for upcoming events are fluid and can change. Please ensure you are reading the latest newsletter so you are up-to-date!

I can be reached at 262.994.3157 or 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).

ChaseStrong Meet Information

This weekend we'll head back to Indiana to race at Center Grove High School (2717 S. Morgantown Road, Greenwood, IN 46143)

Friday warm-ups run 4:45-5:30 PM and the meet begins at 5:45 PM.

Saturday and Sunday Prelim warm-ups run 8:00-9:00 AM and the meet begins at 9:15 AM.

Saturday and Sunday Final warm-ups run 3:30-4:20 PM and the meet begins at 4:30 PM.

Drive safe, swim fast, have fun!

J-HK 8&U All-Star Meet Information

Sunday we'll head to the Whitewater Aquatic Center (580 South Elizabeth Street) so some of our 8&U swimmers can race in a fun 8&U meet.

We will warm-up in lane 1 beginning at 8:40 AM and the meet begins at 9:05 AM.

Drive safe, swim fast, have fun!

Upcoming Meets

Date	Meet	Entry Deadline
Jan 23-25	Chase Strong Invite	closed
Jan 25	J-HK 8&U All Star	closed
Feb 8	Conference Champs	1/28
Feb 20-22	Regionals	2/15
Feb 27-1	Senior State	2/22
Feb 28-1	10&U State	2/22
Mar 6-8	11-14 State	2/22
Mar 14-15	YMCA Sectionals	3/8
Mar 20-22	YMCA State	3/15
Mar 30-3	YMCA Nationals	3/22
May 2-3	SEA Early Bird	4/19
June 5-7	SEA Pirate Plunge	5/24
June 19-20	SEA Summer Sizzler	tba

10&U USA State Hotel Information

We have a block of rooms secured at the Staybridge Suites (2916 Hardrock Road in Fitchburg). These are king rooms (double queens were not available - there's a lot going on in and around Verona the weekend of 10&U State). The rate is \$169 per night plus everyone's favorite taxes and fees. The reservation agent said to call back beginning

January 30 to see if you can switch from a king room to a double queen as a lot of block reservations drop on January 30. The deadline to reserve your room is January 30. Reserve online [at this link](#) or call 608.616.5664.

SEA Towels Available for Purchase

We have a few TEAM SEA towels available for purchase. Each towel is \$40. Contact Coach Neil if you would like one.

Penguin Challenge Highlights and Recap

Great meet two weekends ago! As a team, we finished with 64% best times (338 of 526 splashes) and 20 DQs (eight each of Breaststroke and IM, three Backstroke, and one Freestyle).

New USA State qualifying times were posted by Rowan Glassen 8&U 50 Butterfly 52.28, 50 Breaststroke 53.94, 50 Backstroke 47.74, Charlotte Gruettner 9-10 50 Breaststroke 44.42, 50 Backstroke 38.92, Matilda Gutjahr 9-10 200 IM 2:54.46, 500 Freestyle 6:51.79, Quinn Schmidt 8&U 25 Backstroke 20.11, Ellie Staniger 11-12 100 Backstroke 1:12.16, Kaylee Staniger 13-14 50 Breaststroke 33.95, Nate Steenrod 9-10 200 IM 3:00.28, 50 Breaststroke 45.67, 100 Butterfly 1:31.03, Zack Steenrod 13-14 200 IM 2:17.23, 200 Breaststroke 2:33.59, 50 Breaststroke 32.52, 200 Backstroke 2:17.48, Brynn Widmar 8&U 50 Backstroke 48.18, and Vivi Yanke 13-14 50 Breaststroke 33.49.

