


Newsplash: A Weekly Update


Issue 4 · May 25, 2025




Please be sure to check the dry erase board located near the girls restroom for up-to-date reminders! Also, in that area, you will also find our [Sea Otters of the Week!](#)

NO PRACTICE ON MONDAY, MAY 26 - All age groups.

 **CALLING ALL SEA OTTERS:** The countdown is on—only 31 practices left this season! We encourage all swimmers to come to as many practices as possible. It's a great way to build skills, bond with teammates and let our coaches cheer on your progress. Let's make every practice count!

 **KEY FOB FOR POOL ACCESS:** The Rancho Office will be open during practice on Thursday, May 29 during Sea Otters practices from 4:00-8:00pm. Please be sure to get an extra FOB for your swimmer(s) ages 14 and older. As a reminder, per Rancho rules, we can no longer keep the gate propped open. Everyone entering the pool area needs to use their own FOB.

 **SWEETEN THEIR SWIM:** Thank you so much to the families that have donated fun treats for our younger swimmers (ages 6–10)! We continue to invite families to help keep the smiles going by donating snacks, gift cards, or small contributions. Every bit helps support the kids and our amazing coaches! To contribute, please reach out to [Coach Kim](#) or drop off your contribution at the swim table near the entrance - thanks again for your support!

P'OTTERLUCK DINNER, MAY 30 - FUN, FOOD, AND SEA OTTER SPIRIT!

All Sea Otters families are invited to our annual P'Otterluck Dinner located on the upper deck on Friday, May 30 at 5:30pm. ****NEW THIS YEAR** Bring your own dinner, or [purchase a taco/quesadilla plate](#),**

- \$10 (6 & unders)
- \$15 for kids 7+ and adults

Click the link above and complete payment by this Tuesday, May 27. A very limited number of plates will be available for \$20 at the door.

Entry and swimmer s'mores are free. You won't want to miss this! The evening will include s'mores, a fireside chat with the coaches, and the announcement of the team captains. This is a fantastic opportunity to bring our swim team community together for fun, fellowship and food! Pick up your pre-ordered merchandise and personalized swim caps while you are there.

ST @ Shadow Brook Dual Meet - Saturday, May 31

Online meet sign-up process: **"Declare" for your swimmers status and sign up for individual events by 5pm on Wednesday, 5/28.** This [link](#) has swim meet sign-up instructions.

TIP: You can sign-up your Sea Otter(s) for all of the meets at one time. And if needed, you can make changes prior to each week's deadline.

Please remember the following:

- DECLARE IF YOUR SWIMMER IS SWIMMING – **YES** OR **NO**.
 - If no, select NO and save & close.
 - If yes, select YES, select your events, then save & close.
- EVENT SELECTION:
 - 7 & Up: Enter three (3) events
 - 6 & Under: Enter Back and Free

General Information:

The timeline for the meet will be sent out later this week.

- Shadow Brook Swim Club, 1079 Shadow Brook, San Jose, CA 95120. You can also find it [here](#).
- **Spot-in-the-Lot WINNER!!!** Congratulations to **The Shueh Family** for winning a front row parking spot at the meet this Saturday. Your spot will be located in the front of the parking lot with a sign.
- **For the safety and privacy of our swimmers, photos may not be taken from behind the starting blocks.** This rule helps prevent inappropriate angles, especially when swimmers are bent over on the blocks. If you're bringing guests to the meet, please make sure they're aware of this rule. And if you see someone taking photos from that area, kindly inform them of the rule. Protecting our swimmers is our top priority - thank you for your support.
- Swimmers...don't forget your NEW personalized Sea Otters swim cap. Remember, no high school or competitive swim team caps are allowed at cabana club meets. You can pick up your 2025 cap at the P'Otterluck on May 30 or near the sign-in table at the dual meet at Shadow Brook on May 31. Non-personalized Sea Otters 2025 style swim caps (\$12) or the blue ST swim caps from previous years (\$8) will be available for sale from our merch team, [Amy & Kelly](#) (cash or Venmo only).
- Swimmers will be notified at practice no later than Thursday before the swim meet if they are on a relay team. ***If your swimmer has been slated to swim a relay and won't be there, please let Coach Mark know as soon as possible.***

