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 5, 2026

Neil's Notes

We hosted a great meet last Sunday thanks to all the families who pulled together to present a quality event. Read all about our team's success later in this newsletter! Also, we have posted volunteer sign-up for January's Penguin Challenge (our next team hosted meet). At this time, please only select one volunteer position. Thanks!

We have two important meet deadlines this Sunday, November 8. There is an opportunity to still enter the Arena Mid-Season Showdown. Currently we have 37 athletes planning on racing. This our first "serious" meet of the season and offers our athletes a higher quality meet in which to pick-up some Single Age State cuts and/or season best efforts. Also, the SSTY YMCA Invite meet entries are due Sunday. This meet is a requirement for any athletes planning on attending YMCA Nationals in Greensboro later this season. Take full advantage of these opportunities!

Elegant Farmer pick-up will take place on November 10th at the Racine Aquatic Center.

Remember, no practice tomorrow, Friday, November 6 – no pools available.

At this time, all meet information packets are posted on our website except for ChaseStrong and all WI LSC championship meets (Regionals and all the State meets). Hopefully those meet packets will be available soon!

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).

Conference Meet Information

We will be taking to the blocks tomorrow at the Lake Geneva YMCA (203 S. Wells Street) during our first Conference Meet of the season.

Warm-ups are assigned and we'll be in lanes 4-6, 4:55 PM – 5:20 PM. The meet begins at 6:00 PM and is scheduled to end at 8:11 PM. View the heat sheet for the timeline.

Please note, the spectator seating can get a little crowed, arrive early for best seating.

Drive safe, swim fast, have fun!

Upcoming Meets

Date	*Meet*	*Entry Deadline*
Nov 6	Conference Meet	closed
Nov 15	SSTY YMCA Invite	11/8
Nov 20-22	Arena Mid-Season SD	11/8
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

SEA Pentathlon Recap & Highlights

Great swimming last Sunday during our 17th Annual Pentathlon! As a team we posted 64% best times (211 of 328 splashes) and nine DQs (four Breaststroke and two each for Butterfly and Backstroke). Not bad!!

New Single Age State qualifying times were turned in by Gigi Barden 8-year-old 25 Butterfly 20.55 (her first meet even), Rowan Glassen 9-year-old 50 Backstroke 41.54, Julissa Gonzalez 8-year-old 25 Backstroke 21.30, 25 Breaststroke 25.31, 25 Freestyle 17.28, Everly

Hanson 8-year-old 25 Breaststroke 25.47, and AJ Phillips 8-year-old 25 Butterfly 22.36, 25 Breaststroke 25.85, 25 Freestyle 17.84.

Cracking into our Top Ten list included Charlotte Gruettner 9-10 5th 50 Backstroke 34.85, 9th 50 Breaststroke 39.37 and Jordan Borzynski 13-14 4th 100 IM 1:03.36.

Notching 100% best times were Jett Adams, Cheryl Celeste, Evelyn Clasen, Marian Dolezal, EJ Gruettner, Selah Isaacson, Levi Jansen, Abby Jurgens, Carter Justman, Arya Morey, Jocelyn Niebuhr, Alanna Peterson, AJ Phillips, Tatum Walker, Bria Widmar, and Brynn Widmar.

Dropping five or more seconds in a single event: Allie Balk -7.59 50 Butterfly, Eli Chentnik -7.97 100 IM, Evelyn Clasen -5.14 25 Backstroke, Rowan Glassen -5.99 50 Butterfly, Stella Glassen -5.76 50 Breaststroke, Charlotte Gruettner -8.50 50 Butterfly, Sophia Hanson -12.60 200 IM, Miles Hoffman -6.28 50 Butterfly, Julie Horton -5.69 100 IM, Selah Isaacson -24.76 100 IM, Zachary James -6.50 200 IM, Natalie Johnson -5.20 50 Butterfly, Carter Justman -18.80 200 IM, Kealaula Licup -5.46 50 Butterfly, Tennyson Morey -12.31 100 IM, Jocelyn Niebuhr -12.66 50 Breaststroke, Evan Olson -9.08 100 Backstroke, Alanna Peterson -8.03 100 IM, Cash Peterson -20.94 100 Butterfly, Gavin Peterson -42.13 100 IM, AJ Phillips -5.17 25 Butterfly, Molly Staniger -13.97 200 IM, Tatum Walker -6.97 25 Backstroke, John Westfall -11.99 100 Butterfly, Bria Widmar -8.26 100 Backstroke, and Brynn Walker -18.28 50 Butterfly.

Competing in the first meets of their lives were Gigi and Silas Barden, Noelle Carpenter, Reagan Frederick, Emilia and Roman Kennedy, Audrey Petersen, Anthony Rodriguez, Abby Sell, and Marcus Van Dyke.

Congratulations to Sophia Hanson on breaking the meet record in the 25 Butterfly finishing in 14.15.

First place finishers: Maya Bassler, Jordan Borzynski, Ethan Eckel, Nicholas Foster, EJ Gruettner, Sophia Hanson, AJ Phillips, Aubree Van Dyke

Second place finishers: Jett Adams, Maya Bassler, Ireland Byrne, Nicholas Foster, EJ Gruettner, Sophia Hanson, Zachary James, Abby Jurgens, AJ Phillips, Ellie Staniger, Aubree Van Dyke, Tatum Walker

Third place finishers: Jordan Borzynski, Ireland Byrne, Nicholas Foster, Julissa Gonzalez, Lincoln Grover, Zachary James, Levi Jansen, Ellie Staniger, Zack Steenrod, Rhemy Thompkins

Thank you to all the families who volunteered during the meet!

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 josehartеaga@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 6, 25-27

December 24-25

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 meet.

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.

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.

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
6 Conference Meet
6 No practice
10 Elegant Farmer pick-up
15 SSTY YMCA Invite
20-22 Arena Mid-Season Showdown
25-27 No practice

December
4 Conference Meet
5-6 YMCA Finalist
11-13 RA Distance Classic
12-13 12&U Single Age State

January
9-10 SEA Penguin Challenge Meet
17 Conference Meet
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