

Chapter 20 INDIVIDUAL SWIMS

There were forty-two swims by forty-one swimmers in 2015. Thirteen of these were by females and twenty-eight were by males. One male swam twice, Hank Wise. Six of the swimmers had swum in other years. The swimmers age ranged from 17 to 64 and the latter, Jim McConica, set a record for the oldest male swimmer. Susanne Baab Simpson was the oldest female of the summer by nine days. There were four swimmers under the age of thirty with the fastest time of 10:42.06. There were nine swimmers over the age of fifty with the fastest time of 9:19.49 swum by Penny Palfrey of Australia which was also the fastest swim by a female for the year. There were only two mainland to Catalina swims and only one double crossing by Jason Betley of England. This was an interesting year as twelve countries were represented by swimmers.

The first swim of the summer was tackled by Hank Wise of the United States. He had swum numerous other times representing Swim Long Beach. He chose to swim from the Mainland to Catalina. Hank wanted to swim a time which would rank in the top ten of all time.

Hank entered the water at 8:40.00 pm on June 15th. The sky was clear, the water was calm and perfect.

Throughout the swim the water temperature was 66*. The air temperature rose from 58* to 62*. The wave height was one foot for most of the swim, it increased slightly then rose to three feet for the finish. The wind didn't play a significant role in the swim. In fact a crew member stated, "It would be hard for conditions to be any better."

Around midnight dolphins were spotted. This is always seen as a positive sign or mojo by Hank's crew.

Hank fed every thirty minutes on the crossing. He drank Cytomax, Perpeteum and EFS. He also had warm tea. He had the option to break at twenty minutes but didn't do it.

Hank's stroke count ranged from 64 at the start to 60 during the swim. He finished with a 62 strokes per minute. His average was 61 strokes per minute: he was very consistent.

Hank swam very well throughout the night. Unfortunately, the navigator was off course on two occasions which effected his swim. From 2:40 am to 3:40 am there were these course problems. Hank was frustrated but dealt with it.

The finish was at Arrow Point. It took Hank eight minutes to climb the rocks as there was a strong surge at the finish. Hank's time was 8:07.37. It was the first swim of the summer but became the fastest swim of the summer and he met his goal of a swim in the top ten in the Mainland to Catalina swims of all time.

The second swimmer of the summer was from Spain, Jorge Crivilles Villanueva. Jorge was a 43 year old man attempting to swim from Catalina to the Mainland. There was a rough crossing from the dock to Doctor's cove. He entered the water at 11:22.10 pm on July 13th. Initially, the water was smooth but once he cleared the cove, the water became more active. The sky was clear and there were numerous stars visible. Soon the wind picked up also. Investigating the scene was a seal which made everyone excited.

On the swim Jorge planned to feed every 45 minutes. He drank gel and water, both fresh and isotonic. He ate protein bars, donuts and parts of bananas. Jorge ate some solid food but no one knew what it was. He also took two stomach pills during the swim.

The air temperature ranged from a high of 69* at the start to a low of 65* in the middle of the crossing to 68* at the finish. The water temperature was 70* at the start, climbed slightly, then ended at 70* at the finish. Usually the water is colder near the Mainland. This made for a warm swim.

The wave height on the swim began at less than a foot which is normal. It then jumped to three feet in the middle and then laid down to one to two feet as Jorge approached the Mainland. The wind speed, on the other hand, rose abruptly from nothing to seven to ten feet. It fell and climbed three times in the swim.

Jorge planned to maintain his stroke rate at 50 for the crossing and do bilateral breathing. He maintained the latter but his stroke counts ranged from 59 to 65. This was impressive based on his target goal.

At 2:00 am a fishing boat approached thinking the support boat was a fishing boat and it could also catch a good fishing area. Needless to say, the captain was surprised when he saw a swimmer in the water.

Jorge stayed positive throughout the swim. At one point he raised his arms and cheered out loud. He inspired his crew on numerous occasions.

This was a good crossing for marine life. First was the seal, then small jellyfish were spotted. A whale was in the area but not seen by the swimmer. Finally, big pods of dolphins went by the boat at 10:15 am and a seal was trailing the dolphins. A half an hour later dolphins were spotted leaping in the air as they headed into the channel.

On July 14th at 11:05.34 am after 11:43.24 in the water Jorge stepped out of the water at Cardiac Hill, on the Mainland. He became the 322nd person to conquer the Catalina channel.

Robert J. Palmese was the next swimmer of the summer. He hailed from San Diego, California. He hired the Bottomscratcher, captained by Greg Elliott to accompany him on the crossing. He started from Doctor's cove at 11:08.48 pm on July 22 ND.

Unfortunately, little information was recorded regarding air, wind and wave speed on this crossing. At the one hour mark it was recorded that a westerly wind of five knots occurred and there was less than a one foot of swell from it.

Robert's stroke counts were recorded. He held 57 for most of his counts but fluctuated between 53 and 60 stroke counts on the swim. This was good as his goal was 45 to 48 for the crossing.

His feeds ranged from 45 seconds in length to four minutes. He drank Maxim, water and ate Gummi Bears. He also requested sugar but it wasn't stated that he was given it or not. As the swim progressed he asked for his fluids to be warmed. At seven am he requested two Aleve's.

The interesting part of the swim was Robert had to pee 16 times on the swim. This usually means a swimmer is cold especially for males. He never said he was cold but he did ask for his fluids be warmed from 6:52 am forward. This is another sign of being cold. The last time he said he was good was at 6:00 am and he didn't speak according to the log after that.

Robert finished at 11:30.00 am on July 23rd. He swam 12:27.42 and became the 323 person to tackle the Catalina channel.

From England came 31 year old swimmer, Victoria Moore, to swim Catalina from the Island to the Mainland. Her attempt began at 11:17.18 pm on July 22 from Doctor's cove. The water was smooth at the start and the sky was clear. This didn't last long as the clouds quickly obscured the sky yet the water remained calm.

Victoria had problems with the diesel fumes throughout the night. It caused her to be nauseous on numerous occasions. Finally she was moved to the port side of the boat and this seemed to help her. She also adjusted her feedings to deal with her upset stomach. She drank Maxim initially, then tea with fructose and milk and finally warm water. She ate squash, fruit purees and jelly bellies. She also took Naproxen and a Paracetamol tablet. In addition, she took dextrose tablets. Victoria stated, "It's hard being sick. My tummy hurts from being sick."

Victoria tried to feed every hour then changed to every forty-five minutes. After she fed most of the time she stretched her back. Her feeding breaks usually lasted more than three minutes, a long time and this caused her to drift backwards and sideways.

She was a right sided breather. She had intended to hold her stroke count to 55 to 60 strokes per minute. Unfortunately her stroke counts varied from an extreme low of 42 to a high of 59. She had some stroke problems especially when she felt sleepy around 8.20 am. Victoria stated she was tired. To alleviate this problem a companion swimmer entered the water to help pace her. Later her sister joined her as a pace swimmer even though this was her first time to swim in the ocean!

The water temperature didn't change significantly during the swim. It began at 71* fell to 69* and rose slightly to 70* for the finish. On the other hand, the air temperature was all over the place ranging from a high of 72 at the finish to a low of 62 in the early morning.

The wave height didn't do much during the swim which is a favorable factor. It fluctuated from zero to only one to three feet. Similarly, the wind speed never really rose too much. It started at less than eight feet, fell to three to five feet and finally settled at five to six feet for the last few hours of the swim. As the wind effects the waves it clearly shows from the latter few sentences not much happened.

During the early part of the swim Victoria had problems with her goggles and finally decided to change them. The only marine situations she had was swimming through kelp which she described as, "disgusting." At 11:17 am a pod of porpoises were spotted. This was the highlight of marine animals in the swim.

At 12:59.19 am Victoria climbed through surging turquoise waves to land at Terranea cove. Her final time was 13:42.01. Victoria became the 324th person to swim Catalina.

The next swimmer was Clair Harris also from Berkshire, England. She attempted to swim Catalina on July 24th swimming from Doctor's cove to the Mainland. She entered the water at 11:01.26 pm. Her crew chief was Victoria Moore who had just completed the swim. She was escorted by John Pittman, captaining the Outrider.

There was a windless night but a slight chop at the start. As Clair was a left sided breather she was placed on the starboard side with the kayaker between her and the boat. Her kayaker was Neil Van Der Byl who paddled the complete swim.

The water temperature was amazing, ranging from 72* to a high of 74* to 73* near the coast. The air temperature was also very high fluctuating from a start of 78* to 72* to climbing back to 75*. The wave height and wind speed were both under two feet and 1.5 knots on the swim. What calm conditions!

Clair's stroke count fluctuated significantly during the swim. She began with a count of 60 strokes per minute but dropped to 54 rather quickly. By 5:00 am her count increased to the low 60's for a while then fell to the high 50's. As she approached the finish her last stroke count jumped to her highest-67 strokes per minute.

Clair had twelve feedings during her crossing. She fed every hour and she was upbeat at each feeding. She had a variety of drinks such as Maxim, tea with milk and sugar and fruit juice. She ate squash, jelly beans, biscuits, bananas, digestive crackers and fruit. She also had anti-inflammatory pills on two occasions. Her only feeding break time to be recorded was a minute.

On two occasions Clair had incidents with marine life. First, there were dolphins. Next, she saw jelly fish then she ran into one and stopped abruptly. Luckily, all was well.

As Clair approached the finish, Victoria jumped in to swim with her. Clair watched the waves and after a set passed she swam quickly to the shore. She waded out and official finished at the beach at Terranea. It was 11:25.50 am. Her time was 12:24.24 and she was the 325 th person to conquer the Catalina channel.

James Janik is a 39 year old swimmer from Englewood, Colorado. He planned to swim from Catalina to the Mainland. He commenced his swim at 11:04 pm on July 25 TH from Doctor's cove. He swam to the port side of the boat and was brought back to the starboard side of the boat by the kayaker and high beam lights trying to get his attention.

Again, the water temperature was higher than normal by almost ten degrees. The temperature ranged from 74* at the start to 72* in the middle of the channel and fell slightly to 70 degrees near the Mainland. The air temperature was also warm, fluctuating from 76* to 70* and back up to 74* at the finish.

Jim's swim was very difficult as he wanted to quit early in the swim. Through his support crew and especially, David Cole, his pace swimmer, he persevered and tackled the swim. At a little more than three hours into the swim Jim began throwing up. At 2:47 am he stated he wanted to quit. Between then and 5:18 am he tried different drinks, stopped numerous times but kept going. At this time he said

he was done. David, his pace swimmer jumped in, talked to him, supported and finally swam with him. He was back on track.

His stroke rates varied between a low of 53 to a high of 65 strokes per minute. He was a bilateral breather. His stroke improved when the sun came up. He also stated he felt normal again. He fought through the mental and physical challenges and conquered them.

On the swim Jim planned to drink Cytomax and Carbo Pro. He wanted to start with thirty minute breaks then switch to fifteen minutes when he was tired. Needless to say, he didn't follow this plan throughout the swim. He did once; he fought through the cold and his upset body. What he ended up using was Carbo Pro, Cytomax, water, one Cliff Shot and Gatorade. He tried a sugar cube also.

In the morning after the sun came up a bait ball was seen with dolphins and birds around it. Near 9:00 am Jim was given an animal show when he intersected a pod of dolphins and a seal. They disappeared but as Jim approached the finish they reappeared.

Jim was approaching Terranea Beach and his pace swimmer was with him to the shore. He landed at 9:27.00 am on July 27th. He did it despite all he went through; it was very impressive swim. Jim's total time was 10:37.51. Jim became the 326th person to swim the Catalina Channel. Well done.

From Ecuador came Manuel Adum, a 44 year old swimmer who currently resided in La Jolla, California. He undertook his crossing at 11:14.25 pm on July 26th under a clear sky and calm waters. Within a half hour the swimmer was moved to the port side of the boat as the fumes were significant. In addition, the conditions changed abruptly as the waves increased to 3-5 foot rolling swells and winds of 7 to 10 knots.

One of the differences of this swim from all other swims was that there were almost constant pace swimmers. This wasn't the intention of the rules for an individual swim regarding the use of pace swimmers.

The water temperature ranged from 74* at the start to 72* in the middle of the swim, to a drop to 68* near the completion of the crossing. Needless to say, it was a warm crossing as were all the swims in 2015. Similarly, the air temperature fluctuated significantly. At the start the air was 72*. By 4:30 am the air began to drop, first to 70* then it plummeted all the way to 65* at 6:30 am. By 8:30 am it had climbed back to 72* and was a warm 70* for the finish.

The wave height never rose too much during the swim from 0 at the start it then climbed slowly to 1-3 feet, 2-3 feet and finally 3-5 feet. It was 2-3 feet near the Mainland. The wind speed, however, jumped all over the place. From the beginning 1-2 knots it surged to 7 to 10 knots within the first hour. Out of the blue it descended to 0-1 knot until 5:00 am. Next it climbed again to 5-6 knots. It continued to rise to 8 knots before plunging to 3-5 knots for the completion of the swim.

Manuel's stroke count began at 62 strokes per minute. He stayed in the high 50's and low sixties until 5:30 am. His stroke count then toppled to the low 50's hitting 51 as his lowest count. Manuel struggled to increase his count and was at 58 near the finish.

For feedings Manuel stuck to 8 to 12 ounces of Maxim liquid. He did not eat anything according to the log. He felt sick after some of his feds however. This led him to drink warm water and this seemed to help him. Manuel fed every thirty minutes with a few exceptions when he drank at 15 minutes.

At 8:20 am whale spouts were seen a few hundred meters off of the starboard side. Manuel had been moved back over there in the night but it is not known if he saw the whales or heard them. Soon after nine whales were 100 yards off of the starboard side of the boat.

With a pacer at his side Manuel swam into Terranea Cove and walked ashore to complete his 11:08.53 swim. Manuel was the 327th person to conquer the Catalina channel.

Justin Hanby was a 46 year old swimmer from Sydney, Australia who chose to swim from Catalina to the Mainland. He plunged into the calm waters of Doctor's Cove at 11:17.50 pm on July 28th. It was a clear night and there were no waves and no wind; these were ideal conditions for a swim.

Justin had an elaborate feeding plan. At thirty minutes he had 2 Maltodextrin tablets, 300ml of Gatorade and a caffeine gel. At sixty minutes he had ½ a banana, Coke and a non-caffeine gel. At ninety minutes he had 2 Maltodextrin tablets, 300ml of Gatorade and Excedrin. Basically he stuck to this plan. He varied to have Hydrolite with water. This change occurred when he was nauseous and throwing up. As he put it, "Did you hear I had a good chunder?" He kept his spirits throughout the swim.

As with all the swims this summer the water temperature was ideal. It ranged from 74* to 72* then back to 74* at the conclusion of the swim. The wind was on the cold side compared to the water temperature. It fluctuated from 69* to a low of 65* rose to 68* before it toppled to 65* for the finish. This four degree swing wasn't significant enough to effect the swimmer.

The amazing parts of the swim were the lack of waves and wind. The former only rose from 0 to 1-3 feet whereas the wind speed stayed at 0-5 throughout the swim until the finish when it climbed to 3-5 knots.

