

DOLPHIN LOG

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Clockwise from left: 1994 handball players; Dolphin Club handball court; Paul Brady plaque; Don Baggiani trophy.

DOLPHIN LOG

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COVER PHOTO
Jill Utsumi

Ryan Utsumi ignores danger on his quest for Oceans 7

Reminiscences

BY RICHARD KELTNER

Today I went down to the South End and Dolphin Clubs to watch some of the Cinco de Mayo handball tournament unfold.

After watching a very exciting and impressive final match, I wandered over to the Dolphin court where I had the privilege of playing from 1984 to 2019. It had been a while since I had visited our court, and I found it so gratifying to see, for the first time, the plaque that dedicates the court to Paul Brady, our long-time handball commissioner, and my very good friend.

Seeing his name written so permanently on the entry to the court brought up names of players I had come to know: George Brennan, Bill Arietta, Jonathon Epstein (our usual Thursday night group) and even way back to Dino Landucci. It stirred memories of both my sons, Dacher and Rolf, learning the game along with Jonathon, and remembering my opportunity to pass on a sport I loved so much to younger men. What a place of giving, this court.

For some years, my son Rolf was a member of the Club and played regularly here and at the South End. Finding myself

near the low entry door to the court stirred powerful images of seeing him here, which folded into the pain of his loss to cancer in 2019. I know it was a combination of strong emotional sources—the energy of the tournament along with a visit to old stomping grounds that affected me so deeply. I stood in the little entry area just outside the court and noticed the old blackboard which was used for scheduling and reserving the court.

Searching the board for something familiar, I noticed some very old markings, previously erased, but not quite totally gone. As I forced myself to focus on the dim chalk marks remaining, I could make out “Rolf Keltner” along with an old phone number.

You would think I would have been stricken with sorrow, but I was not. Instead, a wave of happiness came over me so strongly that the old blackboard looked to me like a shining screen of memory. And as I fixed in amazement at his name, I saw just above it, and even more worn away and dimmer, what we are all looking for — our own name somewhere.



Meeting room

View from top deck



OUR EVOLVING DIGS AND SURROUNDING



Weight room



The Cupola

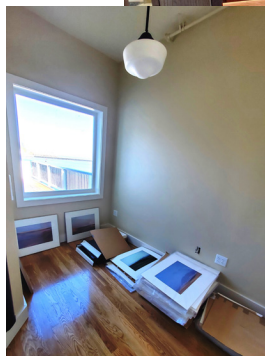


Staib Room

Parking on north side of Beach Street (not)



Galley



New office



Cecco's deck

HOW RYAN UTSUMI SWAM INTO HISTORY

BY BEN CHUN

If you happen to see Ryan Utsumi going out for a swim in Aquatic Park, it's not because he draws attention to himself. The Dolphin Club's long history is filled with accomplished swimmers, but don't expect Ryan to tell you that he's unquestionably near the top of that list: On April 18, 2025, he completed one of the most grueling long-distance achievements in all of sports by finishing the Oceans Seven, the seven hardest open-water channel crossings in the world. The challenge is modeled on mountaineering's Seven Summits, and it follows the English Channel rules: no neoprene, no touching, no drafting. Ryan is only the 35th person worldwide to complete the challenge and, after Kim Chambers, the second Dolphin to do it. His wife, Jill, was crew on the boat for every single swim. It took eight and a half years. It started here, in the Cove, and finished on a beach in Morocco.

English Channel

DATE	September 26, 2016
DISTANCE	20.8 miles
TIME	11h 00m

Ryan joined the Dolphin Club in 2015 and wanted, he says, "something to aim towards." He had swum growing up and in college, then spent years out of the water. The goal he picked was the English Channel. He had not even heard of the Oceans Seven. That would come later.

