NC Swimming and the Sandhills Sandsharks Swim Team would like to thank Seven Lakes North for their incredible hospitality last weekend while we hosted NC Open Water Champs and Southern Zones Open Water Champs. Seven Lakes EMS watched over our swimmers in Lake Echo; the stables moved the horses to provide parking space; the gate proved cheerful with all of the comings and goings of our staff, coaches and officials.

We thank the residents of Lake Echo, as we used their lake for most of the weekend…and especially Mrs. Virginia Roth for once again allowing us to use her property for tents. Her hospitality is greatly appreciated.

Our Wounded Warrior Mile race provided $1000.00 for the Fisher House in Fayetteville. The Fisher House Foundation provides housing for the families of veterans who are receiving medical care.

We had almost 1000 entries between the two events, meaning over 800 swimmers from 6 to 69 raced in Lake Echo. We hosted swimmers from Germany and Central America and International Open Water Officials from multiple countries. Well over 1000 spectators gathered throughout Saturday to cheer on our swimmers. Some of our kids were in their first ever Open Water meet; others in our Zones meet have won Nationals and are aiming for the 2016 Olympics.

Sunday morning saw the first ever single gender Team Pursuit relays, where 3-5 swimmers race in a group, similar to Tour de France, with the time taken of the 3rd swimmer to cross the line. The Zones meet brought in swimmers from Florida, Louisiana, Texas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina.