

DOLPHIN LOG

THE BULLETIN OF THE DOLPHIN SWIMMING & BOATING CLUB • SAN FRANCISCO • ESTABLISHED 1877 • SPRING 2026



DOLPHIN LOG

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COVER PHOTO

Abner Kingman

Rowers: Ed De Cossio and his daughter
Renee De Cossio



**Our historic
wooden fleet in
action**

From the Editors

This issue of the *Dolphin Log* celebrates the Dolphin Club wooden fleet and has been in the works for over a year. Unusual for a long-lead publication, this topic is now the subject of “breaking news.” This arises from disagreement surrounding how the Dolphin Board manages the work of maintaining the wooden fleet.

This breaking news has its origin six years ago in September, 2019. Responding to the controversy surrounding the widespread use of “gig workers” by big businesses, the governor of California signed Assembly Bill 5 to adopt the “ABC test” to determine if workers are employees or independent contractors. In 2022, board member Jean Allan alerted the Board that the Club’s director and officer’s insurance expressly excluded coverage for mischaracterization of a worker’s employment status. As a result, the Dolphin Board approved the expenditure to hire the firm of Littler Mendelson to review the status of each paid worker at the Club*.

The Littler attorney, Justin Brown, applied the ABC test to the Club’s boatbuilders, Jon Bielinski and Julia Hechanova, as a distinct group. He concluded that the boatbuilders easily satisfied elements A and C (they work independently and they perform work for other clients in addition to the Club, and they have specialized expertise that lends itself to being an independent trade.)

However, he pointed out that element B, that “the worker performs work that is outside the usual course of the hiring entity’s business,” carries potential risk for misclassification “as boatbuilding and maintenance are an important aspect of the Club’s boating/rowing activities.... There is certainly an argument that the Club’s usual course of business ... is not boatbuilding or maintenance.... It is also helpful to the Club’s argument that there have been no Club employees performing the duties.” He concludes, “Given the medium risk for element (B), this group is somewhere between a low to medium risk for misclassification.... I would not necessarily recommend reclassifying this group as employees ... but it may be worth considering if either of the workers in this group are receptive to the idea.”

At the November 2022 meeting, the Board directed the president, Ward Bushee, to execute a new independent contractor agreement for boatbuilders. This new contract, drafted by Justin Brown, improved protections for the Club. It became effective November 30, 2022.

Three years later, in November, 2025, the board met in executive session. Multiple sources report that a second legal opinion was presented at this meeting. If so, that opinion is being held as “privileged” and has not been shared with the membership. On December 31, 2025, the

Club terminated the existing boatbuilders contract. Given the fact that Bielinski has been overseeing boat maintenance at the Club for 43 years, the move caused much concern, leading a group of Dolphins to circulate a petition for a Special Meeting in hopes of reversing the decision.

Article III, Section 7 of the Dolphin Club Bylaws states, "Special Meetings of the members may be called by the Board of Governors or by five percent or more of the membership for any lawful purpose. The number of voting members present shall constitute a quorum. Except when a greater number is required by law or by other provisions of the Bylaws, approval by a majority of votes cast on a matter shall constitute approval by the membership."

The petition gathered the required number of signatures and a special meeting convened February 4, 2026. At this meeting, two motions were presented. One called for reinstatement of the boatbuilders contracts. This motion passed 83-42-0. The second called for adoption of protections for the Club's fleet of traditional lapstrake wooden rowboats. This motion passed 81-42-2.

On April 6, 2026, President John Horner sent an email to the membership. He stated, "Before the [Special Meeting] and at its opening, I informed the members that under California law and our bylaws, responsibility for contracts, staffing, and legal compliance rests with the Board of Governors. With this knowledge, motions were presented and a majority of the approximately 125 members present voted for them.

"The board subsequently reconsidered the question, and a significant majority again voted to continue pursuing employment rather than independent contracting. This issue has now been reviewed thoroughly by both the 2025 and 2026 boards. Continued repetition of the same points is unlikely to change that." As the Dolphin Log goes to press, the job posting for a part-time employee boatbuilder is listed on the Club website with a May 15 deadline for applications.

The optimistic view of this breaking news is that this process will lead to a greater shared appreciation of our historic fleet; to having the talent and energy needed in the boat shop to continue the 40-year tradition of outstanding fleet maintenance; and to an informed membership, confident that the Board is acting on the best legal advice available.



Steaming the ribs



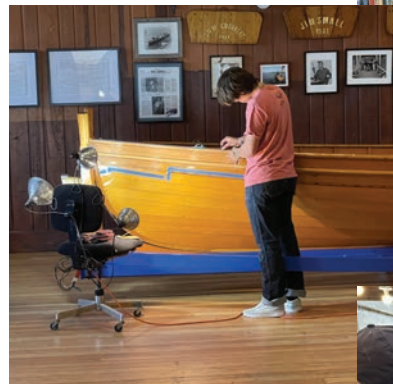
Varnish work is never done

IN THE BOAT SHOP
STORY ON PAGE 4



Sanding the spoon oars

A little extra light helps



Supervising the band saw



Many hands make light work

Sanding teamwork

HISTORY OF THE DOLPHIN CLUB BOAT SHOP

BY LARRY SCROGGINS

When the Dolphin Club was founded in 1877, the primary athletic interest was competitive rowing. This was during a time when the Whitehall rowboat was the workhorse of San Francisco Bay. Speed was the issue with these boats. The design also enabled them to handle the harbor chop and yet track straight. This was a critical business asset in the days when the first buyer to reach a cargo ship sailing into San Francisco Bay gained first dibs to drayage rights. As a result, winning rowing races was a mixture of sport, gambling, and business advertisement.

The city directory listed many residents with occupation as “boatbuilder.” One of these was Thomas Keenan who owned his own shop on Jefferson Street. The Club contracted with Keenan who built numerous boats for our club and others. He built our *Chas M Farrell* in 1917 which is still in use. He became a Dolphin Life Member.

Keenan died in 1933 and his boatbuilding business shuttered. About this time, many local boat shops were going out of business. However, the Pacific Coast rowing clubs continued to race, and their boats constantly needed repairs. After Keenan’s death, the Dolphin fleet deteriorated. Frustrated by diminishing options, the Dolphin Club decided to take control by bringing the work in-house and converted handball court “B” into a repair shop. The Club caretaker at the time was Bill Richards who was a boatbuilder and had worked in a boat shop. The Club commissioned him to build three new singles for \$400 each. The *Baggiani*, *Landucci*, and *Foster* were completed in 1948. Bill retired in 1950 and died in 1959.

