



September Newsletter

THE BERNIE SAYS: "S.O.S. Save Our Stairs"

If you've ever been to the Bernie, you've seen our stairs in the shallow end of lane 1. You've seen the guards hauling them out when the local swim teams arrive, and sliding them back in for our open lap, aquacize, and family swim hours. You've gone down them; you've gone up them. You've avoided bumping into the handles while walking to your lane.

What might not have occurred to you is that these stairs serve an important purpose to our pool and to our community by helping our patrons, especially those with mobility differences, enter and exit the water easily. And these stairs are the same stairs that rested in the shallow end of Lane 1 since we opened in December 2015. Before that, they were owned by the YMCA. They're important, and they're old.

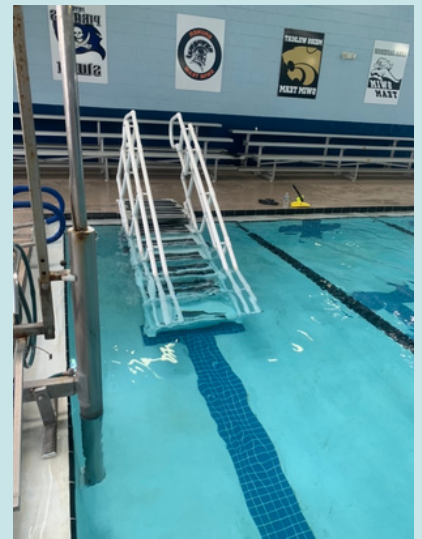
This is where you come in: you can help us Save Our Stairs!

We are raising money to replace the old stairs with nice, new ones so our patrons can continue to enjoy the pool no matter their method of getting around, and you can help in one of three ways!

- **The first** is that we are hosting an **Aqua Party on Saturday, October 22nd, from 2 to 4 pm**. Our weekday instructors will be there for a special, open-to-all aquacize session, and there will be free food and drinks. **Tickets are \$10 before Oct. 22, and \$15 on the day of**, and all proceeds will go towards saving our stairs! Check out the flyers posted around the pool, or ask a guard for more information.
- **The second way** you can move the Bernie towards our fundraising goal of \$5,000 is to **buy raffle tickets!** **At \$2 for one raffle ticket, and \$5 for three**, you have the chance to win any of our incredible door prizes donated from local businesses all around our community, including free lunches at the delicious Corner Cafe, a \$25 gift card to Sugar Mill Sweets, a \$25 gift card to Stewby's Seafood Shack, a \$20 gift card to Helenback Pizza, and a Swim Babies Basket with instructor-selected swim toys, a float belt, and children's goggles. And we've only just begun!
- **The third way** is by making a simple but equally important **donation to the Bernie** via cash, check, or card. No amount is too large or too small. We are a 501(c)3 foundation, and all donations are tax-deductible.

In our first week of fundraising we raised **\$1,000 for the S.O.S campaign, and we have raised a total of \$1,500 so far**. We are hoping that with the generous support of our community, and with your help, **that we will reach our \$5,000 goal!** All proceeds from the raffle and Aqua Party will go to the Save Our Stairs campaign. Additional funds raised will be put back into the pool so that we can continue to best serve our area, to meet our goals of water safety, and to give you the best Bernie experience we possibly can.

Are you trying to get your name out there and support your community? Contact Wendy Rudman at 850-598-0176 to talk about making a tax-deductible donation, becoming a business sponsor, or donating a door prize for our raffle!



Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation

The ROC Pool gets a new fence



BEFORE

Kenneth Mayfield, of Boy Scout Troop 30, has built a new fence around the deep end of the ROC pool for his Eagle Scout project! This fence will help make the pool a safer place for all those who use it.



AFTER

And the Bernie gets a new scoreboard!



BEFORE

Notice something new at the Bernie? Thanks to our friends at USAF Special Warfare, **we have a new scoreboard and a new sign** celebrating their generous support of our facility.



AFTER

On Sept. 17, the first high school meet took place. All eyes were on the board and the sign, which Board Member and Business Owner Chris Sehman helped to get mounted before the swimmers arrived. Our deepest thanks to Tech. Sgt. Ryan Lucier of Special Warfare who helped our scoreboard request through the military channels for funding.



Expect to see a new face around the ROC Pool, where Murray Burns has started working as a lifeguard and instructor.

He will also be helping out at the Bernie during the winter months when the ROC is closed. Murray recently moved to the area from Arkansas where he managed a pool.

A big thank you to La Dolce Vita for the beautiful new umbrellas! These will help shade our guards at the Taj Renee Community Aquatic Center in Destin.



Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation

Bernie instructors take swim skills to beach

The Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation is excited to announce its partnership with the Okaloosa Tourist Development Department to provide water safety instruction to young visitors. The partnership began last month and continues through September, before taking a break during the quieter winter beach months.