New YMCA State qualifying times were notched by Carter Alcala 7&U 50 Freestyle 51.44, 25 Backstroke 28.50, 25 Freestyle 24.46, Allie Balk 8-year-old 25 Freestyle 20.81, Rowan Glassen 8-year-old 50 Backstroke 47.74, Julissa Gonzalez 7&U 50 Freestyle 45.66, 50 Backstroke 56.08, Charlotte Gruettner 10-year-old 50 Breaststroke 44.42, 50 Backstroke 38.92, Evelyn Gruettner 7&U 50 Freestyle 46.24, Adeline Hell 8-year-old 25 Freestyle 20.78, Hovan Karapetian 11-year-old 100 Backstroke 1:19.72, 50 Backstroke 37.87, AJ Phillips 7&U 50 Breaststroke 1:10.90, 50 Freestyle 51.08, Nate Steenrod 10-year-old 50 Breaststroke 45.67, 100 Butterfly 1:31.03, Zack Steenrod 13-14 200 IM 2:17.23, and Brynn Widmar 8-year-old 25 Freestyle 19.31, 50 Backstroke 48.18.

Achieving some of the fastest times in team's history were Molly Staniger 8&U 3rd 100 Freestyle 1:18.32, 3rd 200 Freestyle 3:02.75, 500 Freestyle 8:01.95, 4th 200 Backstroke 3:19.43, Matilda Gutjahr 9-10 10th 500 Freestyle 6:51.79, 4th 400 IM 6:12.14 Rowan Glassen 8&U 10th 100 Backstroke 1:42.06, Kaylee Staniger

13-14 4th 100 IM 1:06.59, Sophie Gutknecht 13-14 7th 100 IM 1:09.31, Aubree Van Dyke 13-14 8th 100 IM 1:11.87, Allie Mertins 13-14 10th 100 IM 1:12.79, Harrison Yanke 9-10 10th 200 Freestyle 2:28.34, Bennett Menken 13-14 4th 100 IM 1:03.57, and Luke Waddle 13-14 9th 100 IM 1:17.31.

Notching 100% best times included Eden Cayemberg, Autumn Cress, Sebastian Davalos, Eli Ehmcke, Charlotte Gruettner, Julie Horton, Delilah Kuhl, Logan Masaya, Arya Morey, Evalyn Speers, and Rosalie Zinnen.

Cutting five or more seconds in a single race were Zoey Aho -5.89 25 Breaststroke, Carter Alcala -10.74 25 Backstroke, Allie Balk -13.66 100 Backstroke, Aubrey Becker -22.90 100 IM, Jordy Borzynski -30.30 400 IM, Ireland Byrne -12.89 200 Breaststroke, Eden Cayemberg -26.95 100 Freestyle, Eli Chentnik -11.61 100 Freestyle, Evelyn Clasen -19.47 100 Backstroke, Silas Coughlin -5.56 100 Breaststroke, Autumn Cress -14.41 100 Freestyle, Hannah Daams -7.77 200 IM, Santiago -14.07 100 Backstroke, Sebastian Davalos -10.41 100 Freestyle, Eli Ehmcke -27.17 200 Breaststroke, Ash Fahy -6.13 400 IM, Ciara Fahy -29.00 200 Butterfly, Aviana Gelden -7.21 100 Backstroke, Rowan Glassen -9.17 100 Freestyle, Stella Glassen -12.90 200 Freestyle, Jessica Gonzalez -13.18 200 Backstroke, Julissa Gonzalez -9.68 50 Freestyle, Kylie Greiner -14.86 200 Breaststroke, Evelyn Gruettner -11.30 50 Freestyle, Matilda Gutjahr -22.90 500 Freestyle, Sophie Gutknecht -6.27 100 Backstroke, Olivia Hayes -19.46 50 Breaststroke, Adeline Hell -14.68 100 Backstroke, Miles Hoffman -20.79 100 IM, Charlotte Horton -15.16 200 Backstroke, Julie Horton -15.58 100 Breaststroke, Timothy Isaacson -12.62 100 Backstroke, Natalie Johnson -9.94 200 Breaststroke, Ava Kerbawy -5.72 200 Backstroke, Delilah Kuhl -9.28 100 Freestyle, Kealaula Licup -5.42 100 IM, Arya Morey -36.19 200 Freestyle, Tennyson -6.50 100 Backstroke, Cashton Peterson -6.79 100 IM, AJ Phillips -10.99 50 Breaststroke, Quinn Schmidt -11.73 100 Freestyle, Claire Speers -6.97 100 IM, Evalyn Speers -48.26 500 Freestyle, Olivia Speers -17.10 200 Freestyle, Ellie Staniger -12.79 200 Backstroke, Molly Staniger -62.04 500 Freestyle, Evan Steenrod -7.99 200 Butterfly, Nate Steenrod -18.51 200 IM, Zack Steenrod -6.50 200 Backstroke, Rhemy Thompkins -15.78 200 Breaststroke, Aubree Van Dyke -27.88 400 IM, Luke Waddle -9.82 100 Freestyle, Tatum Walker -7.37 50 Freestyle, John Westfall -13.23 200 Butterfly, Bria Widmar

