

MARLINS MASHUP

VOLUME 2. ISSUE 8

JULY 6, 2025

A monthly (or so) newsletter brought to you by your Team Reps

⚓ The Great Pirate Battle at Fair Oaks Pool ⚓

Ahoy, mateys! Gather 'round for a tale of aquatic adventure and high-seas heroics!

The Scurvy Strikes!

It was a dark and stormy... well, actually it was a perfectly sunny morning at Fair Oaks Pool, but our tale begins with treachery nonetheless! The dreaded scurvy had struck our brave crew, leaving several of our finest pirates landlocked and home-bound. With bellies full of vitamin C deficiency (and perhaps a few too many fish sticks), these swashbucklers were forced to abandon ship before the battle even began.

"Blimey!" cried **Captain Seadog Conley**, adjusting his water wings. "Half me crew be down with the scurvy! What be a pirate captain to do?"

All Hands on Deck... Er, Parking Lot!

But fear not, dear readers! The Captains of the mighty vessel *SS Marlin* were not ones to surrender without a fight. With the morning sun glinting off their swim goggles and sunscreen glistening on their sun-kissed shoulders, they surveyed the parking lot battlefield with determination.

"Avast, ye landlubbers!" bellowed **Captain Seadog Conley**, his voice echoing across the asphalt. "We be needin' fresh blood for this here battle!"

And fresh blood they found! From the treacherous waters of the parking lot, brave new swimmers emerged. Some clutched their pool noodles like cutlasses, others wielded kickboards like shields. A few particularly bold recruits even donned snorkels, ready to dive deep into the fray.

The Heroes of the Day Set Sail!

Among the legendary crew, Captain Seadog Conley and his brave band of sea warriors stood tall on the deck (also known as the parking lot). As they prepared to board their magnificent vessel, Captain Seadog Conley's keen pirate eyes spotted something remarkable - a strong, newly minted pirate ready to fight!

There stood **Jasmine Randhawa, age 6**, with the fierce determination of a seasoned buccaneer gleaming in her eyes! Her pirate spirit was so strong that even the saltiest sea dogs could sense her readiness for battle.

With a knowing nudge and approving nod from the crew, the captains gave young Pirate Jasmine the signal every true pirate dreams of. "Ahoy there, matey! Ready yerself for battle!" they called out.

Without hesitation, Pirate Jasmine dashed home faster than a cannonball, gathering her finest fighting attire - goggles, swim cap, and all the courage a 6-year-old pirate could muster. She returned to the ship with a mighty "YAHOO!" that echoed across the seven seas (and probably made a few neighbors peek over their fences).

"That be the spirit of a true Marlin!" cheered Captain Seadog Conley as Pirate Jasmine bounded aboard, ready to make her mark in pirate history!

HIGHLIGHTS

FIRST PLACE FINISHES IN BOTH EVENTS!

- Daniel Vladimiroff (14) 50 Back & Breast

FIRST PLACE FINISHES

- Chloe Hines (10) 50 m Back
- Piper Pleva (12) 50 m Back
- Max Vladimiroff (8) 25 m Breast
- Cammie Wager (8) 25 m Breast
- William Thomas (8) 25 m Fly
- Emily Lipsey (11) 50 m Fly
- Nico Li (14) 50 Fly

DYNAMITE RELAYS

- Girls 11-12 100 SC Meter Medley Relay
- Boys 13-14 100 SC Meter Medley Relay
- Boys 15-18 200 SC Meter Medley Relay
- Girls 15-18 200 SC Meter Medley Relay

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A Tale of Courage and Quick Thinking!

But wait, there's more adventure to tell! Among our crew of heroes, we must sing the praises of dedicated **Sedi Talebian, age 9**, whose pirate heart beat strong and true! When Captain Seadog made his urgent pirate calls across the sea, brave Sedi answered without hesitation. She suited up for battle with the determination of a true sea warrior, ready to face whatever dangers awaited in the choppy waters.

Alas! As our valiant Sedi entered the chilly waters of Fair Oaks, the dreaded scurvy struck like a sneaky sea serpent! The cold waters proved too treacherous for even our bravest pirate, and she was forced to retreat to dry land.

But fear not, dear readers! In the finest tradition of pirate ingenuity, our brilliant deck master **Pearl Chu, age 10**, sprang into action faster than a dolphin chasing fish! With the tactical skills of a seasoned admiral, she quickly rearranged the battle formation.

"All hands on deck for emergency maneuvers!" Pearl called out, and what happened next was pure maritime magic! **Isabel Rezk, age 7, and Carina Whitmore, age 10**, slid into the empty deck spots like seasoned

swashbucklers, creating a fighting chance that would make even Blackbeard himself proud!

With lightning-fast teamwork and the adaptability that only true pirates possess, our crew was ready to face any challenge the Fair Oaks waters could throw at them!

The Recruitment of a Reluctant Hero!

Just as the Marlin pirates were ready to dive into the waters for their warm-up (yes, in this battle they actually got a chance to warm up - what luxury!), Captain Seadog Conley and his crew faced one final challenge. They looked left, they looked right, and with rowing trepidation, their eyes fell upon a quiet solo swab sitting nearby.

