

## PRESS RELEASE

### Walnut Creek Aquanuts Qualify for Age Group Nationals

**Walnut Creek, May 21, 2008:** Synchronized swimmers in the 11-12 and 13-15 age groups competed in Walnut Creek May 16-18 to determine which routines would go to the E-Synchro National Age Group Championships, to be held in Binghamton, N.Y. June 28-July 5.

The Walnut Creek Aquanuts took first place in the team competition in both the 11-12 and the 13-15 divisions. Swimming on the 11-12 team are Tori Yee, Leah Read, Sandra Ortellado, Karina Boyle, Laila Shaker, Grace Moran, Rachel Lewin, Jasmine Carrillo and Lizzie Welzien. The 13-15 team is made up of Karime Andere, Haley Barnes, Morgan Boneberg, Samantha Golomb, Heidi Homma, Jourdan Meltzer, Carolyn Morrice and Alex Sominsky.

In addition to sweeping the team titles, Walnut Creek also qualified a solo, duet and trio in each age group. In the 13-15 competition, Heidi and Haley took first in duet and then combined with Alex for the gold in trio as well, while Karime took second in solo. At the 11-12 level, Grace captured the gold in solo, while Lizzie and Tori took second in duet and Grace, Lizzie and Karina took second in trio.

There was also competition at the 10 and under level, and again the Aquanuts made a strong showing. Violet Castle and Natalie Fletcher received gold for their duet performance, and Violet added a bronze for her solo. Natalie also took 1<sup>st</sup> in figures, where Walnut Creek had 5 swimmers in the top ten.

The public will have an opportunity to see these athletes perform as well as watch both the U.S. and Russian Olympic team and duet routines at the Walnut Creek Aquanuts' annual Night of Champions fundraiser on June 21. In addition to exhibition swims by the 2008 Olympians and Walnut Creek Aquanut athletes, the fundraiser includes silent and live auctions, food and beverages, plus an Olympic merchandise booth.

The Night of Champions will take place at the Aquatic Center at Heather Farm Park in Walnut Creek on Saturday, June 21, 2008 from 2 to 6 pm. For tickets and information, visit the Aquanuts website at [www.aquanuts.org](http://www.aquanuts.org). Tickets prices start at \$25. There are a limited number of tickets available. For more information email [wcaeventinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:wcaeventinfo@yahoo.com).