-7.31 100 Backstroke, and Brynn Widmar -12.43 50 Backstroke.

Congratulations to Quinn Schmidt on successfully racing the 100 IM and moving from Bronze to Silver!

Congratulations to Allie Balk, Adeline Hell and Brynn Widmar on joining the :21 and under club.

Congratulations to Evelyn Clasen, Quinn Lowrey, Ethan Schwartz on racing in their first meet ever! You guys did great!!

Gold Medalist: Ashlyn Malzewski, Kaylee Staniger, Zack Steenrod, Molly Warren

Silver Medalist: Jordy Borzynski, Sophie Gutknecht, Bennett Menken, Braxton Rosemann, Kaylee Staniger, Vivi Yanke

Bronze Medalist: Ale Arteaga, Jordy Borzynski, Eli Ehmcke, Ash Fahy, Lindsey Hohnl, Kaylee Staniger, Zack Steenrod

We have had an amazing season so far, but it's far from over. Continue attending practice regularly and signing up for meets! There's still a lot of meat left on the bone this season and let's be honest, big dawgs gotta eat! 😊

Conference Meet Highlights & Recap

Solid outing during the most recent Conference Meet. As a team, we posted 64% best times (23 of 36 splashes) and only one DQ in the Butterfly.

Evelyn Gruettner posted a USA State qualifying time in the 8&U 50 Backstroke 47.29 (also a YMCA State qualifying time) and punched the 7&U 25 Breaststroke YMCA State cut touching in 36.20.

Achieving 100% best times included Stella Glassen, Charlotte Gruettner, Evelyn Gruettner, Matilda Gutjahr, and Miles Hoffman.

Dropping five or more seconds in an event were Nathaniel Foster -8.85 25 Butterfly, Evelyn Gruettner -17.87 50 Backstroke, and Miles Hoffman -7.48 50 Breaststroke.

Gold Medalist: Ireland Byrne, Nathaniel Foster, Nicholas Foster

Silver Medalist: Nicholas Foster, Charlotte Gruettner, Matilda Gutjahr

Bronze Medalist: Ireland Byrne, Rowan Glassen

Don't forget to sign-up for Conference Champs and WI LSC Regionals!

Swim for A Cause Scheduled for February 1st

Save the date for this season's Swim for a Cause, Sunday, February 1st at the Racine Aquatic Center. The event will begin at 1:00

PM. Information can be found on our website under MEMBERS/FUNDRAISING.

Canceled Practice Dates

We have a few dates scattered throughout the season where we lose pool time at RAC (usually for high school dual meets, college meets, and holidays) and cannot secure pool time at any of our back-up pools. We are unable to conduct practice on the following dates:

January 24, 27

February 13

Please watch this area of the newsletter for additional dates that may be added in the future.

Team Picture ... Save the Date

Our annual team picture is scheduled for Monday, March 9th beginning at 5:00 PM. Save the date! Options to order will be available closer to the date.

