

A History of the Catalina Channel Swims

Since 1927

by

Dr. Penny Lee Dean

Copyright 1980

Revised 2014, 1996, 1994, 1988

Abstract

The purpose of the book is to develop a history of the swimming crossings of the Catalina Channel since the first swim was completed in 1927.

On January 15, 1927 George Young won the Wrigley Ocean Marathon swim across the Catalina Channel in 15 hours, 44 minutes, and 30 seconds. Within three months of the Wrigley Ocean Marathon, four swimmers successfully tackled the Catalina Channel.

Between 1927 and 1952 only two men conquered the Channel, but from 1952 to 1958 eleven swimmers crossed the Channel. Numerous attempts were made between 1958 and 1970 but none were successful. In the early 1970's and again in the late 1970's, the men's and women's speed records were rewritten. There were twenty-nine crossings by seventeen swimmers in the 1970's. From 1980 through 1989 there were thirty two individual crossings and twelve relay crossings. The book is further broken into the following sections from 1990 to 1999; 2000 to 2004; 2005 to 2007; 2008; 2009; 2010; 2011; 2012; 2013; 2014; and Around the Island swims.

CHAPTER 18

INDIVIDUAL SWIMS

2014 was a successful year for individual swims as 40 swimmers officially tackled the Catalina channel. The landings ranged from Terranea and Cardiac Hill on the Mainland to Doctor's Cove and Long Point on the Island.

The first swimmer to tackle the channel in 2014 was **Danielle Wahl** of Colorado Springs. She was a 21 year old and was coached by her father. Danielle chose to swim from Catalina to the Mainland. Her support vessel was the Bottom Scratcher. The swim left from Doctor's cove at 11:32:10 am on June 12th. There were lots of flying fish and sea lions at the start. Initially, the water was calm with no wind.

Within the first half hour there were problems with the kayak and these were finally settled. The water temperature was a mild 66* and there was a light swell of 1 to 2 feet by a little after 1200pm. The air temperature hovered at 62*

At 12:16 am Danielle had a quick feed of ten seconds and downed 2 ounces of fluids. She had some quick feeds of twenty seconds and one long one of two minutes. At some breaks chugged peaches and others of fluids, Tylenol and Pepto-Bismal. Then all of a sudden Danielle became cold and was shivering. She was asked a few questions and continued on in the swim.

Danielle maintained a 60 stroke count on the swim. Her highest rate was 68 while her lowest was 56 strokes per minute.

The water had calmed down and seemed as if she were swimming on a lake. She fed on a Cliff Bar. The water temperature had risen to 67* and the shivering was less visible. The sky was light which made it easier to swim in at 5:32 am. By 7:10 am she fed and peed and prepared for the finish.

Danielle walked ashore at 7:51:40 am on June 13th making the final time a fine time of 8:19:30. She had the fastest solo swim of the summer. Danielle also became the 287th person to swim the Catalina Channel.

Anthony McCarley was the second swimmer of the summer. He hailed from Berwyn, PA. He was 54 years old. Anthony wanted to swim from the Island to the Mainland. He was accompanied by John Pittman on the Outrider.

The swim began at 11:19.26 pm on July 18th at Doctor's cove with the Boy's Scouts watching and cheering the swimmer on. Anthony was a little sick from the ride over. Once in the water he felt better.

He started his feedings at thirty minutes but immediately switched to twenty minute feedings. At feedings he drank GU, Carbo-Pro and water according to the log of the swim composed by Observers Carol Sing and Dave Van Mouwerik.

The water temperature was a warm 71* degrees until after 7:00 am, a rather amazing tidbit. Similarly, the air temperature was high, 68 to 70 was constant at 2 to 3 feet until it dropped to .5 at the finish. The wind speed also held constant at five knots until the finish when it bottomed out to zero wind speed.

Anthony had an uneventful swim. There was no marine life to speak of, no boats other than the support crew, only one sighting of lightning and Anthony only asked once, "Where are we?"

The stroke count for Anthony began at 62 and finished at 63 but did vary from a low of 55 to 60 throughout the swim. There were no stroke corrections made for his stroke. This is very positive for a thirteen hour swim.

At 12:19.29 on July 19th, 2014 Anthony landed. His final time was 13:00.03. Anthony became the 288th person to tackle the Catalina Channel.

Ciaran Byrne of Cork Ireland undertook the Catalina Channel next. He was 43 years old. He departed from Catalina Island at 11:46.10 pm on July 17th.

Ciaran had fine conditions with long swells which made for a boat which rocked back and forth significantly. There was a clear night with many stars but there were clouds in the area. As the swim progressed the clouds increased. It wasn't until mid morning that the sun came out and warmed everyone, including the swimmer. The water temperature started at 70* and only dropped to 68*, a rather warm swim.

The feeds were started at a thirty minute break but then switched to twenty minutes at 9:45 in the morning. Ciaran just decreased his fluid intake. For his feedings he drank Maxi, electrolyte, SIS and SAS recovery Protein. He had sandwiches and bananas if he needed them. He also had ibuprofen on hand and took one at the end of the swim.

During the swim there were lots of marine animals visible on the swim. First a large pod of dolphins were seen off of the starboard side of the boat. Next a sea lion and then a barking seal told of his displeasure with Ciaran.

The other interesting part of the swim was the numerous ships passing through the Northern and Southern Channel all night. Most passed two to three miles in front of or behind the swimmer.

Ciaran had a pacer during the night and again with 1.6 miles before the finish. She guided him into the landing. He landed at 13:37.05 on July 18th. His official time was 13:50.55. Ciaran was the 289th to swim the Catalina Channel.

On July 19th at 11:09 pm **Frank Levy** launched his Catalina attempt. Frank, 47, was from Scarsdale, New York. The running lights on the boat were off so Frank had to stay close to the kayak. Luckily, it was being controlled by Neil Van Der Byl and he paddled the whole crossing. In addition Frank only breathed to his right side.

The crossing was overcast at the beginning and then it began to rain. As the water was 72* at the start and rarely dropped below 70*, Frank had nice warm water. At the finish the water fell to 69* and finally hit 66* at the finish.

Frank fed on Carbo Pro, Gatorade, Gu Chomps, flat Coke and Advil/Aleve. He also used mouthwash to relieve the pain from the salt. He was sick early in the swim but gradually he felt better. Near the end of the swim his shoulder hurt and thus he took the pain relievers.

The ocean was choppy and had long swells all night. This probably led to Frank's shoulder problems. The highest wave height was three to four feet. This affected his stroke count. He usually maintained a 61 to 64 count but on this swim he consistently held 57 to 59 and dropped as low as 56 strokes per minute.

On the crossing he heard dolphins and saw many pods of dolphins. Unfortunately, there were many jelly fish on the crossing in the early morning. Near the finish there was a curious sea lion.

Frank used a pacer to help him on the swim. She swam over a half mile.

At 11:12.10 am Frank finished his Catalina Channel crossing. His total time was 12:03.10. Frank was the 290th to swim Catalina.

Sixteen year old **Charlotte Samuels** from Ridgewood, New Jersey set out to swim the Catalina Channel. She descended into the water at 11:23.38 pm on August 3rd. She was swimming from Catalina Island to the Mainland.