The English Channel runs on a system of sanctioned windows and ranked slots, but the weather is what determines if a swim is actually possible. Ryan was in the fourth or fifth slot for his 10-day window. While he waited in Dover for his chance,

he and Jill ended up having dinner in the same restaurant as Chloë McCardel. She has crossed the Channel more times than anyone in history, and she had the first slot in the window. Ryan and Jill watched her shake her head at her phone. Back at the hotel, the pilot called: McCardel had passed due to concerns about the worsening weather, and the others ahead of him also passed or no-showed. It came down to Ryan, and the slot was his.

Conditions that day were not good. He finished anyway, sunrise to sunset, in 11 hours flat. He says he decided to go ahead with the swim despite the weather because he didn't want to have to come back for another try. When he got home, he had no other swims planned.

Ryan in full stroke in Tsugaru Strait with his pilot boat in the background.



Catalina Channel

DATE	September 25, 2017
DISTANCE	20.1 miles
TIME	11h 06m

By the next summer, Ryan was ready for more. Instead of just training in the Cove, he swam around Manhattan, the length of Lake Tahoe, and across the Santa Barbara Channel. These are all significant marathon swims in their own right, although none of them are in the Oceans Seven. There is one swim on the list, however, right here in California. Ryan recalled thinking: “add Catalina to the English Channel, then you start to think about Triple Crown, and then you start to think about Oceans Seven.”

So in September they flew south for Catalina, to the water he and Jill had both grown up beside. Two club members, Terry Horn and John Grunsted, came down to paddle alongside him. Catalina is a night start, and Terry took the first half, 11 pm to 4 am. Terry had piloted Ryan to a club record the year before on the round trip Sausalito swim (still standing), and he describes their connection as “power steering”: the swimmer holds his distance off the boat without needing correction, and the two of them move as one.

Catalina is a point-to-point swim, and usually the boat keeps you on a straight line from beginning to end. Ryan was on pace to finish in 10 hours. Then the boat turned. He stopped at a feed and asked why he was suddenly swimming parallel to the shore, making the swim longer. The crew told him he was doing great and to keep going.

What they didn’t tell him was that his parents had driven to the beach where he was supposed to finish, and the neighborhood was under lockdown. A man with a gun was holding hostages. Helicopters were buzzing overhead, and Ryan’s parents had been pulled into a stranger’s garage to hide. Jill found out what was happening on shore, conferred with the captain, and they diverted to a different beach. Nobody told Ryan. “I didn’t think he would notice,” Jill says, “so I didn’t say anything.” Ryan: “The swimmer always notices.”

The change added at least 15 minutes to the swim. He finished anyway, and the hostage crisis got resolved. They told him the whole story once he was out of the water. With Catalina under his belt, Ryan had now taken two steps toward the Oceans Seven. Even if he’d started to think about the list himself, he’s not a big talker and certainly wasn’t going around telling people it was a goal.



Tsugaru Strait

DATE	June 21, 2018
DISTANCE	12.1 miles
TIME	8h 28m

The next summer was Japan. The Tsugaru Strait runs between Honshu and Hokkaido, and Ryan made the trip with his family. Along with Jill, his parents and his brother came too. His mom is Japanese, but he had never really gotten to see her speak the language. In this small town with one hotel and one restaurant, where nearly no one knew English, it came in handy.

Their weather window was short, maybe three days. The first day was an obvious no. On the second, the pilot, a grizzled local veteran of the seas, told Ryan it wasn’t going to happen. Through the translator, he asked if the pilot could

look again later in the day. The pilot said no, but Ryan is not easily deterred, and asked how he could be so sure. The pilot spoke to the translator for what felt like three to five minutes. The translator turned back and reported simply, “He says he knows because of experience.” There was no swimming that day.

The next morning they met at 2 am, and this time the pilot said get on the boat, we’re going. Ryan had a fast day, complete with dolphins in the water. At one point, Jill was eating trail mix on the boat, close enough that Ryan, who breathes to his right, could see her on every stroke. At the next feed he said, “Can you not eat in front of me?” She was not having it. “Hey, I am freezing cold,” she told him. “I don’t feel good. I’m feeding you every 30 minutes. I’m allowed to eat.”



