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.

November 12, 2026

Neil's Notes

The coaching staff is so jazzed for the meets on our schedule this weekend. First off, our high school girls will be racing in Waukesha during WIAA State Saturday. Congratulations to Coach Joanna and Parker on getting their high school squads to the "big dance." Sunday, Sunday, Sunday our team heads north to Brown Deer to have a reunion of sorts with many of our high school girls returning to the fold. Good luck to everyone racing this weekend … drive safe!

Everyone should have received their personalized swim caps. If not, please check with your swimmers' primary coach.

Thanks to Shay Borzynski for organizing another successful Elegant Farmer fundraiser. Everyone should have their orders tucked away for Thanksgiving! We made $1,556 with this year's fundraiser. Thanks to all the families who participated.

We have a nice group of athletes planning on attending next year's 13&O Training Trip. Don't forget, the deadline to declare your intentions is December 1. Please do forward your $200 deposit if you have not done so yet.

Thank you to Ashley Hanson for volunteering to become an Official! Very cool!! It's free to become an Official and no experience is necessary. If you would like to learn more, please contact me.

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).

SSTY YMCA Invite

Sunday we'll head north to Brown Deer (9240 North Green Bay Road) for some fast swimming!

We have assigned warm-ups (please be timely).

Warm-ups run in lanes 1-4 in the north pool, 9:25-9:55 AM, meet begins at 10:00 AM and is scheduled to finish at 1:56 PM (view the timeline report on the meet landing page to figure out when your swimmer races their final event).

Please note, athletes swimming the 1000 and 1650 Freestyles must provide their own counter and timer.

Heat sheet will be found on the meet landing page that was shared in today's newsletter email.

Drive safe, swim fast, have fun!

SAS Hotel Information

The coaching staff will be staying at the Country Inn & Suites by Radisson, Madison Southwest during the upcoming Single Age State competition. The address is 6275 Nesbitt Road in Madison and the phone number is 608.504.3314. The hotel is a 12-minute ride to the pool. We do not have a block of rooms, but there are plenty of rooms available for those families looking for a place to stay during State.

Upcoming Meets

Date	*Meet*	*Entry Deadline*
Nov 15	SSTY YMCA Invite	closed
Nov 20-22	Arena Mid-Season SD	closed
Dec 4	Conference Meet	11/23
Dec 5-6	YMCA Finalist	11/23
Dec 11-13	RA Distance Classic	11/29
Dec 12-13	12&U Single Age State	tba
Jan 9-10	SEA Penguin Challenge	12/28
Jan 17	Conference Meet	1/4
Jan 22-24	ChaseStrong Invite	tba
Jan 24	J-HK 8&U All Star	1/15
Feb 7	Conference Champs	1/25
Feb 19-21	WI LSC Regionals	tba
Feb 26-28	Senior State	tba
Feb 27-28	10&U State (we host)	tba
Mar 5-7	11-14 State	tba

Mar 13-14	YMCA Sectionals (we host)	3/3
Mar 19-21	YMCA State	tba
Mar 30-Apr 3	YMCA Nationals	3/21

Conference Meet Recap & Highlights

Solid efforts last Friday in Lake Geneva, but boy was the pool deck hot! As a team we finished with a strong 67% best times (40 of 60 splashes), just two DQs (both Breaststroke), and finished second with 518-points (which was really good considering we were the smallest squad at the meet).

New Single Age State cuts were posted by Quinn Schmidt 9-year-old 100 Breaststroke 1:42.42, 100 Freestyle 1:19.61, 100 IM 1:29.02.

Charlotte Gruettner notched the 5th fastest times in our team's history for 9-10 in the 50 Backstroke, 34.63.

Achieving 100% best times included Amalia Ehmcke, Reagan Frederick, Skyler Guetschow, Adeline Hell, Quinn Schmidt, and John Wesfall.

Cutting five or more seconds in an event were EJ Gruettner -29.32 100 Backstroke, Summer Gustafson-Binger -27.74 200 Backstroke, Adeline Hell -5.64 50 Backstroke, Quinn Schmidt -5.17 100 Freestyle, and John Westfall -29.46 400 IM.

First place finishes: Asher Genduso, Skyler Guetschow

Second place finishes: Maya Bassler, Marian Dolezal, Asher Genduso, EJ Gruettner, John Westfall

Third place finishes: Ireland Byrne, Marian Dolezal, Asher Genduso, Hayden Guetschow, Summer Gustafson-Binger

Good luck this weekend in Brown Deer and Waukesha!

Best Seat in the House Available

Jose Arteaga, our lead official, is looking for a handful of parents to step forward to become Officials. Becoming an official is pretty easy and no experience is necessary. SEA reimburses expenses associated with becoming an officials in the form of escrow credit. If you are willing to make the move from the stands to the deck kindly contact Jose at josehartega@gmail.com or at 773.469.2241.