She fed every thirty minutes. At the first break she told everyone she was cold and wanted warm water on the next break. She drank CarboPro, warm water, EMS liquid shot, EFS powder, mouthwash, jelly beans and Aleve. Her breaks lasted from a few seconds to many at forty seconds to a high of seven minutes!

The water temperature range was significant. It was in the seventies for the first sixteen hours of the swim. Then as the sun began to disappear the water temperature fell also. By the end of the swim the water was 61* but Charlotte didn't complain.

Her high count reached 53 strokes per minute. Her second half of the swim was much stronger than the first half.

The marine life was active on her crossing. There were dolphins, a pilot whale and jelly fish.

Devon, her pace swimmer, swam with her on three occasions. The last time was for the last six hundred yards.

In the dark, Charlotte landed at Terranea. She finished at 19:44.22 after swimming, 20:20.44. She became the 291st person to swim the Catalina Channel.

Lachlan Hinds of Normanhurst, Australia was an 18 year old man desiring to tackle the Catalina Channel. He started at Doctor's Cove at 11:59.23 pm on August 5th.

From the beginning he looked well. He had a steady pace. His stroke counts were 72 and Lachlan maintained this for most of the swim. He did drop to 68 strokes for a while but for the last two and a half hours he increased his count to 76 strokes per minute.

Lachlan was sick on the crossing. He threw up his feedings and a chocolate treat. He finally took an anti nausea pill and this made him better. What he drank on the swim wasn't in the log but he consistently drank 250ml of it. Lachlan had 25 seconds to two minute feeds. He fed every thirty minutes.

There was a pace swimmer for Lachlan. He swam twice. In addition, dolphins, jelly fish and a large boat also kept him going.

Lachlan arrived at Terranea Cove at 9:30.59 on August 6th. His time for the crossing was 9:31.36. Lachlan was the 292nd swimmer to conquer the Catalina Channel.

The next swimmer was **Annette Wooddell** from Brandywine, Maryland. She was 49 years old. Annette slid into the water at Doctor's Cove at 11:04 pm on Wednesday August 6th.

The first feed was held at the 55 minute mark. She drank 14 ounces of Accelerade. She attempted to eat beef baby food but was unable to open the top. During the rest of the swim she drank and ate the following: diluted Accelerade, GU, beef medley baby food, mango baby food and a sweet potato. She also consumed children's liquid Tylenol, regular liquid Tylenol and used her inhaler.

Annette's feeding breaks lasted from 40 seconds to 1:14 seconds. At one break she complained, "The fumes are making me sick." Immediately she was moved to the bow of the boat and didn't have any more problems. She did ask for more glow sticks for her bottle so she could see the bottle easier. She also dropped her breaks to thirty minutes after the first feeding.

During the crossing two whales were seen, a mother and a smaller baby whale. Near the finish a seal was also spotted. Not much marine life for a crossing. Boat traffic was busy however.

Annette's stroke rate was consistent throughout the swim. She had a low of 76 and a high of 79 strokes per minute.

The water conditions ranged from 70* to a low of 65.3*. She never complained of the cold. The air temperature, on the other hand, began at 58* and quickly climbed to the high sixties. As the swim continued the air reached 76*. The wave height never was over 1.5 feet, while the wind speed's only reached five knots.

Annette was positive throughout the swim, looking strong and happy. She landed at 9:32 on August 7th. This made her final time 10:27.49 and she was the 293rd person to swim Catalina.

Michael Ventre of London, England decided to swim the Catalina Channel on August 6th. He chose to swim from the Island to the Mainland. He left from Doctor's Cove at 11:30.25 pm. The water temperature was a warm 72* and the air was 66.5*. The wave height never climbed above two feet but the wind speed reached four to seven knots. This made for a comfortable crossing.

Michael's stroke rate started out at 44 strokes per minute. His lowest rate was 41 while his highest reached 48 strokes per minute.

For feedings Michael mixed Maxim with water and sweetener if he felt like it for the first six hours, then he switched to Electrolytes. He also had GU. Besides the fluid he ate fruit, banana, and a chocolate roll. When his pain was severe he took Ibuprofen. His shortest break was thirty seconds while his longest lasted five minutes!

Michael had dry heaves on the whole crossing. In addition he was stung by numerous jellyfish. The only other marine life seen on the crossing was whales, lots of whales two hours before the finish.

Two pacers accompanied Michael on his crossing. Both swam in on his finish at Cardiac Hill. The water temperature had only dropped to 68*. Michael landed at 11:24.12 am which made his final time 11:53.47. He became the 294 swimmer to cross the Catalina Channel.

The 295th swimmer to tackle the Catalina Channel was **Lori King** from Rockville Centre, New York. She was thirty-eight years old. Her support boat was the Outrider piloted by John Pittman. Lori swam from the Mainland to Catalina, a crossing which is not swum as much as the other direction.

Lori began at 9:44.12 pm on August 14th. She started at Terranea on the mainland. The water was calm but cold, 63.9*. It took over three hours for the water to warm up to a comfortable 70*. The water rose a bit to 70.7* for the finish. Swimming the Mainland to the Island means you swim through the cold upwelling water first and swim into the warmer water as you progress as Lori did.

On the other hand, the air temperature remained at 68* throughout the swim. The wave height was at one foot then dropped to zero after 4am. The wind was up to four knots but dropped to nothing by 12:45 am. This made for a calm swim.

Lori's stroke counts jumped from 78 per minute at the start to 67 at 2:51 am. Lori even stated, "I feel like I like I am fading" The next times it was taken the stroke counts were in the low seventies. In the last three and a half hours she improved her strokes per minute.

On the swim Lori drank CarboPro with lemon juice, and took two Pepto chews. Her stomach didn't feel well so she had rice with peanut butter and chocolate. Her feeds lasted from .30 seconds to a minute. She was very efficient. Lori fed off of the boat and at one point almost hit the boat when she turned into the boat instead of turning away from the boat. She was fine.

A ship was approaching Lori so it changed course and passed behind her. Besides this, the swim was a bit boring as there wasn't any marine life during the crossing. This usually inspires the swimmer and the crew. It didn't matter to Lori as she swam a good swim.

Lori landed at Doctor's Cove at 6:35.15 am. This made her overall time 8:51.15, a very respective time for the crossing.

The next swimmer was **Scott Tapley** from Aptos, California. He was fifty years old. He decided to swim from the Mainland to Catalina on August 16th. He entered the water at 9:52.40 pm at Terranea. The area was rocky but he began without a problem.

As expected the water was cold at the start, 62*. Gradually, the water warmed until it reached 73* near the Catalina Island. Similarly, the air temperature rose from 69* to 75*. At the time the water was calm. This made for a comfortable crossing.

Scott had thirty-four feedings on the crossing. His breaks lasted from 30 seconds to 3 minutes. Besides fluid, he had a banana.

As the swim progressed a 2 to 3 foot chop developed. There was also a wind which began at 3 to 5 knots and grew to 18 knots by the end of the swim. This did not seem to affect the swimmer however.

Scott's strokes per minute were 56 at the start but quickly fell to 50 to 53 strokes per minute. He maintained this for hours until the afternoon when Scott's stroke count dropped to a low of 48 near the finish. At the same time, a boat passed 50 feet in front of him which produced wake for Scott to swim through for a while. Less than thirty minutes later Scott was hit by the paddle.

Dolphins were seen early on in the crossing. Scott was stung numerous times by the jellyfish in the water and he wasn't pleased.