Left: Ryan swimming with Dolphins in the Catalina Channel with John Grunsted piloting; Below: Ryan and Jill with family members in Honshu, Japan.

North Channel

DATE	September 4, 2018
DISTANCE	21.7 miles
TIME	10h 34m

A few months later came the North Channel, between Northern Ireland and Scotland. Ryan felt this swim would be his true test. His sense of the Oceans Seven had been shaped by Kim Chambers, the Dolphin Club swimmer who finished it in 2014, and the North Channel was the heart of her story. Ryan almost didn't want to consider the whole challenge before attempting this crossing. "We don't even need to start talking about this," he figured, "until I actually get through that swim." The North Channel is cold (mid-50s for Ryan's crossing), and it is full of lion's mane jellyfish.

Not only is this species massive, with a tendency to cluster in pods that are hard to swim around, they pack a sting that feels like an electric shock. Ryan got hit at the very start, a jellyfish right on the face. He came up screaming. He got stung a handful of times that day and counted himself lucky; Kim was stung hundreds of times and hospitalized after she completed the North Channel.

Ryan got through the swim, and he did it faster than his English Channel and Tsugaru crossings. After the North Channel, he started to let himself believe he could do the rest.

The Gap

DATE	2018 to 2024
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With four channels down in three years, his run came to a temporary stop. He booked Molokai for the fall of 2019, but then canceled it. Three swimmers had been bitten that season by cookiecutter sharks, a little creature that gouges out round baseball-sized chunks of flesh from their prey. It just didn't feel safe, and he thought he would do it the next year. But the pandemic arrived in 2020, and so a few years went by with no shot at any swims.

Ryan had not fully committed to doing all seven. It was still, "see how this goes," he says, "not because I didn't want to finish it or was wavering, but you just never know what's going to happen." As many at the DC know, these swims require a significant commitment of training, time, money, and what we might call "relationship capital."

Or, as Jill puts it: "Who do you know that could be like, yeah, I'll go to Dover, England and just stop my life for two weeks and feed you on a boat, when we don't know if it's going to even happen?" Somebody had to do it, she figured, or "this idiot's going to drown." She was always all-in to support Ryan: "It's such a big thing he was trying to do... I wanted him to do it too." But the pandemic years stopped them both.

Cook Strait

DATE	March 6, 2024
DISTANCE	14.3 miles
TIME	7h 22m

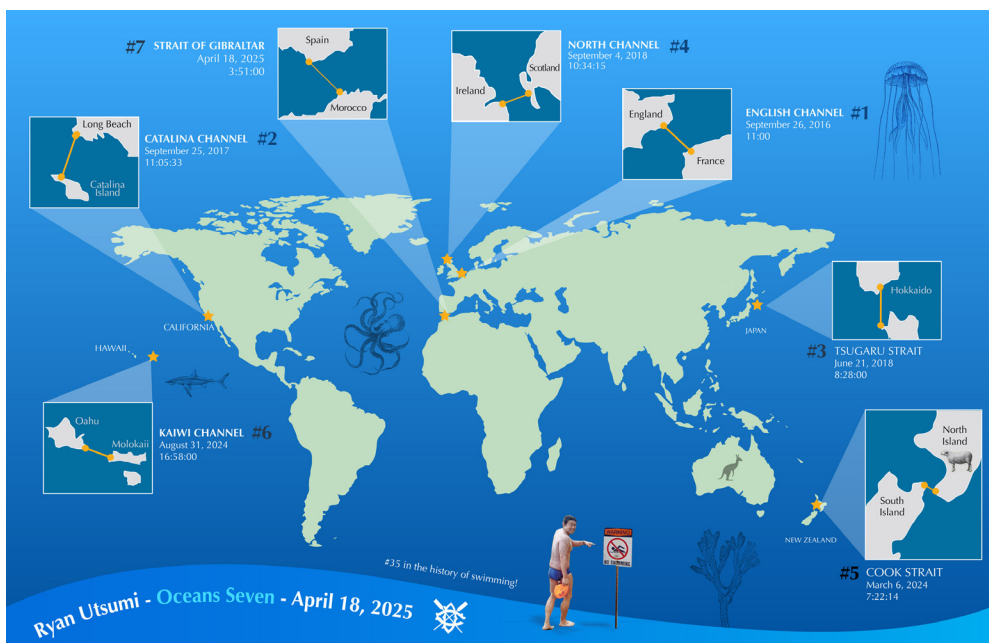
When Ryan got back to it, he started with Cook Strait, between New Zealand's two main islands. New Zealand was a place Jill was excited to go, and the crossing was shorter and less of a commitment than the North Channel or the swim still waiting for him in Hawaii. So this is how Ryan got back into the game, and he finished in under seven and a half hours. After years of nothing, he had five of seven down.

