

# Newsplash: A Weekly Update

Issue 3 · May 3, 2026



Check the dry erase board located near the girls restroom for up-to-date reminders!

**REMINDER: There will be no practice this Friday, May 8.**

## **TIME TRIALS (AKA, THE DONUT MEET) - Saturday, May 9**

All swimmers are expected to attend our Time Trials meet on Saturday, May 9. Times from this "Donut Meet" (yes, every swimmer gets a donut after their first swim!) will be used for seeding and determining relays at our first dual meet, and serve as a baseline for personal bests. No makeup date will be offered; swimmers who miss it will enter the first meet with a "No Time" (NT).

Time Trials will run like a regular dual meet, but with just our team, and no relays. Check out [Swim Meet 101](#) to learn how meets work.

**\*\*\*\*\*PLEASE READ THIS SECTION\*\*\*\*\***

In order to ensure we know who will be swimming at each meet, we require you to sign-up for each meet via [Swimtopia](#) or via the Swimtopia app. *You must declare your swimmers' attendance, whether they plan to swim or not. "Declare" for your swimmers status and sign up for individual events by 5pm on the Tuesday before each meet.*

The Time Trials Meet is now open. See attached - "Declaring Swimmer(s) in Swimtopia". **Submit your online sign-ups by 5pm - Tuesday, May 5.**

- 7 & Up: Enter all four (4) events
- 6 & Under: Enter Backstroke and Freestyle









## **Timeline for Saturday, May 9**

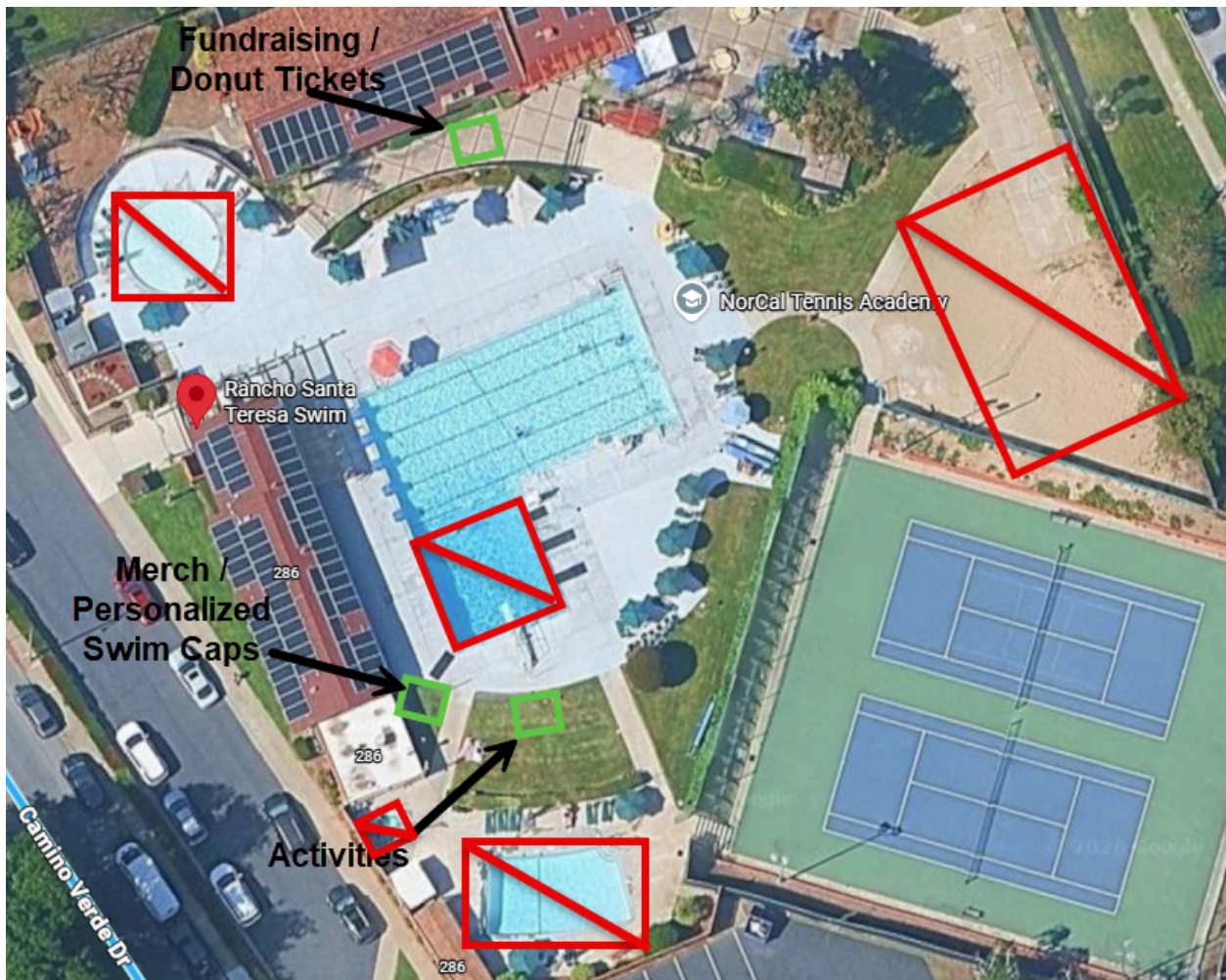
5:00-6:30am	Meet Set-up Volunteers ONLY
~6:30am & after	Family Set-up
6:30-7:15am	Swimmer Check-in (ALL SWIMMERS MUST CHECK IN)
	<i>TIP: If you will arrive after 7:15am, ask a friend to sign-in swimmers.</i>
7:00-7:15am	15-18 age group warm up
7:00-7:30am	Volunteer Check-in
7:15am	Swimmer check-in tables close
7:15-7:30am	11-14 age group warm-up
7:30-7:45am	10 & Under age group warm-up
7:45am	Team Cheers and National Anthem
8:00am	Meet Begins