At 3:35.52 Scott landed at Doctor's cove. His total time was 17:43.12 making him the 296th to swim Catalina.

Miguel Guillermo Campero Garcia was the 297th swimmer to tackle the Catalina Channel. He swam from Catalina to the Mainland. He was from Mexico City, Mexico and he was 36 years old.

Miguel descended into the water at 11:22 pm on August 18th at Doctor's Cove. The water temperature began at 72 * but fell to 66 * due to the upwelling currents near the Mainland's coast. The air temperature ranged from 68* to 72* however, only a few readings were taken.

For feedings Miguel drank Vitamin water and supplemented this with Oatmeal He ate off of the kayak and then switched to feeding off of the boat with a pole and net. This is a normal practice for the English Channel. His breaks lasted from 15 seconds to 2:00 minutes. He fed every thirty minutes and near the end he fed every ten minutes.

Miguel's stroke count ranged from 57 to 45; he was all over the place. His average was around 54 strokes per minute.

The jellyfish were stinging Miguel very often but he felt he didn't feel them as he had too much grease on his body much to his relief. As the water was warm over the summer the jellyfish were out all summer. In addition to jellyfish, there were whales and sunfish on the crossing.

As Miguel approached the finish, a Mexican flag was hoisted on the kayak. This helped Miguel. He finished at Terranea at 12:28 pm. His overall time was 13:05.24, again making him the 297th person to swim the Catalina Channel.

Jordan Waxman from Rockleigh New Jersey entered the water with a friend at Doctor's Cove on August 19th. It was just after midnight. Immediately he was buzzed by a sea lion. In addition the wind was very strong when it shouldn't have been.

Within a few minutes of the start the flood light which lighted the swimmer went out. Gillas and Jordan didn't complain.

The water temperature was a warm 72* at the start and only dropped to 67* at the end of the swim. This is a mild drop.

Jordan fed at 30 seconds early in the swim and in the middle switched to twenty seconds. He drank Carbo Pro C5. Gillas left the water because he was vomiting severely. Jordan, on the other hand, kept going. He also was vomiting but tried ginger tea then black tea to calm his stomach. This seemed to work and he continued on this regiment.

Jordan's stroke varied from 60 to 51 strokes per minute, while averaging 54 strokes per minute.

Early in the swim there was light at Point Vicente. Dawn broke at 5:52am. Soon after he was tested for brain responses to make sure he wasn't in hypothermia. He passed with flying colors.

At 11:10 he passed a dead harbor sea lion with a sea gull standing on top [of it]. This, and the earlier seal, unfortunately was the only marine life seen on the swim.

Jordan finished at Cardiac Hill. The finish occurred at 12: 55.45. The ocean coordinates were 33*44.41412N 118*24.159W.

Jordan's final time was 12:51.09. He was relaxed and comfortable after the swim. He recovered and completed the swim well. He became the 298th person to swim Catalina!

From Nedlands Australia came **Andrew Hunt** to tackle the Catalina Channel. He was 52 years old. He jumped into the water on August 21st at 10:59.25 pm. The water was calm

and the sky was visible and filled with stars. After a while the sky was overcast. You could still see the moon and eventually the sun as the orange ball rose.

Early in the swim he had goggle problems. They were leaking and he had to change pairs.

Andrew had amazing feeding breaks as most were only 10 to 20 seconds in length. He drank warm Maxim and fructose. Andrew didn't have any feeding problems on the swim.

The water temperature was 73 at the start and only dropped to 69* but was 70* at the finish. This was a warm crossing. Similarly, the air temperature commenced at 69*, dropped to 67.6* then climbed back to 70*.

Andrew's stroke rate ranged from 52 to 60 while averaging 56 strokes per minute. He had a strong stroke throughout the night.

There was lots of marine life on this swim. There were shrimp, jellies, and dolphins catching fish under Andrew, pods of dolphins swimming near the boat, seals and birds.

The sun climbed into the sky at 6:24 am. Afterwards Andrew drank two bottles of fluid instead of his normal one. He seemed inspired by the sun.

As he approached the finish a pace swimmer swam with him to the shore. He landed at Palos Verdes but the exact beach was not recorded. He touched shore at 9:19.08. Andrew's total time was 10:19.43 and he became the 299th person to conquer the Catalina Channel.

A 60 year old man from Perth Australia, **Geoff Wilson**, slid into the water at Doctor's Cove on August 25th. He entered the warm water at 10:56 am. He was swimming from Catalina to the mainland. There was light rain at the start.

The water was calm at the start and stayed that way throughout the swim. At the finish there were 3-4 foot waves.

In the swim there were 22 breaks. Geoff drank Gel with water, water, Sustagen, Carbo shot and coffee. His breaks lasted from .08 seconds to .20 seconds; he was very efficient. He also gave thumbs and double thumbs up at different breaks. Geoff started with .30 second breaks and changed to .20 second breaks in the middle of the swim.

The water temperature was 71 degrees at the start and only fell to 69.5* at the finish. This was a warm swim. Meanwhile the air temperature was all over the place. It began at 70* dropped to 66.6* rose 69.2* then fell to 65.5* before rising to a comfortable 72* at the finish.

Geoff was swimming strong. His stroke rate was 64 at the start. He stayed in the 60's for a while then dropped to the 50's. He ranged from 64 to 56 strokes per minute.

At 8:45 am dolphins were sighted on the starboard side of the boat about 200 yards from the boat. They approached the boat with an accompanying seal.

As Geoff was less than a mile from a shore two pace swimmers joined him for safety as the waves were 3' to 4' feet high. Then three crew members joined them for safety. Geoff swam in the waves without a problem and landed at 9:55 am. His final time was 10:59.29. He became the 300th person to swim the Catalina Channel!

The next swimmer was from Los Angeles, California. **Rebecca Nevitt**, a 47 year old swimmer, who wanted to tackle the Catalina Channel from Doctor's Cove to Terranea. She began at 11:18 pm on August 30 from Doctor's Cove. It was a beautiful, warm, starry night.

Rebecca made a guttural cry at 11:40 am but kept swimming as if nothing happened. Her glow stick had just come off her hand and couldn't be reattached in the dark.

The water temperature was 72*. Gradually it began to decrease to 69*.

The water temperature only changed three degrees. The air temperature, on the other hand, was at 75* at the start and went to 80* at the finish.

Rebecca's fed on Ultima, Sustained Energy, water, banana, applesauce and Advil. She had some leg cramps during the swim but these seemed to go away. Rebecca drank 100% of what she given until the very end. This is remarkable. Her breaks were from .08 seconds to 2 minutes.

The stroke count's on the swim ranged from 58 to 70. She only hit 58 when the wind picked up to 7 to 10 knots at 4:01 am. She averaged 65 strokes per minute.

The wave height was flat at the start of the swim and rose to 1 to 2 feet early in the swim. While the wind speed also began at a low point, 1, it climbed to 7 to 10 knots then dropped to 5 knots at the end of the swim.

During the swim Rebecca had a pace swimmer. Two kayaks were in the water when three freighters were in front and behind Rebecca. All passed safely.

In the early morning dolphins were sighted at 6 am and 7 am a ¼ mile in front of the boat.