With our boat shop lacking a professional builder, this was another period when the fleet slipped into disrepair. Well-meaning members tried their hand. However, even talented carpenters and those with

construction experience did not have the specialized skills for Whitehall repair and construction. Herman Zahler, who joined the club in 1972, would tackle any project big or small. For example, he constructed the new locker rooms and rebuilt the pier. Although he made the flat-bottom utility boat named *Horse*, there’s no record of him attempting more complex work on lapstrake Whitehall boats.

In late 1983, Dino Landucci gained board acceptance to fund restoration of the boat that was named after him. A rigger on the *Balclutha* learned about the project and told his friend, Jon Bielinski. Jon came to look at the job and found the boat in a sad state. It had a broken keel, broken frames, broken bottom planks, and broken thwarts, making the vessel completely unseaworthy. The Club hired Bielinski to undertake the restoration. He packed up the boat parts and sailed them to Sausalito to duplicate the parts at the





Over many years, Jon has developed lasting relationships with landowners who allow him to harvest their trees for specific boat parts.

Jon Bielinski
immersed in his work

Sausalito Shipwrights Cooperative there. He sailed the refurbished parts and material back to the Dolphin Club and reassembled the boat. Once that was done, the *Landucci* stood in stark contrast to the other dilapidated, maintenance-deferred boats at the time.

Jon's achievement with *Landucci* led the Club to continue funding his work on the rest of the fleet. The fleet enlarged with the addition of *Cecco* and *Bruno*, built from scratch. This engendered a real interest on the part of club members in how the boats went together. Jon was happy to support this activity. His experience with boat building was that there was mutual benefit to work with other boat builders at the Cooperative in Sausalito. But it turned out that the effort needed some organization and led to the beginning of "Boat Night." Instead of haphazard, ad hoc "one-on-one" tutelage, the Club scheduled a 3-hour period of group boat maintenance

Nanda Palmieri points out that Boat Night has been going on for decades and people are not getting hurt and that speaks to Jon and Julia's ability to get people involved, teach them, and also instill safety consciousness. "You can have people of all levels of ability and a variety of ages. We are using tools and we are using sharp things and it's never felt in any way unsafe. They teach people how to use the band saw. Very deliberate. 'This is how you stand. Put your eye protection on.' You can see that's always in their mind: how to do this safely."

Beyond boat maintenance and building, Boat Nights foster community and education. Diane Walton points out that tasks are distributed according to a volunteer's capacity to "give and not harm." In her case, before graduating to power tools, she was assigned to sand oarlocks. At some point, the guy standing next to her was wearing coveralls and clearly had

gestion that she "just be bigger. Be more *you* with the sandpaper and oarlock." She says, "Then he disappeared. I've not seen him again, but it's that kind of magic that happens in here that just knocks me out! I'm wildly appreciative of the work that happens here. Not only for the boats, but for the members who choose to come."

The sense of community extends beyond the Dolphin membership. Todd Bloch tells of a Boat Night when the weather was at its most gorgeous and the Jefferson street doors of the Boat Shop were open. An Italian family wandered by and were "blown away by the work that was going on." Jon Bielinski invited them in for a closer look. "They ended up spending the whole evening working on the boat with us. They thought it was the greatest part of their trip." He says the community outreach extends beyond the Boat Shop. "When I row down the Bay in front of Pier 39, all the cameras come out. People are taking pictures of the rowboat with Alcatraz in the background. You actually *can* distract people from the sea lions by rowing past them in a beautiful wooden boat."

Another aspect of Boat Night that Club members cherish is the hands-on education in wooden boats. Elementary school teachers might bring a class to Boat Night a couple of times a year. At one point, one of the kids worked up the courage to ask, "Well. How? Uh how? How do you start?" Jon replied, "Well. First you find a tree that wants to be part of a boat." He then began to explain that the ribs came from the black locust tree; that the knees came from apple orchards. Diane Walton says, "As he went through this explanation, the kids were just *mesmerized* by that way into it. It made so much sense to them, and it was beautiful." One teacher tells of children who were classified as "learning disabled" in an academic environment. She says, "They were the ones that got to shine. They got to feel that they weren't at the bottom of the pile. They were the tactile learners and those tactile learners were the first ones to grab the sandpaper and not want to quit. Back in the academic environment, it helped them be more respected and they did better because of that."

Probably the starkest example of the long-term impact of exposure to the Boat Shop and Boat Night is Kal Kini Davis. He started coming to Boat Night when he was 16 years old with parental supervision. Nanda Palmieri says, "He

Varnish and repair record dating to 2015. The previous board records work dating to 1990.

BOAT NAME	2015	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
RING																		
GOOD LUCK																		
LANDUCCI																		
HOWARD MO-B																		
CECCO																		
BRUNO																		
FOSTER																		
BAGGIANI																		
AUSTIN																		
HUGHES																		
CRONIN																		
FARRELL																		
VIKING																		
WIELAND																		
KUPUNA																		
HARKE																		
KOHLBERG																		
LETHRASIA																		
KARL & JEAN																		
SEMPER FI																		
SPECTRE																		
OLGA																		
COMMODORE																		

each Tuesday night with a little bite to eat. More and more people began to participate, and it became the mainstay of the effort to maintain the fleet, providing far more labor than Jon could as a single individual. Boat Night has been in place now for 43 years and the fleet receives regular maintenance attention as reflected in the meticulously recorded Varnish Record. A reliable estimate puts the total volunteer time devoted to the boats during this period at over 200,000 hours.

skills. He watched Diane for a while and then said, "Can I ask you a question?" She consented and he followed up with, "What are you thinking about?" Clearly flummoxed, she responded, "I'm just trying to do my chore. What made you ask me that?" He said that a principle he had learned was that you leave a part of yourself on everything you touch. At this point Diane is wondering if maybe she's speaking with the philosopher king of Boat Shop. He followed up with a sug-



didn't have boat-building skills, but he was a quick learner. He really got into boat building and that was wonderful to see. I think he had difficulties fitting into school and Boat Night meant a lot to him and helped him figure himself out and he really engaged with the people and the work in a very meaningful way." Kal ended up going to the Northwest School of Wooden Boat Building, following in the footsteps of Julia Hechanova. He is now at the Rhode Island School of

Design. He is the co-author of the novel *The Uncertainty Principle*. In the afterword, he gives a heart-warming shout-out to his experience at the Dolphin Club. "When I was sixteen, I walked into the boat shop at the Dolphin Club in San Francisco and was welcomed by master builders Jon Bielinski and Julia Hechanova. They introduced me to the world of wooden boats and inspired me to apply to the Northwest School of Wooden Boat-building. I was accepted, and now, every

Installing the locust wood ribs is painstaking work.

weekday, I wake up excited to learn about the properties of different wood species or how to plank a boat. Thank you to Jon and Julia for showing me the way here."