Personalized swim caps will be distributed at this meet.

**Swim Meet Set-up:** Families will NOT be allowed into the club until after the meet set-up team has completed their work, which will be approximately 6:30am. **Please Note:** Any pop-ups that are in the pool area before the set-up team is done will be removed.

### Additional Information About the Donut Meet

-  Swimmer Check-In: All swimmers must check in between 6:30-7:15am. Check-in sheets will be located on the tables near the club entrance.
-  Donut Tickets: After their first race, swimmers should head to the Sea Otters tent (on the upper pool deck) to get a ticket for one free donut at the Snack Shack. Each swimmer receives one ticket = one donut. Your one ticket will only be handed out after the first race.
-  Otter Buddies: Stop by the Activities tent to find out who your buddy is this season!
-  Be Weather-Ready: Mornings can be chilly, and the day can heat up fast—so bring layers, blankets, sunscreen, hats, and plenty of water to stay hydrated.
-  Swimmers Don't Forget: Pack your goggles, towels and team spirit!
-  Off-Limits Areas: The diving well, back pool, hot tun, kiddie pool, and sand volleyball courts are closed during all meets. Parents, please help us keep kids out of these areas for everyone's safety.
-  Clean-Up Reminder: Let's leave the club better than we found it! The pool will reopen after the meet, so please clean up your area before you leave.
-  Most of All... Have FUN!



## **FUNDRAISING**

- **VIRTUAL SILENT AUCTION, May 4-8**
  - Get ready to bid, win, and make an impact - all from the comfort of home!  
Starting
  - [Bidding OPENS: TOMORROW \(May 4\) at 9am](#)
  - [Bidding CLOSES: Friday, May 8th at 6pm](#)
- **Spot-In-The-Lot Virtual Auction**, <https://forms.gle/ugqaQYBGbYH2tCcv8>
- **Pop-Up-Spot Virtual Auction**, <https://forms.gle/USkamMYLjCUbQ3jn8>

### **🦊 Otter-Thon Quick Guide**

Our annual Otter-Thon is **TOMORROW - Monday, May 4th** at your regular practice! First time joining the fun or need a quick refresher? Check out the instructions below!

