The Challenge of Supporting the Open Water Challenge

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(Not implemented)

**Introduction**:

The Open Water Challenge (<https://www.pacificmasters.org/page.cfm?pagetitle=Open+Water+Challenge>) requires two kinds of support:

1. Support of the code that generates and serves the web page. This document DOES NOT address this kind of support.
2. Support of the “Recognition Process” by managing the distribution of Open Water Challenge patches. It is this kind of support we’ll address here.

[[[ fill in the details of why we’re building this thing. ]]]

It is assumed that the reader is familiar with the Open Water Challenge page (see link above.) This document will describe some changes to the Open Water Challenge (OWC) page to address swimmer recognition. It will be broken into “stages” to help expedite implementation.

**Proposal**:

*Stage 1*:

The OWC page will be updated to contain a button labeled “Generate Spreadsheet”. Hitting this button will cause the spreadsheet defined below to be downloaded to the user’s computer. Note the following:

* This button is the only interaction added to the OWC page.
* It’s assumed that there is nothing privileged or private on this spreadsheet. IOW, keep the Notes (column N below) clean! [[[ If you disagree then let’s discuss. ]]] It makes Stage 1 more complicated if we have to limit the button to privileged individuals. This means that anyone can download this spreadsheet.

This new spreadsheet will contain information from the OWC relevant to swimmer recognition. This spreadsheet will contain a row for every row on the OWC page. The columns will be:

1. Last Name – swimmer’s last name as registered with USMS.
2. First Name – swimmer’s first name as registered with USMS.
3. Middle Initial – swimmer’s middle initial as registered with USMS. Empty if none.
4. Recognition – The swimmer’s current recognition (Trout. Salmon, etc.) at the time the sheet was constructed. It does NOT mean they have any specific patches.
5. # of swims – the number of OW swims counted towards the Challenge for this swimmer at the time the sheet was constructed.
6. Miles – the total distance covered by “# of swims” above in miles, with a resolution of 2 decimal places.
7. Team – the team the swimmer belonged to according to USMS at the time the sheet was constructed.
8. Date Trout – the date the swimmer was given their Trout patch. Empty if not yet awarded.
9. Date Manatee – the date the swimmer was given their Manatee patch. Empty if not yet awarded.
10. Date Salmon – the date the swimmer was given their Salmon patch. Empty if not yet awarded.
11. Date Shark – the date the swimmer was given their Shark patch. Empty if not yet awarded.
12. Date Whale – the date the swimmer was given their Whale patch. Empty if not yet awarded.
13. Missing Patches – an empty field unless this swimmer has reached a recognition level for which they have not received their patch.
14. Notes – any notes related to recognition of this swimmer.

Only swimmers who have achieved Trout recognition or greater are listed in the spreadsheet.

[[[ we could list pre-trouts if you want. It’s big. ]]]

*Stage 2*:

The OWC page will be modified to have a number of interactive fields used to support swimmer recognition. These fields are described below:

1. Support Login – this is actually a button that, when hit, will bring up a sub-window asking for login credentials. This sub-window will contain the following fields:
   * 1. Name – a login name
     2. Password – a password
     3. Submit – a button used to submit the above information and dismiss the sub-window.
     4. Cancel – a button to cancel the login attempt and dismiss the sub-window.

If the login is successful (valid name and password):

* the response to clicking on a swimmer’s name changes to show different fields (described below).
* The Support Login button changes to three other buttons:
  + Save – this button causes all data to be saved. There is no undo.
  + Cancel – this button causes all data changes since last Save or login to be discarded. There is no undo.
  + Save & Logout – This button causes all data to be saved. There is no undo. After the data is saved the OWC will return back to it’s normal functionality and the Support Login button is shown.

If the login is not successful (invalid name or password or Cancel was hit):

* the user will see an unchanged OWC page with its normal functionality and no error or other indication that the login failed. This discourages robots from attempting multiple logins.
* The Support Login button remains.
  1. Swimmer’s name – normally (with no login) clicking on a swimmer’s name will cause a display of more details about this swimmer’s swims. But this functionality is changed if there is a successful login. In that case clicking on a swimmer’s name will display 6 editable fields shown in the example here:



Notes

Date Whale

Date Shark

Date Salmon

Date Trout

Date Manatee



The above 6 fields are free-form. This means you can put anything in them, including clearing them out. Obviously the “Date” fields are meant to contain a date, but that date can be in any format you want. Whatever is entered is not validated as a date, so putting something like “Wednesday” or “July 32” or “unknown” is acceptable. Remember: it will be seen whenever the spreadsheet (above) is generated. [[[ not sure the limit of characters yet ]]] The “Notes” field is meant to be appended to, allowing previous notes to remain. However, the user is not prevented from editing or removing existing notes. [[[ not sure the limit of characters yet ]]]

The functionality of the OWC page will change significantly with the addition of Stage 2. Since the OWC page will now know the patches a swimmer has been awarded, and it will know the current accomplishment of the swimmer, it will know whether or not that swimmer has been awarded all of the patches they deserve, thus it can fill in the Missing Patches field itself. Since the OWC page will now maintain all these data it will no longer be necessary for anyone to maintain and update their own spreadsheets tracking the patches.

How to use this stage: A valid user of this functionality should follow these steps when updating the OWC recognition data:

1. Use the “Support Login” button to tell the OWC page that they are allowed to update data. If successful the “Support Login” button will be replaced with the “Save”, “Cancel”, and “Save/Logout” buttons.
2. Once logged in then click on the swimmer to update. Modify dates and notes as appropriate. Save.
3. Repeat for other swimmers as necessary.
4. Feel free to hit the “Save” button often so no data is lost.
5. If the field(s) for a user are modified but not saved they can be replaced with their previous values by hitting Cancel. Only data modified since login or the last same are replaced with previous values.
6. Once finished with all swimmers hit the “Save & Logout” button.