Anton Huttner is the program director at the youth development organization, *Rocking the Boat*. He brought a group to the Boat Shop. He says:

"They had some concept of what we are about, but they hadn't seen that level of craftsmanship. Julia Hechanova gave us a tour and her knowledge and expertise was really something. It definitely opened their horizon. They were really taken with the knees and breast-hooks that were cut out of grown, natural tree features. At Rocking the Boat, we don't have those cultured refinements. I feel like places like the Dolphin Club can inspire people to pick up the skills and take the torch and who know where it goes from there?"

People with a lot of skill and know-how are keeping the fleet alive and that is essential. The boats, by themselves, with the use they are getting, if they don't get looked after the way they are looked after right now, it is a very quick downhill. They are such fragile vessels; they need the love and care they get from the people who look after them. I cannot imagine that there are a lot of places that have treasures like that. The stewardship is at the top-tier level, and the quality of the boat shows it."

John Muir has been a Club member for over 30 years. He works next door in the small boat shop at the National Park Service as a curator of small craft. He is a craftsman and a preservationist. He is careful to say that he is speaking as a Club member only and not as an official of the Park Service. "I just want to emphasize that Jon [Bielinski] is not only an amazing boat builder; he's a national treasure. In my experience working with museums and craftsmen and preservationists around the country and in Europe, Jon is of the highest echelon. And he's also brought in an apprentice that shows very, very strong promise. We have been able as a club to reap the reward of a level of craftsmanship and a fleet that is a national treasure. It's not just 'our Club is cool.' This is *really cool!* Honestly, it's hard to describe the value of building in-house skill and craftsmanship like this."

Larry Scroggins is editor of the Dolphin Log. Although he is an infrequent rower, he is passionately fond of the beauty, grace, and living history of our wooden fleet.

OUR WOODEN BOATS





BY MARK P. ROBINSON

It's right there in the name of the club: “boating.” From its founding in 1877, watercraft — specifically wooden rowboats — have been an essential element of the Dolphin Swimming & Boating Club. As we approach our sesquicentennial, the 20-vessel wooden boating fleet remains a vibrant fixture and a daily joy. As *WoodenBoat* magazine put it in a 2011 article, “Even though members join for many reasons, and quite a few are more interested in swimming than in rowing, the boats remain the core of the club’s identity and their care is a source of pride.”

The vessels range from the magnificent six-sweep barge *John Wieland*, christened in 1887, to 2010s elegant sliding seat lapstrake single, *Kohlenberg*. Aside from their daily use for recreation and exercise, the wooden boats — with their seaworthiness and stability — are a critical element of the Club’s swim-piloting program.

Much of the wooden fleet is now enshrined in the Library of Congress through a project known as the Historic American Engineering Record, which is part of Heritage Documentation Programs, a division of the National Park Service. The Library of Congress distinction reflects the esteem in which the wooden fleet is held — it’s a big deal. As Club historian Rich Cooper has said, “We are nationally and world famous because of our wooden boat program.”

Here’s a look at the richly historic fleet as it now stands.



John Wieland, 1887

LENGTH: 40 Feet
BEAM: 56 inches
WEIGHT: 588 pounds
OARS: 13 feet



John Wieland crew, circa 1962 (left); John Wieland relaunching on July 27, 1997 (above), photograph by Robert David.



Barge

Following the death of Dolphin Club founder John Wieland in 1885, his family commissioned the barge and gave it to the Dolphin Club. The six-sweep oared, sliding-seat lapstrake *John Wieland* is now used for recreation and competition on the San Francisco Bay. The most recent major rebuild took place from 1991-97. “The Wieland is my favorite boat,” says Dolphin Kelley Heye. “The heft of it and the camaraderie of the team — six women and our cox — surrounded by the beauty and challenges of the Bay, make for an unbeatable day. And winning races is pretty good, too!”



Doubles

The Club has three sliding-seat lapstrake doubles, one built in 1917 and the other two in 1938. In recent years they have been seen on the water about 150 days a year — in regattas, for group rows, and for pleasure. The doubles are the craft of choice for those who make the 100-mile rows to Sacramento, a tradition that started in 1956. Ken Coren, who has made the trek multiple times, remembers, “One of the best, unique experiences of my life; real Huck Finn. Three days on the water in a double, a crew of three rotating through the seats to keep the boat moving through 10-hour days in a beautiful boat built by Dolphins the year my father was born, then passing out into deep sleep on the riverbank until sunrise. It gives time to pull your weight, all the while reveling in the beauty that surrounds you.”

Chas M. Farrell, 1917

LENGTH: 18 feet

BEAM: 53 inches

WEIGHT: 350 pounds

OARS: 9 feet

*Thomas Keenan
boat stamp*



More Doubles



Lawton C. Hughes, 1938

LENGTH: 18 feet
BEAM: 55 inches
WEIGHT: 376 pounds
OARS: 9 feet



James J. Cronin, 1938

LENGTH: 18 feet
BEAM: 55 inches
WEIGHT: 376 pounds
OARS: 9 feet



Viking, 1900

LENGTH: 22 feet
BEAM: 53 inches
WEIGHT: 270 pounds
OARS: 10 feet, 4 inches

Cable Car Gigs

Viking was built about 1900 by a Dolphin Club member, James Harris. Formerly a boatbuilder in Nova Scotia, here he was a carpenter in the California Street Cable Railroad barn. *Viking* was built for use by his family and eventually donated to the Club in 1943. It was restored in 1984 by Jeremy Fisher-Smith. The *Lifthrasir*, another Viking-class double, was built by Fisher-Smith in the 1980s and relaunched in 2012. He also built the Club's sole cable car gig sliding-seat single, the outcome of a campaign led by Todd Oppenheimer to create a memorial for the beloved Phil Kohlenberg. With its racing shell geometry and competitive edge, the *Kohlenberg* joins its sister boat, the SERC's *Thor* — so each club now has two doubles and a single in this class. The original *Viking* is a favorite of Lyrrinda Snyderman, who has rowed it often with her husband, Neal. "We just love to think of the history and feel a connection with it," she told *WoodenBoat* magazine in 2001. "Also, the beauty of the wood and its seaworthiness. There's something special about going out in the Vikings. It's not so much a racing boat now. But the *Viking* is nice and seaworthy. You've got good freeboard, and it tracks well. And it's rigged perfectly."