Kaiwi (Molokai) Channel

DATE	August 31, 2024
DISTANCE	28.0 miles
TIME	16h 58m

This was the one that scared Ryan. It was longer than anything else he had swum, and he'd canceled before because of the sharks. Molokai crossings usually start in the evening. You get an hour of light before going into the dark, into the hours when the





sharks are most active. He didn't go into detail with Jill about his worries. "He just doesn't want me to know," she says. Before every swim, she asks Ryan if his life insurance is up to date, and then they go.

In the years after the 2019 cancellation, Ryan had been back to Hawaii many times and connected with the swim community there. Ryan has deep roots in Hawaii. Both his parents grew up there, and his cousins, aunts, and uncles still live on Oahu, along with his brother. When his dad was young, in the early '60s, he recalled listening on the radio as Keo Nakama became the first person ever to swim the Kaiwi Channel.

Ryan planned to finish at Sandy Beach, where his dad grew up body surfing. The currents sent them to a different beach instead. Near the end, a mile or so off-

shore, his local friends swam out to the boat and escorted him in. Many had crossed the channel themselves. His cousins were waiting on the beach at the finish. By the end Ryan was spent. "I was not in a great position," he says. "I was ready for it to be done." After almost 17 hours in the water, with nary a shark in sight, it was.

With six of the seven swims done, Ryan still wouldn't call it a sure thing. "There could have been a decision where my Oceans Seven is the Oceans Six," he says, "and that's fine." He had been pursuing this dream for years, but kept it a secret even from himself: "It's so funny, this arbitrary list that just feeds off of the type A personality. I like to think that I'm not that way, but clearly I am, right? There's some satisfaction in checking these off."

Clockwise from top left: Support crew on the pilot boat in Tsugaru Strait; The unisex toilet on the stern of the pilot boat; Compilation of Ryan's Oceans 7 worldwide journey.

Facing page: Ryan heading out for a training swim at the Cook Channel.

Strait of Gibraltar

DATE	April 18, 2025
DISTANCE	9.0 miles
TIME	3h 51m

Gibraltar was last. It is the shortest of the seven, but it is hard to do because the slots are scarce and there is no guarantee the weather will cooperate. Ryan had wanted it since 2018. He was offered a window in 2024, and gave it up because he already had Cook and Kaiwi planned. They found a time for him the following spring.

The pre-swim briefing in Tarifa, Spain, included a warning about pirates: If a boat came out toward them, the crew was told, put the cameras away and don't take pictures of anyone. "Is this how the Ocean Seven ends?" Ryan wondered. No pirates turned up, but they did see a whale. He swam the shortest of his seven channels in under four hours, and he was done.