On two occasions in the swim Justin was confronted with flying fish that were 6 to 8 inches in length. One was just at the start, then at least 30 were near him at 5:30 am. Then at about 1000 yards ahead of him there were tons of porpoises at 7:01 am. By 7:30 am the porpoises were within 200 yards of Justin and they were leaping and breaching. Not to be out done either a large dolphin or a small gray whale was spotted 600 yards off of the port side of the boat within an hour of the last sightings. There was lots of marine activity once Justin was within the last four hours of his swim.

Justin's stroke counts were unique in that no two stroke counts in a row were the same. He began with a count of 63 strokes per minute fell to 56 and rose to a high of 65 one count before his finish. He maintained a good consistent stroke with a long reach.

A large container ship was near Justin at 4:17 am. The captain, Greg Elliott called the captain of the container ship as the ship was one nautical mile away from the swimmer and the ship held off until the swimmer passed.

With an hour to go Justin's coach, Rob, told him to, "Finish strong mate, all you've trained for!" He told him as he stopped one more time to swim to the right of the rocks and beware of the 2 to 4 foot waves

at the shoreline. Justin walked ashore without any problems at 9:07.37 am. His total time was 9:49.47 and he became the 328th person to tackle the Catalina channel.

On July 29th three swimmers from Ventura California swam from Catalina to the Mainland. These were John Chung 44, Tamie Stewart 42 and Jim MC Conica 64. Tamie had never swum the channel but John and Jim had swum the channel before. They entered the water at Doctor's cove at 10:21.02 pm. It was a calm night and seas.

The water was a warm 72.5* at the start of the swim and only dropped to 71* during the swim before returning to 72* for the finish. Likewise, the air temperature was 72* at the beginning, fell to 68* and rose to 70* for the finish of the swim. This made for ideal weather conditions.

Meanwhile, the wave height was insignificant during the swim, rising from less than one foot to less than two foot. The wind, however, was challenging during the swim, fluctuating from 2 to 5 knots to a high of 8 to 9 knots.

Feeding three people at one time can be difficult and it took a few feeds for this group to accomplish this endeavor. Initially, the feeds took two minutes but gradually they were able to cut down the time of each feed. During the feeds, John drank CarboPro, water and chicken noodle soup. Tamie had tea with sugar and it was too sweet initially. She also had Carbo Pro. Jim, on the other hand, was severely sick and had to skip feedings, drink just water, then mix water with CarboPro and had an Aspirin. Unfortunately, this lasted the whole swim. Nevertheless, he fought through and finished. The swimmers fed every thirty minutes on the swim with a few variations.

On the swim John's stroke count bounced from a low of 54 to 63 on the swim. Meanwhile, Tamie ranged from 55 to 60 while Jim held 61 to 65 which was impressive since he wasn't feeling well.

This was an active swim as numerous water bottles were lost, a kayak paddle was broken and two container ships crossed by the swimmers. In addition, Jim needed Vaseline twice and John needed dark goggles once the sun came up. For marine life as they approached the finish a pod of dolphins was seen and bat rays swam directly under the swimmers.

On two occasions Tamie asked how much further. The first time the question was ignored but the second time the crew answered her, with an approximate two nautical miles. At a feed at 8:20 am the swimmers saw the waves hitting the shore and John yelled out, "Let's get it". They skipped their feed and raced to the shore.

John landed at 9:07.54 am making his time 10:46.52. Tamie finished at 9:08.13 am with a final time of 10:47.11 as the 329th to conquer the Catalina channel. Jim climbed ashore at 9:09.29 am in 10:48.27 becoming the oldest man to swim the Catalina Channel.

Penny Palfrey of Australia returned to the Catalina Channel in 2015 to conquer the channel. At age 52 she set out to be the fastest female of the summer. On August 6th at 11:39.45 pm she surged into the water at Doctor's Cove. It was a partly cloudy night with a light wind.

Penny had a goal of holding a 74 stroke rate. She began with a rate of 79 and her lowest rate was 73. Her average was 76 strokes per minute.

The water temperature was a bit different than the earlier part of the summer. Initially it was 71* and climbed to a warm 72*. This held throughout the night but as she approached the Mainland, the water dropped abruptly to 68*, still a comfortable temperature. The air temperature was colder at the beginning, 68*, rose to 70* and settled at 69*.

There were waves throughout the swim ranging from 1 to 2 foot to a high of 5 to 6 foot. There seemed to be a current throughout the swim also. Early in the swim there was 10 knot winds until 4:39 am when they seemed to fall off to 4 knot winds.

Penny had amazing feeds. She had feedings of .05 to .10 seconds in length. She drank every thirty minutes after the first hour and didn't drink the last hour and a half before the finish. Penny fed on Hammer, Electro, gel and porridge.

At the beginning of the swim a sea lion was chasing the flying fish and one landed on the boat. There wasn't much marine life on the crossing but just before the finish a pod of dolphins was spotted.

At 8:59.34 am Penny walked ashore, completing the swim in 9:19.49, which turned out to be the fastest women's time of the summer.

From San Bruno, California came Kelley Prebil, a 37-year-old. She decided to swim Catalina from the Island to the Mainland. Kelley entered the water at 11:12.37 pm on August 14th. Her goal was to swim the channel in 15 hours.

This was an extremely warm crossing for both water and air temperatures. The water was 74* at the start and only dropped to 73* for the rest of the crossing. Similarly, the air temperature was 78* initially, descended to 70* then rose to an unbelievable high of 84*, before settling to 77* around 1:00pm.

There were mild waves in the crossing rising from a foot early on to 2 to 3 feet in the middle to a height of 3 to 4 feet. The wind, on the other hand, was active throughout the crossing. It averaged 10 knots and even reached 15 knots during the swim.

Kelley had expected to hold a stroke count of 70 per minute. She was a bilateral breather which was good for swimming in the wind. As she began with a stroke count of 56 her crew was concerned when she dropped to 50. Her strokes ranged from a low of 48 to a high of 68 strokes per minute. Her shoulder began to hurt so she switched to backstroke. She took Ibuprofen but it didn't seem to help. Gradually she switched back to freestyle after some encouraging words from her crew.

Kelley had a detailed plan for her feeding. She had liquid feeds of Skratch, water and Stinger gel every thirty minutes. She had various snacks for when she felt like it and mouthwash for clearing the salt from her mouth. She ate diced peaches, bananas, and a banana brownie on the swim. She had an ibuprofen, an Advil and Vo2 Max Endurance Pill.

After feeding at 1:44 am a pod of dolphins swam under Kelley and scared the shit out of her. There were many sightings of dolphins on the crossings.

At 12:11pm Kelley asked how much further she had to go and when told 4.1 nautical miles she responded that she was tired. She complained of pain and a companion swimmer jumped in next to her. She had a swimmer next to her all the way to the finish. At 4:38.25 pm Kelley landed on the beach below Trump's resort. Her final time was 17:25.48 as she became the 330th to finish the Catalina Channel.

The fourteenth swimmer of the summer was Abhejali Bernardova of the Czechoslovakian Republic. She planned to swim from Catalina to the Mainland. She entered the water at 10:42.43 pm on August 17 at Doctor's Cove. It was a calm night but no stars were visible.

Right from the beginning the observers were commenting on Abhejali's strong stroke. She did not have a kick however. She started with a stroke count of 55 strokes per minute. Gradually she dropped to 53, then to 51 and finally fell to 48. Never did her strength seem to be depleted.

The water temperature was a warm 73* initially and only dropped to 70* before climbing back to 71.8* for the finish of the swim. The air temperature bounced from 71* to 66* to finally settling at 70* near the coast at 8:06 am.

The wave height was rather insignificant during the crossing only reaching a high of 1 to 2 feet at its highest. The wind speed, however, did climb a bit higher from a low of .02 knots to 6.9 knots at its highest in the middle of the swim before calming to 3.5 knots for the finish.

Abhejali had eighteen feeds on her crossing. She drank and/ate Maxim, cooked rice with magnesium and coco, jelly babies, ginger tea with maxim and magnesium, a potato mix, black tea, fruit juice, turbo energy and dry ginger. She also had Tylenol during her swim. All of her breaks were under a minute with most of them between 30 and 45 seconds.

During the crossing her crew wrote positive sayings on the whiteboard which made her smile. She also enjoyed the phosphorescence in the water. When a container ship crossed behind her she asked the crew to take a picture of it. A yellow sailboat also came close to the escort boat to see what was happening.

There was only one sighting of marine life in the swim near the Mainland. A huge pod of dolphins was spotted between Abhejali's 16th and 17th feed. After this she had a pace swimmer who had American flag socks on under her fins so she could keep up with Abhejali.

Abhejali landed in large waves at Terranea Beach at 8:29.30 am. Her overall time was 9:46.47 and she became the 331st person to successfully complete the Catalina Channel swim.

Mathias Kassner, a 47-year-old, from Berlin, Germany launched his Catalina channel swim on August 19 the He jumped into the calm water at Doctor's Cove at 11:10.31 pm. He was sharing the water with a sea lion who was catching flying fish in the area.

The water temperature was 70* at the start of the swim. As the swim progressed the water temperature increased and rose to 72* near the Mainland, completely opposite of normal trends in the channel. On the other hand, the air temperature fluctuated from a low of 68* to a high of 86* then

dropped to 70* and again climbed to 83*. This is not normal at all for the air temperature in the channel.

During the crossing the wave height didn't change significantly. It slightly rose from 1 to 2 feet to 2 to 3 feet before dying to 1 to 2 for the finish. The wind started out at about five knots but by 2:14 am the wind laid down. This made for an ideal crossing.

In the early hours of the swim Mathias had to switch sides twice as the fumes from the boat were affecting him. This led to him throwing up. Once the fumes weren't an issue he felt better.

On the swim Mathias Drank Maxim with either banana or peach slices. After a while he tired of the banana. His stomach didn't feel good so he added ginger tea with honey. He also had Advil and Ibuprofen on a few occasions. He fed every thirty minutes.

His crew used the white board to not only rely his stroke counts to him but to send him inspiring messages. Mathias seemed to enjoy these as he smiled after receiving each of them.

His stroke count began at 61 strokes per minute but within 2 ½ hours had dropped to 55 strokes per minute. This was well under his goal pace of 60 per minute. He maintained this stroke count until the morning when he began to pick up his pace and his last stroke count was a high of 62 strokes per minute.

Mathias had the displeasure of being stung by a jellyfish in the early morning hours. Besides this small fish were jumping into the kayak. A few hours later sardines were jumping into the kayak. No mammals were seen on the crossing.

Just before 11:00 am Mathias asked how far he had left and asked for more information to be provided. He only had 1.8 nautical miles to go to finish the swim. The crew stated, "It's a short pool session from here." A pace swimmer joined him but couldn't keep up. Another swimmer jumped in and accompanied him to the finish. He landed at 1:10.02 pm making his final time, 13:59.31.26. Mathias became the 332nd person to complete the Catalina channel swim.

From Italy came Sabrina Peron destined to tackle the Catalina Channel on August 22nd. She walked into the water just after midnight, 00:16.53 am. Immediately there was a problem with a catamaran cutting closely in front of the support boat, the OutRider.

Again the water temperature was amazingly warm from 72.3* as the high and only fell to 71* during the crossing. The air temperature was cooler initially with a 69* reading. It fluctuated mildly but didn't really rise until 10:24 am when it climbed to 72*. By the finish it had ascended to 75*.

There was minimal wave height throughout the swim. The observer recorded the conditions as "Dream Conditions" at 10:00 am. The waves picked up slightly before the finish. The wind was calm until the late morning hours of the swim and then gradually began to pick up from 5 to 7 knots to 1 to 12 knots at the finish.

Sabrina was a left sided breather. She started out with a 57 stroke count but quickly dropped to averaging 53 strokes per minute. Her low was 50 strokes per minute. She was very consistent.

For feeding Sabrina drank Multi Dex, Extra shot Energy, chocolate drink, orange Energy Shot and had a Mustard package for a cramp. She also had Ibuprofen when needed. At the beginning of the swim she wasn't drinking enough and the observer encouraged her to drink more. On her swim plan she had decided to drink every forty-five minutes but she decided in the swim to drink every thirty minutes instead which helped her significantly.

Sabrina had the unpopular marine life on her crossing, two sharks. The first was a 6 to 8-foot Hammerhead which the crew watched until it swam away and second was a smaller shark 20 feet off the starboard side of Sabrina for six minutes. Again the crew watched as this latter shark swam ahead and then dropped back numerous times. On the positive side a sea turtle was basking in the sun 10 feet from Sabrina as she swam past.

At 12:27.31 pm Sabrina landed at the small sandy beach Terranea. Her overall time was 12:10.38 and she became the 333rd person to complete the Catalina channel swim.

The seventeenth swimmer of the summer was Dan Simonelli of San Diego, California. He was a 49-year-old man. His plan was to swim from Catalina to the Mainland on August 23rd. He commenced his swim at 1:12.06 am at Doctor's Cove.

The water temperature ranged from a starting point of 72.2* to a high of 73.8* and gradually slipped to 71.5* for a warm crossing. Unfortunately, the air temperature was only recorded twice at 65* with the latter being at 5:12 am. Without morning temperatures no analysis could be made.

Similarly, very few wave heights and wave knots were recorded after 5:00 am. In the wave height there were only 1 to 2 foot waves which was ideal. For the wind initially there was a 5 knot wind which dropped to 1 to 2 knots by 5:12 am. At 9:12 am there is a comment that the ocean is flat and there is no wind. This implies perfect conditions.

Dan wanted to keep his stroke rate between 55 – 60 strokes per minute in the swim. He began with a count of 65 and only dropped below 60 on two occasions. He averaged 62 strokes per minute.

Dan went the first hour without a feed. He then drank every thirty minutes. He chose to drink U Can with water and Biosteel with water. He drank the U Can on the hour and the Biosteel on the half hour. After some upset stomach and voiding issues, he drank only water to calm his system.

During the swim Dan received a message from his daughters, "Go Daddy!" He also saw a freighter and the other escort boat in front of him and commented on it. He was asked if he wanted a pace swimmer but he replied he didn't. He was strong and positive throughout the crossing.

There was some marine life on the crossing but not near Dan. A whale followed by dolphins in front of the support boat could be seen. Finally, a sail fish was spotted in the ocean near the finish.

At 11:17.34 am Dan cleared the water for his finish. His time was 10:15.28 and he became the 334th person to conquer the Catalina Channel.

From La Jolla, California Kevin Smith, a 26-year-old, decided to swim the Catalina Channel. He had a good start at 11:08 pm on August 23rd from Doctor's Cove swimming toward the Mainland. The ocean was calm with no waves or wind.

A unique situation occurred in regards to the water temperature on Kevin's crossing. The temperature started at 72* and remained at 72* throughout the whole swim! The air temperature varied from 72* to quickly dropping to 68* and retained that for numerous hours. In the early morning hours, the temperatures began to rise until hitting 78* at the finish.

Kevin's plan was to hold 60 strokes per minute on the swim. His initial reading was 50 strokes per minute and this was his highest stroke count. His lowest stroke count was 41 but no one seemed to be concerned and it was noted he was efficient, strong and felt good. Kevin maintained 45 as his average stroke rate on the swim.

On the crossing the wave height never was over three feet. Most of the time it remained at one foot. Similarly, the wind speed was up to five knots early in the swim but plunged to one knot by 7:38 am, making for an ideal crossing.

Kevin was doing well in the swim and just before 6:00 am he asked for more encouragement from his parents. When they started cheering he gave a thumbs up to them. He had also asked for a pace swimmer at 6:00 am but no one entered until 9:00 am as he was doing so well.