Kohlenberg, 2010

LENGTH: 18 feet
BEAM: 37 inches
WEIGHT: 189 pounds
OARS: 9 feet, 10 inches



Lifthrasir, 1985

LENGTH: 22 feet
BEAM: 53 inches
WEIGHT: 270 pounds
OARS: 10 feet, 4 inches



Three sisters

Don Baggiani, 1948

LENGTH: 14 feet
BEAM: 48.5 inches
WEIGHT: 207 pounds
OARS: 8.5 feet



Sid. Foster, 1948

LENGTH: 14 feet
BEAM: 48 inches
WEIGHT: 198 pounds
OARS: 8.5 feet

Singles

The singles fleet, works of art and sport, was inaugurated with the “three sisters,” built by Bill Richards, who constructed the *Baggiani*, *Foster*, and *Landucci* in 1948 in a handball court converted into a boat shop. (The board authorized \$400 for each of them.) The newest in the fleet, built on the same pattern, are the 2006 *Kupuna* and 2016 *Commodore* and *Semper Fi*, built by our club boat builders with volunteer help and member support. (The *Commodore* was built at the Northwest School of Wooden Boatbuilding and named in honor of long-time Club Commodore Lou Marcelli.) They are built for the Bay, and they are out on it regularly, with members learning to row on several of them and gradually gaining access to the whole fleet. “I say row ‘em all!” Diane Walton says. “My personal favorite is the *Foster*, in part because Sid Foster — Sausalito sailor and harbormaster, Dolphin swimmer extraordinaire, and owner of the Pasquinnucci sloop *Dolphin* — is a hero of mine, but mostly because it fits me best. And because my first row around Alcatraz and my first row around Angel Island were definitely made possible by my belief in the *Foster*’s protective powers!”



Dino Landucci, 1948

LENGTH: 14 feet
BEAM: 48.5 inches
WEIGHT: 209 pounds
OARS: 8 feet



1



4



5



2



6



3



7

Other singles

① *Joe Bruno*, 1988

LENGTH: 14 feet
BEAM: 47 inches
WEIGHT: 212 pounds
OARS: 8.5 feet

② *Cecco*, 1988

LENGTH: 14 feet
BEAM: 47 inches
WEIGHT: 212 pounds
OARS: 8.5 feet

③ *Kupuna*, 2006

LENGTH: 14 feet
BEAM: 48.5 inches
WEIGHT: 167 pounds
OARS: 8 feet

④ *Commodore*, 2016

LENGTH: 14 feet
BEAM: 47.5 inches
WEIGHT: 170 pounds
OARS: 8 feet

⑤ *Semper Fi*, 2016

LENGTH: 14 feet
BEAM: 47.5 inches
WEIGHT: 165 pounds
OARS: 8 feet

⑥ *Wanderer*, 2006

LENGTH: 14 feet
BEAM: 48 inches
WEIGHT: 218 pounds
OARS: 8.5 feet

⑦ *Good Luck*, 1976

LENGTH: 15.5 feet
BEAM: 47 inches
WEIGHT: 187 pounds
OARS: 8.5 feet

(Other single rowboats include the *Austin*, *Ring*, and Joh Bielinski's *Spectre*.)

Mark Robinson joined the Club in 2004. He is an actor, former journalist, occasional rower, and avid swimmer.

In Memoriam



Roy Bergmann

BY SID HOLLISTER

Although I knew him slightly from the Dolphin Club, my friendship with Roy Bergmann began in earnest at the St. Francis Yacht Club, where he kept the spiffy cabin cruiser that he had for a time. I remember most vividly his keen love of his boat and for boats in general. That love started, it seemed, when he became a member of the Naval ROTC after finishing four years of business-oriented education at Northwestern University. He got hooked, no doubt in part because of his Norwegian heritage.

Tired of the business world and having discovered yoga, he opened a yoga studio on California Street called the Mindful Body, where Dolphins Mark and Sunny McKee became regulars and urged Roy to join the Club. He did and quickly became a regular in the Club's cold water swimming world.

Over several years, I joined him and his wife, Janie, a terrific cook, and members of his family, for Christmas and several other holiday dinners. Roy and Janie loved going for extended vacations in Europe, especially to Italy's mountains and Lake Como. There, they found several places that provided the dancing they both loved, as well as wonderful food, and made some enduring European friendships.

In between those trips, Roy and I developed the habit of having lunch at the RX Cafe in the Thoreau Center of the Presidio every two or three weeks—lunches punctuated by Roy's wonderful laughter. After lunch, we often took long walks along the water where Roy would comment, knowledgeably, about the boats at the St. Francis Yacht Club. We became good friends. The friendship ended January 8th at home, after a long struggle.



Dawn Holley

BY JACQUELINE MCEVOY

The first time Dawn and I swam home from Alcatraz, we celebrated afterwards by doing a personal “run, jump, and swim,” as they used to call it next door (this was a bit of time ago, and you can't do it anymore). We jogged from the Club to the end of the Muni Pier, jumped off, swam back, and did it again. I think someone told us to stop. I always hear Dawn coming up after our first jump, singing, “Fairytale can come true, it can happen to you, if you're young at heart!” The second time we were about to jump, and a big seal lion breached. We jumped after it was gone, but that was enough! It was beautiful.

Dawn saved me from very, very large jellyfish on a Crissy Field test swim once—they were so big they looked like sea lion bellies from her view on the paddle board.

Always adventurous, exploring new things, always young at heart. A true pioneer of paddleboard piloting! She was the kind of person who would make you stop complaining about other people, not because she'd judge you, but just because she was such a good soul.

Dawn was a very caring and kind person. She worked as a social worker for many years before she made a career change aimed at seeing the world and pondering making *Aliyah*. She was very close to her family, who were proud and supportive of her swimming and piloting. Dawn had a generous and brave spirit. She will be remembered with joy, and her energy will continue to inspire—if you're young at heart!