After the Seven

"This doesn't happen if I'm not a part of the Dolphin Club," Ryan says. "It just doesn't." Maybe others could do it without our support, he thought, but for him it was the friendships, the help on the water, the people who had done these swims before and could talk him through them. The drive to take on a channel swim is hard to explain to anyone outside this world, and at the Club you don't have to. "That all stems from the Dolphin Club community," he says.

He is not chasing anything monumental now. There is a lot to be said, he thinks, for coming to the Club and swimming for 50 minutes, with nothing enormous waiting at the end of it. Still, he agrees with Jill when she says he does better with something on the calendar. So the next thing is the Escape from Alcatraz Triathlon. He has never done it, and he says it scares him more than the channels. "I can swim for a long time," he says. "I'm actually not sure I can run back up the hill."

Always modest, always pushing himself. The next time you see him headed out into the Cove, now you know who Ryan Utsumi is.

Ben Chun is an active leader in the swim program and serves on the Board of Directors. You can usually find him at the club swimming on weekday mornings before work.



CHAPTER 4: A BEAUTIFUL NEW PAPE VS. PATCH

BY SID HOLLISTER

In the late 1880s and early 1890s, the City approved an additional 1,000 feet of sea wall stretching from the foot of Powell Street to Van Ness, stabilizing the shoreline and making year-round access safer. At the same time, the two dominant buildings: the Pioneer Woolen Mills, which would later become Ghirardelli Square; and the Selby Smelting Works at the foot of Hyde Street, with its large looming, polluting chimney both closed. This removed the industrial atmosphere about the Cove. The mills' 700 erstwhile employees, mostly Chinese women who had lived in a dormitory, were laid off. They might spend their empty hours either watching cavorting human Dolphins, or raking through the smelting works smokestack looking for valuables.

The shoreline was now dominated by Meigg's Wharf, an L-shaped wooden pier that stretched north from the foot

of Powell Street some 1600 to 2000 feet. The builder, Henry Meiggs, hoped to attract lumber ships, but vessels preferred the more sheltered waters farther south away from the strong tides; he went bankrupt. But his wharf was home to the Cobweb Palace, so named because its owner, "Old Abe" Warner, liked spiders and wouldn't allow anyone to kill them. As a consequence, the place was draped with webs. It also displayed scrimshaw carved from sperm whale teeth and walrus tusks; totem poles from Alaska which adorned the entryway; Japanese Noh masks; war clubs from the South Pacific; and taxidermy of all sorts. Abe's live menagerie included trained parrots, one of which, named Warner Grandfather, often spouted, "I'll have a rum and gum. What'll you have?" He swore in four languages and enjoyed the freedom of the saloon. When the wharf was demolished

This is the fourth installment of a book that Sid Hollister was writing about the early history of the Dolphin Club. The first three chapters were printed in previous editions of the Log.