For nourishment on the crossing Kevin drank Hammer and Perpetuum. He also had Advil with water on two occasions. He ate parts of bananas too. He drank every thirty minutes after the first hour without a break. At one point in the swim Kevin had a cramp and swam to the boat for water with Advil in it. This seemed to work well.

Unfortunately, no marine life was seen on this crossing. Kevin stayed positive and approached the finish in the mid- morning.

At 10:25 am Kevin landed on the Mainland. Kevin became the 335th person to swim the Catalina channel and his final time was 11:17.47.

Shubham Yanmali came from Maharashtra, India to swim the Catalina Channel. He was 19 years old when he entered the water at 10:40.44 pm on August 24th. There weren't any waves or wind at the start at Doctor's Cove. It was a beautiful clear, starlit sky.

Both the air and water temperature were ideal with a high of 73* and of low of 71* for the former and 70* for the latter. The wave height barely rose from flat conditions to 1 to 2 feet high until the early morning hours when it crept up to 2 to 3 feet high. The wind speed jumped around a little more but never climbed higher than 4 to 6 knots. After a short time, the wind returned to 2 to 3 knots for the finish.

Shubham was a right sided breather. His plan was to hold his stroke count to 56 strokes per minute. Only once in the swim was he lower than that, a 52 stroke count. He started with a 66 stroke count and remained above 56 strokes until 3:45 am. After two counts of 56 he improved his count to the 60's until 7:15 am. From then until he landed he had stroke counts in the 50's.

Throughout the swim he looked strong and steady. He maintained his stroke even when his stroke count decreased at the end of the swim. Furthermore, he never complained in the swim.

He drank a PowerAde-a carbohydrate drink, an energy gel and hot chocolate on the swim. During the swim he had twenty feeds at the thirty-minute mark. He was very consistent; he didn't take any medicine nor did he get sick.

In the last few hours of the crossing there were some interesting marine life and boat sightings. A pod of Spinner dolphins crossed in front of the bow of the boat in the early morning. Within a tanker passed four hundred feet in front of the swimmer. Not to be outdone a blue whale was spouting a hundred yards in front of the boat as Shubham approached the finish.

At 9:22.50 he landed carefully on the Mainland. This made his overall time 10:42.10 and Shubham was the 336th person to tackle and complete the Catalina channel.

The twentieth person to swim the Catalina Channel was Marty Filipowski from Australia. He commenced his swim at 11:02 pm on August 26th from Doctor's Cove. It was a beautiful night with a 2/3rds moon. Nineteen minutes into the swim a dolphin swam in between the kayaker and the boat.

The water temperature was warm from the beginning, 74* and only fell to 72* in the crossing. Meanwhile the air temperature started at 76* bounced around to 74* then climbed gradually to 80*, rather amazing.

It was a calm night for both wave height and wind speed. The former was flat until 8:01 am when it mildly rose to 1 to 2 feet and it didn't increase from there either. The latter moved to 5 knots within the first two and a half hours then the wind varied between 1 to 2 knots and 3 to 4 knots until the last half hour of the swim. The wind increased as Marty approached the Mainland to 4 to 5 knots. These were wonderful conditions for a swim.

Marty had planned to keep his stroke count between 58 and 60 and he did. His high was 62 strokes per minute and his low was 58 strokes per minute. He averaged 59 strokes per minute on the swim-well done. He maintained a strong stroke throughout the swim and only once did his coach ask him to pick up his stroke count at 8:01 am. He immediately jumped to 60 strokes per minute.

Marty's plan was to drink every thirty minutes. After almost nine and a half hours he switched his feed breaks to every twenty minutes. On the crossing he drank Maxim, Ovaltine and Coke. How much was not recorded by the observers. He also took medicine on the crossing but what he took wasn't recorded either. Marty had breaks from .15 seconds to three minutes in length. On a few breaks he talked to the paddler and his coach.

This was a swim with many interested marine life from the dolphin early in the swim to a seal in the morning who swam around the boat a couple of times checking everything out. At 10:35 am a huge pod of dolphins crossed 500 feet in front of the boat. Almost 45 minutes later another pod crossed in front and behind the boat.

Besides marine life a tanker crossed astern of the boat in the middle of the night. It was only a mile away from the swimmer. Another ship, this one a container ship passed in front of the swimmer in the morning.

At 11:30am Marty took his last feeding. Marty landed at Cardiac Hill at 11:58.25 am, making his total time 12:56.25. He became the 337th person to swim the Catalina Channel.

Noah Garrett from San Marino, California decided to swim the Catalina Channel from the Island to the Mainland. He was 38 years old when he entered the water at Doctor's Cove on August 30th at 11:32.45 pm. The water was extremely flat and glassy but there were tons of crabs in the water. The moon's light was reflecting on the water.

The water temperature was 74* as Noah entered the water. It only dipped to 70* during the crossing, an ideal temperature for the swim. On the other hand, the air temperature was 67* at the beginning of the swim rose to 70* but fell to 69* for the remainder of the swim. Rarely does the air temperature stay colder than the water temperature but it did on this crossing by a little.

The wave height stayed flat for most of the crossing. At its peak it climbed to 2 to 3 feet which isn't very much at all. The wind speed, however, began climbing steadily all night until it reached 10 to 12 knots at 4:20 am. This created some white caps, soupy water for over four hours. The wind began to calm down around 8:39 am and remained so for the finish. Early in the swim Noah stated, "Mother Ocean is angry with me for some reason." He was told he was doing awesome and kicking butt.

On the swim Noah drank Hammer Perpetuum, Skratch Hydration, gel, water and had various snacks but the latter weren't recorded except twice when he ate a Snickers. He fed every thirty minutes and switched to twenty minute feeds at 7:00 am. He had twenty feeds on the swim. He did have some pills on the swim but what they were wasn't recorded.

Noah's plan on the swim was to hold a stroke count of 40 per minute. He could bilateral breath but he preferred to breath to his left. Noah started out with a 63 stroke count but quickly increased his stroke count to 68. He averaged 65 strokes per minute, well above his goal of 40. In the swim Noah's stroke looked strong and smooth and he decided to alternately breath. This was the best to do in the chop also.

There were two container ships which passed Noah on his swim. The first passed around 3:15 am and the latter around 7:20 am was behind him. There weren't many sightings of marine life except the crabs the start and a whale in front of him near the finish.

Noah approached the finish and walked ashore at Pelican Cove at 9:2240 am. His overall time was 9:49.55 and he became the 338th person to swim the Catalina Channel.

From La Jolla, California, came Susanne Simpson, a 54-year-old woman. She chose to swim Catalina from the Island to the Mainland on the night of September 3rd, 2015. At 10:30 pm she started by entering the warm water at Doctor's Cove. She was supported by the OutRider and many flying fish.

Susanne's goal was to have a stroke count of 72 strokes per minute during the swim. She began with a count of 64 strokes per minute but plummeted to 56 strokes per minute. By 4:00 am Susanne had

increased her stroke count to 62 strokes per minute. Again her count dropped to 56 and rose slightly to 56 at the last stroke count taken.

The air temperature during this swim was cold ranging from a low of 58* to a high of 67* near the finish. The good news was that the water temperature was warm. It fluctuated from 71* to a high of 74* and fell back to 71* near the finish.

The water was pretty calm for most of the crossing. It was less than one foot for the first seven hours. It gradually rose to 3 to 4 feet before returning to one foot for the finish. The wind speed wasn't an issue on this swim as it didn't climb higher than 2 knots.

On the swim it seemed that Susanne fed after the first hour then at the thirty minutes. Unfortunately, the observers didn't record most of the feedings, their time or what they entailed. Susanne drank Maxim and had Gu. She also had three doses of 400 mg of Ibuprofen. For her pleasure she had cookie dough at 5:00 am. Susanne skipped her last two feeds as she approached the finish stating, "I Feel Great."

During the crossing Susanne had the unfortunate misfortune to be stung twice by jellyfish in inappropriate places. She peed on the first and immediately took Ibuprofen to ease the pain.

From 6:40 am until 8:30 am Susanne was accompanied by pace swimmers. As she approached the finish two swimmers joined her for the finish. At 9:47 am she walked on the Mainland. Her overall time was 11:17.01 and Susanne became the 339th to swim the Catalina Channel. In addition, she broke the record of being the oldest swimmer by nine days!

The twenty-third successful swimmer of 2015 was Victoria Gorman of Edgecliff, Australia. On September 4th at 10:53.45 pm on a partly cloudy and breezy night Tori launched into her swim from Doctor's Cove on the Island.

The water temperature on the crossing was amazing. It started at 74* and held until the last two readings when it reached 75*. The air temperature unfortunately was only recorded three times but it ranged from 72* to 73*. The last recording was at 6:18 am so the air temperature should have increased in the next five hours based on past experiences.

The wave height wasn't recorded at all except for a comment which stated the water was calmer than the chop at night. The wind speed began at five knots and again little was recorded but again a statement at 12:52 am saying there was only a slight breeze now.

Tori had planned to hold a stroke count of 62 strokes per minute on her crossing. She began with a 62 stroke count and maintained it for a majority of the swim. From 3:59 am until 6:53 am she dropped to a stroke rate of 60. Her highest count was 64 strokes per minute while her lowest was 59 strokes per minute. She not only maintained a good stroke itself she had a good attitude in the crossing.

On the crossing she had a variety of things to eat. She had Malto dextrin, Gu, CarboPro, bananas, peanut butter sandwich and mouthwash to counter the taste of the salt water. On one feed she smiled for the camera as a picture was being taken.

Unfortunately, a jellyfish stung Tori during the crossing. Beyond this the only marine life seen was a whale off to the right of Tori near the end of the swim. The whale showed its tale to the boat.

As Tori approached the finish a pace swimmer jumped in to accompany her to the beach. Tori landed at Cardiac Hill at 11:35:37. Her total time was 12:41:52. Victoria became the 340th to swim the Catalina Channel.

Asha Allen of Benicia, California chose to swim the Catalina Channel from the Island to the Mainland, the more favorable route. She initiated her swim into the flat water at Doctor's Cove at 10:32 pm on September 4th. It was a partially cloudy night but without any wind.

The water temperature for the endeavor was a warm 72* at the start and varied between that and 74* throughout the swim. On the other hand, the air temperature fluctuated more than twenty degrees from 70* at the start of the swim to a high of 90* at the finish of the swim!

The wave height didn't increase much during the crossing. At the beginning it was non-existent and through the night and next day only climbed to 3 to 4 foot. By itself this would have made for a comfortable crossing unfortunately the wind speed was changed drastically on this crossing creating strong wind waves. The wind began at a mild 1 to 2 knots rose within two hours to 12 knots then after jumping around for a while lowered to 2 to 5 knots and near the end of the swim settled at 5 to 8 knots. This made for a challenging swim.

Asha was a bilateral breather but preferred breathing on her right side. She began with a 59 stroke count. During the swim this was her high stroke count and her low count was 52 strokes per minute. She averaged 55 strokes per minute.

Asha felt good during the swim and commented to this affect. At one point she gave a thumbs up sign. She did think she was going backwards once but she wasn't and she asked how far she had to go. The latter is a normal question on a swim. She only had three nautical miles to go at that point. She did also switch her goggles to a dark pair in the morning hours and have them defogged.

Her food plan was very intricate. She had a mixture of raw food, water and Ozmo, Yerba Mate Energy Shot, coffee, watermelon chews, ice and veggie-vegan pattie swallow mix. In addition, she took two Naproxen's on the swim.

Within the first hour of the swim Asha had a pace swimmer which is unusual. Six times pace swimmers were in with her for around an hour. Near the finish two joined her to swim her ashore.

At 12:01:50 pm Asha walked ashore on September 5th. Her total time was 13:29:00 and Asha became the 341st person to conquer the Catalina Channel.

From Putney, England came Don Perrott, a 46-year old male swimmer. At the start of the swim at 11:21:21 pm on September 8th Don was accompanied by a couple dozen flying fish. The water was calm at Doctor's Cove and it was a clear night but the wind was up from the beginning of the swim.

Much to no one's surprise the warm waters of 2015 continued with a 73* temperature at the start and an increase to 74* temperature during the swim. Similarly, the air temperature was warm and only fluctuated between a high of 74.5* at the start to a low of 71*. The last recording the air temperature had risen to 74*.

In the crossing the wave height remained under 1 to 3 feet which was a positive situation. However, the wind speed was erratic throughout the night. There were five major changes in the wind during the crossing. Initially the wind was 1 to 2 knots. Within 45 minutes the wind was up to 9 to 11 knots. No sooner could you count 15 minutes and the wind plummeted to 2 to 4 knots. The wind was calm for hours before increasing to 3 to 5 knots then fell to 2 to 4 knots for the last hour of the swim.

Don's plan was to hold his stroke count at 60 strokes per minute during the crossing. He maintained a stroke count between 58 and 60 on the crossing with an average of 59 strokes per minute. He had a strong swimming stroke and even perked up near the finish.

For feeding Don wanted to feed every hour for the first four hours then drop to forty-five minutes for the rest of the swim. He planned to drink 250ml CNP with a teaspoon of fruit sugar for three feedings then have 300ml of mint tea with a teaspoon of fruit sugar on the fourth feeding. Every third feeding he was to add a half a banana to this plan. On the swim he also added a chocolate bar. At one point he stated he was going to drink CNP and at another Maxim and the observers didn't differentiate. His breaks lasted from .45 seconds to 2 minutes. Unfortunately, after the sixth feeding the observer stopped recording all of the feedings.

There were many sightings of ships passing in front and behind Don during the night. A container ship crossed in front of Don in the morning also. A unique occurrence on this crossing was the Space Station passed overhead at 5:19 am heading Northeast.

On September 9th, at 9:08.58 Don touched shore and cleared the water at Long Point. Don's overall time was 9:47.37. He became the 342nd person to tackle the Catalina Channel.

Jake Stromberg, a 17-year old from Greenbrae, California decided to swim the Catalina Channel on September 16th. He descended into the water at 12:00.56 am. There were cloudy skies and numerous flying fish at the start of the swim.

The air temperature commenced at 70* then slid to 67* before surging to 82*. At the finish the air temperature was a warm 74*. The water temperature didn't vary much during the crossing, from 72* initially to a consistent 73* and finally a high of 73.6*.

There was little wave height during the crossing. Mainly the height was 0 to 1 foot or 1 to 2 foot which was ideal for a swim. On the other hand, the wind speed, fluctuated significantly during the swim. It began at 5 to 10 knots and within an hour reached 8 to 10 knots. By 4:25 am the wind decreased to 5 to 8 knots. At 7:30 am there wasn't any wind and this remained the case throughout the crossing.

As a bilateral breather Jake was able to see everything going on during the swim. His stroke count began at 72 strokes per minute, rose slightly then began to plummet. His strokes per minute dropped as low as 63 strokes per minute. He fluctuated between 63 and 74 strokes per minute on the swim. He did finish with a 72 stroke count.

His back hurt him during the crossing so he switched to backstroke to loosen his back. On occasions he swam butterfly and breaststroke also.

Jake had planned to feed every thirty minutes but dropped to 25 minutes on the swim. He drank Maxim, a common drink used by marathon swimmers, Gu, water, apple cider and a shake made of rice, banana, and Nutella. In addition, he ate hash browns and porridge. On the swim he took three Tylenol for pain. His feeding breaks lasted fairly long up to three minutes in length.