Escape From Alcatraz Triathlon
September 14, 2025

Place	Name	Swim	Bike	Run	Total
1	Ramiro Sanchez	0:42:38	0:59:22	2:20:00	4:02:00
2	Aubrey Clark	0:43:38	0:44:22	2:39:00	4:07:00
3	Greg Patterson	0:33:40	0:47:20	2:54:00	4:15:00
4	Katrina Murphy	0:38:25	0:54:35	2:45:00	4:18:00
5	Thierry Nguyen	0:46:35	0:54:25	2:38:00	4:19:00
6	Eduardo Nunez	0:39:37	0:55:23	2:45:00	4:20:00
7	Brian Matthey	0:40:22	1:02:38	2:43:00	4:26:00
8	Joey Murphy	0:36:41	0:50:19	3:03:00	4:30:00
9	Kristoffer Milonas	0:43:04	0:49:56	2:57:00	4:30:00
10	Dillon Rich M	0:38:29	1:00:31	2:53:00	4:32:00
11	Sydelle Harrison	0:33:49	0:53:11	3:06:00	4:33:00
12	Danny Wohlner	0:44:53	0:55:07	2:59:00	4:39:00
13	Peter Badertscher	0:39:00	0:47:00	3:14:00	4:40:00
14	Sean Lavelle	0:38:10	0:59:50	3:04:00	4:42:00
15	Daniel Reid	0:37:36	0:56:24	3:10:00	4:44:00
16	Mitch Witek	0:43:31	1:04:29	2:59:00	4:47:00
17	Adele Gower	0:38:17	0:54:43	3:15:00	4:48:00
18	Michael Williams	0:33:33	0:55:27	3:20:00	4:49:00
19	Ryan Dalton	0:33:25	1:01:35	3:18:00	4:53:00
20	Terry McKellips	0:44:58	0:57:02	3:15:00	4:57:00
21	Virginie Eskenazi	0:40:49	1:06:11	3:15:00	5:02:00
22	Riley Culligan	0:50:02	1:06:58	3:07:00	5:04:00
23	Jean-Marc Nugent	0:30:51	0:59:09	3:35:00	5:05:00
24	Ali Chehrebsaz	0:53:55	1:02:05	3:15:00	5:11:00
25	Todd Jordan	0:39:40	1:02:20	3:47:00	5:29:00
26	Laura Vartain Horn	0:36:53	1:04:07	3:52:00	5:33:00
27	Ian McColl	0:38:38	1:16:22	3:40:00	5:35:00
28	John Ottersberg	0:33:45	1:01:15	4:00:00	5:35:00
29	Miranda Rouse	0:31:14	1:10:46	3:54:00	5:36:00
30	Sam Spelsberg	0:51:05	0:52:55	3:52:00	5:36:00
31	Tom Brown	0:40:19	1:06:41	3:51:00	5:38:00
32	Joe Burgard	0:47:00	1:06:00	3:46:00	5:39:00
33	Matt Long	0:45:19	1:14:41	3:40:00	5:40:00
34	Henry Saunders	0:31:40	1:01:20	4:09:00	5:42:00
35	Henry Rogers	0:42:08	1:03:52	3:57:00	5:43:00
36	Allan Calder	0:42:14	1:05:46	3:58:00	5:46:00
37	Richard Haymes	0:45:06	1:15:54	3:48:00	5:49:00
38	Liam Ronan	0:47:59	1:23:01	3:45:00	5:56:00
39	Katherine Wendelsdorf	0:47:37	1:21:23	3:50:00	5:59:00
40	Madeleine Crow	0:43:35	1:11:25	4:05:00	6:00:00
41	Tara Sweet	0:56:31	1:20:29	3:44:00	6:01:00
42	Aditya Gupta	0:47:50	1:08:10	4:14:00	6:10:00
43	Harrison Rogers	0:45:48	1:08:12	4:17:00	6:11:00
44	Kevin Siegel	0:38:33	1:22:27	4:13:00	6:14:00
45	John Hill	0:37:44	1:03:16	4:35:00	6:16:00
46	Emily McLinden	0:45:24	1:16:36	4:17:00	6:19:00
47	Alexander Lentz	0:44:33	1:18:27	4:19:00	6:22:00
48	Stephen Grinich	0:36:14	1:12:46	4:34:00	6:23:00
49	John Gibbon	0:40:27	1:09:33	4:34:00	6:24:00
50	Thomas Davis	0:47:33	1:16:27	4:22:00	6:26:00
51	Daniel Silva	0:51:30	1:30:30	4:04:00	6:26:00
52	Rebecca Tilley	0:45:59	1:10:01	4:38:00	6:34:00
53	Stephen Balhoff	0:36:37	1:06:23	5:04:00	6:47:00
54	Michelle Nguyen	1:03:44	1:14:16	4:30:00	6:48:00
55	Elizabeth Sharpe	0:55:09	1:29:51	4:34:00	6:59:00
56	Robin Rose	0:47:20	1:52:40	4:52:00	7:32:00
57	Zach Margolis	0:30:22	1:31:38	5:31:00	7:33:00
58	Simon Dominguez	0:42:52	1:22:08	5:32:00	7:37:00
59	Jon Nakamura	0:43:49	1:25:11	5:29:00	7:38:00
60	Tom Linthicum	0:45:09	1:35:51	5:19:00	7:40:00
61	Christine Farren	0:51:42	1:23:18	5:30:00	7:45:00
62	Elizabeth Young	0:40:03	1:40:57	5:32:00	7:53:00
63	Sean McFadden	0:38:08	1:03:52	6:18:00	8:00:00

Relay 1	Andrew Schwaab	0:42:19			
Relay 1	Mary Alex		0:48:41		
Relay 1	Maxwell Audette			2:46:00	
Relay 1					4:17:00

Dolphin Club Swim Results

2026 New Years Day Alcatraz
January 1, 2026

The Dolphin Club once again rang in the new year with an Alcatraz swim. Recent rains made for an exceptionally high tide that flooded the South End dock and nearly flooded our! The excess water in the bay also made for an exceptionally strong and early ebb. The water was unseasonably warm at a balmy 55 degrees, but pilots were less lucky with low 50's air temp and rain.

Our jump was delayed slightly as we waited for our neighbors at the South End to jump, who were in turn waiting for a large container ship to pass! Once the ship passed, both clubs jumped in quick succession, and we had a nearly combined swim! We thank our neighbors at the South End for their communication.

