



Newsletter of the Catalina Channel Swimming Federation October 2008

Since Labor Day weekend, the Catalina Channel has been filled with swimmers from all corners of the United States. We've seen another 10 successful solo swims and 3 relays.

CCSF Annual Banquet RSVP is due Monday, October 20th

We congratulate (in chronological order): **Michael Fero**, Tawny Cothran, **Dan Robinson**, Anthony Zamora, **Chris Roberts**, Elaine Kornbau Howley, **Dan Richards**, James Fitzpatrick, **Cindy Walsh** and Michelle Macy.

Plus the relay swimmers Oscar Fricke, Stacie Messner, Chris Johnson, Dave Jones, Mark Kachigan & Bill Braun. Also Karl Jacobs recruited a tandem relay featuring Kevin Anderson, Joel Barnett, Guy Buchanan, Steve Coopersmith, Tom Hecker, Barbara Held, Andy Hewitt, Kenny Jacobs, Will Newbern, Carol Sing and Cindy Walsh.

A special note of appreciation goes to **Jim Fitzpatrick**. For most of the summer, Jim has been training with Orange County swimmers. Supporting their Catalina Channel crossings. And when the attempts were coming fast & furious, Jim was there as a CCSF official observer for several swims. All the while, Jim was planning a Catalina crossing of



his own. Back in 2001, he was swimmer #98. Last week, he crossed Catalina the long way. A **30-mile swim** from Avalon to Orange County. (*pictured*) The first time a swimmer has taken this Channel path. The early hours were extremely difficult. Even observer John York had his misgivings. The attempt could have been called on account of challenging weather. Then the seas flattened & Jim enjoyed an unusually warm swim into Newport Beach.

This summer, we've described the incredible success of swimmers & growing popularity of the Catalina Channel as one of the premiere marathon swims. The Federation relied upon volunteer Observers to certify the swims and maintain a level of safety.

The number of 2008 scheduled swims was more than double the number of 2007 applicants. The CCSF got dangerously close to not having an adequate number of volunteer Observers to sanction the swims, while travel expenses rose and sleepless nights took their toll. For increased safety, the CCSF will now strongly encourage two observers (primary and assistant) on every swim and we will offset their expenses. \$200 to the Official Observer and the Assistant Observer \$100.

For this reason, and the safety of all involved, there will be a substantial change in the **Catalina Channel Swimming Federation 2009 swim fee**. The fee for solo swimmers will be \$750 and relays \$900. All applications received before May 2009 will be \$500 and \$750 respectively. An early application and early planning will benefit everyone involved.

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