Other activity on the swim included a gorgeous sunrise around 7:00 am followed by a tanker ship in the distance. Another tanker ship crossed a half mile in front of Jake. Besides these, Jake was stung numerous times in his face by jelly fish and was in immense pain. Soon after this he had to replace his goggles. Then near the finish a sea lion was swimming near Jake and seemed very curious what he was doing.

At 11:26.33 am Jake landed at Terranea. His overall time was 11:26 13 and he was the 343rd person the swim the Catalina Channel.

The twenty-seventh successful swimmer of 2015 was Jamie Tout, a 62- year old from Austin, Texas. At 10.55.07 pm on September 18th Jamie slid into the water on a beautiful, starry night.

The water temperature on this swim began at 73*, held there for most of the swim dropped only once to 72* then near the finish reached an all-time high of 75*degrees. Meanwhile the air temperature was a bit cooler at the start, 70*, and gradually climbing to 75* for a warm finish.

The wave height was ideal on this crossing starting at one foot and only reaching two to three feet in the whole crossing. Meanwhile the wind speed started at 2 knots ascended to a high of 5 knots before falling to 2 knots for the finish of the swim.

In Jamie's plan for the swim he wanted to maintain a 55 to 60 stroke count per minute. He not only did that he started at 64 strokes per minute but his high was 65 strokes per minute and his low was 60 strokes per minute!

On the crossing Jamie had 13 feedings. All but one went well. He drank Gu, 100ml to 200ml of a Carbohydrate drink, and a GNC Amplified Endurance Boost. He also had Ibuprofen when he needed it. He had his breaks at an hour apart initially, then switched to 45 minutes and finally to thirty minutes.

Around 5:00 am many ships were lined up in the shipping lane but didn't affect Jamie's swim. The sun rose at 6:31 am. Unfortunately, no marine life was spotted on this crossing.

Jamie had a strong swimming stroke throughout the crossing. He remained upbeat. He had swim pacers for two hours, from 7:00 am to 9:00 am but wanted to finish the swim by himself.

At 10:13.40 on September 19th Jamie landed on Pelican Cove. His aggregate time was 11:18.33 and Jamie became the 344th person to swim the Catalina Channel.

Jason Betley from the United Kingdom was the only swimmer who was attempting a double crossing of the Catalina Channel in 2015. At 8:17.10 pm on September 18th he waded into the water off of Terranea.

He was swimming from the Mainland to Catalina and back, MCM. He was accompanied by the Outrider captained by John Pittman.

In the twenty-eight hours he was in the water he experienced numerous conditions. The water temperature was unusually high beginning at 74* and over the next day reaching 76*, a Catalina record. Meanwhile, the air temperature fluctuated between a low of 73* at the start to a high of 81* in the crossing.

The surprising part of the conditions was the wave heights in the double crossing. Throughout the swim the wave height stayed under three feet. This was amazing for twenty-eight hours. On the other hand, the wind speed was a changed significantly over fifteen times in this same period. Initially, the wind was 7 to 9 knots and in four hours dropped to 0 to 3 knots. Over the next 24 hours the wave knots rose to a high of 6 to 8 knots twice and fell to 0 knots once. Unfortunately, the exact numbers were not recorded for the last few hours.

Similarly, Jason fluctuated in his stroke count in the swim. He began at 52 strokes per minute. His low was 40 strokes while his high was 58 strokes per minute near the end of his second lap. Within a half hour his highest stroke count, he dropped to 48 strokes per minute. Again the last few hours of his stroke count weren't recorded either.

As the swim went on he had trouble with his shoulders and switched to breaststroke and one-armed freestyle. This helped for a while. His crew gave him a pep talk trying to encourage him to fight the pain. He was encouraged to go one food break at a time. He did and did well.

On the crossing Jason drank a Malto dextrin mix, water, a Carbohydrate drink, electrolytes, and a chocolate milk shake. He also ate pieces of a banana, jelly babies, strawberries, peaches and pineapples. He also took Ibuprofens, Renae for indigestion and Pyrocedemol for shoulder pain. His breaks lasted from a quick one of .10 seconds to a minute and a half recorded.

Jason landed on Catalina at Doctor's Cove on September 19th at 8:10.25 pm. As he swam to shore he swam over garibaldi, blue perch and opal eye fish. His aggregate time was 11:53.15 and he became the 345th person to swim the Catalina Channel. After a short break, he reentered the water at 8:15.41 pm. Standing on that shore and knowing he had to go back was a mental more than a physical challenge. Jason met this challenge.

It took over sixteen hours to swim back to the Mainland. He was able to keep his attitude up for most of that time. He gave a thumbs up at 6:15 pm. He was swimming back into the second night, another mental challenge. At 9:52 pm he had a pace swimmer just after he stated his shoulder was killing him. He seemed to swim a little better. The pace swimmer was in for almost two hours and returned after 55 minutes. Two other swimmers joined him for the finish. He landed at a beach just West of Terranea at 12:29.20. His overall double crossing time was 28 hours, 12 minutes and 10 seconds. He became the 28th person to accomplish a double crossing.

Bill Shipp, a 55-year old swimmer from Mitchellville, Maryland tackled the Catalina Channel on September 20th. He slid into the water at 11:09.43 pm at Doctor's on Catalina Island. It was a clear night as there were 15 knot winds.

The water temperature hit a new high on this crossing rising from 72* to 77*, an hour before the finish. Similarly, the air temperature was warm on this swim, starting at 78* and fell to 74* before climbing to 82* near the finish making for a comfortable swim.

The wave height started at 3 to 5 feet at the beginning of the swim and maintained this for many hours. Then the wave height dropped to 1 to 3 feet for many hours and changed to 3 feet just before the finish. On the other hand, the wind speed was erratic. There were eight different changes in the wind speed in this swim. Initially, the wind was 15 knots. After an hour the wind dropped to 12 knots until 4:10 am. From there the wind descended in almost a pattern of two until 7:40 am when the wind hit 5 knots. This was consistent until the wind blew up to 13 to 15 knots for the final fifty minutes of the swim.

Bill's plan was to hold 70 to 74 strokes per minute during his crossing. He began with a 74 stroke count and this was his high count on the swim. His low count was 66 strokes per minute. He averaged 68 strokes a minute on the crossing. He was a left sided breather.

Throughout the crossing Bill fed every thirty minutes; he had twenty-three feedings. He drank Carbo Pro, UCan, mint tea, ginger ale, Coke, Mango Electrolyte and water. He also ate blueberries, peaches, peanut butter and hazelnut butter. On the swim he used Advil for pain.

Early in the swim Bill was stung by something and it was assumed to be jelly fish. The only other marine life seen of the crossing was a pod of dolphins just before the finish.

Bill was very positive throughout the crossing. From saying the water was, "Glorious" to smiling at his crew he kept his spirits up. When two of the crew mooned him he splashed them and told them, "Put that away." The Maryland flag was brought out to encourage him also.

At 10:57.09 Bill walked ashore on the Mainland. His overall time was 11:47.26.27 making him the 346th person to conquer the Catalina Channel.

Tracy Clark was a New Zealander who happened to live in the Netherlands. She was 45-years old and decided to attempt the Catalina Channel. On August 21st she stepped into the water at Doctor's Cove after picking up a few rocks as souvenirs. It was 10:52 pm on a calm night.

The water temperature was 72* at the start of the swim and varied little during the swim. It rose slightly to 73 and finally climbed to a warm 74*. On the other hand, there was a large distinction between the degrees of air temperature on the crossing. The initial temperature was 70* and this was maintained within plus or minus one degree for most of the swim. Then for the last two degrees the air temperature soared to 78* then 79* for the finish of the swim.

There was barely any wave height on the swim. This only reached one to two feet in the crossing. However, the wind speed jumped all over the place. From the start until 6:30 am there was either no wind or only a one knot of wind. This meant the first third of the swim was done in ideal conditions. As the morning hours emerged the wind rose to 4.5 knots. By 8:35 am the wind increased to 8 knots before dropping to 5 knots for the end of the swim.

Tracy planned to hold 54 to 58 strokes per minute in her strokes per minute on the crossing while using a bilateral breathing technique. She began with 50 strokes per minute. Her highest stroke count was 56

strokes per minute and her lowest was 46 strokes per minute. Her average was around 51 strokes per minute. According to the observers she maintained a strong stroke throughout the swim.

In addition, Tracy kept her spirits up. At one point she screamed with excitement. During her crossing Tracy was stung at least ten times by jelly fish. She asked for vinegar to spray on the stings but as she was in the water this wouldn't do much good. She just fought through the pain. She took ibuprofen and a pain pill to help with this severe pain. At one point her coach told her to increase her speed and she improved her stroke count by four strokes per minute!

On the swim Tracy drank Isostar, Maxim, water and flat Coke She drank initially at 45 minutes then switched to thirty minute breaks. She also had fruit such as pieces of banana and peaches during the crossing. When she drank, she tried to consume 200 ml of fluid at each feeding. Tracy had 26 feedings on the crossing.

Early in the crossing an unmanned vessel appeared and Tracy and the kayaker had to make an evasive maneuver to prevent from being hit by it. Other sightings on the crossing included a whale and dolphins as Tracy approached the completion of the crossing.

Tracy had stomach cramps during the crossing so used flat Coke to try to alleviate the pain. This unfortunately didn't help.

At 11:48 pm on September 22nd Tracy touched shore on the Mainland. Her accumulated time was 12:54.55 and Tracy became the 347th person to swim the Catalina Channel.

The thirty-first swimmer to tackle the Catalina Channel was a 54-year old woman, Kristine Buckley, from Belmont California. She decided to swim on September 21st at 10:38.51 pm from Doctor's Cove on the Island. It was a smooth night as she descended into the water with small fish jumping around her.

The water temperature was 73* at the commencement of the swim. It ranged from a low of 70* to a high of 73*. The average temperature was a comfortable 71.5* degrees in the crossing. The air temperature fluctuated throughout the night. Initially, it was 68* then fell as low as 63* at 4:39 am before climbing all the way to a high of 79* at 12:38 pm.

The wave height was non-existent for many parts of the swim. It did rise slightly to 1 to 2 feet at its highest point in the crossing. On the other hand, the wind speed was all over the place from a low of 0 knots to a high of 12 knots. Almost every half hour the wind was changing, making for an uncertain ocean. At 4:10 am the wind increased to 4 knots and by 7:30 am had hit 8 knots. At 8:28 am the wind had soared to 12 knots and then gradually dropped to 8 knots at 9:08 am. It didn't drop below that for the rest of the swim, however.

Kristine had planned to maintain a stroke count of 68 as she breathed bilaterally on the crossing. She started with a stroke count of 69 per minute. She fluctuated throughout her swim ranged from a low of 60 strokes per minute to a high of 74 strokes per minute. During her last two hours her stroke rate dropped from 68 to a low of 60 as she approached the finish.

On her crossing Kristine drank Gatorade, Gu, vitamin water, tea and water. She fed every thirty minutes after the first hour. Kristine had 29 feeding breaks on the crossing.

Besides the small fish at the start a seal lion was seen jumping around two hours into the swim. At 8:28 am dolphins were spotted and at the same time some ducks seemed to be following Kristine. There weren't any more marine life sightings but a commercial fishing boat crossed the swimmers path as she approached the finish.

Kristine stayed positive in the crossing. Her crew Gave her encouragement at breaks and sent in pace swimmers to help her. At one point Kristine stuck out her tongue as she was having some fun.

At 2:19 pm on September 22nd Kristine cleared the water on the Mainland. Her aggregate time was 15:40.09. Kristine became the 348th person to swim the Catalina Channel.

Christian Ayala Espinosa 32-year old from Puebla, Mexico entered the water at 12:14.30 am on September 29th, 2015. Despite extremely warm water and air conditions, Christian had lanolin applied from his neck to his feet. The sky was clear and the moon was huge but the conditions were less than ideal.

The water temperature ranged from a start of 72* which was also the low to a high of 74*. The air temperature was 68* initially. The air temperature dropped until it settled at 64* at 5:14 am. From there the air temperature consistently rose until it hit a high of 82* at 1:12 pm.

On this crossing the wave height wasn't too challenging. It started at 2 feet, was between 1 to 3 or 1 to 4 feet for many hours with a 2 to 4 feet thrown in between. At 10:11 am the wave height jumped to 3 to 5 feet but fell within two hours. By 1:12 pm the wave height was back down to 1 to 3 feet making for a calm finish. In complete contrast to the wave height, the wind speed was all over the place. The wind speed, unfortunately, began at 10 to 15 knots. During the night it remained high, even reaching 10 to 18 knots at 5:14 am. From that time on the wind slowly decreased, reaching 2 to 5 knots at 9:30 am. 5 knots was the constant for the rest of the swim.

Christian's plan was to hold a stroke rate of 60 on his crossing while breathing to his right side. On his swim he averaged 53 strokes per minute. 56 was his starting stroke rate and his highest stroke rate. His lowest stroke rate was 49. His stroke looked strong and smooth throughout the crossing according to the log.

Christian had a unique feeding plan for his crossing. It involved eating meat protein but very distinct parts of the animal such as the heart, brain, brisket, animal fat, sweet potato and rice. He drank Pelligrino, Gatorade, coconut oil, coffee and water. He took pain medication for his left shoulder. He had breaks at the hour, switched to 45 minutes and finally had them every thirty minutes. His breaks were long when he ate but shorter when he just drank liquids.

Early in the crossing a pod of dolphins was swimming with Christian but no other marine life was seen on the crossing.

Christian maintained good spirits in the swim. At one point his coach played a recording of his children singing happy birthday to him. His crew was supportive and he gave a thumbs up once during the swim.

At 2:13.46 pm Christian climbs ashore southeast of Pelican Cove and a Mexican flag was raised. Christian's total time was 13:59.16 and he was the 349th person to swim the Catalina Channel.

A thirty-year old from San Jose, California, Michael Goble, waded into the flat water at Doctor's Cove on September 30th. It was 11:29.45 pm and he was accompanied by the Bottom Scratcher, piloted by Greg Elliott.

The water temperature for this crossing was wonderful and ranged from a low of 72* to a high of 75* near the finish. The air temperature fluctuated from 71.3* to 78* degrees. The 71.3* was at the start of the swim and the temperature stayed between 71* and 72* until 9:43am. At this time the air temperature soared to 78*. From there to the end of the swim the air temperature rotated between 75* and 76*, settling at 76* for the last reading.

The wave height reached only 4 to 6 feet on this crossing once at 9:53 am after being less than 2 to 3 feet all night. Nevertheless, the wave height dropped and remained at 2 to 4 feet for the rest of the swim. The wind speed was a different story as it moved around from 0 knots to 5 to 8 knots at 2:44 in the morning. During the rest of the swim the wind jumped from 4 to 7 knots to 3 to 6 knots to 3.9 to 5.7 before lowering for the finish. The wind was .5 to 1.4 for the end of the swim.

Michael had planned to bilaterally breath on the crossing and hold his stroke count between 50 and 55 strokes per minute. His first stroke count was 51 strokes per minute. He dropped to a low of 44 strokes per minute but finished with his highest stroke count, 52 strokes per minute. His average stroke rate was 48.5 strokes per minute.

The feeding plan for Michael included drinking Malto dextrin, Gu and water. He fed every half hour throughout the swim. His breaks took from .30 seconds to 5 minutes. On the swim there were 27 feeds. After some feeds he had to stretch so he laid on back to do this.