Currents posed a challenge, as we jumped on a still active flood that pushed swimmers east before the strong ebb pushed them back towards the cove. All 28 swimmers rose to the challenge and made it to the beach on their own power.

Congrats to all of the swimmers and thanks are due as always to all of the pilots and other volunteers that made this swim possible.

Lead Pilot: Ben Chun, Lead Swim Commissioner: Alex Kroeger

Test Swim: Alex Kroeger, Gina Rus, Peter Cullinan, Tovia Sobel, Ben Chun, Nathaniel Berger, Maggie Loneran, Chris Clay, Maeve Lavelle, Diane Livia, Dominic Lusinchi, Margaret Keenan, Holly Reed

Volunteers: Eric Shupert, Beth Stein, Peter Cullinan, Allison Arnold, Kathleen Duffy, Chloe Noonan, Danny DeLeon, Heather Warm, Eric Wind, Sean Lavelle, Derrick Rebello, Kristoffer Milonas, Thorsten Anderson, Eva Adamson, Vicki Stolberg, Elspeth Farmer, Holly Reed, Sue Garfield, Emily Nogue, Diane Campbell, Diane Walton, Bill Gardner, Diana Pray, Farrah Spott, Rebecca Tilley, JB Melcher, Dave Holmes-Kinsella, Gina Rus, Nick Churcher, Liam Hennessy, Jude Stalker, Susan Allen

Pilots: Ben Chun, Nathaniel Berger, Maeve Lavelle, Ramsey Williams, Alex Kroeger, Tim Kreutzen, Mike Walsh, Sharon Wong, Aaron Smith, Eric Shackelford, Susanne Friederich, Jim Frew, Barry Christian, John Robiola, Margaret Keenan, Nanda Palmieri, John Thorpe, Brian Kiernan, Bobby Carp, Sunny McKee, Marlin Gilbert, Peter Strietmann, Jon Bielski, Clay Tucker, Natazha Raine Bernie, Dominic Lusinchi, Daniel Cavey, Dmitry Kosorukov, Tom McCall, Mikhail Melnikov, Megan Wachs, Dave Zovickian, Lissi Knell, Paul Irving, Matthew Sheridan, Ellen Hathaway, Don Osborne, Maggie Loneran, Madeleine Crow, James Dilworth, Peter Bradshaw, Gretchen Coffman, Sam Ferguson, Maile Smith

Place	Swimmers Name	Swim Time	LCP
1	Lauren Au	35:12	10
2	Miranda Rouse	36:10	9
3	Jean-Marc Nugent	36:25	8
4	Juliet Cox	40:02	7
5	Jeff Citron	43:37	6
6	D Nielsen	47:37	5
7	John Gibbon	47:47	4
8	Daniel Rosario	48:35	3
9	Tovia Sobel	49:03	2
10	Tom Brown	50:29	1
11	Fiona Donald	50:49	
12	Betsy Mayer	50:59	
13	Gary Arabatyan	51:30	
14	Will Stockard	51:33	
15	Sean Lavelle	51:53	
16	Danny DeLeon	52:10	
17	Heather Warm	52:13	
18	Tom Kuglen	52:20	
19	David O'Reilly	52:42	
20	Mickey Lavelle	52:56	
21	Kristoffer Milonas	53:06	
22	Danny Wohlner	54:04	
23	Ernst Halperin	54:44	
24	Joe Spallone	1:00:40	
25	Damian Guenzing	1:00:45	
26	Ryan Hedum	1:04:33	
27	Kathleen Duffy	1:09:42	
28	Robin Hart	1:11:15	

2026 (continued)

Dolphin Club Swim Results

2026 Pier 41

February 7, 2026

With good conditions and 55°F water, 67 swimmers launched from Pier 41 to swim back to Aquatic Park.

Congrats to all of the swimmers and thanks are due as always to all of the pilots and other volunteers that made this swim possible. Many thanks to the Blue & Gold Fleet for providing dock access.

Lead Pilot: Maeve Lavelle, Lead Swim
Commissioner: Damian Guenzing

Test Swim: Heather Warm, Maggie Lonergan, John Hornor, Peter Cullinan, Diane Campbell, Maeve Lavelle, Tim McElliot, Damian Guenzing, Maggie Lonergan, Charmaine Leonard, Nihan Tiryaki, Charmaine Leonard, Daniel Cavey, Peter Bradshaw, Nancy Hornor, Holly Reed, Vincent Huang

Volunteers: Eric Shupert, Bobby Lu, Peter Cullinan, Allison Arnold, Connor Clark, Marie Sayles, Henry Dombey, Tom Reynolds, Benjamin Clark, Anna Remstedt, Nancy Booth, Joni Beemsterboer, Heather Warm, Joby Bernstein, Elizabeth Ozer, Jeff Citron, Alix Marduel, Jessica Huang, Susan Garfield, Diana Pray, Tracy Joyner, Kate Lapres, Lawrence Remstedt, JB Melcher, Emily Nogue, Ashley Hazel, Juliet Cox, Diane Campbell, Vicki Stolberg, Tamar Besson, Joe Ferrero, Farrah Spott, Jamie Robinson, Dana Watt, Kara Steele, Dave Holmes-Kinsella, Morgan Kulla, Keith Nelson, David Spitzler, Nanda Palmieri, Susan Allen

Pilots: Maeve Lavelle, Tim McElligott, Ben Chun, Damian Guenzing, Maggie Lonergan, Amanda Ernzer, Nihan Tiryaki, Heather Kremer, Diane Walton, Nanda Palmieri, John Thorpe, Heidi Williams, Dominic Lusinch, Tom McCall, Jon Bielinski, Liz Donahoe, George Morris, Dmitry Kosorukov, Ken Coren, Diane Jackson, Matthew Sheridan, Sharon Wong, David Buchanan, Barry Christian, Jeffrey Tong, Dave Zovickian, Daniel Cavey, Otto Williams, Brian Kiernan, Heather Warm, Rebecca Tilley, Brian Schwartz, Lissi Knell, Peter Bradshaw