#### **1. Round Up Your Fans** ❤️

Ask family & friends to pledge a flat amount or per lap—cheer squad ready!

#### **2. Dive In!** 🌊

- Ages 5–8: Swim for 30 minutes
- Ages 9–18: Swim for 1 hour  
Swim your heart out—any stroke goes!

#### **3. Check In & Count Those Laps** ✓

Sign in with the Lap Counter (13+ swimmers track their own). Then grab your well-earned Otter Pop!

#### **4. Cash In Your Splashes** 💰

Collect pledge money and turn it in by **Friday, May 15**.

#### **5. Score Prizes** 📋

Pick up tickets on **Monday, May 18**, enter your favorite drawings, and cross your fingers—winners announced **Friday, May 22!** 🎉

- **Weekly Drawings** Purchase tickets and enter to win a Pop-up-Spot at home meets and/or a Spot-In-The-Lot at all dual meets, home and away! Tickets will be sold at Picture Day, May 6 and at all home swim meets. Tickets prices,
  - 1 ticket for \$1
  - 12 tickets for \$10
  - 25 tickets for \$20
- **Corporate & Family Sponsorships** For \$250, your company logo or family name will be displayed on a banner at Rancho and on our website.
- **Special Project Donation** Help create a scholarship fund to keep the team accessible to all. Let us know if you'd like to contribute to this project.
- **Restaurant Nights** Our first restaurant night will be at Nation's Giant Hamburgers May 27-28, mark your calendars!

Thank you for your support! If you have questions or want to make a donation, contact [Tracy Raivio](#) at [stseotters.fundraising@gmail.com](mailto:stseotters.fundraising@gmail.com).

## **ACTIVITIES:**

- **5th Annual Sea Otters Service Project - Thank you!**  
Sea Otters spent this past Saturday transforming the fire pit area during the 5th Annual Rancho Service Project. Many thanks to the amazing Otters who participated, your dedication to our community is greatly appreciated!
- **Moms' Night at the Pool - Great Turn Out!**  
Thanks to all the moms who came out for a fun evening! Dads, mark your calendars for your turn on June 6th.
- **Team Pictures & Poster Painting - May 6, 3:30-6:00pm**
  - **Individual/Sibling/Buddy Pictures:** Jim Nelson Photography will be taking pictures from 3:30-5:30pm - order form attached. Swimmers normally wear their swimsuits for individual pictures. Please don't wait until 5pm to arrive for your individual pictures. The line gets long as the afternoon progresses! Filling out the order form ahead of time will also help the line go quicker.
  - **Team Picture:** We will be lining up for the team picture at 5:30pm.
  - **Spirit Poster Painting:** Sea Otters will also have the opportunity to create spirit posters during the picture taking window. Poster painting will be taking place on the Upper Deck. Swimmers' posters will be hung up around Rancho all summer.

Team spirit shirts will be distributed to swimmers this day and they will be worn for our team picture. As a reminder, you already indicated your swimmers shirt size during the registration process.

- **Secret Sea Otters - Sign-ups Close Wednesday!**  
Sea Otters who wish to participate will be secretly matched to another Sea Otter in their age group to create and deliver encouraging notes and fun surprises (<\$5 per week) the night before each dual meet. [Signups are now open through May 6!](#)
- **Otters Buddies - Opt out by Wednesday**  
Swimmers are paired with a Sea Otter in another age group to foster friendships and support throughout the team. Materials will be provided at home meets so that swimmers can make a craft to give to their buddy. This works best when swimmers are excited about having a buddy - please talk to your swimmer about participating. Coaches will be assisting swimmers with signups or opting out at practice. Buddy matches will be revealed at the Donut Meet. *Please email [Emily Becker](mailto:Emily.Becker@stseaotters.com) at [activities.stseaotters@gmail.com](mailto:activities.stseaotters@gmail.com) no later than Wednesday, May 6 if your swimmer **\*does not\*** want to participate, or with any questions.*

For any questions/comments on Activities, please reach out to [Emily Becker](mailto:Emily.Becker@stseaotters.com) at [activities.stseaotters@gmail.com](mailto:activities.stseaotters@gmail.com).