Rebecca looked strong during the swim. At 8:40 am she took a .08 second feed as she approached the shore. There were swells and Rebecca was battered by them. Near the end a 5' blue shark was seen in front of the boat. Luckily, Rebecca was in the swells at the finish. She landed at Terranea at 9:47.40 am making her total time 10:28.52. She became the 301th person to swim the Catalina Channel.

Tina Neill of Laguna Beach, California broke the overall record for the most crossings by a woman by swimming her sixth crossing. Her plan, however, wasn't only to swim once Catalina but to swim the mainland to Catalina backstroke, run a race across Catalina then to swim Catalina to the mainland all in the matter of a few days. This was an amazing goal.

The first leg of this goal began on September 3rd at 10:52pm. Tina backed into the water and swam away from the beach, just East of Terranea. There were clouds, breezes and the moon lit the water but there was lots of darkness. Concurrently, there was a 1' swell.

At thirty minutes she had her first feed of Scratch labs. She also drank carbs, Gel, warm water, Chocolate almond milk, vanilla GU and Accelerade on the swim she took an anti-inflammatory and had Starburst for a treat.

The water temperature was 73 * at the start but plunged to 68* before rising to 74*. The air temperature fluctuated between 69* to 74 * and back to 69*.

At 1:00 am Tina heard dolphins as she was swimming backstroke her hearing would be more astute. At 4:30 am Tina was being stung by jellyfish a fire was spotted in the kelp about 50 meters ahead. Following this a seal appeared in the morning. Unfortunately no other marine life was seen on the crossing.

The wind and the waves on the crossing were breeze and small swells. Gradually this turned to small ripples. Then the wind picked up to 3 to 6 knots making swells but soon the wind turned to 9 to 10 knots. The wind waves increased. At 11:43 am everything settled down and the wind dropped to 5 to 8 knots which had little effect.

Tina's stroke count was from 53 to 55, very consistent, throughout the swim. She looked strong the whole way according to her observers.

Tina approached the finish at Doctor's Cove and backed out of the water at 12:19.50 pm. This mainland to Catalina crossing was completed in 13:27.48. First leg completed!

Another Australian wanted to swim the Catalina Channel. **Peter Tanham**, a 55 year old man from Perth, decided to swim from Catalina to the mainland. He commenced the swim at 10:56 on August 31st. It was a beautiful night with calm, warm water.

Within an hour dolphins were seen three feet from Peter. Peter didn't seem to mind.

By midnight the wind was out. 10 knots and this created a bumpy ocean. Soon the wind rose to 15 knots making it rough for the kayakers. The surface water was also colder as the wind was blowing it away. This remains until the morning.

The water temperature was a warm 73.8 early in the swim. It dropped to 68* near the finish. Meanwhile, the air temperature was 71* and held consistently throughout the swim.

Peter's stroke count ranged from a high of 74 to a low of 65. He averaged 67 strokes per minute. His stroke was strong except when he hit the 15 knot winds initially then he dropped to 65 per minute.

Peter fed every thirty minutes. Some were normal temperature and some were warmed. What he drank was not recorded in the log. His feds were fast however.

This was a great swim for seeing marine life. Early on dolphins were swimming next to Peter. In the morning dolphins were around the boat followed by a pod of multiple whales on the starboard side of the boat. Three to four were spouting. More were seen behind the boat. Next dolphins were everywhere including under Peter and they were jumping with joy.

Forrest escorted Peter to the shore where he landed at 9:03.52. His total time was 10:07.32. Peter became the 302nd person to tackle the Catalina Channel.

Loretta Cox, from Dover, England, attempted the Catalina Channel on September 4th; she was 58 years old. She swam from Catalina to the mainland, starting at Doctor's Cove. There was a clear sky.

Loretta's first two feeds were at the hour mark then she switched to half hour feeds. She drank CarboPro, hydration and ate peaches on the crossing. She also took two Aleve five times on the swim as "her shoulders were killing her". Her breaks lasted from 40 seconds to 3 minutes.

Her stroke counts ranged from 50 to 54 per minute with an average of 52. Despite shoulder pain it was reported her stroke was efficient and strong.

The water temperature started at a hot 74*, fluttered in the seventies until 6:40 am when it fell to 69*. Then out of the blue a recording of 66* occurred. Just as quickly it rose to 70.5*. Another fluke reading of a cold 63* followed by 72* happened. These cold spots didn't affect the swimmer. The water was at 71 * at the finish, a warm temperature for that area. The air temperature, on the other hand, started at 77*, dropped to the high sixties, then leaped to 80* for the finish!

In the swim three fishing vessels came near the boat but without incident. By 8:01 am several pods of dolphins visited the swimmer. Next a blue whale was spotted off the boat then it moved within 50 meters off the bow blew three times and was close enough to be heard. Bottlenose dolphins swam right under Loretta and one stopped 10 meters behind her and did several tail slaps. Next a blue shark was briefly seen but quickly disappeared.

The finish was changed to Terranea. Loretta swam in and landed at 14:51.01. Her total time was 15:41.24. Loretta was the 303rd person to conquer the Catalina Channel.

Tina Neill finished her run and was ready to tackle the return swim from Catalina to the mainland. On September 5th at 10:12 pm she entered the water with this goal in mind. The night was clear with a $\frac{3}{4}$ moon but there were clouds on the mainland. There was also just under a five knot wind.

Forrest was in charge of Tina's feeding on the crossing. She drank Scratch and Accelerade. Her breaks were average from thirty to forty-five seconds.

Tina swam freestyle on this crossing and had some navigational problems: she weaved between the boat and the kayak which didn't happen on her back, obviously. She maintained 54 strokes per minute on the swim except at the start when she did 56 and the finish when she increased to 55 strokes per minute. Amazing!

The water temperature was 74* when she undertook the crossing. It only changed to 72*, a very warm crossing. The air temperature, on the other hand, ranged from 68* to 73*.

The wave height began at two feet and wasn't recorded again. The wind speed fluctuated from a 5 knot wind to a zero wind. Then at 6:45 am the wind jumped to four to five knots. Tina didn't mind, however.

There was kelp on the crossing and at one point Tina ran into it and stopped briefly. In the early morning dolphins were jumping off of the port of the boat.

Tina had a pace swimmer as she approached a beach near Terranea. She landed at 8:46.15 am. This made her final time 10:33.43. This completed her seventh crossing. setting a new world record for the most crossings for a woman. She completed her swim, run, swim incredible feat!

Tim Donovan, a 31 year old from London, England, entered the water off of Doctor's cove at 11:38 pm. The conditions were calm for the start of the swim.

Tim went one hour before he fed then he fed from the boat. He preferred to have warm feeds. Tim's feeds lasted from .65 to .90 seconds. On one feed he replaced an ear plug and on another he had an ibuprofen for elbow tendonitis. He didn't complain of the pain throughout the swim.

Tim's stroke counts varied from 52 to 60 strokes per minute. His "stroke looks good" was recorded in the log.

The water temperature was 74* at the beginning of the swim and barely dropped to 71*. The air temperature was 75* when he commenced the swim. The air climbed to 81* before falling slightly to 79*.

There were basically no waves; it was a flat swim. The wind speed never was higher than 4 to 6 knots making for an ideal swim.

This was a swim for marine life once the morning rolled around. The first spotting was of a pod of dolphins off of the starboard. Next a whale surfaced off of the port side of the boat. Less than twenty minutes later a pod of dolphins swam across the bow only 100 meters in front and behind the boat. Finally, a large "sea lion swam right under Tim."

