

TERRA NOVA AQUATICS



More Talk, Less Swimming



Terra Nova Aquatics Bimonthly Newsletter
November, 2025, Vol. 9

New Swimmers

WELCOME
TO THE TEAM

Tell your friends, come join the fun!

CSTS Swimmers:

- Maria Ginsbourg
- John Hubbard
- Debra Hirst
- Siddharth Kumar
- Heiko Gieraths
- Laura Eichman
- Dennis Eichman

PPSC Swimmers:

- James Nee
- Anna Levaro
- Oliver Qiu
- Maeve Keaney

Join The Board! We have two open positions on the Terra Nova Aquatics Board, **Secretary** and **Vice President**. If you are interested in getting involved or would just like to find out more, please talk to Brad or any of the TNA Board Members (listed at the end of this Newsletter). Attend a board meeting to learn more. Commitment is 1 hour meeting on Zoom once a month. Come join us!

Coach's Corner



Congratulations, Coach Brad!

Coach Brad Pence was honored by U.S. Masters Swimming as the recipient of the Kerry O'Brien Coaching Award for 2025! In his nomination, Coach Brad was described as a "dedicated, compassionate and knowledgeable" coach who builds trust and support among members of the team.



Upcoming Events – Mark Your Calendar!

- **November 14-16, 2025 Pacifica Sea Lions Pumpkin Spice Lovers Short Course Meet** at Jean E. Brink Pool at Oceana High School – PPSC is sending several swimmers. Come cheer them on!
- **November 22, 2025 12 – 4 pm – Please hold this date for a Potluck Pool Party** at Terra Nova High School, *weather permitting*. We will make a call about the weather forecast and let you know on Wednesday 11/19/25. Please keep an eye out!
- **December 6, Thrice is Nice Masters Swim Meet** at San Leandro High School Swim Center. There's still time to sign up! Join Kate, Pulak and Brad at this event: https://www.clubassistant.com/club/meet_information.cfm?c=1983&smid=20256
- **Annual Holiday Party!** This year the Annual Holiday Party will take place after New Year's **January 17, 2026**, 5 – 10 pm at the Pedro Point Firehouse. More details to come! Thank you to our prior Holiday Party hosts Brandon and Nicole Robinson and Jan Dolan!
- **August 5-9, 2026 – USMS Long Course National Championship Meet**, Sacramento, CA.

Buy Your Own PPSC/CSTS Deck Coat!

Do you get chilly on deck? Here's your chance to purchase a Swim Team-branded Deck Coat. **Click the link for details –**

[TERRA NOVA AQUATICS 005
elsmoreswim.com](https://www.clubassistant.com/club/meet_information.cfm?c=1983&smid=20256)



Note from the Editors

2025 has been an exciting year for Terra Nova Aquatics! The teams have expanded, welcoming new members, our bi-monthly Newsletter hit its stride, and we just started our awards program - STREAK! We also have great new coaches on deck and the continuing support of our core team of Coaches. All of us together make this team. Thank you for your participation and support!

As Newsletter editors, we are also members of your Terra Nova Aquatics Board. We want you to know that your input matters. Let us know how we can better serve the team. And if you have an interest in serving on the Board or helping with the Newsletter - let us know that too.

Lastly, we want to offer thanks to two significant members of our board, **Catherine Wachtler**, who served as Secretary, and **Rich Shafer**, who has served as Vice President. On behalf of the Board, we want to thank Catherine and Rich for sharing their passion for service and love of swimming. Thank you Catherine and Rich!

The TNA Board is looking for more representation from the members of our teams. If you are interested in serving as **Secretary** or **Vice President**, or would just like to be involved in making decisions for our team, please let Coach Brad or any of the members of the board know. All Board members are listed at the end of the Newsletter.

--Randi Decker and Jeanette Cavano



TNA STREAK!

TNA STREAK was created to encourage participation across all age groups, recognize members for their achievements and applaud every single member for getting to the pool and making swimming a part of your lives. Swimmers simply log their workouts and let the coach know when milestones are hit earning them swag including patches, swim caps, t-shirts and hoodies. Let us know how you're swimming!