## **MERCHANDISE**

- **Spirit Shirts Orders - Due May 6**  
Merchandise sales are open for the season! Check out our merch store at <https://stseaotters.square.site/> and stock up on Sea Otters gear! Check out our new beanies, personalized quick-dry towels, and our Warriors themed 2026 Sea Otters shirts. *(Reminder: swimmers will get a shirt and personalized swim cap as part of their*

registration cost). Please note that **apparel orders must be placed by Wednesday, May 6, 2026** in order to receive the merchandise before our first dual meet on May 9th. Don't delay and place your order today!

- **Team Swimsuits**

Sea Otters custom team suits are still available for individual order at [Agon Swimmer Storefront](#). Just a reminder that custom swimsuits are not required, but swimmers should wear suits in the team colors of navy, yellow and/or white to our swim meets.

- An alternate resource is [SwimOutlet](#), where you can get suits, team parkas, goggles and more. If purchased at the Sea Otters page, the team receives a small percentage of the sales.

<https://www.swimoutlet.com/collections/stseaotters>.

Questions? reach out to our merchandise lead [Kelly Hodge](#), [merch.stseaotters@gmail.com](mailto:merch.stseaotters@gmail.com).

**VOLUNTEER SIGN UPS - Now Closed**

Volunteer sign-ups are now closed. Our Volunteer Coordinators will be reviewing submissions to ensure each family has signed up for the correct number of shifts. Over the next few weeks, some adjustments may be necessary and could affect your assigned shifts. Please know these changes are being made thoughtfully and with the best interests of the swim team in mind.

Questions? Contact our Volunteer Coordinators, [Nina DeSimone & Michelle Clark](#).

 **SWEETEN THEIR SWIM!**

Our youngest Sea Otters (ages 6–10) love their after-practice treats - it's a simple way to celebrate their hard work and keep them excited about being in the water! We're inviting families to help keep this fun tradition going! Whether it's snacks, gift cards, or a small donation, every contribution makes a difference and supports both our swimmers and coaches.

**SCHOOL YEAR PRACTICE SCHEDULE**

Now thru Tuesday, June 9* Monday-Friday**		
Age Group	Time	Coaches
6 & Under	3:45 - 4:30pm	Abi Lawson + Jr. Coaches
7-8	3:45 - 4:30pm	David Phipps / Mia White
9-10	4:30 - 5:30pm	Kim Kleiner + Jr. Coaches
11-12	5:30 - 6:30pm	David Phipps / Mia White
Practice Schedule, Now-June 9*		
13-18 Yellow	6:30 - 7:30pm	Mark Kleiner / David Phipps / Mia White
13-18 Blue	7:30 - 8:30pm	Mark Kleiner / David Phipps / Mia White

*\*Please note: We will shift to summer schedule on Wednesday, June 10.*

**\*\*MARK YOUR CALENDARS:** There will be no Friday practice on **May 8, 29 and June 5.**

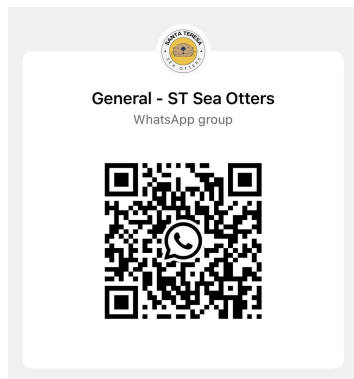
## **WHATSAPP GROUP**

To help foster a safe and supportive community, we ask that all members joining the WhatsApp group use their full name (and a photo, if possible) in their profile. Beginning this week, we will remove anyone who is not clearly identified. Please take a moment to review and update your profile. Need help? [How to edit your WhatsApp profile](#)