Information on Relays:

- Medley Relays are run at the start of the meet.
 - Alternate with girls first, then boys by age groups
 - Age groups: 8 & Under, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-18
 - Medley order: back (1), breast (2), fly (3), free (4)
- Freestyle Relays are run at the end of the meet.
 - Alternate with girls first, then boys by age groups (except 6 & Under which is mixed)
 - Age groups: 6 & Under (mixed), 7-8, 9-10, 11-12, 13-14, 15-18
- As the visiting team, we will run two relay teams for each relay: "A Team", "B Team".

1 Home B Team	2 Sea Otters B Team	3 Home A Team	4 Sea Otters A Team	5 Home C Team
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- For all 10 & Under relays,
 - Each swim is one length of the pool.
 - Positions 1 & 3 start on the blocks side of the pool.
 - Positions 2 & 4 start on the far end of the pool.
- You can find information about [relays](#) on our website.

CHAMPS SWIMMER ELIGIBILITY

We need and want all of our athletes to swim at CHAMPS on July 12. To be eligible for CHAMPS swimmers must meet the following criteria:

- Must swim at a minimum of three Dual Meets (Time Trials does not count).
- Must have a legal time for any stroke they plan to swim at CHAMPS.

RIBBONS - Available on Monday, June 2

Dual Meet ribbons will be available by Monday this week in the file boxes near the office. There is one folder for each family. ***Please recycle unwanted ribbons in the designated container. The names on the ribbon stickers will be the names on the trophies at the end of the season, so please notify us no later than June 8 if name corrections need to be made.*** Volunteers process over 1200 ribbons at each meet and mistakes sometimes happen. Please email requests for corrections/missing ribbons to our Awards volunteer, [Sarah Miers and Nicole King](#).

SENIOR SEA OTTERS DEADLINES, June 7

Attention Graduating Senior Sea Otters Families! Please refer to the emails you received from Lauren Sullivan on May 5, to ensure you have submitted, or will submit, all of the details and photos required for our Senior Sea Otters. **The deadline is June 7 so please don't delay!**

The Senior information and photos will be used for our Senior Celebration at our home dual meet on June 28, the Senior posters, the CHAMPS meet program, Awards Night, and on our team's Facebook page. For questions, please reach out to [Lauren Sullivan](#).

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Save the date for future fun at and outside of Rancho!

- **Drive-In Movie, May 25 - TONIGHT!**: Join us in seeing Lilo and Stitch at the West Wind Capitol Drive-In on Sun, May 25 at 8:50pm. Plan to arrive about 15-30 minutes early to get your parking spot and get set up. Admission is \$11 for ages 12 and up, \$2.75 ages 5-11 and free for 4 and under. We will be parked to the right of the screen, look for the balloons. *This is not a drop off event.* Please contact [Alicia](#) or [Allison](#) for more information.
- **Otter Buddies, May 27-29**: Buddy matches were posted at the Donut Meet; please check the Buddy Activity Table during practice or contact [Emily Becker](#) if you missed seeing yours. Stop by the pool deck before or after practice Tuesday through Thursday to make a spirit sign to give to your Buddy at the Shadow Brook meet! Buddies will also start a "Getting to Know You" letter that will be exchanged between the pairs throughout the season.
- **Car Window Decorating, May 29**: Sea Otters, show your team spirit at our first away meet by decorating your car! Stencils and car markers are available at the swim table near the entrance - grab what you need and get creative. Let's make a splash on the road and show our Sea Otter pride!
- **Secret Sea Otters - Deliveries Start This Friday, May 30!** If you completed a form to participate in Secret Sea Otters, you should have received an email this past week identifying your Secret Sea Otter. Please deliver an encouraging note with a little treat to your Secret Sea Otter this Friday, May 30. If you signed up, but didn't receive an email, please check your junk/spam folder and/or reach out to [Emily Becker](#).
- **P'Otterluck Dinner & Rally, May 30, 5:30-7:30pm at Rancho**: Join us for s'mores and announcement of the team captains! See above for more information, including how to order taco plates before Tuesday.

