

## 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.*

December 19, 2025

### Neil's Notes

We are so proud of everyone who raced last night during our final time trial event of the season, Distance Time Trials. Exploring new and longer events is an important stage of development for all our swimmers ... our swimmers raced in 61 new events last night!

Our next meet will be our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Penguin Challenge, January 10-11, 2026. All swimmers are encouraged to race in this team hosted meet. Send an email to have your son or daughter slotted into this meet.

This Monday we'll slip into our Christmas practice schedule. Please note, this schedule is significantly different than our regular practice schedule. The schedule this Christmas is the same we have used for the past couple of years with one small change ... Bronze and Silver will be able to practice at the YMCA on Saturdays! The Christmas practice schedule was emailed today. It can also be viewed on our website under MEMBERS/PRACTICE SCHEDULE. We hope to SEA everyone at practice during the Christmas Break!

This represents the last newsletter for 2025. On behalf of the entire coaching staff here at TEAM SEA we wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

We are still planning on attending the Chase Strong Invite in January and this event will be a travel meet for our Senior athletes (we will take any and all Senior level athletes to the meet and have an experience similar to our 13&O Training Trip). We are still waiting for the host team to post 2026's meet information. If you are planning on sending your swimmer with the coaching staff to this meet, please let us know so we can begin planning. Thanks.

Reminder, all TEAM SEA swimmers need to carry a YMCA membership.

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](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).

### Upcoming Meets

Date	Meet	Entry Deadline
Jan 10-11	SEA Penguin Challenge	12/28
Jan 18	Conference Meet	tba
Jan 23-25	Chase Strong Invite	12/20
Jan 25	J-HK 8&U All Star	1/16
Feb 8	Conference Champs	tba
Feb 20-22	Regionals	tba
Feb 27-1	Senior State	tba
Feb 28-1	10&U State	tba
Mar 6-8	11-14 State	tba
Mar 14-15	YMCA Sectionals	3/8
Mar 20-22	YMCA State	tba
Mar 30-3	YMCA Nationals	3/22
May 2-3	SEA Early Bird	4/19
June 5-7	SEA Pirate Plunge	tba
June 19-20	SEA Summer Sizzler	tba

### RA Distance Classic Highlights & Recap

We had a solid showing during the RA Distance Classic meet. As a team we placed fifth of seven teams scoring 441-points, finished with 61% best times (57 of 94 splashes) and only four DQs (three Backstroke and one Butterfly).

Posting 100% best times included Allie Balk, Luke Addle, John Westfall, and Bria Widmar.

Slicing five or more seconds in a single event were Ash Fahy -13.28 1000 Freestyle, Ciara Fahy -5.60 200 IM, Bennett Menken -6.04 200 Breaststroke, Cashton Peterson -14.02 200 Breaststroke, Aubree Van Dyke -28.38 1650 Freestyle, Luke Waddle -17.73 500 Freestyle, John Westfall -133.11 1000 Freestyle, and Bria Widmar -14.90 200 IM.

Silver Medalist: Ash Fahy, Maddie Kaminskis, Bennett Menken

Bronze Medalist: Zoey Aho, Braxton Rosemann, Quinn Schmidt

Don't forget to sign-up to race in our next team hosted meet, 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Penguin Challenge, January 10-11.

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

Although many of our athletes were sick during this meet and/or could not attend because of illness, we managed to place seventh overall in Division Two with 280-points (17<sup>th</sup> for the whole state), posted 61% best times (43 of 70 splashes), and no DQs.

Harrison Yanke captured a State Championship in the 10-year-old 100 Breaststroke finishing in 1:19.96. Harrison always brought home the 2<sup>nd</sup> place high point award scoring 99-points.

New USA State qualifying times were achieved by Asher Genduso 11-12 100 Freestyle 1:02.32, 50 Butterfly 32.97, Ellie Staniger 11-12 100 Butterfly 1:12.63, and Rhemy Thompkins 11-12 100 Freestyle 1:03.48.