Place	Swimmers Name	Swim Time	LCP
1	Allison Arnold	15:50	10
2	Joby Bernstein	16:46	9
3	Jessica Huang	17:12	8
4	Mackenzie Kirk	18:25	7
5	Miranda Rouse	19:10	6
6	Travis Bickham	19:29	5
7	Patrick Kirk	19:34	4
8	Bill Gardner	20:17	3
9	Christophe Crombez	21:03	2
10	Michael Tschantz-Hahn	21:21	1
11	Stephen Balhoff	21:35	
12	Jean Lelu	21:42	
13	Steve Schatz	21:52	
14	Jeff Citron	22:14	
15	Benjamin Clark	22:18	
16	Henry Rogers	23:00	
17	Kim Gorcyca	23:10	
18	Marshall Roslyn	23:30	
19	Logan Craig	23:32	
20	Cyrus Namdar	23:47	
21	Keith Gray	23:53	
22	Madeleine Crow	24:05	
23	Kate Mapstone	24:21	
24	Joel Bleskacek	24:30	
25	Elizabeth Mayer	24:53	
26	Tom Reynolds	24:55	
27	Beth Stein	25:07	
28	Eric Wind	25:10	
29	Fiona Donald	25:20	
30	Phil Rollins	25:28	
31	David O'Reilly	25:29	
32	Rohin Daswani	25:48	
33	Clara Ault	25:58	
34	Ernst Halperin	26:02	
35	Ted Chivetta	26:28	
36	Danny Wohlner	26:31	
37	Tom Kuglen	26:40	
38	Greg Norris	26:59	
39	Elizabeth Ozer	27:21	
40	Antoine Roux	27:24	
41	Henry Dombey	27:28	
42	Kathy Wallace	27:29	
43	Nick Churcher	27:41	
44	Lewis Haidt	27:52	
45	Laure Darcy	28:40	
46	Chloe Noonan	28:45	
47	Liam Hennessy	29:28	
48	Nancy D Booth	29:39	
49	Holly Reed	29:50	
50	Kathleen Duffy	29:50	
51	Clay Tucker	30:12	
52	Mike Thoresen	30:27	
53	Jim Frew	30:39	
54	Connor Clark	30:43	
55	Tiffany Lundeen	31:06	
56	Georgii Barber	31:12	
57	Eliana Agudelo	31:20	
58	Mickey Lavelle	31:54	
59	Hal Offen	31:58	
60	Bethany Golden	32:10	
61	Owen Convery	33:00	
62	Kenneth Miller	33:17	
63	Peter Neubauer	33:20	
64	Robin Hart	33:33	
65	Will Powning	39:12	



2026 Coghlan Beach March 1, 2026

Conditions lined up beautifully for the swim, a solid current running, warm and flat water, just a gentle breeze. All 49 swimmers benefited from a strong flood, and the fastest finisher came in under 23 minutes.

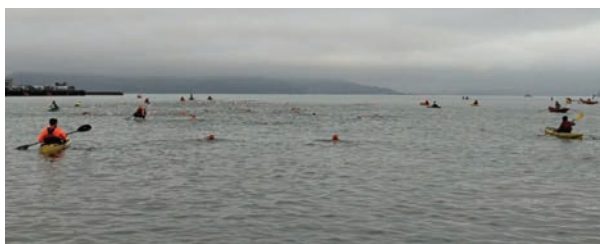
Congrats to all of the swimmers and thanks are due as always to all of the pilots and other volunteers that made this swim possible.

Lead Pilot: Alex Kroeger, Lead Swim
Commissioner: Damian Guenzing

Test Swim: Bill Gardner, Ramsey Williams, Alex Kroeger, Maeve Lavelle, Damian Guenzing, Kristoffer Milonas, Sharon Wong, Jean Lelu, Lindsay Stripling, Dean Badessa, Nathaniel Berger, Marci Glazer, James Glasnapp, Jim Frew

Volunteers: Derrick Rebello, Jeffery Tong, Beth Stein, Ken Miller, Bobby Carp, Bobby Lu, Steve Hanson, Kathy Wallace, Sue Garfield, Kalani Leifer, Jim Frew, Mary Cantini, Tamar Besson, Jamie Robinson, Crissa Williams, Andrew Cunningham, Monica Towers, Peter Neubauer, Elizabeth Ozer, Robin Rome, Logan Cray, Emily Ozer, Morgan Kulla, Tor Lundgren, Ben Clark, Tom Reynolds, Kathleen Duffy, Nanda Palmieri, Susan Allen, Ben Thompson, Scott Raymond, Suzanne Heim, Eric Shupert, Joe Ferrero, Jean Lelu, Jessica Huang, Keith Nelson, Janine Corcoran, JB Melcher, Dave Holmes-Kinsella, Dana Watt, David Spitzler, Peter Cullinan, Olivia Vercruysse, Emir Aksuyek, Liam Ronan

Pilots: Tim McElligott, Sophie Hays, Alex Kroeger, Nathaniel Berger, Marci Glazer, Maeve Lavelle, Ellen Offermann, Miranda Rouse, Tom McCall, Virginia Waik, Nanda Palmieri, John Thorpe, Grant Mays, Maile Smith, Pete Strietman, Jeffrey Tong, Diane Walton, Dmitry Kosorukov, John Robiola, Diane Jackson, Tony Foe, Alice Ma, Illina Frankiv, Matthew C. Sheridan, David Buchanan, Jon Bielinski, Barry Christian, Gina Bianucci Rus, Otto Williams, Brian Kiernan, Juan Tellez, Brian Schwartz, Chris Igo, Barbara Byrnes, Marlin Gilbert, Lisa Weaver, Margaret Keenan, Kellen Dammann, Duke Dahlin, Ken Coren, Micky Lavelle,



**Plenty of protection
for the Pier 41
swimmers**



Pier 39 Swim: Also known as “The swim that wasn’t” April 11, 2026

The swim was canceled before the jump due to unfavorable winds. All photos courtesy of Bill Burke.