There sat **Katja Holguin, age 12**, keeping to herself like a mysterious pirate from distant seas. Captain Seadog approached with the delicate mission of a diplomat seeking alliance.

"Ahoy there, matey," he said carefully. "We be missing a senior swimmer for our 13-14 battle... Are you ready to enter the world of pirate fighting?"

Katja wasn't quite convinced - after all, joining a pirate crew is serious business! But the magic of the Marlin crew began to work its charm. With some gentle cajoling from her potential shipmates and the generous offer of pressed extra pirate gear from fellow sailor **Ciara O'Rourke (15)**, something wonderful happened.

Like a true pirate answering the call of adventure, Katja suited up to battle it out for the very first time with the 13-14 crew! From quiet observer to brave warrior in a matter of minutes - now that's what we call the true spirit of a Marlin!

The Battle Cry Heard 'Round the Pool

With their newly assembled crew of deck-swabbing swimmers, the Captains of the Marlin raised their arms high. Captain Aqua Beard's voice boomed across the chlorinated seas:

"Yo ho ho and a bottle of... sunscreen! Today we sail not for treasure, but for glory! Today we fight not for gold, but for the honor of Mclean Marlins Pool! Let every stroke be true, every kick be mighty, and every cannonball be... well, a proper cannonball!"

The crew responded with a thunderous cheer that sent pool floaties scattering like frightened seagulls. "YARRR! For the Marlin! For the right to use the good lane ropes!"

Setting Sail on Chlorinated Seas

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And so, with hearts full of courage and swim caps slightly askew, the newly formed crew of the *SS Marlin* set forth into the crystal-clear waters of Fair Oaks Pool. The Pirates of Fair Oaks were no easy opponents, but our magnificent Marlins were **SPECTACULAR!** Like graceful sea creatures dancing through the waves, they cut through the water with the elegance of dolphins and the power of mighty whales! Every stroke was poetry in motion, and the crowd gasped in awe as our Marlin heroes glided through their races with such breathtaking form that even the opposing pirates stopped to applaud!

Shiver me timbers! Our female crew members absolutely dominated the medley relay waters like true sea queens! First up, the 11-12 lasses: **Piper "Backstroke Betty" Pleva (12), Caroline "Cutlass" Wager (11), Emily "The Flying Fish" Lispey (11), and Alexandra "Anchor" Lopez (12)** each battled stroke for stroke with the Sharks, until **"The Flying Fish" NO BREATHER 25 FLY** took the 3rd leg to a strong lead - avast, what a sight! - allowing Lopez to glide to a first place finish with seconds to spare!

Next up, the 13-14 Medley buccaneers provided another view of our dynamic all-star crew: **August "Torpedo" Price (13), Daniel "The Kraken" Vladimiroff (14), Nico "Lightning" Li (14) and Eesa "Speedboat" Rasheed (13)**. But blow me down, it was another epic week for our fierce senior sea warriors! The Marlin Men switched up their battle formation to bamboozle the opponents - clever sea dogs! **Sinclair "Saber" Holguin (15), Sarp "Cannonball" Dilber (16), Kaelan "Captain Chaos" Monroe (17) and Henry "Hurricane" Williams (16)** stayed the course, and with their tactical brilliance, the opponents were thrown off their game and DQ'd! A victory most victorious!

But by Neptune's beard, the race to watch was our 15-18 Women's relay crew: **Kate "The Compass" Shumate (15)** led with a strong backstroke start, passing to **Nika "Smooth Sailing" Walsh (15)** as she glided across the water with her breaststroke, "swooping" into the finish with the power of a sea goddess! **MC "The Mermaid" Restrepo (18)** powered stroke for stroke with the Sharks, one dolphin kick at a time, until **Amalya "Whirlwind" Monroe (15)**, arms moving faster than a wind turbine in a hurricane, sped to the lead on the back 25m for a thunderous Marlin **VICTORY** that echoed across the seven seas!

Though the scoreboards may have favored the Fair Oaks Pirates, everyone knew they had witnessed something truly magical. Word spread quickly across the seven seas that the **SS Marlin crew had won** the hearts of every sea creature in NVSL County with their stunning "portrait of a swimmer" techniques! **"These Marlins are CHAMPIONS in every sense of the word!"** exclaimed Admiral Backstroke Betty. Indeed, our amazing Marlins were crowned the best "portrait of a swimmer" crew in all the land, and the crowd cheered wildly as they hoisted their well-deserved trophy high above their heads!

*And so our tale ends not with defeat, but with the **GREATEST victory of all - the respect, admiration, and thunderous applause of the entire NVSL County fleet! Three cheers for our heroic Marlins! Hip hip hooray!***



More spectacular highlights:

33 crewmates have new personal bests
15 of the crew dropped over **1 second!**

Standout performances:

Nicolas Ahlstrom (11) dropped **9.17 s** (Back)
Chloe Hines (10) dropped **2.32 s** (Free)
Katja Holguin (12) dropped **4.83 s** (Fly)
Charlotte Oneill (8) dropped **2.43 s** (Breast)
Yasaa Rasheed (11) dropped **4.04 s** (Fly)