For more information: <https://www.terranovaaquatics.com/tnastreak>

Streak Program Updates and Milestones:

25 Milers Patch		25 Practices Kickboard	50 Milers Cap		100 Milers T-shirt
CSTS	PPSC	PPSC	CSTS	PPSC	CSTS
Pim Tuyls Mike Webster Rachel Limon Jeanette Cavano Craig Amundsen Brad Pence Elizabeth Corsale Ken Thomas Scooter Morris Suzanne Morris Jan Dolan	Kamryn Stevenson	Owen Qiu Bailey Wilson Robbie Afzail	Pim Tuyls Mike Webster Rachel Limon Jeanette Cavano Craig Amundsen Brad Pence Ken Thomas Rich Shafer	Kamryn Stevenson	Pim Tuyls Mike Webster Rachel Limon Jeanette Cavano



Recent Events in Review

Shannon Sharma Swam Alcatraz September 20

"Great time at Alcatraz - choppy waters, fog, could only see the bottom of the bridges. Grey/Sepia tone lighting. Ebb didn't kick in as expected and I went a bit more east than necessary - but followed the sea wall into the cove." Time 1:05:12



Fog Fest September 27-28



Terra Nova Aquatics had a booth again this year at the Pacifica Fogfest during the last weekend in September. It was a beautiful day as we watched the morning parade - the booth being the perfect viewing location! Coach Brad and Frankie, Coach Pete, and Lisa R. among others were there to help the team and talk to new potential swimmers. Some even sported the Platypus costume. We connected with some new swimmers, even while competing with a kitten giveaway in the neighboring booth! Thank you to all who helped with the booth. If you want to wear the Platypus costume next year be sure to let Coach know!



Long time CSTS swimmer, **Lisa Ryner**, performed hula & ukulele and was very busy leading up to the show making hula dresses and helping with the costume designs worn by the dancers.

Nā Wāhine 'O Kalani: Our Hula Journey

Occurred on Saturday, November 8, 2025

in Half Moon Bay

SCM Championships - Walnut Creek - Placed 2nd in our division

Congrats Team!!

The Pacific Masters Short Course Meters Championships was held at the Clarke Memorial Swim Center in Walnut Creek over the weekend of October 4th and 5th. CSTS was well represented with 8 women and 3 men - a total of 11 swimmers. **The team came in 2nd in the Small Team Division and we won \$100! Way to go team!!** Participants included:

Barbara Beaumont, Jeanette Cavano, Janette Dolan, Michelle Graham, Kenya Lam, Rachel Limon, Molly McCobb, Brad Pence, Lisa Ryner, Ken Thomas, Mike Webster.

Few highlights:

- 2nd place in the Women's 200 Meter Freestyle Relay
- 2nd place in the Women's 200 Meter IM Relay
- 2nd place in the Mixed 400 Meter IM Relay
- Mike Webster placed first in the 50 fly







Youth Swim Meet October 11-12 Brink Pool, Pacifica



Six PPSC swimmers participated in the youth Swim Meet held at Brink Pool in Pacifica on October 11 and 12. Three of the young swimmers participated in the swim meet for the very first time. These included **Bailey Wilson, age 11, who swam 50 back and 100 free, Lily McCorkel, age 12, swam 50 free and 50 back and Owen Qiu, age 7, swam the 25 free and 100 free.**

Three more seasoned members of the team also participated; Kamryn Stevenson, Violet Limon and Killan Donnelly.

Burlingame Spooky Fall Classic Meet October 25-26

Owen Qui and Bailey Wilson swam in this meet. Owen had personal best times for the 25 free, 25 back and 50 free. Bailey had personal bests in the 50 free, 100 free and 50 back. Way to go!



Oktoberfest October 11



Thank you, **Barbara Beaumont**, for organizing the TNA Oktoberfest as a fundraising opportunity for our teams! We recognize your hard work and generosity. The party was fun, the band, featuring our teammate Brandon Robinson, was excellent (of course), and there was plenty

to eat and drink. Attendance was light - sorry to miss some of you! The bartenders were well attired and generous with refills. Those who attended had a great time.



CSTS Swimmer Spotlight Pim Tuyls!

by Mike Webster

Tell me about your swimming journey.

I first learned to swim when I was 5 or 6 years old in Belgium. My uncle, who was a PE teacher, decided the water wings had to go. One day I jumped into the pool and - poof! - the air had “mysteriously” disappeared from them. Let’s just say my first real swim was a little more shocking than expected. But two weeks later, I was swimming freestyle.