Place	Swimmers Name	Swim Time	LCP
1	Joby Bernstein	22:50	10
2	Jessica Huang	23:14	9
3	Kalani Leifer	25:54	8
4	Jean-Marc Nugent	26:46	7
5	Bill Gardner	27:30	6
6	Jeff Kennedy	28:15	5
7	Kim Gorcyca	28:32	4
8	Jean Lelu	28:51	3
9	Tor Lundgren	29:03	2
10	Alisha Kewalramani	29:15	1
11	Chris Kelly	29:17	
12	Michael Tschantz-Hahn	29:20	
13	Emily Ozer	29:40	
14	Ben Clark	30:10	
15	Daniel Rosario	31:47	
16	Heather Warm	32:45	
17	Sean Lavelle	33:05	
18	Elizabeth Mayer	34:17	
19	Tom Bernard	34:45	
20	Eric Wind	35:16	
21	Tom Reynolds	35:47	
22	Clara Ault	37:14	
23	Virginie Eskenazi	37:20	
24	Antoine Roux	38:27	
25	Elizabeth Ozer	38:57	
26	Tom Kuglen	39:29	
27	Danny Wohlner	39:37	
28	Henry Domberg	41:02	
29	Lindzy Bivings	41:45	
30	Chloe Noonan	42:05	
31	Miguel Gonzales	42:15	
32	Liam Hennessy	42:29	
33	Nancy Booth	43:12	
34	Mike Thoresen	43:33	
35	Tiffany Lundeen	43:38	
36	Owen Convery	43:46	
37	Kim Harris	44:12	
38	Anya Durgerian	44:13	
39	Kathleen Duffy	44:42	
40	Morgan Kulla	44:57	
41	Dean Badessa	45:36	
42	Bethany Golden	46:23	
43	Robin Hart	47:17	
44	Viki Stolberg	47:40	
45	Amy Brant	48:32	
46	Humaira Chilzai	52:14	
47	Peter Neubauer	53:31	
48	John Ingle	62:39	
49	Will Powning	65:42	

Gathered on Coughlan Beach awaiting the starting horn

Hot coffee, spirited exchanges, and good company... but no swimming.



The Dolphin Swimming
& Boating Club
502 Jefferson Street
San Francisco, CA 94109

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2026 Dolphin Club Swim & Event Schedule

Event	Day	Date	Current	Jump	Distance
New Year's Day Alcatraz*	Thu	1/1	09:16 Slack	09:00	1.25 miles
New Year's Day Cove	Thu	1/1		11:00	
Pier 41*	Sat	2/7	06:38 1.8kn E	07:30	0.8 miles
Valentine's Day Singles Regatta	Sat	2/14			
Old Timers' Lunch	Sun	2/15			
Coghlan Beach*	Sun	3/1	07:06 1.5kn F	07:30	1.2 miles
End of Polar Bear	Sat	3/21			
Start of Walt Stack Challenge	Sun	3/22			
Pier 39*	Sat	4/11	10:51 1.3kn E	09:30	1.4 miles
Walt Schneebeil Over-60 Cove	Sun	5/3		09:00	
Alcatraz Regatta	Sat	5/16			
Master Mariners Regatta	Sat	5/23			
Yacht Harbor*	Sat	5/30	10:40 1.7kn F	09:30	1.6 miles
Swim Clinic	Sun	5/31			
End of Walt Stack Challenge	Sun	5/31			
Start of 100 Mile Challenge	Mon	6/1			
Wooden Boat Swimmer Rescue Class	Sun	6/7			
Pride Swim*	Sat	6/13	09:36 1.6kn F	09:00	1.6 miles
John Nogue Swim For Science - Pier 15*	Sat	6/20	07:44 2.0kn E	08:00	2.1 miles
Swim Clinic	Sun	7/12			
Baykeeper Bay Bridge*	Sat	7/18	06:34 2.2kn E	07:30	3 miles
McCovey Cove Mixer Regatta	Sun	7/19			
Swim Clinic	Sat	8/1			
Doc Howard 45+ Swim*	Sun	8/2		10:00	
Santa Cruz 1 Mile*	Sat	8/15			
Santa Cruz 2 Mile*	Sun	8/16			
Wooden Boat Swimmer Rescue Class	Sun	8/23			
Ft. Point*	Sat	8/29	10:38 1.8kn F	08:30	3.5 miles
Swim Clinic	Sun	8/30			
Escape from Alcatraz Tri (EFAT)	Sat	9/12	07:51 Slack	07:30	1.25 miles
Swim Across America	Sat	9/12			
Swim Clinic	Sat	9/19			
China Beach**	Sun	9/27	09:55 1.9kn F	07:00	5 miles
Joe Bruno Golden Gate	Sun	10/4	09:07 Slack	08:30	0.9 miles
Swim Clinic	Sat	10/17			
Alcatraz	Sun	10/18	07:39 Slack	07:30	1.25 miles
End of 100 Mile Challenge	Sat	10/31			
Angel Island Regatta	Sun	11/1			
Veterans Day Swim	Sat	11/7		10:00	
Pilot Appreciation Dinner	Sat	11/14			
Thanksgiving Day Cove	Thu	11/26		09:00	
New Year's Day Qualifier & Holiday Brunch	Sat	12/5		09:00	1.3 miles
Rower's Dinner	Sat	12/12			
Start of Polar Bear	Mon	12/21			

Swim Program Rules

1. Club scheduled swims are restricted to Club members, who are current on their dues and fees and in good standing.
2. Swimmers must have current USMS membership, and abide by each organization's rules and requirements.
3. Swimmers are required to wear orange caps on all scheduled swims.
4. Swimmers cannot use swim aids, including fins and wet suits, on any scheduled swims.
5. New members are not eligible to swim in scheduled out-of-cove swims for either 6 months from the start of their membership, or before successfully completing the 100-mile swim, the Polar Bear swim, or the Accelerated Out-of-Cove process.
6. All out-of-cove swims require a pilot:swimmer ratio of 1:3.
7. Time limits may be imposed at the discretion of the Swim Commissioner(s).
8. All Club boats are reserved for scheduled swims. Co-pilots are encouraged. Riders are prohibited.
9. Swimmers must register during check-in and attend the swim briefing in order to swim.
10. Swimmers must successfully complete at least two qualifying swims and help on at least three swims to qualify for Alcatraz and Golden Gate Swims.
11. Out-of-town members must have successfully completed two of the last three Club scheduled Alcatraz and/or Golden Gate swims or meet Rule 10 above.

(Nothing in the above rules shall contravene any applicable Federal laws and statutes.)

Alcatraz Island
1.4 miles

Pier 411/2
1.2 miles

Pier 43
1 mile

Fort Point
3.5 miles

Yacht Harbor
1.5 miles

Aquatic Park
Cove

Gashouse Cove
1 mile

Crissy Field
2.5 miles

* Qualifying Swim. Must complete 2 qualifying swims + help on 3 swims each year to qualify for Golden Gate & Alcatraz.

** Requires special qualifier, details TBA

All times approximate & subject to change. TBA = to be announced