At 12:40 pm a group of a dozen large dolphins were all around the boat. This is always a positive sign for a swim.

At 13:41.59 Michael walked ashore at Cardiac Hill to family waiting on the beach. His overall time was 14:12.14 and Michael became the 350th person to swim the Catalina Channel.

Attila Manyiko from Zalaegerszeg, Hungary intended to swim the Catalina Channel on October 5th at 12:29.04 am. He slid into the calm waters off the Island at Doctor's Cove.

The air temperature was 65.6* at the first reading. It hovered at 66* for many hours before changing to a low of 62*. As the day wear on the air temperature rose to a high of 72.5*. On the other hand, the water temperature only varied four degrees from a low of 73* to a high of 76*, making for a warm swim.

The wave height was insignificant during this crossing as it went from flat at the start to .5 at the second reading. For the rest of swim, the wave height stayed under 1 to 2 feet. The wind speed, however, bounced all over the place. The low was zero knots but the high was 9 to 11 knots on two different occasions. To make matters worse, the wind was 7 to 9 knots at the finish.

Attila had a consistent stroke count on the swim. It only varied from a low of 69 strokes per minute to a high of 75 strokes per minute. Unfortunately, no stroke counts were taken after 9:00 am so an average

stroke count couldn't be determined. Attila had to do some breaststroke near the end of the swim but beyond that his freestyle seemed well.

Attila had a detailed plan for his feeding breaks. He planned to feed every thirty minutes to the sixth hour then drop to twenty minute breaks. On the swim he drank fluid but what kind wasn't known, Coke and Kyani. He ate a biscuit, some Oreos and pieces of bananas. He also took some Vitamins during the crossing. He had 20 feedings in the crossing but refused the two after that despite some passionate words from his coach and then some pleading from the crew. His breaks were fast, many under ten seconds. The one that was longer was when he had to change his shark bracelet.

Attila cleared the water at Terranea at 11:28.44 on October 5th. His overall time was 10:59.40 and Attila was the 351st person to swim the Catalina Channel.

From Rose Cottage in Seal Chart, Near Seven Oaks, England came 40-year old Mark Sheridan. At 10:48.41 pm on October 5th he undertook his crossing from Doctor's Cove. There was intermittent drizzle early on the crossing.

The water temperature was 74* initially, lowered to 71* before rising slightly to 72* for the latter half of the swim. Meanwhile, the air temperature fluctuated from a low temperature of 66* to a high of 79* on the crossing. Mark thought the water temperature was, "Perfect."

The wave heights on the swim were 0 to 1 feet at the highest. In other words, there weren't any waves. The wind speed varied from 0 to 7 knots on the crossing. The ocean was referred to as a lake as there were no winds at 3:30 in the morning. When asked how the water was, Mark answered, "delightful."

Mark breathed to the left side and intended to hold his stroke rate between 50-53 stroke per minute. He commenced with a stroke rate of 54, his highest of the swim and slid as low as 46 strokes per minute. His average was 49 strokes per minute.

On the crossing Mark drank Maxim and black tea. With his tea there was supposed to be fruit sugar. He ate a banana, jelly babies and fig newtons. He took Ibuprofen for severe wrist pain. Mark drank on the hour on his swim and had a total of twelve feedings during the swim. Not many of his feeds were timed but those that were, were .50 seconds, 1 ½ minute and two minutes. The latter was so long as Mark changed his goggles.

Mark had to pace swimmers in the last hour and twenty minute of the swim. As he approached Terranea Cove he was fighting a Southern current. At 11:11.14 am Mark cleared the water and became the 352nd person to swim the Catalina Channel. Mark's aggregate time was 12:22.33.

The thirty-sixth swimmer of 2015 was Zdenka Krcalova from Czechoslovakia who lived in Marseille, France. She is a thirty-year old swimmer. At 10:58.34 pm on October 6th Zdenka started her swim from the Island to the Mainland.

The water temperature was 72* from the start through to the finish, it never varied. The air temperature fluctuated massively. From the first reading of 76* to the second reading one hour later there was an 8* drop. This seems highly unlikely based on the other readings. More than likely, the first

reading was 66* which makes sense with the rest of the readings. The air temperature fell as low as 64* but as the night slid into day the air temperature rose into the 70's finally. The highest reading was 75*.

The wave height remained consistent throughout this swim except a quick rise for seven minutes at 4:10 am to 4 to 6 feet. The rest of the time the wave height was either 1 to 2 feet or 1 to 4 feet.

Unfortunately, few recordings were made after 7:43 in the morning. The wind speed wasn't recorded at all on this crossing. The first indication of some wind was a comment of choppy seas at 6:49 am. There were no comments of white caps or rough conditions on this crossing.

Zdenka had planned to breath to her right side and hold her stroke rate at 56 strokes per minute. She began with a 61 stroke rate for the swim; this was the high stroke rate. She had a low of 53 near the finish but that was unusual. Most of the time she was 57, 58 or 60 strokes per minute.

The first feeding was thirty minutes into the swim and this schedule was held throughout the swim. Zdenka drank Maxim, sparkling water and fruit juice. She ate fruit bars and bananas. She took Advil for pain. On her 5th stop she threw up and felt disoriented and stressed. This feed was five minutes.

Zdenka had a pace swimmer in the water a half hour into the swim which is very unusual. She had pace swimmers every two to three hours during the swim. At 7:13 am Zdenka stopped swimming abruptly for 20 seconds and did this three times. She talked to her paddler then had a feeding and started swimming again. The kayaker told the crew she had stopped because she was discouraged by the distance. She thought she would have a nine-hour swim and be done by 8:00 am. She had 3.85 nautical miles left. She stopped again, crying, and this went on and on until she was able to push herself through the pain and finish.

Zdenka landed after a sea lion checked her out, at 9:58.31 am on October 7th. Her overall time was 10:59.57 and she became the 353rd person to swim the Catalina Channel.

Daniel Lobo from London, England was a 41-year old swimmer. He decided to swim the Catalina Channel from the Island to the Mainland, starting at Doctor's Cove. At the start Daniel was accompanied by flying fish.

The water temperature was a high 74* at the beginning of the swim and stayed there until 3:05 am when it dropped slightly to 72*. In the morning hours it dropped again to 70* and maintained this to the finish. The air temperature also started at 74* but fell to 73* much quicker. During the crossing the air temperature descended to a low of 70* but climbed back to 72* for the finish. Both of these, the water and air temperatures were very comfortable.

The wave height was a bit unusual in this crossing as it rose from 1 foot at the start to 3 to 4 feet by 2:11 am. At 3:05 am was the last time there was a measurable wave height, 2 feet, and from then on it was 0 feet, all the way to the finish. However, the wind speed was very active during the crossing. It ranged from a low of .02 knots at the commencement of the swim to 15 knots during the night. From 2:37 am forward, no two wind speed recordings were the same.

Daniel began with a 58 stroke rate on the crossing. His strokes per minute ranged from a low of 53 to a high of 60, a wide spread for the crossing. He appeared to average 57.5 strokes per minute. His stroke was strong and he held a good pace according to the log. In addition, Daniel smiled quite a bit on the crossing.

Initially, Daniel fed at the hour mark then he dropped to half hour feedings. In his case this transition was vital as in his whole night of feedings he wasn't consuming enough fluids to sustain him through the swim. Unfortunately, it wasn't until 6:05 am that Daniel consumed 10 ounces of fluid. On the swim he drank Maxim, black and camomille tea with sugar and coffee. He ate a fruit cup, bananas and gummi bears. He took Ibuprofen and Advil for pain during the crossing.

Besides the flying fish at the start of the swim, the only other marine life on the crossing was unfortunately the jelly fish which stung Daniel at 5:05 am.

Daniel asked once how far he had gone and was told not to worry. When he said he wasn't progressing a similar response was given. As a happy swimmer this didn't seem to bother him. He just kept plodding forward as Barb encouraged him to move forward.

Daniel finished at 1:15.55 pm on October 15th. His accumulated time was 14:08.45 and Daniel became the 354th person to tackle the Catalina Channel.

The thirty-eighth swimmer to attempt the Catalina Channel was Bryan Avery from Lincolnshire, England. The 47-year old entered the calm water at Doctor's Cove at 10:39.57 pm on October 15th. While Bryan was trying to get his pace going sea lions were chasing flying in his vicinity. It was a clear night without a moon making it rather dark.

There was a constant 74* water temperature on this crossing which was very unusual for the Catalina Channel. Similarly, the air temperature varied only a few degrees on the swim. The air temperatures ranged from a high of 74* to a low of 70*, comfortable air temperatures.

The wave height was very limited on this crossing only changing from 0 feet at the commencement of the swim to 1 to 2 feet at the highest point in the swim. The wind speed fluctuated significantly which produced wind waves however. There were seven different wind speed changes in the swim. These were a low of 2 to 4 knots to a high of 10 to 15 knots. No two readings were the same throughout the crossing. The last reading two hours before the finish had the wind speed at 7 to 9 knots.

Bryan wanted to hold a 60 stroke count on the swim and breath bilaterally. His first count was 51 strokes per minute. He ranged from a low of 49 strokes per minute to 55 strokes per minute. His average was 52 strokes per minute on the crossing.

Bryan planned to feed every thirty minutes on the swim then drop to twenty minutes when needed. This is exactly what he did, switching his feed times at 7:40 am. He drank SIS, flat Coke, hot tea and mouth wash to counter the salt taste in the mouth. He ate custard, rice pudding, Gummy Bears and gels on the swim. Most of his early feeds were under a minute.

At 3:54 am Bryan reported jelly fish in the water then fifteen minutes later he reported having a leg cramp. Ten minutes later he stopped for a few minutes swam again and stopped again. Despite

encouragement from his crew he eventually decided to quit. Jody, his main crew talked him out of it. He kept going and gradually began swimming well again. At 8:20 am he saw land which made him happy.

A dolphin came up behind the kayak in the morning. There weren't any other sightings of marine life on the crossing. What would make this swim extra special.

At 11:34.01 am Bryan landed on the Mainland. His aggregate time was 12:54.04 and he became the 355th person to successfully swim the Catalina Channel. But wait, there is more. Bryan unveiled a secret sign and asked Jody to marry him. Jody was on the boat and laughed joyfully. Once he was on the boat he kneeled and appropriately asked Jody to marry him. Jody said yes of course. This was the first marriage proposal on a crossing.

From Mexico City, Mexico Jesus Samuel Neri Gutierrez, a 50-year old swimmer arrived ready to take on the Catalina Channel again. He wanted to do a double crossing from Catalina to the Mainland and back. He entered the water at Doctor's Cove at 10:14.56 pm on October 18th. He was supported by Outrider, piloted by John Pittman.

The water temperature was a warm 73* at the initial reading and this was the lowest the water temperature was during the crossing. The temperature varied between 74* and 75* for the rest of this leg of the swim. Similarly, the air temperature only varied between 69* and 72* on this swim.

The wave height was very small during the crossing ranging from 1 foot to a high of 1 to 3 feet. The wind speed; however, was more active on this swim. It ranged from a low of 1 to 3 knots to a high of 5 to 11 knots. The latter occurred just before mid-night but as he approached the Mainland there were only 2 to 4 knot winds.

Samuel had planned to hold a 60 stroke rate and bilaterally breath on the crossing. He commenced at 55 strokes per minute. His low count was 54 strokes per minute and his high was 61 strokes per minute. Samuel averaged 56 strokes per minute on the swim.

For feeding breaks on the swim Samuel wanted to feed every 45 minutes. He began at an hour and then switched to 45 minutes. He drank a carbohydrate drink, a protein drink, chicken soup, water and peach water. When he landed on the Mainland he ate grapes, Jell-O and maple syrup. He also drank water.

At 5:15 am the kayaker dumped and it took a while to get everything going again. Samuel was very frustrated. Besides this, everything went well on the first lap of the swim.

At 10:10.23 am Samuel landed east of Terranea. His total time was 11:53.27 for swimming the Catalina Channel.

Samuel attempted to return and made it for nine and a half hours before he had to stop the return swim as he wasn't progressing.

Hank Wise was the first swimmer of the summer and he returned on October 25th to swim the opposite direction, from Catalina to the Mainland. He entered the water at Doctor's Cove at 12:03.48 am on a beautiful night but a choppy ocean.

The water temperature only varied between 72* and 73* on the whole crossing. On the other hand, the air temperature had a wide spread from 69* at its lowest to 75* at the apex. It dropped consistently until 7:00 am then warmed the rest of the swim.

The wave height wasn't spectacular during the swim. It only varied from 1 foot to 1 to 3 foot. The wind speed; however, was all over the place and only repeated its reading once in the swim. The lowest wind speed was 1 to 2 knots but the highest wind speed was 10 to 12 knots. At the start the wind speed was 9 to 12 knots but at the finish the wind speed was only 3 to 5 knots thankfully.

Hank planned to hold his stroke count between 61 and 67 strokes. Unfortunately, he began at 58 strokes per minute and never was able to increase his stroke rate over 59. His low rate was 54 strokes per minute.

His plan for feeding involved drinking every thirty minutes and dropping to twenty if necessary. He drank Cytomax, Perpeteum, EFS, water and hot tea. He also took Advil on the crossing a few times for shoulder pain but decided to finish anyway. He had nineteen breaks and most were under twenty seconds.

While Hank had a buddy swim in the water a small shark approached the swimmers. The swimmers stopped and the shark followed suit, then submerged and the swimmers resumed their swim. Five minutes later another shark appeared, meandered around before it submerged. At 9:40 am, less than hour after the last shark sighting, a huge manta ray surfaced next to Hank and his ace swimmer. What an exciting crossing for marine life.

Hank finished at Pelican Cove at 11:00.32 am for his second swim of the 2015 season. His aggregate time was 10:56.44, not a bad time for choppy conditions and adverse currents.

Steve Walker was a 47-year old swimmer from Lafayette, California. He chose to swim from the Island of Catalina to the Mainland of California. Steve slipped into the calm waters at 11:09.16 pm on November 5th. He was accompanied by the Outrider, captained by John Pittman and a sea lion frolicking around the boat at the start. The night was dark as no moon was visible but there was an abundance of stars.

The water temperature was 69* throughout the swim. The air temperature bounced all over the place. The lowest air temperature was 58* but the highest was 72*, fairly nice for November. The wave height didn't vary much on the crossing only from one foot to 2 to 3 feet. The wind speed was a little more active ranging from 0 to 1 knot to only a high of 5 to 8 knots, making for a comfortable crossing.

Steve had planned to breath to his left on his swim and allow his stroke count to fluctuate from 55 strokes per minute to a high intensity stroke count of 75 strokes per minutes. On his swim he commenced with a 63 strokes per minute which was his high stroke count and his low stroke count was 51 strokes per minute. His stroke looked strong

For his feed breaks Steve planned to stop at the hour, 45 minutes for three breaks and then every 35 minutes until he completed the crossing. He wanted to drink a mixture of 50 g. of protein and 9 g. of carbohydrates. Every 2 ½ hours he would add a protein bar. Initially he wasn't drinking very much and asked for water. Then he took breaks to rest but didn't feed during the breaks. He had Ibuprofen during

the crossing also. After a while he began to eat more and then in the morning he ate scrambled eggs and water. He continued eating protein bars and drinking water throughout the rest of the swim.