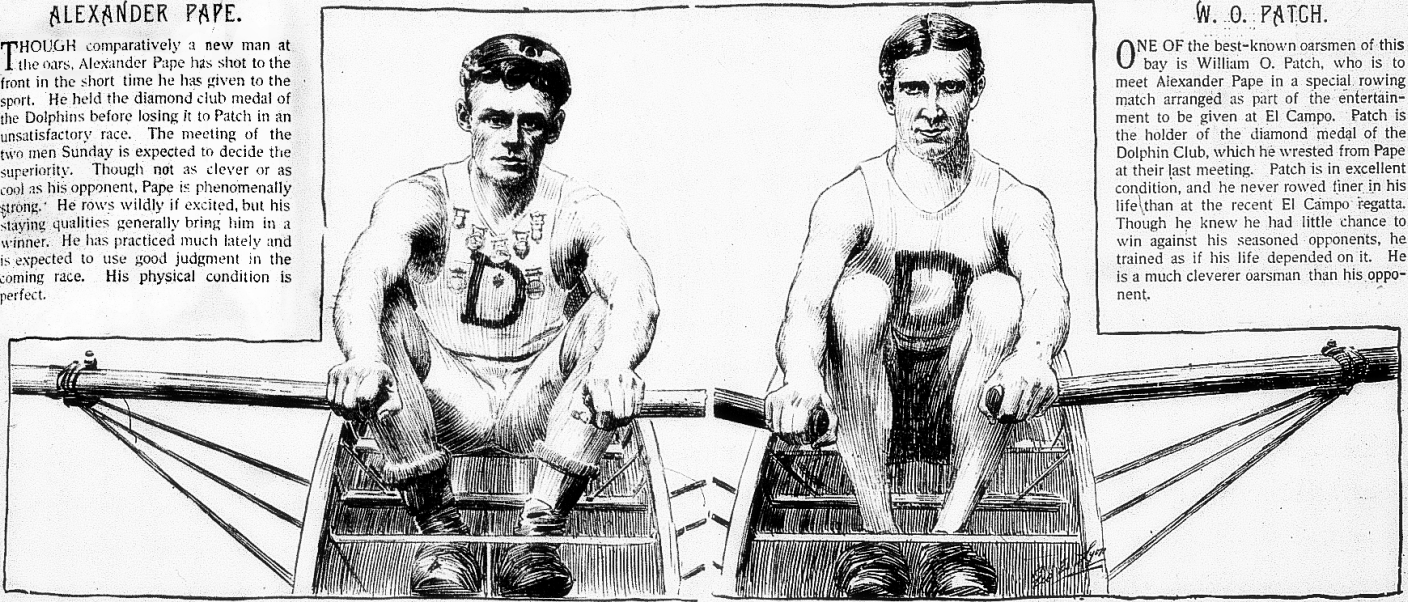
TWO MEMBERS OF THE DOLPHIN SWIMMING AND BOATING CLUB MATCHED IN A SPECIAL OUTRIGGER SKIFF RACE AT EL CAMPO.

ALEXANDER PAPE.

THOUGH comparatively a new man at the oars, Alexander Pape has shot to the front in the short time he has given to the sport. He held the diamond club medal of the Dolphins before losing it to Patch in an unsatisfactory race. The meeting of the two men Sunday is expected to decide the superiority. Though not as clever or as cool as his opponent, Pape is phenomenally strong. He rows wildly if excited, but his staying qualities generally bring him in a winner. He has practiced much lately and is expected to use good judgment in the coming race. His physical condition is perfect.

W. O. PATCH.

ONE OF the best-known oarsmen of this bay is William O. Patch, who is to meet Alexander Pape in a special rowing match arranged as part of the entertainment to be given at El Campo. Patch is the holder of the diamond medal of the Dolphin Club, which he wrested from Pape at their last meeting. Patch is in excellent condition, and he never rowed finer in his life than at the recent El Campo regatta. Though he knew he had little chance to win against his seasoned opponents, he trained as if his life depended on it. He is a much cleverer oarsman than his opponent.



BUILDING,

in 1891, visitors to the City lost another chance to explore San Francisco's unique world. Warner died at the age 82 in 1896.

The strong tides along the north shore didn't sit well with the Dolphins either and some members considered moving the Club south to the more sheltered Long Bridge where the other rowing clubs were based. Others even proposed putting a new club on a floating barge to be more adaptable to the Bay's changing weather conditions. There were other proposals too—move to the East Bay or join the San Francisco Yacht Club in Sausalito. They were all rejected, even though thieves had broken into the Dolphin and Triton clubhouses in 1891 and stolen everything they could carry. San Francisco was the Dolphin home and that's where most of its members wanted it to stay.

In 1891, the Club voted to reduce its initiation fee and took in 15 new members,

increasing the membership to 50. Many of the original members had become fathers and wanted to spend their precious Sundays with their families, not in a boat on the Bay.