Annual Awards Banquet ... Save the Date

Our annual Awards Banquet is scheduled for Tuesday, April 21st beginning at 5:00 PM at Infusino's Banquet Hall. More information about this event can be viewed on our website at MEMBERS/ANNUAL BANQUET. We hope to SEA you there!

YMCA National Required Meets

Athletes qualified for, working towards, or may be attending as a relay swimmer will need to ensure they attend the following meets in order to race at YMCA Nationals which will take place in Greensboro, NC, March 30-April 3, 2026.

- 1) November 16, YMCA Invite
- 2) December 6-7 Y-Finalist (high school boys will need permission from their high school coach and athletic director)
- 3) March 15-16, YMCA Sectionals
- 4) March 21-23, YMCA State

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) - you can also read about PrestoPay on that page too.

Your order can be placed at www.shopwithscrip.com by use the SEA enrollment cord (please email Coach Neil at 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

Order By	Delivery On
February 8	February 12-13
March 8	March 12-13

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.

January Birthdays

Ireland Byrne, Eli Coughlin, Amalia Ehmcke, Nicholas Foster, Asher Genduso, Julissa Gonzalez, Evelyn Gruettner, Fiona Marini, Ryan McGillis, Allison Mertins, Evan Olson, Ellie Staniger.

Extended Calendar

January

23-25 11th Annual Chase Strong Invite
24 No practice
25 J-HK 8&U All Star
27 No practice

February

8 Conference Champs
13 No practice
14 WIAA Boys Sectionals
20 WI D2 Boys State
21 WIAA D1 Boys State
20-22 Regionals
27-1 Senior State
28-1 10&U State

March

6-8 11-14 State
9 Team Picture
14-15 YMCA Sectionals
20-22 YMCA State

30-3 YMCA Nationals

April

20 Tryouts for new swimmers
21 Annual Banquet
22 Spring & Summer Season begins

May

2-3 17th Annual SEA Early Bird
25 No practice, Memorial Day

June

5-7 11th Annual SEA Pirate Plunge
19-20 16th Annual SEA Summer Sizzler

July

4 No practice

August

6-9 14&U Zones

September

21 Tryouts
22 Fall & Winter Season begins

How to TEAM SEA

In this section of the newsletter, you'll be able to review some of the processes involved with TEAM SEA. If you need additional help in understanding anything TEAM SEA related after reading this section, please reach out to Coach Neil. *Please note this section is under construction and will be updated throughout the season.*

How do we sign-up our swimmers for meets?

To enter your swimmer in any meet on our meet schedule (which can be viewed online at MEMBERS/MEET SCHEDULE or earlier in this newsletter) simply email Coach Neil stating which meet you plan on having your swimmer race in (please include the day(s) you plan on having your swimmer race if the meet is multiple days). 95% of our family's leave event selection up to the coaching staff (you are welcome to select your swimmer's events and if you do, please include them in the email you send).

Families can view meet information, entries, meet fees, and final results online on the MEET SCHEDULE page. Families should view their escrow account via MEMBERS/ESCROW ACCOUNT throughout the season and forward meet fee payments via check (payable to SEA) or cash to any coach on deck.

How do we purchase TEAM SEA swim caps?

Coach Neil has TEAM SEA swim caps with him at practices and meets. Cost for silicone is \$20 and latex is \$5. What's the difference between the two caps ... basically,

thickness. These days, most swimmers prefer silicone, but to each their own.

How many practices should my swimmer attend?

General rule of thumb: Bronze and Silver 2-3, Gold 4-5, and Senior 5-6.

How do I receive emails?

If you are currently not receiving weekly newsletter emails and other updates, please send an email to Coach Neil at south.eastern.aquatics@gmail.com and he'll ensure your email is added to the database.

I submitted a check for escrow and/or swim tuition and it's not cashed yet, when will it?

Deposits are made at the end of each month.

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