Steve was positive during the swim. In the early morning he stated, "couldn't ask for a better day." As he approached the finish he gave a thumbs up as he spotted dolphins. Twenty minutes later a blue Humpback whale and her juvenile whale were seen off of the bow.

Steve landed at Terranea at 11:23.18 am on November 6th. His accumulated time was 12:14.02 and Steve became the 356th person to swim the Catalina Channel.

The forty-second swimmer of the 2015 season was Cameron Bellamy from San Francisco, California. He was a 33-year old male who entered the water at 11:04.57 pm on November 7th. Initially the water was flat and calm with a beautiful clear sky above the water.

The water temperature remained at 68* throughout the swim. The air temperature was erratic going from a low of 56* to a high of 78* just before the finish. That is a 22* degree difference. Meanwhile, the wave height wasn't very active, ranging from a low of 0 feet to 2 to 3 feet in height. The wind speed changed eight times but never went higher than 3 to 8 knots.

Cameron was a bilateral breather. His goal was to hold his stroke count to 60 strokes per minute on the crossing. Unfortunately, this didn't happen. His stroke count began at 56 strokes per minute and his high was 59 strokes per minute. His low was 51 strokes per minute. Cameron had an average of 56 strokes per minute. He did; however, maintain a strong and consistent stroke through the swim.

Cameron drank Maxim, Carbo Pro, Snapple tea from New York and regular tea with lemon and honey. He ate a peanut butter and honey sandwich, banana, pre-warmed almond butter, peaches and half a Milky Way candy bar. He took Ibuprofen and Tylenol on the swim for pain. His breaks for feeding were at one hour and then at thirty minutes.

One of the amazing parts of this swim was the underwater light show from the bioluminescent in the water. Cameron Stated, "Amazing, having so much fun." Later there was a gorgeous, bright sunrise at 6:30 am which made everyone feel good especially Cameron.

When Cameron found out he was more than half way he was surprised and happy. He had a few pace swimmers and the last one asked if he could stay in the water an extra half hour to which Cameron responded, "Yes, please."

Cameron landed strongly at Terranea at 10:57.57 am on November 8th. His overall time was 11:53.00 and he became the 357th person to swim the Catalina Channel.

The 2015 season was very successful with the most crossing ever, forty-two by forty-one swimmers. The only record broken was for the oldest man. All the swims except two were swum from the Island to the Mainland. There was only one successful double crossing in 2015. The ocean temperature was the warmest it had ever been. The season also expanded from May through November.

Chapter 21 2015 Relays Crossings

2015 was an outstanding year for relays as there were 18 successful Catalina Channel relays and one around the Island crossing. There were four world records set this summer from the men's under 20 in both directions, the women's 20 to 29, and the men's 80 to 89. Of the 18 Catalina crossings 16 were from the Island to the Mainland and two were the other way. The fastest CM crossing was 7:51.37 while the fastest MC was 8:18.39. Similar to the individual swims this summer had the most relays ever completed in a year.

The first relay of the summer was the Channel Champs who swam from Doctor's Cove towards the Mainland. The relay was composed of five female swimmers and one male swimmer. Their names, order and stroke per minute, if taken, was as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------|--------|
| 1. Fiona Goh | 69 |
| 2. Natalie Dobroth | 70 |
| 3. Katie Walde | 64 |
| 4. Krista Krantz | 72, 74 |
| 5. Rhys Empey | |
| 6. Christian Blair | |

Fiona was the initial swimmer, she jumped off the boat, swam to shore, turned around and began the swim without a start signal from the observer. She seemed a little nervous. The beginning time was 11:06.00 pm on July 1st. Fiona was a right sided breather, had a good leg, 1.6 nautical miles, and was happy when she finished.

The water temperature at the start was 70* During the swim it varied significantly from a high of 70* to a low of 62* at the finish. The air temperature was 75*initially and at its last reading was 68*, but there was a reference later in the swim that the air was cooler. The wave height was mild in the crossing from

0 feet to only 2 to 3 feet. At 1:33 am the observer called the conditions, "Lake Catalina." The wind speed, on the other hand, started out at 0 to 2 knots but steadily climbed until it reached 8 to 12 knots. By the end of the swim the wind speed dropped back to nothing.

Natalie entered as the second swimmer and was accompanied by her brother. She and her brother had strong, long strokes. Natalie swam 1.8 nautical miles and the relay had 13.8 nautical miles left to go.

Katie jumped in next and swam 1.4 nautical miles. Krista followed Katie and completed 1.4 nautical miles. The relay had 10.8 nautical miles to finish the crossing.

Rhys had a fast swim and put in 1.91 nautical miles. Finally, the sixth swimmer who happened to be the only male, hopped in the water. His leg was 1.52 nautical miles.

There wasn't much going on with marine life at this point in the swim. As the sixth swimmer ended Fiona prepared to swim her second leg. She blasted 1.85 nautical miles leaving the opportunity of just two legs to finish the swim as there was just 5.62 nautical miles to be completed.

Natalie returned to the water breathing every two strokes. The water temperature also dropped to 66* While Natalie was swimming a pod of 80 dolphins were seen heading to the north. As the captain was making ill-advised shark jokes the dolphins appeared at the appropriate time to relieve everyone's fears. Unfortunately, the mileage wasn't recorded when Natalie left the water.

Katie began her second leg while Captain Elliot played his bag pipes. There was a slight current but it seemed as if the relay would land at Cardiac Hill. At 7:58 am Katie left the water. There were 8 to 12 knot winds and the relay was 1.6 miles from shore as Krista entered the water.

As all the swimmers and coach wanted to follow Krista into shore the observer went over the rules about the finish to make sure noon touched Krista until she cleared the water's edge. At 8:46 am a large fishing boat approached Krista and the captain had to blow his horn repeatedly and call the vessel to have him change course which he did at the last moment. At 8:51 am the rest of the swimmers, alternates and coach jumped in the water and followed Krista to shore. They were told to land to the right of the black rocks but it took some screaming to maneuver them there. At 9:03.08 am Krista cleared the water. The accumulated time of the Channel Chums was 9:57.08 and they became the 109th relay to successfully cross the Catalina Channel.

The second relay of the summer was The Eleventh Hour made up of women between the ages of 20 to 29. This relay swam from East of Arrow's Point to Terranea on the Mainland. The order, names and their stroke per minute is as follows:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|--------|
| 1. | Jen Schumacher | 83 |
| 2. | Carri Cook | 76, 78 |
| 3. | Cara Davidoff | 63 |
| 4. | Marlena Tonelli | 71 |
| 5. | Laura Martinez | 73 |
| 6. | Katelyn Schumacher | 60 |

It was a beautiful night on July 12th when The Eleventh Hour's first swimmer, Jen descended into the calm water. The water temperature was 68* at the commencement of the crossing. It rose slightly to 69* and held through the night and morning. Unfortunately, at the finish the water temperature was 64*.

Jen had a strong leg and swam just under 2 nautical miles. When she exited the water she declared she had been stung by jelly fish numerous times.

The air temperature was 66* initially, fell to 65* and maintained that temperature before climbing all the way to 73* at 9:00 am. The wave height ranged from 0 feet to a peak at 1 to 3 feet, a small amount for a crossing. The wind speed bounced all over the place; however, it didn't reach high speeds. The low was 0 knots but the high was only 5 to 6 knots, making for a comfortable crossing.

Carri took over for Jen and swam 2.14 nautical miles. She was relieved by Cara who had to deal with some 4 to 5 knot winds. Cara swam 2.36 nautical miles' leg. Marlena had put in 2.21 nautical miles while the wind had died down. The fifth swimmer was Laura and she continued the strong swims by doing a 2.13 leg. The final relay swimmer Katelyn relieved Laura at 7:00 am and swam 2.11 nautical miles in her first leg.

As Jen entered the water for her second leg, jelly fish could be seen all along the surface. At the half way mark of her swim, Jen was entertained by her teammates expressions of love. Jen completed 2.2 nautical miles on her swim.

Carri had to finish the 2.13 nautical miles to Terranea Cove. She landed on the soft sand, followed by her teammates at 9:59.48 am. The aggregate time for The Eleventh Hour was 8:00.40. This established a new Catalina Record for women in the 20 to 29 age group! Not only this, they became the 110th relay to successfully cross the Catalina Channel.

The first men's relay of the summer was the Shark Chums, a relay of all Men Under 20. They hailed from the San Diego, California area and chose to swim from Catalina to the Mainland. The relay began at 11:23.35 pm on July 16th.

Conditions were excellent on this crossing. The water temperature was either 69* or 70* throughout the swim. On the other hand, the air temperature had six different temperatures in the crossing from a low of 65* at 12:23 am to a high of 71.7* at 5.20 am. The wave height never surpassed one foot on the swim while the wind speed climbed from .1 knot to only 5 knots.

The members of this relay, their order and their strokes per minute were as listed below:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------|
| 1. Carson Gossler | 69, 73 |
| 2. Cayden Pangelinan | 80, 82 |
| 3. Colin Grubensky | 64 |
| 4. Garrett Wesley | 62 |
| 5. Cade Erickson | 66 |
| 6. Garrett Hail | 75 |

Carson entered the 69* water at Doctor's Cove and began the first leg of the Shark Chums relay. He swam 2.2 nautical miles. As he left the water he stated the swim had been much better than 2014 as there were no jelly fish.

Cayden followed Carson and ran into a cross current. Never the less he went 2.1 nautical miles on his leg of the swim. He felt the conditions were glassy. Colin went third and had a good stroke. He swam 1.9 nautical miles. When he boarded the boat he was shivering so to alleve that he had a cup of hot chocolate.

The fourth swimmer was Garrett W. After touching Colin in the transition he swam a strong leg and accomplished 2.25 nautical miles. Cade followed Garrett W. He swam 2.17 nautical miles but was shivering once he reached the boat. He liked the swim and thought it was better than he thought it would be even with a couple of jelly fish stings.

The final swimmer of the first round of the relay was Garrett H. He was able to swim 2.1 nautical miles but he was stung 5 to 6 times in his hour swim leg. He felt good and wasn't cold.

Carson reentered for his second leg at 5:23 am. He had a nice swim completing 2.41 nautical miles. Cayden had another strong leg swimming 2.27 nautical miles. When he was passed by Colin he stayed in the water as he only left Colin .22 nautical mile to go. The rest of the relay joined him, but allowed Colin to stay in the lead. Colin had to tread through kelp near the finish. At 7:27.40 am Colin cleared the water. The accumulated time of the Shark Chums was 8:04.05, a new Catalina Record for Men under 20. In addition, Shark Chums became the 111th successful relay to conquer the Catalina Channel.

The second men's relay of the year came from Australia. It was the Auckland Grammar School which consisted of men under 20. This relay, however, was swimming from the Mainland to Catalina.

The water temperature ranged from 71* to 74* on this crossing. The air temperature didn't vary much only 70.8* to 74* for this swim. There was no wave height recorded on this swim at all; it remained at zero feet. The wind speed was minimal rising from .2 to 2.9 knots only. These were wonderful conditions for a swim.

For the swim the following is the order, names and the strokes per minute of each swimmer:

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| 1. Jack Anderson | 60, 61 |
| 2. Hamish Waddell | 75, 80 |
| 3. William Ashforth | 62, 66, 60 |
| 4. Oliver Wooles | 63 |
| 5. Burhanuddin Haidermota | 68 |
| 6. Angus Falconer | 82 |

Jack entered the water at Terranea Cove at 10:34.59 pm. He was accompanied by the Outrider, captained by John Pittman. In the first few hours of the swim the nautical miles weren't recorded by the observers so how far he and others swam couldn't be calculated. He did hold a stroke count of 60 strokes per minute.

Hamish tagged Jack and began his hour leg. He had a strong 75 strokes per minute stroke count. He did, however, receive a tiny jelly fish sting. The third swimmer was William. He swam 2.24 nautical miles. He was also stung during his leg of the relay.

Oliver entered next and was sick throughout his leg of the swim. He swam 1.89 nautical miles. The fifth swimmer was Burhanuddin. After he tagged Oliver he proceeded on his hour leg of the swim. He completed 1.24 nautical miles in his leg.

Gus was the sixth leg of the relay and he had an excellent swim. Gus put in 2.37 nautical miles on his leg. When he finished there was only 5.57 nautical miles left to be swum.

Jack's second leg went well as Hamish started his second leg there were floating red crabs everywhere. Hamish was pinched a few times during his leg but he pushed on to complete his leg with an 80 stroke rate.

At 6:34 am William enters the water for the final leg for the relay. He lands at Doctor's Cove at 7:20.37 am. The Auckland Grammar School's total time was 8:46.44. This men's 20 and under relay broke the Catalina Record for swimming from the Mainland to Catalina. The relay also became the 112th relay to successfully cross the Catalina Channel.

Three relays swam together July 12th to honor David Yudovin who died unexpectedly in 2014. The swim was cosponsored by the International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame, IMSHOF, the City of Hope and the Swim Across America(SAA). The official names of the relays were Davis Yudovin Memorial Team I, II and III. All of the members of the relays were friends of David and before the relay went to Catalina, time was spent reminiscing about David and what he meant to the open water community. His wife Beth Yudovin was on the crossing not only as an organizer but as a kayaker.

The members of each relay and their order were as follows:

Team One	Team Two	Team Three
1. Dan Simonelli	Suzanne Baab-Simpson	Trevor Stanco
2. Scott Lautman	Theo Schmeackle	Audrey Viers
3. Lynne Kubasek	Eric Paine	Russ Parker
4. John York	Tom Hale	Fiona Goh
5. Carol Sing	Paula Selby	Kelley Prebil
6. Cat Moore	Robert Philipson	Saffi Stelea

The relays used the Bottom Scratcher, piloted by Greg Elliott. The challenge of the crossing was to keep each set of three swimmers together thus the speed of each leg was determined by the slowest swimmer. Unfortunately, the observers didn't take stroke counts on the swim and when the nautical mileage was figured out per swim leg, it was obvious that what was given to the observers wasn't always correct. It was listed in this document but the accuracy must be noted to be inaccurate on a few legs.

The swim began at 11:26.15 pm from Doctor's Cove with Dan, Suzanne and Trevor performing the start. Beth Yudovin was the kayaker at the start of the swim. The conditions were foggy with a light breeze but

the water was flat. Carol placed rose petals in the water as the swim began. The first group swam 1.1 nautical miles.

The water temperature at the start of the swim was 70* and rose to a warm temperature of 73*during the crossing. The air temperature had a larger differential from a low of 69* to a high of 83* in the swim. There wasn't much wave height, only zero to one feet at the highest point in the swim. Similarly, the wind speed was minimal only reaching a high of two knots at the strongest. These were ideal conditions for the crossing.

The second leg of swimmers, Theo, Audrey and Scott tied the first group by swimming 1.1 nautical miles. After the third leg of Russ, Lynn and Eric entered the water, John released more rose petals into the water at 1:45 am.

Before the fourth group of Fiona, John and Tom overtook the third group, Beth was relieved by another kayaker. Both the third and fourth legs swam 1.1 nautical miles. The fifth leg consisted of Paula, Kelly and Carol and their nautical miles were calculated to be 1.3. This created a problem for the sixth group of Cat, Robert and Saffi which were determined to swim only .5 nautical miles. The sixth group had some trouble with jelly fish stings also.