They preferred to go to the hot salt-water baths at Harbor View on Jefferson and Baker or to Woodward's Gardens on Mission Street between 14th and 16th Streets. The Gardens were a more intellectual version of Playland at the Beach, which would later serve a similar social function at Ocean Beach after World War II. But Robert Woodward had more than just good times in mind. His "gardens" combined three goals: "Education, Recreation, and Amusement" and offered everything from uncaged wild animals such as ostriches and flamingos to exotic penned creatures, and one of the world's first aquariums. Woodward's Gardens included several museums and art galler-

In the 1890's, the leading Dolphin oarsmen Alexander Pape and W.O. Patch competed each year for the Club's Diamond Medal.

ies, a roller-skating rink, four acres of gardens, hot air balloon rides, and concerts. Sunday schools, science academies, and benevolent societies arranged picnics, gatherings, and field trips to Woodward's Gardens from as far away as Sacramento. After the founder died, his relatives, lacking his passion for the wonders of the world, did not maintain it.

Other entertainment included the traditional annual harvest festival brought over from Wurttemberg, Germany, which ended with the women parading in the national dress of many countries.

Meanwhile, the Dolphin Club, largely made up of members of Irish, German, and Italian background, would row around the Bay head-to-head in four-man races.

Several Club members also spread its convivial rowing culture to San Diego where they helped establish a boating club, which thrived after a shaky start and,

as the San Diego Rowing Club, went on to become a source of many international scullers. In the meantime, the vibrant city by the Bay offered other entertainments such as a demonstration by a member of the Miehl family of how to lift a horse, perhaps a dreamed of goal by some of the robust youth of that time. From the accompanying photo, it looks to be a simple, if tricky feat. The Kehrlein brothers, who had been kicked out of the Dolphin Club, became founders of the Triton Club and of a schnitzel, a shooting club based in Alameda that attracted male and female sharpshooters from around the country.

Many new warm saltwater baths opened in the 1890s. The Palace Bathing and Swimming Baths opened at Filbert near Powell; North Beach Swimming Company Baths opened between Taylor and Jones; the Crystal Baths at Powell and Bay; and Harbor View which also offered dancing and other entertainments and was often the destination of the new six-oared Dolphin barge, the Wieland, with female passengers on board.

John Henry Wieland, the oldest Wieland son, died in 1890. Two of his brothers, Rudolph and Albert, had died before him. Deaths at an early age from now curable kidney and heart disease were common. One notable victim of an early death was World Champion rower, Australian Henry Searle. He had beaten all the best, most rather easily, but contracted typhus in 1889 on the ship taking him back home from America, and died after two weeks in the hospital. Only 23, he had become world champion just the year before. Close to 200,000 people attended his funeral.

Thousands were attracted on Sundays to parks in San Francisco and Oakland in the early 1890s. They might take a stroll, or participate in Tugs-of-War, swimming races, cycling contests, and tennis matches. In the 1890s, the Tug-of-War became a regular event at the annual Dolphin picnics, with Dolphins and South Enders going at it if their picnics were close to each other (That rivalry continues to this day.) A tug-of-war tournament held in April 1891 in San Francisco's Pavilion on Larkin, next to City Hall, drew 5,000 spectators. Ireland defeated England for the top prize. From 1900 to 1920 the tug-of-war was an Olympic event.

In the world of rowing, the international press proclaimed Canadian Ned Hanlan, in his heyday, the world's greatest

rower. Unfortunately, "the boy in blue," as he was often called, was past his prime when Searle later became world champion. A match between the two would have had the bookies dancing.

In 1893, the San Francisco Gaslight Company built a complete system of gas works on the western side of Black Point. Its capacity of two million cubic feet of gas made it one of the world's largest gasometers, and would supply much of the City's gas needs. There still was, alas, the San Francisco fog, often, like the winds that brought it, an unpleasant surprise for visitors. A hotel in "sunny San Rafael" promised an escape from the wind.