New YMCA State qualifying times were posted by Ireland Byrne 12 100 Freestyle 1:00.65, Summer Gustafson-Binger 11 50 Butterfly 35.43, Hovan Karapetian 11 50 Freestyle 31.33, Emma Masaya 11 50 Breaststroke 40.02, and Olivia Speers 11 100 Butterfly 1:20.81.

Notching some of the fastest times in our team's history were Ireland Byrne 11-12 8<sup>th</sup> 50 Butterfly 29.53 and Harrison Yanke 9-10 7<sup>th</sup> 50 Freestyle 28.73, 3<sup>rd</sup> 100 Breaststroke 1:19.96, 2<sup>nd</sup> 100 Freestyle 1:03.10, 4<sup>th</sup> 50 Breaststroke 37.09, 6<sup>th</sup> 50 Butterfly 32.43.

Posting 100% best times included Asher Genduso, Summer Gustafson-Binger, Maddie Kaminskis, Hovan Karapetian, and Ellie Staniger.

Dropping five or more seconds in an event were Summer Gustafson-Binger -5.34 100 Freestyle, Hovan Karapetian -6.34 100 Freestyle, Emma Masaya -5.16 100 Backstroke, Ellie Staniger -5.23 100 Butterfly, and Rhemy Thompkins -5.86 100 Freestyle.

Gold Medalist: Harrison Yanke

Silver Medalist: Harrison Yanke

Bronze Medalist: Harrison Yanke

Podium Finishes: Ireland Byrne, Asher Genduso, Ellie Staniger

Don't forget to sign-up to race in our next team hosted meet, 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Penguin Challenge, January 10-11.

### **Swim for A Cause Scheduled for February 1<sup>st</sup>**

Save the date for this season's Swim for a Cause, Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> 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:

December 24, 25, 31

January 1

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

### **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

### **Chase Strong Invite Senior Trip**

We have been attending the Chase Strong Invite for the past three years. It's a great meet at a newer facility on the campus of Center Grove High School (a suburb of Indianapolis) and the competition is such that most of our Senior swimmers who have attending were able to score second swims.

We are attending the meet again this year (weekend of January 23-25, 2026) and all swimmers are welcome to attend.

New year this, our Senior level athletes can attend the meet as a travel meet and travel to and from the meet with Coach Neil (additional coaches will attend depending on the number of swimmers planning on attending).

The cost is yet to be worked out, but as of today includes \$60 entry fee (we will need to figure our lodging, there will be no cost for travel).

Watch this section for more information! To add your name to the list, please contact Coach Neil by October 31<sup>st</sup>! This is a new idea for TEAM SEA, but can be viewed similar to our bi-annual training trip (without all the training and the beautiful emerald coast beaches).

Planning on attending include Aubree VanDyke Zack Steenrod, Sophie Gutknecht, Kaylee Staniger, Allie Mertins, Bennett and Makenna Menken, John Westfall, Summer Gustafson-Binger.

### 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>
January 11	January 15-16
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](mailto:south.eastern.aquatics@gmail.com).

### December Birthdays

Ale Arteaga, Caleb Bergman, Logan Buska, Hannah Daams, Sebastian Davalos, Nathaniel Foster, Ava Kerbawy, Delilah Kuhl,

Quinn Lowrey, Brennan Meyer, Rosie Nisiewicz, Cashton Peterson, John Westfall.

### Extended Calendar

#### December

24-25 No practice, Merry Christmas  
31 No practice, Happy New Year's Eve

#### January

1 No practice, Happy New Year  
10-11 20<sup>th</sup> Annual SEA Penguin Challenge  
18 Conference Meet  
23-25 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Chase Strong Invite  
25 J-HK 8&U All Star

#### February

8 Conference Champs  
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  
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 17<sup>th</sup> Annual SEA Early Bird  
25 No practice, Memorial Day

#### June

5-7 11<sup>th</sup> Annual SEA Pirate Plunge  
19-20 16<sup>th</sup> Annual SEA Summer Sizzler

### 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](mailto: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***