The first swimmers returned to the water for their second leg as did Beth Yudovin as the kayaker. This group recorded a 1.5 nautical mile swim, an improvement over their first leg. As the second leg entered the water they also entered a thick fog bank. When Audrey left the water with the second group she had a jelly fish stuck in her suit!

At 7:26 am the relays were half way through the crossing. From this point on in the swim there were no reliable measurements of the nautical mileage and thus the information won't be displayed.

The third, fourth and fifth groups had good second swims. At 9:59 am dolphins were spotted by Fiona. Next, when the sixth group was swimming a shark the size of Cat came up to check out the swimmers. No one panicked as the shark did this and then swam back under the water.

The first and second group had the opportunity to swim a complete third leg. The water was 73* and the air temperature was 83*. Beth was kayaking again and everyone wanted her to stay in for the finish. The third group of Eric, Lynn and Russ had the pleasure to land at Cabrillo Beach, guided by Beth, at 1:50.39 pm on Jul 21st 2015. The Davis Yudovin Memorial relays' aggregate times were 14:24.24 and they became the 113th, 114th and 115th relays to successfully cross the Catalina Channel.

The eighth relay of the summer was the California Screamin'. This relay decided to swim around the Island of Catalina clockwise with a detour to swim around the Santa Barbara Island at the Northern tip then finish by landing at the Isthmus. The relay was accompanied by the Outrider, piloted by John Pittman.

The members of the relay, their order and their stroke count per minute are as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Emily Evans | 68, 67, 68 70, 69, 70, 71, 70 |
| 2. Tina Neill | 58, 62, 63, 69, 62, 64, 63, 63 |
| 3. Melodee Nugent | 64, 64, 63, 66, 66, 68, 69, 68, 64 |

4. Kent Nicholas	60, 64, 63, 67, 64, 70, 70, 70, 68
5. Ernie Hoftzyer	62, 61, 62, 62, 60, 62, 66, 65
6. Forrest Nelson	59, 62, 58, 58, 59, 61, 62

The water temperature during the circumnavigation ranged from 70* to 75*. The air temperature rose from a low of 68* to a high of 83* during the swim. The wave height was minimal, less than 1 to 3 feet on the whole swim. The wind speed fluctuated from 0 to 2 knots at the start to a high of 10 to 13 feet.

Each swimmer swam eight legs and three swimmers swam nine legs. Emily was the first to start the relay from Doctor's Cove at 9:03.30 pm on July 19th. She was being followed by a seal playing in the wake of the boat. As Tina took over an opposing current limited progress and inhibited the navigation. Similarly, the kayaker was having great difficulty keeping parallel with the third swimmer, Melodee.

The fourth swimmer, Kent had to proceed in the dark without a kayak as the kayaker was switching at that time. Both Ernie and Forrest had uneventful first swims in the dark.

By the time Emily started her second swim it was very dark but the stars were bright overhead. In Tina's leg she passed the Long Point Lighthouse. Around 5:14 am it started to lighten up. During Kent's swim he had to deal with lots of frolicking seals. As Ernie was in the water he was passing the Avalon casino the wind speed increased to 10 to 13 knots, making for a challenging swim. For Forrest's second leg he quickly crossed by the harbor where numerous ships were leaving the harbor. In addition, a dolphin was lurking around Forrest.

The third leg of the relay began as seals were laying on a large, flat buoy. Next, there was a rock quarry which supplied the rocks for the rock wall surrounding Long Beach built in the 1920's. On Ernie's swim it was possible to see the cliffs on the backside of Catalina. A marine layer covered the top layer of the Catalina mountain during Forrest's swim.

In the fourth leg of the swim two yellow sea anchors were placed in the water at 3:03 pm. A school of blue tuna jumped in front of the boat at 6:40 pm just before the sea anchors were removed by the crew. Forrest swam through the sunset and into the darkness of the second night.

Birds flew around the boat just after the fifth leg was commenced by Emily. As Tina undertook her leg her goggles didn't work so she had to quickly clear them and start again. It was another dark night of swimming.

The sixth leg began with luminescence especially when the swimmers arm entered the water. Tina was stung by jelly fish on her swim. In addition, Santa Barbara Island was visible for the first time. On Kent's leg he had to swim through kelp which is always dangerous as jelly fish can usually be found in kelp. At 7:03 am the sun came out. Julie identified the fast flying birds of the night. When Forrest swam his sixth leg he encountered three foot swells with an opposing current.

The seventh leg was enjoyable as it was a beautiful day and numerous Islands and the Mainland could be seen from the boat. The eighth leg went smoothly. At one point the fumes from the boat were being blown into the swimmer's path but the path was adjusted and all was well. There were two dolphin sightings during this leg then as Forrest began his leg a pod of dolphins was encountered. Similar to the night before, Forrest swam into the darkness.

The night was clear and filled with stars for the beginning of the ninth leg which Emily, Tina, Melodee and Kent were able to swim. The wind had died to nothing. Kent landed at the Isthmus at 12:58.37 am on July 22nd, over 51:55.07 after the relay had begun. The California Screamin” became the 7th relay to circumvent the Island of Catalina and the first to throw in the Santa Barbara Island for good measure. The captain estimated the relay swam over 100 miles.

The next relay to swim the Catalina Channel was the Ramona Swim Team. This relay made up of all men chose to swim from the Island to the Mainland on August 3rd. The relay participants, their order and what stroke counts which were available were as follows;

- | | |
|----------------------|--------|
| 1. Trevor White | 71, 74 |
| 2. Spensor Schwegler | 62 |
| 3. Jacob Powers | 67 |
| 4. Ethan Blackburn | |
| 5. Bryan Larson | |
| 6. Quintan LaRosa | |

The water temperature on this swim only changed from 72* to 73* on the whole crossing. The air temperature varied significantly more, ranging from a low of 68* to a high of 75* during the swim. The wave height was mild only reaching a peak of 2 to 4 feet. The wind speed, however, was strong throughout the swim, ranging from just under 5 knots to 5 to 10 knots to 8 to 12 knots. The wind was active the whole swim which doesn't usually happen.

The first swimmer, Trevor, entered the water at Doctor's Cove 11:42.52 pm. It was a clear night. Trevor had problems swimming to close to the boat and was stopped once to instruct him to follow the kayaker no the boat. Despite this he swam 2 nautical miles.

The second swimmer, Spencer swam with his head out of the water at times as he had difficulty following the kayak. He traveled 2.2 nautical miles however. When he boarded the boat he stated he had things nibbling on his toes.

The third swimmer was Jacob. He felt the boat was large and he felt lost. Never the less he swam 2.4 nautical miles. The fourth leg was swum by Ethan. He swam 1.7 nautical miles. Bryan was the fifth swimmer and he completed 1.9 nautical miles. The final swimmer was Quintan who swam 2.3 nautical miles.

During the crossing there were two pace swimmers who swam with three of the legs of the relay. These swimmers seemed to inspire the relay members to swim faster.

While Trevor was swimming his second leg, a freighter passed within 500 meters of him. This was the second ship passing in the night. Trevor swam a 2.0 nautical miles despite being stung on his neck, mouth and stomach by jelly fish.

Spencer had a warm second swim as the sun had come out. The wind had also died down and the swells were only one to two feet in height.

Jacob was given instructions on the finishing rules. He raced to the finish and landed at Pelican Cove at 8:21.16 am on August 4th. The aggregate time of the Ramona Swim Team Channel Relay was 8:55.24 for the crossing. They became the 116th relay to successfully cross the Catalina Channel.

The tenth relay of the 2015 season was the Halestorm. This was a mixed relay, made up of three men and three women. A unique challenge of the relay was the starting point was Long Point on Catalina Island and the finishing point was Laguna Beach, making the crossing 33.5 miles long. The members of the relay, their order and their strokes per minute when available were as follows:

1. Brett Rose	67, 70, 66
2. Tom Hale	70, 66
3. Roddy Teeple	67, 70, 74
4. Faith Hale	60
5. Patsee Ober	55, 54, 54
6. Lynn Kubasek	68, 60

The water temperatures held stable between 71* and 72* on this crossing. The air temperatures fluctuated from a low of 67* to a high of 77* on this endeavor. There was little wave height, varying only from zero feet to 1 to 3 feet. The wind speed, however, jumped all over the place from .5 knots to 10 to 12 knots.

Nautical miles are detailed below but there was a chance they were reported incorrectly by the captain. The information helps to explain what occurred during the relay.

On August 7th at 7:09.27 pm Brett entered the water to begin the long relay swim. The winds were blowing up to 12 knots. Brett swam a 3.3 nautical mile leg! Tom took over with a high five and luckily the winds had dropped significantly. Tom stopped abruptly to yell, "This is awesome." He swam a 2.2 nautical leg.

The third swimmer was Roddy and he put in a fine first swim, accomplishing 1.3 nautical miles. He was replaced by the first female, Faith. She swam a 1.1 nautical leg in calm waters. Patsee followed Faith swimming through a strong current but swam 1.3 nautical miles. Patsee felt ill from the fumes from the boat.

The final swimmer of the first round of the relay was Lynn. She had to swim backwards as Patsee had been pulled behind the boat by the strong current. Once righted Lynn swam a 1.3 nautical leg. The rest of the nautical mile reports don't make much sense so they won't be reported.

Brett hopped in for his second leg. The conditions were totally opposite of his first swim; they were glassy. Tom had a calm swim in the dark but he was stung by jelly fish. Roddy's second swim at 3:09 am was in cloud cover without the moon and no stars were visible. He held a 70 stroke count however.

Faith was the fourth swimmer in the water and she was nervous. In addition, her arms were cramping which made the leg challenging. Both Patsee and Lynn were stung by jelly fish on their second swim.

The third round of swims was uneventful for everyone. The sun finally came out at 9:09 am and this encouraged everyone to have a great day.

At 1:09 pm Brett began the fourth round of the relay. The conditions were good and the relay had just under 3 nautical miles to complete their long distance swim to Laguna Beach. Near the end of his leg everything changed. There were 8 to 10 knot winds and white caps in the water. Nevertheless, Tom jumped in with 1.1 nautical miles to go.

Tom cleared the water at Laguna Beach at 2:53.31 pm. The accumulated time for Halestorm was 19:44.04. This relay became the 117th relay to successfully cross the Catalina Channel.

From Russia came the Extreme Fitness Athletes. One of the swimmers dropped out on the way to Catalina so a female observer took his place. This made the relay four men and two females with five from Russia and one from Long Beach. The names of the swimmers, their order and their stroke count if taken were as listed below:

- | | |
|------------------------|--------|
| 1. Sergey Alchebaev | 64, 62 |
| 2. Viktor Buzhinov | 64 |
| 3. Pavel Serebrennikov | |
| 4. Alexey Markov | |
| 5. Jax Cole | 65 |
| 6. Anna Gorkovenko | |

The water temperature on this crossing varied five degrees from a low of 69* to a high of 74*. On the other hand, the air temperature was either 69* or 70* during the swim. The wave height started at 1 foot and gradually climbed to 3 feet, not very high. The wind speed rose from 2 to 5 knots early in the swim to 8 to 10 knots at 12:23 am. The wind calmed down for a few hours then climbed back to 6 to 8 knots in the early morning. Finally, it died out.

Sergey slid into the water at Doctor's Cove at 11:22.48 pm on August 12th. Victor swam when the wind speed was up to 8 to 10 knots. He was followed by Pavel. He had some trouble opening his prescription goggle package. The fourth swimmer, Alexey, was sick in his swim but he was able to finish it.

The fifth swimmer, Jax, an American was in at 3:24 am but had trouble with a head wind. Finally, the sixth swimmer, Anna hopped in and the wind and swells dropped by more than 50% for her swim.

The second round of the relay began at 5:23 am with Sergey swimming while the sun was trying to rise in the East as an orange horizon. When Victor took over the wind speed picked up to 6 to 8 knots and the kayaker was having trouble paddling. Pavel swam a good leg while the pilot played his bag pipes much to the amazement of the Russians.

Alexey and Jax had long swells and smaller wind waves as the wind speed had dropped again. At the end of Jax's swim the water temperature fell from 73.5* to 69.5* and she could tell immediately.

Anna entered the water knowing she was landing in a short time. She walked ashore East of Cardiac Hill on the Mainland at 10:44.30 am. The Extreme Fitness Athletes composite time was 11.21.42 and they became the 118th relay to successfully cross the Catalina Channel.

The twelfth relay of the summer was The Old Men and The Sea and these men's ages ranged from 80 to 89. The names of these swimmers, their order for the swim and their stroke per minute were as follows:

- | | |
|--------------------|------------|
| 1. Dave Radcliff | 61, 60, 64 |
| 2. Graham Johnston | 49, 50 |
| 3. Bob Beach | 64 |
| 4. Bill Spore | 54, 56 |
| 5. Bob Best | 56, 56 |
| 6. Don Baker | 48, 49 |

The air temperature was rather erratic dropping from a warm 72* to a low of 61* in the early morning hours. The water temperature only varied four degrees from 75* to a low of 71*, all of which are comfortable temperatures. The wave heights were almost non-existent on the crossing, ranging from zero to 2 to 3 feet in the swim. The wind speed, however, was active throughout the crossing, starting at 5 knots and rising to 10 knots during the swim. It easily averaged 10 knots on the swim.

On August 19th at 10:54.55 pm Dave entered the water at Doctor's Cove on the Catalina Island. He wasn't alone in the water as sea lions were chasing flying fish in the cove. Dave swam 1.4 nautical miles.

As Graham took over for Dave there was lots of cheering from the boat. He completed 1.4 nautical miles also and shouted, "I did it" as he climbed on the boat.

The third swimmer was Bob Beach and he finished 1.3 nautical miles on his leg. He was banged up by the kayaker by accident of course. Bill was the next swimmer in the water and he was able to swim 1.5 nautical miles on his leg of the swim.

The fifth swimmer was Bob Best. He stopped periodically to find out how much time he had left to swim. He was able to complete 1.4 nautical miles. The final member of the relay, Don, was very focused and steady during his leg. He swam 1.5 nautical miles.

The second round of the relay went very well. Dolphins cruised by and were indifferent to the swimmer in the water. The sun rose at 6:04 am and within the hour a whale was spotted off the bow of the boat. As Don entered the water to finish the second round, there was only 1.8 nautical miles to be completed.

Dave entered at 10:54 am and the rest of the swimmers followed him in so they would finish together. Remarkably, dolphins swam by to see what was going on near the land. At 11:10.18 am Dave cleared the water on the Mainland and The Old Men of the Sea had an aggregate time of 12:15.23. They not only became the 119th relay to successfully cross the Catalina Channel but they set a Catalina Record for the fastest time for the Men's relay for the age group 80 to 89!!!!

The Wave Chasers were the next relay of the 2015 season. The relay was composed of four females and two men and the ages ranged from 28 to 64 years old. The swimmers names, the order they swam in and their stroke rate when available was as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| 1. Carolyn Hollingsworth | 61 |
| 2. Chris Georges | 65, 70 |
| 3. Adrienne Sadie Standley | 50, 60 |

4. Jenny Dougherty	45, 50
5. Noah Witlin	62, 62
6. Tara Shima	56

The water temperature varied from a high of 76* to 74* and finally fell to 72* during the crossing. The air temperature was 70* for most of the swim but slid to 69* on two occasions. Interestingly, the wave height was 1 to 2 feet and 2 to 3 feet equally during the swim. The wind speed was minimal on this crossing, making for wonderful conditions. The wind speed spread from 0 to 1 knot to 1 to 2 knots at the highest.