Canceled Practice Dates

We have a few dates scattered throughout the season where we lose pool time at RAC and cannot secure pool time at any of our back-up pools. We are unable to conduct practice on the following dates:

November 25-27
December 15, 24-25, 31
January 1, 12, 18

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

10&U State Preliminary Information

We will be hosting 10&U State this season in February 27-28 at the Racine Aquatic Center. We'll use this area to communicate timely updates and information.

The theme of the meet is tropical/Hawaiian. We are asking all volunteers to wear their favorite Hawaiian shirts during the meet in an effort to really bring a tropical feel to the deck.

More information will be added here in the coming weeks.

YMCA Nationals 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, 2027.

1) November 15, YMCA Invite
2) December 5-6, Y-Finalist
3) March 13-14, YMCA Sectionals
4) March 19-21, YMCA State

ChaseStrong Invite (team travel meet)

We will continue our tradition of racing in Indiana during the ChaseStrong Invite, January 22-24. As last year, 13&O swimmers are invited to travel with the coaches to and from this meet. If your swimmer is planning on attending this meet with the coaching staff, please reach out to Coach Neil stating your intentions (last year cost about $250 which included transportation and hotel).

We have a block of forty rooms (20 double queen and 20 King + sleeper sofa) at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites Greenwood (1180 Wilson Drive in Greenwood, IN 46143) – 23-minute drive to the pool. $139 per night plus taxes and fees. Call 317.881.0600 to pull a room from the Southeastern Aquatics room block – deadline to secure your room is January 8, 2027.

Planning on traveling with the team: Aubree Van Dyke, Kaylee Staniger, Ellie Staniger, Vivi Yanke, Sophie Gutknecht, Braxton Rosemann.

We hope to SEA you racing in Indy!

2027 13&O Training Trip Information

Since 1999, TEAM SEA has offered a 13&O Training Trip experience for our athletes. These trips are major highlights of their time with TEAM SEA and give them a great opportunity to not only bond together as a team, but solely focus on swimming and only swimming for a solid week.

We traditionally stay west of Panama City Beach in Florida, secure lodging on the beach, and train at Frank Brown Park. The cost usually runs around $1,500 per athlete and includes transportation, lodging, pool access, and dinners. Our next training trip is scheduled for June 20-27, 2027.

Athletes planning on attending next year's trip need to forward a non-refundable $200 deposit by December 1, 2026 to reserve their spot.

We try our best to allow everyone to attend these trips, but these trips have "sold out" in the past. Take advantage!

There's more information on our website to read or kindly speak with Coach Neil if you have questions.

Planning on attending include: Sophie Gutknecht, Maya Bassler, Hayden Guetschow, Isabelle Northern, Abby Jurgens, Aisling Fahy, Ciara Fahy, Braxton Rosemann, Aubree Van Dyke, Amalia Ehmcke, Kaylee Staniger, Vivi Yanke, Tricia Selby, Maddie Kaminskis, Fiona Marini, Summer Gustafason-Binger, Rhemy Thompkins, Ale Arteaga, Eli Ehmcke, Cash Peterson, John Westfall, Zack Steenrod, Evan Steenrod.

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 PrestroPay 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*
November 15	November 18-19
December 13	December 16-17
January 10	January 13-14
February 14	February 17-18
March 14	March 17-18

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.

November Birthdays – Happy Birthday!

Silas Barden, Jordan Borzynski, Santiago Davalos, Charlotte Gruettner, Natalie Johnson, Ashlyn Malzewski, Gavin Peterson, Wesley Polack, Kaylee Staniger, Tatum Walker.

Extended Calendar

November
15 SSTY YMCA Invite
20-22 Arena Mid-Season Showdown
25-27 No practice

December
1 Deadline to sign-up for 13&O Training Trip
4 Conference Meet
5-6 YMCA Finalist
11-13 RA Distance Classic
12-13 12&U Single Age State
15 No practice
31 No practice

January
1 No practice
9-10 SEA Penguin Challenge Meet
12 No practice
17 Conference Meet
18 No practice
22-24 ChaseStrong Invite
24 J-HK 8&U All Star

February
7 Conference Champs
19-21 WI LSC Regionals
26-28 Senior State
27-28 10&U State (SEA hosts at RAC)

March
5-7 11-14 State

8 Annual team picture, 5:00 PM @ RAC
13-14 YMCA Sectionals (SEA hosts at RAC)
19 Final practice of the Fall & Winter Season
19-21 YMCA State
30-3 YMCA Nationals

April

19 Tryouts
20 Banquet
21 Spring & Summer Season begins

May

1-2 SEA Early Bird Meet
28-30 BAC JPI Invite

June

4-6 SEA Pirate Plunge Meet
18-19 SEA Summer Sizzler Meet

July

15-18 Speedo Sectionals
16-18 WI LSC Regionals
23-25 12&U State
29-1 13&O State

August

5-8 14&U Zones (RecPlex)

September

20 Tryouts, 5:30-6:30 PM
22 Fall & Winter Season begins

Some Tips on 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).

Family's 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