Tim landed at a new spot, but where that was not recorded unfortunately. He finished at 10:02.03 am, making his final time 10:23.37. Time became the 304th to tackle the Catalina Channel and he earned his Triple Crown.

At 10:40.05 pm **Scott Kaloust** of Redwood City, California, entered the water off of Doctor's Cove on the Island of Catalina. There were 1 ½ to 2 foot swells at the start of the swim. The wind speed was 5 to 7 knots.

The water temperature at the start of the swim was 68*. During the crossing the water rose to a high of 72* but at the finish was 66*. On the other hand, the air temperature was a warm 74* at the beginning and then dropped and climbed to 81* for the end of the swim.

Scott's stroke count in the swim was all over the place. Some may have been human error or Scott really ranged from a count of 30 strokes per minute to 62 strokes per minute during the swim! When he was swimming well he was averaging around 52 strokes per minute. Scott breathed to both sides and according to the log his stroke was "consistent."

During the swim Scott threw up many times. He fed on Gatorade, water and Perpeteum. He fed every twenty minutes on the swim. To calm his stomach he was given Coke two times; this seemed to work. At the same time the waves died down which also seemed to help.

Throughout the crossing the water was filled with chop. Most of the time it was 2' to 3', with a wind, to add to the water conditions. Neither died down, until the last hour of the swim.

The only fish seen during the crossing was a flying fish at the start, a rather disappointing experience for the fish lovers on the swim. It was a solid swim however.

Scott landed on Saturday September 13th at 10:34.37 am. Therefore his official time was 11:54.31. He became the 305th person to tackle the Catalina Channel.

Kirk McKinney of Pacifica, California was 48 years old when he entered the water to swim the Catalina Channel. He started his swim in the warm water at Doctor's Cove. It was 11:17.15 pm. Immediately, a flying fish dove onto the Outsider, the boat accompanying Kirk.

The water temperature was a warm 74* for not only the start of the swim but for seven hours into the swim! It only fluctuated to 70 *. This was an amazing water occurrence. Furthermore, the air temperature began at 74* jumped to 76* and bounced all over the place until it settled at 76* at the finish, again a warm condition for this swim.

On the swim Kirk drank Cytomax, GU, and water and ate a Nu Go bar, a Snickers and a Stinger bar. He also had two burritos from the boat, believe it or not!!!! Kirk had Advil, Ibuprofen and mouthwash. His feeds were mostly under a minute during the crossing and he fed every thirty minutes.

Kirk's stroke count ranged from 55 strokes per minute to 61 strokes per minute. He began at 60 and ended at 61 strokes per minute.

Kirk had rub marks hurting him during the crossing and he asked for Vaseline to solve the problem. Once he applied it, he needed a towel to clean it off of his hands. This only slowed him a bit.

One of the other problems on the swim was jellyfish. He reported them but informed everyone that the stings weren't that bad.

The wind speed was high early in the swim but no recording was made after 1:06 am. Similarly, the same can be said for the wave height, it wasn't recorded. This was too bad as it surely affected the swimmer.

CHAPTER 19

RELAYS 2014

There were 15 relays in 2014. Three set records: for the overall fastest time of a relay and Catalina to mainland record, the mixed gender under 20 and the women's 50 to 59 relay. There were also three relays which swam two teams together. This was an exciting year.

The first relays of the summer were swum together: **Double Trouble and On a Slow Boat to Catalina**. The following is the relay and the order they swam in:

On a Slow Boat to Catalina	Double Trouble
1. Tina Neil	John York
2. Forrest Nelson	Barbra Held
3. Rebecca Jackman-Beeler	Ken Thiltgen
4. Robert Philipson	Cat Moore
5. Sabrina Buselt	Joel Barnett
6. Richard Henry	Carol Sing

The relays started at 10:55.53 pm at Cabrillo Beach on June 20th. This was a longer swim from the Mainland to the Island of Catalina. There was a light breeze, light haze but there were stars to be seen.

The water temperature was 63* at the beginning of the swim. It hovered around 64* for most of the swim the jumped to 69* for the finish. The air temperature was 66.5* near the start of the swim. It stayed there for most of the swim until it climbed to 68.4* for the end of the swim.

The tandems rotated nicely through their rotation. The teams stayed together even in adverse conditions. There was no stroke rates were taken until the second round when Forest was 56, Barbara was 59, Becky was 53 and Ken was 51 strokes per minute. Later more stroke rates were taken and Robert was 49, Cat was 54, Joel was 55 and Sabrina was 51 strokes per minute. Four swimmers stroke rates weren't taken. The rates were important to compare to their regular rate.

The wind had picked up and the relays were fighting to try to land at Doctor's Cove. Once this was realized as impossible the teams decided to land near Long Point at 10:08 am. There were 3 to 4 foot swells with whitecaps hitting the swimmers in the face. The wind continued to pick up which made for wind waves besides the swells. Around 1:56 pm this seemed to calm down. Only the swells were left and they had dropped to a 2' swell.

Joel and Sabrina were in the water for the finish. They landed at 3:48.49 pm. This made each relay's total time, 16:53.06. The Double Trouble became the 94th relay to cross

the Catalina Channel. The On a Slow Boat to Catalina was the 95th relay to tackle the Catalina Channel.

The third relay of the summer, named **Channel Cats**, was a mixed relay of under 20 years of age swimmers. Their goal was to break the record for the crossing. The following was their order they swam in:

1. Ethan Mc Veigh
2. Carson Gossler
3. Isabella Back
4. Valerie Chin
5. Cayden Panqelinan
6. Jacee Frivaldo

The relay was swimming from Catalina Island to the mainland. They intended to leave on July 3rd at 00.56.50 pm. The night was clear and the stars were beautiful. Each leg swam one hour in a row and repeated this order until the relay ended by touching the mainland.

Ethan entered the calm, 69* water. His stroke rates were taken twice and were 88 and 86 strokes per minute. When Ethan was out of the water, he complained about the jellyfish and the stings he obtained.

Carson had stroke rates of 74 and 76. He was followed by Bella who had rates of 68 each time. She saw a floating seagull as she swam by it.

Valerie had one stroke rate of 72. She had a good swim. Cayden was in next. His stroke rate was 77 but he was disturbed as dolphins were ten yards in front of him. More dolphins appeared as Jacee entered the water. His stroke counts were 56 and 57 and then he swam some impressive butterfly strokes at the end of his leg.

Ethan swam his second leg. He swam a remarkable leg as his stroke counts reached 90 and 87 in long 2 to 3 foot swells and wind wavelets!

Carson swam next with 74 and 76 stroke counts. He smashed into the kayak but luckily wasn't injured. Bella entered as the final swimmer. There were 1 to 3 foot swells. As she approached the finish the whole team entered the water to finish with her, making sure no one touched her. Bella landed at 9:39.17 am. This made the total time 8:42.27. This was a new world record for a mixed gender relay for 20 and under swimmers! The Channel Cats relay became the 96th relay to swim the Catalina Channel.

The next relay was **Out to Swim** and was made up of all swimmers from Great Britain. There were five men and one woman. The order of the relay was as follows:

1. Alastair Bell
2. Richard Snow
3. Paul Seyde
4. Clinton Pasco
5. Alex Davis
6. Kevin Stewart

Alastair began the swim for the relay at 11:55.25 pm on August 4th. The water was flat; the night was calm with stars everywhere. There was a ¼ moon moving across the dark sky.