- **Tie Dye, June 18:** Join our annual tie dye party after practice on June 18. *Back by popular demand: save time and skip the line by preordering your 100% cotton shirt through the Team Store between now and June 1!* Ordered shirts will be shaped to the design of your choosing and presoaked so that they are ready for immediate dye application. Purchase via <https://stseaotters.square.site/>.
- **Swim Up Movie Night, June 24, 8:30pm:** Enjoy a movie while floating with friends! Vote [here](#) to help choose what to show.
- **Cardboard Boat Regatta, June 28:** More details to come!
- **Sea Otters Sleepover, July 5 (Rancho):** Get ready for a night of fun under the stars! The Sea Otters are hosting a poolside sleepover packed with swimming, games, a talent show, and more! Don't miss this unforgettable night with your Sea Otter family.
 - Important Tent Guidelines:
 - Swimmers age 12 and under must share a tent with their own parent.
 - Swimmers over age 12 may share a tent with a same-gender adult approved by their parent.
 - Prefer the open sky? You're also welcome to sleep under the stars (just bring your gear)!
 - There will be a cost for this event (TBD based on interest), so let us know if you're planning to join us by filling out the interest form here: https://gformsapp.com/f/1vVmzM-JJ15AV6kGclo_bpxzZDtxpSz8ewu53kA6m_m4/en/

SEA OTTERS MERCHANDISE

Sea Otters Straw Lifeguard hats are back!

- Large straw hats with Sea Otters patches are now available for purchase online at our [Sea Otters Team Store](#). Buy before May 30 and pick up at the P'Otterluck Dinner or the next home meet. <https://stseaotters.square.site/>

Our Spirit Merchandise Pre-Sale is now closed.

- We will distribute the items at the P'Otterluck Dinner on May 30, along with the personalized caps for the swimmers. Please plan on picking up your gear, or have your pop-up buddies get them for you if you cannot make the event.

Team Swimsuits:

- The custom team suits will continue to be available to purchase at the [Agon Swimmer Storefront](#) throughout the summer, and can be shipped directly to you. To determine what swimsuit size to order, please reach out to our merchandise leads, [Amy & Kelly](#) with any questions, merch.stseaotters@gmail.com.
- 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>.

MAKE A SPLASH! SUPPORT OUR TEAM

- **Weekly Prize Drawings:** This week's **WINNER for a Spot-in-the-Lot is the The Shueh Family!** Congratulations, you will have a parking spot reserved at our first meet against Shadowbrook!
 - Purchase tickets at our next HOME meet for your chance to win!
- **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.
- **Underwater Photos:** Victor Bittorf is once again offering action/underwater photo packages and will be donating a portion of the proceeds to the team. Photo sessions

will take place at the Rancho ST pool Sunday, June 8th 9-12pm. - Reserve your spot [here!](#)

- **Package #1** \$40 per person and includes a 10 min underwater / action shot photo session. You will receive 5 edited photo files.
- **Package #2** (Perfect for families + friends): \$80 for up to 3 people and includes a 20 min photo session. You will receive 10 edited photo files.

Please note the payment information on the top of the form. Include parent name and swimmer name in your payment notes so we can confirm your reservation.

Thank you for supporting the Rancho Santa Teresa Sea Otters! If you have questions or want to make a donation, contact [Tracy or Michelle](#) at stseaotters.fundraising@gmail.com.

2025 SUMMER SCHEDULE

2025 Summer Practice Schedule June 11 - July 11 MONDAY-FRIDAY		
Age Group	Time	Coaches
13-18 Yellow	7:30am - 8:30am	Coaches Mark & David
13-18 Blue	8:30am - 9:30am	Coaches Mark & David
11-12	9:30am - 10:30am	Coach David
9-10	10:30am - 11:30am	Coaches Kim & Abi
7-8	11:30am - 12:15pm	Coaches David & Abi
6 & Under	11:30am - 12:15pm	Coach Abi
*Evening Practices MONDAY-THURSDAY		
All Ages	7:30pm - 8:15pm	TBA
*Please note, evening practices will be reserved for swimmers who have camp/school/work conflicts that exclude them from attending their age groups' morning practice.		