Each member of the relay swam twice on this relay. Carolyn went first and entered the 76* water at Doctor's cove at 11:02.25 pm on August 22nd. Chris had a strong swim and then Sadie swam and had trouble with jelly fish. Jenny was swimming well until the 35-minute mark when she developed leg cramps. The next swimmer was Noah and he was followed by Tara who ended up with shrimp in her suit. She swam 1.4 nautical miles on her leg. This was the end of the first round of the relay.

At 5:02 am Carolyn began the second round of swims. Chris swam 1.8 nautical miles on his leg. When Sadie was in the water for her leg, dolphins were swimming off the starboard side of the boat near the swimmer. She swam 1.7 nautical miles on her leg of the swim. As Sadie climbed aboard she just collapsed on the deck exhausted. Unfortunately, Jenny encountered jelly fish on her leg of the swim when she swam 1.9 nautical miles. The fourth swimmer was Noah and he put in 1.7 nautical miles.

The final swimmer of the second round, Tara, also happened to be the swimmer who would finish the relay. Tara swam 1.4 nautical miles and cleared the water at Terranea Beach at 10:47.00 am. The final time for the Wave Chasers was 11:44.35. They became the 120th relay to successfully cross the Catalina Channel.

The fourteenth swim of the summer was accomplished by the North Bay Nautigals. This relay was composed of six female swimmers from the age of 38 to 64-years old. The names of the members of the relay, their order and their stroke count were as follows:

1. Vanessa Miller-Sims	60, 58
2. Michelle Cherrick	56, 56
3. Catherine Nottage	58, 54
4. Erica Sutherland	60, 60
5. Desanne Martin	64
6. Sally DeMoss	68

The conditions on this swim were ideal. The water temperature barely deviated from 74* to 73* and finally to 72*, rising to 73* at the finish. The air temperature had a six degree spread from 74* to 80* on this crossing. The wave height remained below 1 to 2 feet except a 3 to 4 feet reading at 3:35 am. Similarly, the wind speed was barely active in this crossing climbing to a peak of only 2 to 4 knots a few times on the swim.

Five of the swimmers swam two legs on the crossing. Vanessa started the relay by entering the water off of Doctor's Cove at 11:35.05 pm on August 28th, 2015. The relay was accompanied by the Bottom Scratcher, piloted by Greg Elliott. Vanessa swam a strong leg and put in 2.1 nautical miles.

She was relieved by Michelle who swam 1.5 nautical miles on her leg. Catherine hopped in next and had another good swimming. She did 1.9 nautical miles. The fourth swimmer was Erica who unfortunately had to deal with strong currents and a long swell. She also felt sick on her swim. Despite these situations, she swam 1.6 nautical miles.

The fifth person was Desanne and she put in a 1.4 nautical swim with a 64 stroke count. The final swimmer of the first round was Sally. While she was swimming several dolphins passed directly in front of her. She swam a 1.6 nautical mile swim leg.

As the second round began, the waves decreased in size and the winds lowered and the ocean surface was calm. This was what Vanessa jumped into for her second leg of the relay at 5:35 am. Vanessa was stung by jelly fish unfortunately during her swim. She swam 1.9 nautical miles.

Michelle had a nice swim and completed a 1.8 nautical mile swim. Catherine followed her with a 1.6 nautical mile swim. When Erica entered the water there was 2.06 nautical miles to be completed in the crossing. More importantly, a dorsal fin was spotted floating on the surface 150 yards in front of the boat. As the swimmer approached the shark, he dove under water. Erica swam a 1.65 nautical mile leg.

With .41 nautical miles to go Desanne entered the water off of the shoreline. At 9:53.52 am she walked ashore at Pelican Cove. The North by Nautigals aggregate time was 10:18.47 and they became the 121st relay to successfully cross the Catalina Channel.

The next relay, the Castaways, was composed of all female members who were either fifteen or sixteen -year old. The relay team hailed from San Diego. The names of the members of the relay and their order was as follows:

1. Liana Simonelli
2. Sydney Fortune
3. Natalie Bautista
4. Maddie Logsdon
5. Gilly Folk
6. Maegan Calcutt

Conditions on this crossing were excellent. The water temperature ranged from 74* at its peak to 71* at the finish, only a four-degree swing. Meanwhile the air temperature started at 66* and gradually raised to a high of 77*, an eleven-degree difference. The wave height showed minimal activity in the crossing rising from zero feet to 2 to 3 feet to a high of 3 to 4 feet. The wave height was calm the rest of the swim. The wind speed was almost non-existent reaching only one knot early in the swim.

Liana started the relay at Doctor's Cove on September 5th at 11:39.36 pm. She swam a good leg doing 1.5 nautical miles. She was relieved by Sydney. During her swim the moon was rising and a shooting star was seen. Sydney also swam a 1.5 nautical mile leg.

The third swimmer was Natalie who had to deal with slightly bigger swells. Her swim leg was 1.5 nautical miles in length also. Maddie was in next and had 3 to 4 feet waves. Despite this she had a 1.7 nautical mile swim. She also had the pleasure to see a beautiful glowing jelly fish while she was swimming.

Gilly was in next at 3:39 am on a clear night with lots of stars and a half moon but it was a damp night. She swam 1.8 nautical miles. The final swimmer for the first round of the relay was Maegan. She swam 1.6 nautical miles.

The second round of the relay began at 5:39 am with Liana swimming a 1.6 leg. The sky was getting lighter but the sun didn't rise until Sydney entered the water. Then there was a wonderful sunrise and Sydney swam a 1.5 nautical mile leg. Natalie had a fine swim. Unfortunately, the tools to determine her nautical miles weren't provided for her leg and the rest of the swim by the captain.

When Maddie entered the water, she started racing and kept this up for forty minutes. Her stroke count was 82 strokes per minute. The observer stated, "Maddie was too fast."

Gilly hopped in next to complete her second swim but only had to swim less than a half an hour. With 400 meters to go a random boat cut right in front of the Outrider which was supporting the relay. Gilly landed at Terranea Cove at 10:08.45 am. This made the Castaways overall time 10:29.09 and this relay became the 122nd relay to successfully cross the Catalina Channel.

The sixteenth relay of the summer was the Ocean's Seven. It was comprised of all female swimmers and it was an Under 20 relay. The relay members, their order and their strokes per minute were as follows:

1. Mia Thomas	76, 75
2. Heloise LeBlanc	79
3. Erin Taggart	77
4. Tegan Preston	62, 62
5. Anna Brooker	66
6. Lindsay Turner	70

The conditions on this swim were awesome with water temperatures between 74* and 77*, air temperatures 74* and 76* and both wave height and wind speed one or less throughout the crossing.

Mia initiated the swim on September 11th at 11:15.02 pm. She entered the water at Doctor's Cove on the Island of Catalina for a swim to the Mainland. While she was beginning not only were fish joining her but on the other side of the boat, there were dolphins. Mia swam over 2.0 nautical miles.

Heloise jumped in next and swam well. She had a 79 stroke count. Following her was Erin. Again dolphins were spotted during her leg of the swim. The observer also pointed out how flat and smooth conditions were on the crossing. Erin was stung by jelly fish and was cold.

Tegan was the fourth swimmer and reported bioluminescence in the water. She swam a 2.2 nautical mile swim leg. At 3:15 am Anna slid into the water and held a 66 stroke count on her swim leg. The relay had 8.53 nautical miles to complete the crossing. The last swimmer of the first round was Lindsay. She had a 70 stroke per minute on her leg.

At 5:15 am Mia entered the water to swim her second leg. She was stung by jelly fish but not too many times. A strong current, however, held her in place and she couldn't move until 6:06 am. In this time, she was swimming 75 strokes per minute and not moving!

Heloise jumped in with 1.9 nautical miles to reach Terranea. At 7:06.39 am she did precisely that. She cleared the water at Terranea Beach. The Ocean's Seven Relay's aggregate time was 7:51.37. This was the fastest relay time of the summer in either direction. The Ocean's Seven relay became the 123rd relay to successfully cross the Catalina Channel.

The next relay, Channeling Greatness, was formed by Michelle White, a woman from Ireland. The other members, four women and one man were from all over the United States and ranged in ages from 32 to 60-years old. Each of the six swimmers swam twice. The names of the swimmers and their order was as detailed below:

1. Jax Cole
2. Jeannie Zappe
3. Louise Hyder-Darlington
4. Michelle White
5. Janine Serell
6. Hugh Darlington

This swim was swum in the rain and then in gray skies. The water temperature varied slightly from 70* to 72* while the air temperature ranged from a low of 68* to a high of 74*. The wave height was described as calm, choppy and light chop instead of with reliable figures unfortunately. The wind speed was active throughout the swim, fluctuating from 3 to 4 knots at the lowest end to 15 knots at the peak of the crossing.

Jax entered the water at Doctor's Cove at 11:07.25 pm on September 14th, 2015. Soon after the swim commenced the rain began. Jax was stung by jelly fish during her leg of the swim. Jeannie tagged Jax and began the second leg. She was also stung by jelly fish. Louise had an uneventful swim except that it was in the rain and the wind speed was picking up a slight bit.

Nothing could have foretold what was going to happen next. Michelle entered to white caps, strong winds and hard rain. In addition, the paddler strayed away from the boat and she didn't like that at all and told him so as she should.

Janine swam in the fifth spot. She encountered fish that looked like bats. She also thought her swim was a, "Suck it up Buttercup" swim. The final swimmer of the first round of swimmer was Hugh. The rain had lightened up but the wind was still challenging. Hugh swam .72 nautical miles on his leg.

Jax began the second round by swimming fast enough that the pace swimmer in the water couldn't keep up with her. During her leg she swam 1.9 nautical miles. The rain was on and off at this point in the crossing. Jeannie jumped in to relieve Jax and it began to rain heavily again. She had a good swim, putting in 1.92 nautical miles.

At 6:35 am the sun rose. The morning was gray, however. The next swimmer was Louise. She had to swim with poor visibility and choppy water. She had a strong leg and swam 1.95 nautical miles. Michelle

had a tough swim as a current was opposing her. She swam a 1.54 leg and as she tried to get out of the water dolphins surrounded her.

There was 2 nautical miles left to be completed. Janine was in the water at 9:07 am followed by four of her teammates. Even though Janine could have finished because of the five-minute leeway rule, Hugh took over at 10:07 am. Hugh landed at the beach on the Mainland at 10:09.06 am. The Channeling Greatness relay's aggregate time was 11:01.41 and this relay became the 124th to successfully cross the Catalina Channel.

The eighteenth relay of the 2015 season was the B2K2JA relay. It was a mixed relay and the ages ranged from 32 to 58-years old. This was the second relay to swim from the Mainland to Catalina. The members of the relay, the order of the members and their stroke counts were as listed below:

1. Bernie Zeruhn	66
2. Brent Blackman	76
3. Karen Dehmel	68
4. Jen Schumacher	78
5. Amy Dantzler	80
6. Keith Dickerson	64

The conditions were average for this crossing. The water temperature was 74* throughout the crossing until the last reading when it reached 76*. Similarly, the air temperature only varied three degrees from 70* to 72*. The wave height was less than 3 feet on the complete swim while the wind speed had a low of 1 to 2 knots and a high of 4 to 8 knots on the crossing.

Bernie started from the rocks off of the Mainland at 1:39.11 am on September 17th. Brent jumped in next and fed at 20 and 40 minutes for less than twenty seconds. During his leg it was discussed to move him to the other side of the support boat, Outrider for protection from the wind and to pull the kayak as it was having difficulty in the bumpy waters. Neither of these were done.

Karen swam next and also took two feeds. Numerous container ships and even a princess liner were in the South bound shipping lane during this crossing. Jen entered next and had trouble with the lack of lightening from the kayak. She had a 78 stroke count.

The fifth swimmer was Amy and the wind speed dropped to 1 to 2 knots for her swim. Keith was the last swimmer in the first round of the relay.

Bernie followed by Brent had second swims before handing off to Karen. Karen had a 17-minute swim to reach land. She touched land at 9:57.50 am. The relay's overall time was 8:18.39. The B2K2JA had the fastest time for the Mainland to Catalina relay of the summer and the B2K2JA relay became the 125th relay to successfully cross the Catalina Channel.

The final relay of the 2015 season was the Balmorah Beach Team from Australia. There were four females and two males on the relay. In addition, their ages ranged from 35 to 67-years old. The names of the members, the order they swam in and their strokes per minute on the swim were as follows:

1. Jennifer Hale	68, 66, 66, 63, 67
2. Alison Maunder	60, 64, 64, 61
3. Ross Boakes	67, 66, 61
4. Cathy Mackay	70, 72, 69, 72, 70
5. James Arnold	69, 67, 67, 63
6. Karen Panaretto	72, 67

The conditions on this swim were amazing. The water temperature ranged from 71* to a high of 74*. On the other hand, the air temperature began at 70*, plummeted to 60* then surged back to 84*, all in one crossing! The wave height only rose to 0 to 2 feet while the wind speed was zero knots for most of the swim but did happen to reach a high of 0 to 5 knots.

On this swim five of the six swimmers swam twice. Jennifer entered the water at Doctor's Cove on September 23rd at 10:29.45 pm. There wasn't any wind and there was little wave action at the start of the swim. Alison took over for Jennifer and held a constant stroke in her swim.

The third swimmer was Ross. When he and the kayaker started the boat, the Bottom Scratcher, piloted by Greg Elliott, somehow was turned around 180* facing Catalina Island. The swimmer and kayaker were under the bow and they had been turned around also. Finally, they swam out and once they were safe, the boat turned and caught up to the swimmer and kayaker. Joss's rest of the swim was uneventful.

Cathy jumped into some long swells and disappeared behind each of them. By the time her leg was over the swells had died down. Jimmy had to adjust his goggles after the start but had a good swim in calmer water. The final swimmer in the first round was Karen. The stars were bright and this lit up the water. Karen had problems with jelly fish but also had the pleasure of seeing bioluminescence in the water.

Jenny started the second round of swims for the relay at 4:30 am. Jenny also saw the bioluminescence and described it as, "Blue-y, silvery and beautiful." Alison entered the water as the horizon was visible to the east. After her swim she reported numerous jelly fish stings and had multiple red marks from them on her body.

The ocean was calm as Ross entered for his second swim. There was only 3.24 nautical miles left to be swum. Ross said he swam through a swarm of jelly fish with, "long-looking thing brilliantly colored." Ross swam 1.73 nautical miles on his leg.

There was only 1.51 nautical miles left to be swum when Jimmy jumped into the water. Jimmy headed for the beach as the kayaker was at the boat getting food. Jimmy was 300 meters in front of the boat when the captain put the boat in gear to catch him. Sixteen minutes into his swim dolphins were ahead of Jimmy and six huge whales. The rest of the relay jumped in and swam to the finish. At 9:12.38 am Jimmy cleared the water on the Mainland at Pelican Cove. The Balmoral Beach Team's aggregate time was 10:51.53 and they became the 126th relay to successfully cross the Catalina Channel.

The 2015 season had 19 relays with two swimming from the Mainland to the Island and sixteen going from the Island to the Mainland. One relay swam clockwise around the Island of Catalina. There were four records set this season, two were men under 20 swimming in each direction, women 20 to 29 CM

and the CM men 80 to 89 age group. There were two relays from Australia and a relay from Russia. Nineteen relays were the most ever completed in one year.