The water temperature was 70* and slowly fell to 68.4* then dropped suddenly to 64*. On the other hand, the air temperature was 68*, plummeted to 57* climbed to 64* before settling at 72*. These made for cold pockets on the swim.

The transition from one swimmer to another went well. Clinton and Paul were seasick and didn't feel any better in the water. At the 6:21 mark dolphins were jumping-putting on a, "show" according to the log. Alastair was in the water and the relay was at the halfway point. There were three feet long swells to swim through at this point in the swim.

As the sun rose it was evident that the swimmers were swimming faster and further in their hour. Also no discussion of seasickness occurred. These seem to disappear when the sun comes up.

Kevin was the last swimmer for the relay. He had to swim through a patch of birds then 300yards of shore he ran into a kelp bed. Kevin navigated his way through this and then was joined by his relay teammates to swim into shore with him. He landed at 11:30.42 am at Terranea Beach. The relay's final time was 11:25.25.43. The Out to Swim relay became the 97th relay to swim the Catalina Channel.

The 98th relay to conquer the Catalina Channel was **Janet's Regular Relay**. It was a mixed relay—three men and three women. The swimmers and their order were as follows:

1. Barbara Held
2. Hal Linebarger
3. Steve Hillard
4. Chris Willard
5. Vicki Eveleth
6. Daira Paulson Dockstader

Barbara was the first swimmer and was welcomed by warm, calm water; she had a good start. Hal didn't have a glow stick attached so he stuck one down his pants. Steve had "sloppy" water. Chris had a rough transition with Steve. Vicki, the fifth swimmer, had 2 to 4 feet rolling swells and 1 to 2 foot wind chop wavelets. The next few transitions were normal.

At 7:30 am the sun rose to the delight of the swimmers and crew. In addition, a pod of dolphins were excited and showed themselves to the group on the boat. At 8:30 am when Chris was in the water he complained of jellyfish as the sun was very bright. Swimming through kelp is challenging but if practiced you can get very good at it.

At 12:15 pm a large pod of dolphins was leaping in the air! Similarly, another pod of dolphins was seen 100 meters off of the bow at 1:26 pm.

Steve entered the water for his third leg. He had .458 nautical miles left to swim to reach the shore. At 1:51.20 he crawled out of the water for the finish of the relay. This was an extremely tough landing. The total time of the Janet's Regular relay was 14:20.55. Again, they were the 98th relay to conquer the Catalina Channel!

The sixth relay of the summer was the **Swim Long Beach** relay. This relay was swimming from the mainland to the Island. The relay was composed of the following swimmers and the order of their swim was:

1. Doug Garland
2. Samantha Sears
3. Katie Rowe
4. Wilfred Diaz
5. Peter Knapp
6. Michael Kirkpatrick

The relay was swimming on the night of August 23rd. Doug entered the water but the paddler left him so there was a restart. The second start happened at 9:47.33 pm. The paddler stayed with the swimmer from then on through the night. Doug had two stroke counts of 64. The conditions were fine with 1 to 2 foot swells and winds of 4 to 6 miles per hour.

Following Doug was Sammy. The two did a high 5 to solidify their exchange. Sammy's stroke counts were 88, 90, 92, and 89. The conditions changed slightly as the swells increased to 2 to 3 foot in length.

Katie was the third swimmer. After her high five, Katie settled into a 61 and 62 stroke count. The swells increased to 2 to 4 feet and the water temperature was up to 75*! Katie high fived Will and left the water. She was overheated and tired.

Will had 68 and 66 stroke counts. He also chose to feed on the hour leg of the swim. His break lasted .03 seconds, a very fast break. He fed on the thirty minute mark. Will high fived Peter and left the water.

Peter had to play catch up to the boat as it kept moving during the exchange instead of going into neutral and waiting for the swimmer. Peter also chose to drink and his feed took 5 seconds. Peter had stroke counts of 67 and 68.

Michael had a container ship pass a ½ mile behind him then another container ship was headed towards the swimmer. The ship missed Michael. Michael high fived with Doug.

The Bottom Scratcher passed Doug within 100 feet. Doug was able to maintain 64 and 65 stroke counts during his leg. Nothing else seemed to change. Doug transitioned with Sam.

Sam had stroke counts of 90 and 89. Sam also had a .02 second break. This might qualify for the “fastest feed in history.” Sam had a clean exchange with Katie.

Katie had music playing the “Wild Thing” will she swam. Her stroke counts were 62 and 64 strokes per minute. The water changed from glassy to slightly dimpled—mild waves. Katie and Will did their high five and each moved on.

Will asked for a pace swimmer so Hank jumped in to swim with him. Will had a stroke count of 65. He only had to swim .973 nautical miles until he reached the finish. As he approached the shore the whole team jumped in and swam the last bit of the swim with Will. Will cleared the water at Doctor’s cove and ended up on a dry beach. He landed at 7:20.26 am. The total time of Swim Long Beach was 9:32.53. This relay was the 99th to tackle the Catalina Channel!

The next team to swim the Catalina Channel was the **Catalina Dream Team 14 in ‘14**. The swimmers were all female and under 20 years of age. The order and name of the swimmer is as follows:

1. Taylor Christensen
2. Phoebe Dillard
3. Madison Necochea
4. Ruby Canon
5. Erin Harvey
6. Kendal Christensen

The Catalina Dream Team left at 1:10.45 am on August 24th. They departed from Doctor’s cove.

The water temperature started at 73* and gradually reduced to a mere 70*. The air temperature went the other way from 76* it rose to 78*. The team was swimming from Catalina to the mainland; this is why the water and air temperatures were so warm.

Taylor swam first for the relay. Her stroke count was 63. She was stung three times by jellyfish. Phoebe was stung twice in sensitive areas and her stroke count was 61*. Next was Maddie, also with a 61 stroke count. Jellyfish were on the surface but Maddie wasn't stung. Once the relay was three hours off of the Island, the jellyfish problem seemed to subside. Prior to the next exchange, the boat crossed with the Outrider, the other channel crossing boat. It was within 100 yards off the Bottom Scratcher.

The fourth swimmer was Ruby and the conditions continued to be flat and calm. Ruby's stroke count was 58 strokes per minute. Erin swam next and had a 65 stroke count. She was followed by Kendall. She entered the water at 6:10 am. The sun was rising at this time and it was beautiful. Dolphins were jumping in the water for everyone to see. Kendall had a 65 stroke count.

The relay started over with Taylor entering the water at 7:10 am, just 4.68 nautical miles from the finish. This time around Taylor's stroke count was only 60 strokes per minute. Then five cargo and/or tanker ships passed in front of Taylor and her stroke count improved to 65 strokes per minute. She looked strong in the last ten minutes of her swim. Taylor swam 1.90 nm.

Phoebe embarked on her final leg only to be disturbed by dolphins. The dolphins were, "behind us, in front of us, everywhere, alongside." Next a whale was seen 250 yards off of the stern. At 9:10 am Maddie entered the water with a 1/3 of a mile to swim. Phoebe didn't leave the water and the rest of the relay entered the water to swim behind Maddie. Maddie landed at Cardiac Hill at 9:21.04. The relay's final time was 8:11.49. The Catalina Dream Team became the 100th relay team to swim the Catalina Channel!