During this pilot program, Instructors Dawn Dziokonski and Wendy Rudman went to the TDC "Outpost" set up on the sand just east of the Boardwalk. Once or twice a week, they met students there who had signed up for a Surf Safety class through the TDC's promotional efforts. The hour-long "Little Adventure," which is what these free opportunities for children are called, consisted of instruction about everything from beach flags and rip currents to sun safety and actual pool instruction time at The Island resort.



The TDC employees provided full support, life jackets, and other safety gear for the children. It also funded the classes in their entirety, paying ECFE for the instructors' time and other expenses.



Shalimar Dentist becomes the Bernie's latest sponsor

The Bernie LeFebvre Aquatic Center welcomes a new business partner, Dr. George Stone. Dr. Stone runs a dental practice in Shalimar. He became a business partner after learning about the Bernie's programs, including its scholarship outreach to children who have not had the opportunity to learn to swim.



Dr. Stone performs general and cosmetic dentistry with an emphasis on conservative family care. His office is at 1115 Eglin Parkway in Shalimar and his staff can be reached at 850-651-1125.

Fort Walton Beach (The Bernie)

The schedules are the same as September, but always good to have!

Please note that **the ROC pool will have very limited hours starting Oct. 1 due to pool temperatures**, and that the facility will focus on accomodating swim teams through their seasons. Please know that **ROC patrons are welcomed at the Bernie and the Taj**, and, in fact, we hope to see you there!

See those pool schedules below for contact information and more.



General Pool Activity Schedule August 1, 2022 to October 22, 2022 (subject to change)

Pool Telephone Number:
850-863-SWIM (7946)

1127 Hospital Road, Ft. Walton Beach, FL 32547

Note: Masters Swim and Coast Aquatics are restricted to registered members of those teams. For more info, visit www.coastaquatics.org or find Okaloosa Liquid Dragons (OLDs) on Facebook

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday		
5:00-6:30	Choctaw HS 5-7am	Masters Practice 5-7am	Choctaw HS 5-7am	Masters Practice 5-7am	Choctaw HS 5-7am	Closed	Closed		
5:30-6:00		Choctaw HS 6-7am		Choctaw HS 6-7am				Choctaw HS 6-7am	Choctaw HS 6-7am
6:00-6:30									
6:30-7:00	Aquacize 7-8 am 3 lanes	Lap Swim 7-8:45	Aquacize 7-8 am 3 lanes	Lap Swim 7-8:45 am	Lap Swim 7-9 am	Sat Lessons 8 am			
7:00-7:30								Lap Swim 7-9 am	Lap Swim 7-9 am
7:30-8:00	Pool Rental Time	Lessons 9 am	Pool Rental Time	Lessons 9 am	Pool Rental Time	Sat Lessons 9 am			
8:00-8:30								Aquacize 10-11 am	Aquacize 10-11 am
8:30-9:00	Lunch Bunch Lap Swim 11:15-2:15 pm	Lunch Bunch Lap Swim 11:15-2:15 pm	Lunch Bunch Lap Swim 11:15-2:15 pm	Lunch Bunch Lap Swim 11:15-2:15 pm	Lunch Bunch Lap Swim 11:15-2:15 pm	Sat Lessons 11:15 am			
9:00-9:30								Family Swim 12-2 pm	Family Swim 12-2 pm
9:30-10:00	Ft. Walton Beach HS Practice 2:30-4:00pm	Ft. Walton Beach HS Practice 2:30-4:00pm	Ft. Walton Beach HS Practice 2:30-4:00pm	Ft. Walton Beach HS Practice 2:30-4:00pm	Ft. Walton Beach HS Practice 2:30-4:00pm	Pool Rental Times 2 6pm			
10:00-10:30							Coast Aquatics practice M-F 4-6 pm	Coast Aquatics practice M-F 4-6 pm	Coast Aquatics practice M-F 4-6 pm
10:30-11:00	Lap Swim 6-8 pm	Aquacize 6-7 pm	Lap Swim 6-7pm	Lap Swim 6-8 pm	Aquacize 6-7 pm	Lap Swim 6-7pm			
11:15-11:30							PM Lessons 7-8pm	PM Lessons 7-8pm	PM Lessons 7-8pm
11:30-12:00	Special Olympics	Special Olympics	Special Olympics	Special Olympics	Special Olympics	Special Olympics			
12:00-12:30							Closed	Closed	Closed
12:30-1:00	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed			
1:00-1:30							Closed	Closed	Closed
1:30-2:00	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed			
2:00-2:30							Closed	Closed	Closed
2:30-3:00	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed			
3:00-3:30							Closed	Closed	Closed
3:30-4:00	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed			
4:00-4:30							Closed	Closed	Closed
4:30-5:00	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed			
5:00-5:30							Closed	Closed	Closed
5:30-6:00	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed			
6:00-6:30							Closed	Closed	Closed
6:30-7:00	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed			
7:00-7:30							Closed	Closed	Closed
7:30-8:00	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed			
8:00-8:30							Closed	Closed	Closed
8:30-9:00	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed			

This schedule is subject to change due to weather conditions, mechanical issues, or any problem that affects the safety of our patrons. Additionally, infrequent special events, such as Swim Meets, may cause temporary closure of the facility. Every attempt will be made to minimize the inconvenience to our patrons and notify them in advance of schedule changes.