Join the ST Sea Otters WhatsApp group! It includes several channels for parents and coaches to stay connected throughout the season:

- Announcements – key updates and important events
- General – team-wide chat
- Age Group Chats – updates specific to your swimmer's group
- Parents Relay Participants – for those ready to jump in and have some fun
- New Families – a space to connect and ask questions

Join today by clicking the link below and feel free to participate in any groups that apply to you:  
[https://chat.whatsapp.com/FGnS2lw553l64B8JFAL3Dp?mode=gi\\_t](https://chat.whatsapp.com/FGnS2lw553l64B8JFAL3Dp?mode=gi_t)



## **SEA OTTERS INFORMATION ON-DEMAND**

Bookmark the team website, <https://stseaotters.swimtopia.com/>

Follow us on Facebook - Santa Teresa Sea Otters

Reference the [Rancho Newsletters](#)

The Santa Teresa Sea Otters, Inc. is a nonprofit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. To make a tax-deductible donation, please contact [treasurer.stseaotters@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.stseaotters@gmail.com) for information on payment options and to receive a receipt.

## **Board Members & Operational Leads**

- President, [Edie Fischer](#)
- VP & New Otter Liaison, [Dina Mansuy](#)
  - Membership, [Lynda Stahl](#)
- Secretary & Historian, [Alicia LaMarche](#)
  - Awards, [Sun Lee](#)
  - Web & Social Media, [Lauren Sullivan](#)
- Treasurer, [Anuja Burns](#)
  - Fundraising, [Tracy Raivio](#)
  - Merchandise, [Kelly Hodge](#)
  - Snack Shack, [Jenna Collen](#)

- Activities, [Emily Becker](#)
  - Spirit Lead & Events, [Christie Moore](#)
  - Senior Recognition Lead & Events, [Cindy Sperry](#)
- Meet Operations Director, [Iqbal Chadda](#)
  - Equipment, [Scott Fischer](#)
  - Technical Records, [Kumar Virwani](#)
  - Stroke & Turn, [Jodi Taylor](#)
- Volunteer Director, [Nina DeSimone](#)
  - Volunteer Coordinator, [Michelle Senner](#)

### **2026 SEASON ACTIVITIES/SCHEDULE**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Now-May 6: Secret Sea Otters Sign-Up, Otter Buddies Opt-Out</li> <li>● Now-May 6: Spirit Shirts Sales Open, Online</li> <li>● 5/4-8: Virtual silent auction</li> <li>● 5/4: Otterthon</li> <li>● 5/6: Team Picture Day</li> <li>● <b>5/9: Time Trials (aka Donut Meet), Rancho</b></li> <li>● <b>5/16: ST @ Creekside - Dual Meet</b></li> <li>● <b>5/23: Shadowbrook @ ST - Dual Meet</b></li> <li>● 5/29: Annual Otter Dinner, Rancho</li> <li>● <b>5/30: ST @ Pinehurst - Dual Meet</b></li> <li>● <b>6/6: ST @ Crossgates - Dual Meet</b></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● 6/6: Dads' Night, Adult Pool</li> <li>● 6/10: Shift to summer schedule</li> <li>● 6/11: Tie Dye, at practice</li> <li>● <b>6/13: Almaden @ ST - Dual Meet</b></li> <li>● 6/13: Cardboard Boat Regatta &amp; Midnight Madness, Rancho</li> <li>● 6/18: Swim-up Movie Night, Rancho</li> <li>● 6/22-25: Spirit Week</li> <li>● 6/26: Pancake Breakfast, at practice</li> <li>● <b>6/27: CHAMPS hosted by Creekside, Independence High School</b></li> <li>● 6/29: Awards Night, Rancho</li> </ul>
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