The **Wild Old Women II** entered the water off of Doctor's cove at 11:35.28 pm. The relay team consisted of women in the ages between 50 and 59. All were from the San Diego area. The swimmers and their order were as follows:

1. Becky Jackman-Beeler
2. Cindy Walsh
3. Rene' Murphy
4. Jo Anna Lamott
5. Stacy Sleight Sauls
6. Jenny Lamott

Jenny was supposed to swim third but she was so seasick they had her wait and go sixth (last). The conditions on the swim were near perfect—flat and calm.

The water temperature began at 73-74*. The temperature stayed in the low seventies for most of the swim but just off of the finish at Terranea the temperature dropped to 69*. This was due to the upwelling currents off of the coast. The air temperature, on the other hand, jumped all over the place. It began at 72* stayed there for 4 hours, plunged to 66* then returned to 70* before dropping to 64*. Finally, the air temperature returned to 70*'s.

The swells were calm most of the swim. At their highest point they were 1 to 3 feet and 1 to 2 at their lowest point. The wind speed, however, ranged from 0 to 10 knots. It was calmest near the mainland coast.

One unique feature on the swim was Kevin Eslinger accompanied the swimmers on a paddleboard almost the entire time minus a two hour stretch in the early morning hours. This was a wonderful show of support.

Becky walked into the water to start the swim on a calm night. On Becky's swim she covered 1.68 nm according to John Pittman. Becky tagged Cindy and off she went. She lost her glow stick on her cap and had to get another one. Cindy swam 1.82 nm. Rene' high-fived Cindy to take her place. Rene' swam 2.0 nm. Jo was the next swimmer. She also lost her glow stick. Jo, the fourth leg, swam 1.843 nm. Stacy entered the water and tagged Jo. Stacy swam 1.813 nm. Jenny, though still seasick swam the sixth leg on the relay. Jenny smelled the exhaust from the boat and had to move further up and closer to the boat to get away from the smell. She swam further than anyone else, going 2.044 nm. This ended the first round of the relay.

Becky reentered the water for her second leg. While in the water a large cargo ship passed in front of Becky going on the northbound path. According to the observer, Michelle McConica, it passed really close to the swimmer. Becky completed 2.188 nm on her second leg; the best leg of the swim. Net was Cindy. Cindy had to swim through the wake of the cargo ship. Conditions were still very good. Cindy saw a turtle and Becky thought it was, "Janet Lamott checking up on us." Cindy swam 1.981 nm. Rene' entered the water as the last full hour swimmer. Rene' was swimming towards Terranea Beach. All of a sudden a Sport King fishing boat cut the boat and swimmer's path. A seal had been seen during her swim chewing on seaweed. Rene' swam 1.74 nm even with the boat distraction.

Finally, Jo tagged Rene's hand and swam the last 361 yards. She was joined by her teammates. As Jo finished the swim with her three official steps, the relay had unofficially set a new world record for the women's 50 to 59 year olds. Jo landed at 8:43.32 am, making the final time 9:08.01. The Wild Old Women II became the 101st to conquer the Catalina Channel!

The eighth and ninth relay swam together. This works out as they say money and have someone to swim with during the hour leg. The relays were **Arch Zombie A** and **Arch Zombie B**. The members of the relays and their swim order are as follows:

Arch Zombie A

1. Cheryl Zak
2. Betzi Lindberg
3. Maddy Israel
4. Noah Rowan
5. Kaylee Kussman
6. Lauren Weinreb

Arch Zombie B

- Diana Linney
Wesley Metcalf
Zach Irvine
Faith Irvine
C.J. Fotinos
Bella Manley

The two relays wanted to swim from Catalina to the mainland. They started at Doctor's cove at 11:18.51 pm. The ocean had a long swell and there was a light wind.

Diana and Cheryl were the first two swimmers in the water. Diana had a stroke count of 68 whereas Cheryl had a stroke count of 58 strokes per minute.

The water temperature was 74* at the start of the swim, the air temperature was 71*, there was less than one foot of wave height and the wind speed was less than five knots.

Betzi and Wesley were in the water next. Once the swimmers cleared the lee of the Island the swells were occasionally 3 to 4 foot in size. Betzi and Wesley had stroke counts of 64 and 62 respectively.

Maddy and Zach tagged off next. The stroke counts were 72 and 56 for them. Nothing else had changed.

The fourth team of Noah and Faith exchanged high fives and swam on for their hour swim. During their swim stroke counts were no longer taken unfortunately. The moon was reflecting onto the water nicely and was visible to the people on the boat. As these two left the water they complained of jellyfish stings.

Kaylee and C.J. tagged off with Noah and Faith then went on with their swim. Unfortunately, they also had problems with jellyfish.

Lauren and Bella were fighting seasickness and were not worried about jellyfish stings. They swam their leg without incidence.

At 5:18 am the second leg for the relays began. Everything was normal until 6:49 am when 2 dolphins were spotted near behind the boat. Then there was a pod. Then the dolphins were jumping everywhere in the air all around the boat. There was a giant pod of dolphins following the boat as the swimmers kept swimming.

Kaylee and C.J. were swimming when a blue shark was hovering on the surface near the swimmers. Nothing was done and he swam away. Lauren and Bella entered the water with the intention of being the final swimmers. They only had .98 nm to go when they started at 10:18 am. Lauren and Bella climbed ashore in unison at 11:08.07 am. Their final time was 11:49.26. The Arch Zombie A was the 102nd relay to swim the Catalina Channel! The Arch Zombie B was the 103rd relay to swim the Catalina Channel!

The **Machine Men 1 and 2** composed of six men who swam on both relays. This meant some of the faster ones swam three times or more. The names and order of each relay:

Machine Men 1	Machine Men 2
1. Chris Kraus	Fred Powell
2. Rick Gaunzle	Bill Ireland
3. Brian Rods	Tom Hecker
4. Fred Powell	Chris Kraus
5. Bill Ireland	Rick Gaunzle
6. Tom Hecker	Brian Rods

The first two swimmers, Chris and Fred, started at Doctor's cove at 10:49.33 pm on September 11th. They did a good job staying together. The sky was clear but the water had three foot swells. Fred also had a tendency to pull to the left side. Both incoming swimmers tag both outgoing swimmers.

Bill and Rick overtook the first swimmers and began their hour swim. The wind was slightly stronger which affected the water and waves.

Brian and Tom had the next leg. They had beautiful conditions and swam 1.66 nm. Chris and Fred made up the fourth leg. They had stroke counts of 72 and 57. The fifth leg was made of Rick and Bill. Rick saw patches of clouds forming. The wind waves were reduced as a result of this phenomenon. Rick and Bill talked about how great the water was to swim in except for the jellyfish. They swam 1.74 nm.

Tom and Brian had the sixth leg with 55 and 50 stroke counts. After their exchange for Fred and Chris, Brian said he was queasy. The second round of swimmers had trouble with goggles, slower stroke counts but a beautiful sunrise. Conditions turned even easier to ripples for the last swimmers Chris and Fred. There was no wind, a blue sky and no waves.

Chris and Fred landed at the sandy beach of Terranea. Waiting on shore was Forrest Nelson of the CCSF to cheer them on. They landed at 8:29.16 am making a total time of 9:39.40. The Machine Men I became the 104th relay to complete the Catalina Channel while the Machine Men II became the 105th relay to conquer the Catalina Channel!