Bernie R. Lefebvre Aquatic Center is a community pool open to all members of the public, managed by the Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation, Inc., a 501©3 non-profit corporation, located on the grounds of Liza Jackson Preparatory School's Ron Crawford Recreation Center at 1127 Hospital Road, Fort Walton Beach, FL 32547 Telephone 850-863-SWIM(7946) email: swimECFF@gmail.com

Pool Schedules

Destin



Taj Renee Community Aquatic Center Pool Activity Schedule Aug 1 - Nov 13, 2022

4345 Commons Drive W, Destin, FL 32541
Pool Telephone Number: 850-837-SWIM (7946)
Email: destinaquatic@gmail.com

The Family Pool will be closed once the air temp is consistently below about 65 degrees. Actual closure date may differ from end of Sept.

SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE: FOR FACILITY STATUS UPDATES, JOIN REMIND APP: TEXT @acdInfo to 81010

Note: Masters Swim, Destin HS and Coast Aquatics are restricted to registered members of those teams. For more info, visit www.coastaquatics.org or find Okaloosa Liquid Dragons (OLDs) on Facebook

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Comp Pool	Comp Pool	Comp Pool	Comp Pool	Comp Pool	Comp Pool	Comp Pool
	Family Pool *Thru September*	Family Pool *Thru September*	Family Pool *Thru September*	Family Pool *Thru September*	Family Pool *Thru September*	Family Pool *Thru September*	Family Pool *Thru September*
6:00-6:30	OLD1 Masters Team Practice 6:00-7:30am	Destin HS Practice 6-7:30	OLD1 Masters Team Practice 6:00-7:30am	Destin HS Practice 6-7:30	OLD1 Masters Team Practice 6:00-7:30am		
6:30-7:00	Aqua Therapy 6:00-8:00am	Lap Swim 4 Lanes	Aqua Therapy 6:00-8:00am	Lap Swim 4 Lanes	Aqua Therapy 6:00-8:00am		
7:00-7:30							
7:30-8:00							
8:00-8:30							
8:30-9:00							
9:00-9:30	Aquacize 9:00-10:00am	Aquacize 9:00-10:00am	Aquacize 9:00-10:00am	Aquacize 9:00-10:00am	Aquacize 9:00-10:00am		
9:30-10:00	Lessons 10:00-11:00am		Lessons 10:00-11:00am		Lessons 10:00-11:00am	Coast Aquatics Practice 7:00-10:30am	
10:00-10:30							
10:30-11:00	Lap Swim 7:30am - 3:00pm	Lap Swim 6:00am - 4:00pm	Lap Swim 7:30am - 3:00pm	Lap Swim 6:00am - 4:00pm	Lap Swim 7:30am - 4:00pm		
11:00-11:30							
11:30-12:00						Lap Swim 10:30am-1:00pm	
12:00-12:30							
12:30-1:00							
1:00-1:30							
1:30-2:00	Family Swim 12:00-4:00pm		Family Swim 12:00-4:00pm				
2:00-2:30							
2:30-3:00							
3:00-3:30	Destin HS Practice 3:00-4:30pm	Family Swim 1:00 - 5:30pm	Destin HS Practice 3:00-4:30pm	Family Swim 1:00 - 5:30pm	Family Swim 2:00 - 5:30pm		
3:30-4:00							
4:00-4:30							
4:30-5:00	Coast Aquatics Practice 4:00-6:00pm	Coast Aquatics Practice 4:00-5:30pm	Coast Aquatics Practice 4:00-6:00pm	Coast Aquatics Practice 4:00-5:30pm	Coast Aquatics Practice 4:00-6:00pm		
5:00-5:30	Swim Lessons 5:00-7:00pm		Swim Lessons 5:00-7:00pm				
5:30-6:00							
6:00-6:30	Lap Swim 6:00-7:00pm	Lap Swim 5:30-7:00pm	Lap Swim 6:00-7:00pm	Lap Swim 5:30-7:00pm	Lap Swim 6:00-7:00pm		
6:30-7:00							
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

This schedule is subject to change due to weather conditions, mechanical issues, or any problem that affects the safety of our patrons. Additionally, infrequent special events, such as swim meets, may cause temporary closure of the facility. Every attempt will be made to minimize the inconvenience to our patrons and notify them in advance of schedule changes whenever possible. Available lanes during lap swim may be limited occasionally due to lane space rentals to outside organizations.

The Taj Renee Community Aquatic Center is a community pool in Destin, FL, which is open to the public, managed by the Emerald Coast Fitness Foundation, Inc. a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation, located at 4345 Commons Dr. W, Destin, FL Telephone 850-837-SWIM(7946) email: destinaquatic@gmail.com Patron registration and waiver required. Cash, Check, and Credit/Debit Card accepted.

THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR PATRONAGE AND SUPPORT. YOU ARE THE REASON WE RUN THESE POOLS, AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!