TEAMUNIFY & MOBILE APP TIPS

We use a swim team management software called TeamUnify, which hosts our team website. For access, always use our team specific domain www.stseaotters.com. From there you can browse for general team information without logging in.

Log-in to:

- register your swimmer.
- see your volunteer shifts.
- sign-up your athlete for swim meets.

Please note: You must use the same email your family used for registration to log-in to Team Unify (TU). TU only supports one login email address per family.

SportsEngine Motion App: TeamUnify provides a FREE and simple-to-use mobile app called SportsEngine Motion, available in the App Store and on Google Play. Log-in to the app with the same credentials as the team website. Access app Tips-and-Tricks [here](#), and on our website.

Meet Mobile App:

The MeetMobile App displays meet results during all home and some away meets. The timers record the swimmer's time and then the data is entered by the Tech Team (after referee review),

which allows you to quickly receive results. You can purchase the app in the App or Google Play Store. Your subscription is good on one device, for one year.

SEA OTTERS INFORMATION ON-DEMAND

Santa Teresa Sea Otters team website, www.stseaotters.com

[2025 season calendar](#)

Reference [Rancho Newsletters](#).

Follow us on Facebook - Santa Teresa Sea Otters

Santa Teresa Sea Otters Board Members

President, [Edie Fischer](#)

Vice President, [Dina Mansuy](#)

Treasurer, [Anuja Burns](#)

Secretary, [Tanja Seidel](#)

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Awards, [Sarah Miers](#)

Champs Liaison, [Lauren Sullivan](#)

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Fundraising, [Tracy Raivio](#) and [Michelle Senner](#)

Historian, [Anthony Gianocar](#)

Membership, [Jennifer Fusilero](#)

Merchandise, [Amy Raczkowski](#) and [Kelly Hodge](#)

New Otters Liaison, [Dina Mansuy](#)

Snack Shack, [Andrew Burns](#) and [Jenna Collen](#)

Technical Records, [Kumar Virwani](#)

Volunteers, [Michele Clark](#) and [Nina DeSimone](#)

Web & Social Media, [Kimberly Ahlgren](#)

2025 SEASON ACTIVITIES/SCHEDULE

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5/25: Drive-In Movie• 5/27-29: Otter Buddies Activity, at practice• 5/29: Car window decorating, at practice• 5/30: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #1• 5/30: P'Otterluck Dinner, 5:30-7:30pm (Rancho)• 5/31: Santa Teresa @ Shadowbrook• 6/2-5: Otter Buddies Activity, at practice• 6/6: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #2• 6/7: Pinehurst @ Santa Teresa• 6/8: Underwater Photos Fundraiser (Rancho)• 6/9-13: Otter Buddies Activity, at practice• 6/11: Shift to Summer Practice Schedule (Wed)• 6/13: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #3• 6/14: Crossgates @ Santa Teresa• 6/16-20: Otter Buddies Activity, at practice | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 6/18: Tie Dye, at practice• 6/20: Car Window Decorating, at practice• 6/20: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #4• 6/21: Santa Teresa @ Almaden• 6/23-27: Otter Buddies Activity, at practice• 6/24: Swim Up Movie Night (Rancho)• 6/27: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #5• 6/28: Creekside @ Santa Teresa• 6/28: Cardboard Boat Regatta, 5-7pm (Rancho)• 7/5: Sea Otters Sleepover! Details coming...• 7/7-11: Spirit Week, at practice• 7/11: Pancake Breakfast & Car Window Decorating, at practice• 7/11: Secret Sea Otters Delivery #6 and Reveal• 7/12: CHAMPS, hosted by Pinehurst• 7/14: Awards Night |
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