The **Team B** relay was swimming from Catalina to the mainland. The six men ranged in age from 44 to 53 years old. They also all lived in the Los Angeles area. The names and order they swam in is as follows:

1. Ken Josefsberg
2. Dave Meyer
3. Mark McMillan
4. Tony Pritzker
5. Gary Bub
6. Darren Wald

Ken started at Doctor's cove at 11:15.48 pm on September 12th. The night was calm and there was no wind. There were, however, three to four foot swells. Besides this, there was a dolphin chasing a fish and a small seal in the area.

Ken had a stroke count of 53 and then of 50. When he left the water he was so excited to do the work to swim a solo crossing of the Catalina Channel in the future.

Ken tagged hands with Dave before leaving the water. Dave had a stroke count of 65.

At 1:15 am Mark replaced Dave. Mark's stroke rate was 68 strokes per minute. According to the log, Mark looked strong. At the same time the water was lumpy and gradually turned to chop. The boat was overtaking the Outrider's solo swimmer

The fourth leg of the swim was Tony. He had several adjustments to his goggles and his glow stick. He swam by the Outrider during his leg.

The fifth leg was swum by Gary. The boat was rocking significantly, and had made a few people sick. The water temperature was taken; it was 76*. This was unbelievable! According to the observer, Don Van Cleve, he had never seen a temperature as warm as 76* before in the Catalina Channel.

Darren entered the water next. He was the youngest of the relay. His stroke count was 63. During his leg the wind waves and swells were reduced, making for an easier swim.

The start of the second round began at 5:16 am. Ken tagged Darren and initiated his leg. Ken's stroke counts were 50 and 51, lower than his first counts. Ken felt the swells were bigger, pushed him along and that he could have kept going.

Dave was in the water for the second time when a container ship crossed in front of the boat. In addition, it was dawn at 6:34 am. Dave's stroke counts were 63 and 61 again smaller than the previous stroke counts.

The water temperature on this swim progressed from a start at 72* to an extreme high of 76*. Then the temperature dropped to a low of 69* before settling on 70* for the finish. This was a warm swim.

The air temperature was at 71* for seven hours before it began to fluctuate. It ranged from 72* to 75* for the next three hours and settled at 74* for the ending.

By 8:15 am Tony was in and the water was flat. Dolphins surrounded the boat. Tony's stroke count was 56 both times it was taken. Again, the second leg stroke counts were slower than the first leg counts. This means the swimmers were tired.

Gary took over for Tony. He had an approximately mile swim. His stroke count during this time was 61. He finished at 9:44.47 am at Cardiac Hill on the mainland. The Team B's aggregate time was 10:28.59. Team B became the 106th relay to conquer the Catalina Channel!

South Coast Aquatics led by team captain, Jill Robertson, chose to swim the Catalina Channel from the Island to the mainland. The team's names, order and age are listed as follows:

- | | |
|-------------------|----|
| 1. Jerry Anderson | 50 |
| 2. Phil Siamberg | 58 |
| 3. Terry Bates | 41 |
| 4. Jill Robertson | 51 |
| 5. Dave Strybel | 59 |
| 6. Kim Leigh | 45 |

The South Coast Aquatics relay entered the water represented by swimmer Jim Anderson at 10:55.21 pm on September 15th. He slid in at Doctor's cove into a 10 knot wind but a calm ocean. There was a sea lion eating flying fish there to greet him. Patricia was his paddler.

The second swimmer was Phil. During his leg a red, half moon was rising.

Terry, Jill and David swam without any specific information given during their legs.

When the sixth leg dove in, Kim, she executed an exchange with David and began her swim leg. The swells were still 3 to 5 feet, there was still a 10 knot wind, and there was 10.65 nm to go to complete the swim. The water was 76*; the air was 73.5*. The wave height changed to one foot at 4:42am and the wind speed had dropped to 4 to 5 knots. The boat was still rocking.

The second round began with Jerry tagging Kim. Phil dove into 75* water to tag Jerry. The swells were less but the chop had increased. The later is harder to swim through. At 6:41 am the sunrise occurred. With this the wind settled down and there were no clouds. It made for a beautiful orange and red sunrise. Phil ended his leg with a stroke of butterfly to the cheers of the people on the boat.

At 8:55 am Jill left the water after being tagged by David. David would be swimming the final leg. Kim and Terry entered the water to accompany David to the finish. He reached the Terranea Beach at 9:14.15 am. The elapsed time of the South Coast Aquatics relay team was 10:18.54. This team became the 107th to swim the Catalina Channel!

The last relay of the summer was the fastest of all time. The relay's name was **B2K2JA**. B2K2JA swam from Catalina to the mainland. The relay was composed of the following swimmers and their order they swam:

1. Bernie Zeruhn
2. Brent Blackman
3. Keith Dickson
4. Karen Dehmel Schmidt
5. Jen Schumacher
6. Amy Dantzler

Bernie climbed Arrow Point, (coordinates 33 23 617 118 32 049) removed his gloves and booties then jumped off the cliff into the water on September 28th. This officially started the swim at 3:02.20 am. Leaving from Arrow Point saved the relay 1,000 meters of swimming. Bernie had a stroke count of 66 strokes per minute. At twenty minutes he had a quick five second feed. He then swam the rest of his leg of the swim.

Brent was dropped off in front of Bernie so he could warm up. Once he did he fell back and high fived Bernie. He had two quick breaks for fluid. He had a stroke count of 70 strokes per minute. He was tagged by Keith and he left the water.

Keith then Karen got in but both had problems with switch procedures and signals. When Keith was leaving the water he took too long and it created a major problem. The paddlers were changing at the same time but the boat had dropped back to pick up Keith. This left Karen and the pacer, Wadley, by themselves in the early morning darkness. Karen's stroke count was 82 strokes per minute.

At 7:00 am the sun came up. There was a smooth transition between Karen and Jen. Jen took over. Jen had a stroke count of 76 strokes per minute. During her swim the water had dropped to 69*.

Amy tagged Jen and Jen left the water quickly. Amy had a stroke count of 62 strokes per minute. When Amy was near the front of the boat, the captain “dumped the head.” Dolphins appeared near the boat.

Bernie started the second leg by relieving Amy of her swim at 9:00 am. Bernie only had 57 minutes of swimming to do to reach the finish. He fed twice in the swim. While he was swimming, there was a problem with the dinghy. This was resolved and the dinghy was used to take the observers in to see the finish off of Cardiac Hill. Bernie climbed ashore at 9:59.63 am. This made the B2K2JA’s relay time 6:57.63. This was amazing. This was the fastest time ever for any relay in either direction. The B2K2JA mixed gender relay became the 108th relay to conquer the Catalina Channel.

Conclusions

The fifteen relays of the summer brought the total number of relays to 108. Of these three were swum as pairs. Three set records. These were the Channel Cats, the Wild Old Women II and B2K2JA.

The Channel Cats set the record for a mixed gender relay under 20 years of age. Their time was 8:42.27. The second relay, the Wild Old Women II, set a record for women between 50 to 59 years of age. Their time was 9:08.01. The third relay, B2K2JA, set the record for a mixed gender relay and the fastest relay starting from Catalina Island. Their time was 6:57.63 breaking the old record by four minutes.

2014 was a good year for relays and records. 2015 should be even better!