In Belgium at that time, swimming wasn’t something you could do every day. Pools weren’t easy to find. By the time I was nine, a new pool opened, and I started riding my bike there after school. In Belgium, you earned certificates for different milestones: 25 meters all the way up to 1500 meters, even swimming with all your clothes on. It meant to be preparation for lifeguard training, which I started when I was 16.

The lifeguard exam was... intense. The instructor was a big ex-military guy who loved testing us. At one point I had to wrestle free from him while he pretended to be a panicked swimmer. (He enjoyed it much more than I did.) Then I had to haul a wooden “rescue doll” off the bottom of the pool and swim 25 meters with it. I was going last and so, after hours soaking in the water, it was more like an anchor. I couldn’t finish the distance. Luckily, when I retested a month later, they had switched to plastic dolls—and I passed. I worked lifeguard jobs through my teens: first at a British Army base in Belgium, where I even got a letter of thanks from the Queen of England, and later at a lake where my job came with a motorboat. That one was fun—I admit I sometimes made waves on purpose just so the windsurfers had something to jump. My only real rescue was a surfer who dislocated his shoulder. My heart sank as I looked out on the lake and saw a surfboard but no surfer. Luckily, I got there quickly, and he was awake. In that moment, training took over and I got him back to shore safely.



Lap swimming didn’t really become part of my life until I came to the U.S. When we moved here, I started swimming at the YMCA in Los Altos and eventually joined their Masters team. That’s when I heard stories of people doing open water swims. I thought, “Why not me?” My first one was Alcatraz, and I’ve done many since.

Then someone challenged me to try to swim a million yards in a year. I liked the idea and made it my goal. Some years I come up a little short (980,000 yards still feels like a lot!), but most years I make it. Three years ago, we moved to Moss Beach, and when I emailed Brad about Terra Nova, I immediately loved the atmosphere and the people. TNA has been home ever since.



When you're not at the pool, what do you like to do?

I do work quite a bit, but I'm also an avid reader—biographies, fantasy, philosophy. These days, much of my joy comes from time with my grandson. My daughter lives with us, so I see him often, which is a gift. I also enjoy wine tasting (which is why I suggested we do this interview at a wine bar!), swimming in the ocean near my house once a week, and I'm even trying to get back into running.

What's an interesting fact that most people don't know about you?

I'm writing a book. It's about the story of my company and what it really takes to build a startup. People often think it's glamorous, but the truth is it's the hardest open water swim you'll ever do. There were moments I nearly drowned, figuratively speaking, but the best advice I ever got was simple: never, ever give up. With hard work, perseverance, and a little luck, I made it through.



Terra Nova Aquatics (TNA)

Based at the Terra Nova High School swimming pool, TNA has two teams first established in 2012 under the guidance of coach Brad Pence. The Coastside Tiger Sharks (CSTS) is a Masters team open to adult swimmers of all levels, and the Pacifica Platypus Swim Club (PPSC - a designated Safe Sport Team) is a USA Swimming age group team for youth between 6 and 17 years.

Coach Brad Pence, a Pacifica Hall of Fame Inductee and former swim coach of Terra Nova High School brought both Terra Nova Swim Teams to an undefeated season before he left. We are grateful to have Brad bring his love of coaching and watching swimmers thrive to the two Coastside teams.

Other coaches on deck include: Pete Song and Mary Germano for PPSC, and Rachel Wright. Mornings include Natalie and Raymond. We love our coaches - couldn't do it without them, thank you!

Terra Nova Aquatics is a non-profit organization governed by a board of volunteers. The board meets once a month on a Tuesday evening via Zoom, usually at 7:30 pm. Meetings are open. Contact Brad if you'd like to attend.

Current Board Members are Brad and Frankie Pence (Frankie is Treasurer), Scott Hoag (President), Rich Schafer (Vice President), Rachel Limon (Event Coordinator), Catherine Wachtler (Secretary), Jan Dolan (Webmaster), Jeanette Cavano (Newsletter), Randi Decker (Newsletter), Mike Webster (Former President), Natalie Asmundsen, Lisa Ryner and Kate Busatto (Members-at-Large). The next board meeting is December 16, 2025, at 7:30 pm on Zoom.

Check out our website: www.terranaaquatics.com



Current Swim Schedule as of August 2025

CSTS- Masters Team Morning Schedule

Monday through Friday 6:00 - 7:00 am

Saturdays 7 - 8:30 am

PPSC Age Group Team plus CSTS Evening Hours

Monday and Thursday 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Tuesday and Wednesday 6:00 – 7:00 pm