After the Civil War, baseball became a popular sport in the Bay Area. By 1866, a dozen clubs were playing games in the region. One of the first contests pitted the Eagle Club of San Francisco against the Wide Awakes of Oakland. Valentine Kehrlein, when still a Dolphin, became captain of the first team that sported shirts with "San Francisco" emblazoned across the chest. By 1886, matches might draw crowds of 14,000 or more.

Sophie Wieland, John's widow, died from asthma and injuries from a fall. John had left a fortune between \$3.5 and \$4 million, though he had given much away during his lifetime. Sophie had continued his philanthropic ways, supporting causes and organizations that helped the area's disadvantaged.

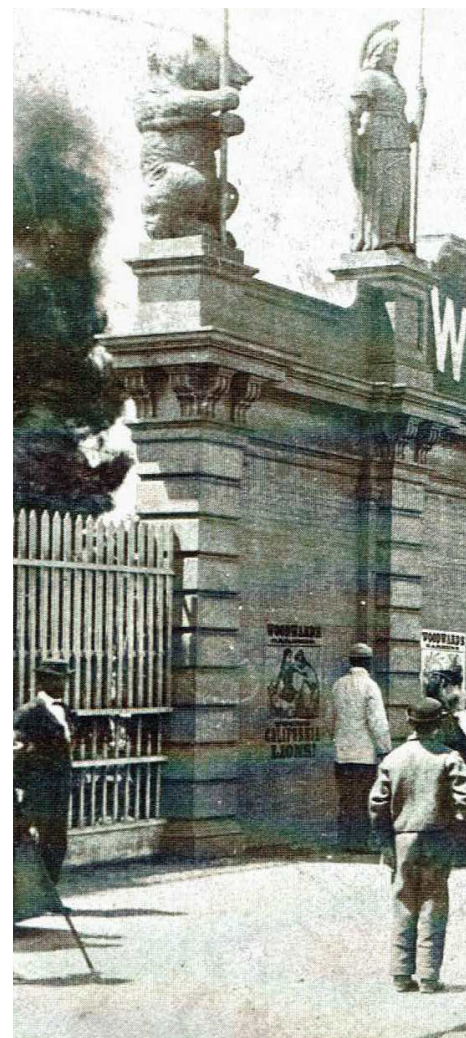
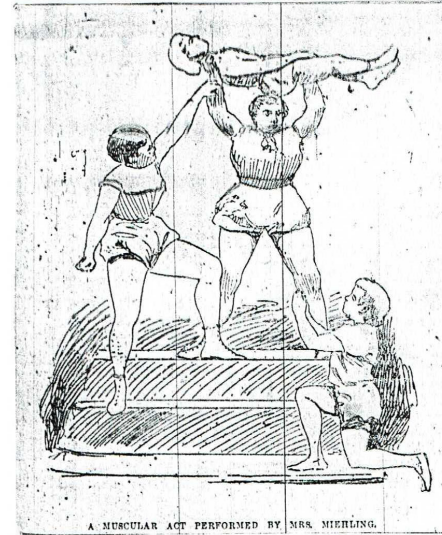
Their son, Charles Weiland, was an important original investor in Prunus Domestica, a purple, appetizing, oval prune of deciduous trees that began to be grown widely in the state in the 1850s, primarily in California's Central Valley. These trees trace their lineage directly to cuttings brought from France to the Santa Clara Valley by French vintners Pierre and Louis Pellier. In France, where they have long been prized by top chefs, they are called "black gold," and they soon became a valuable export.

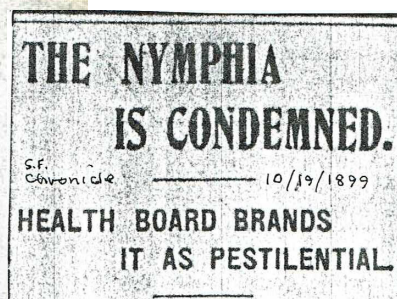
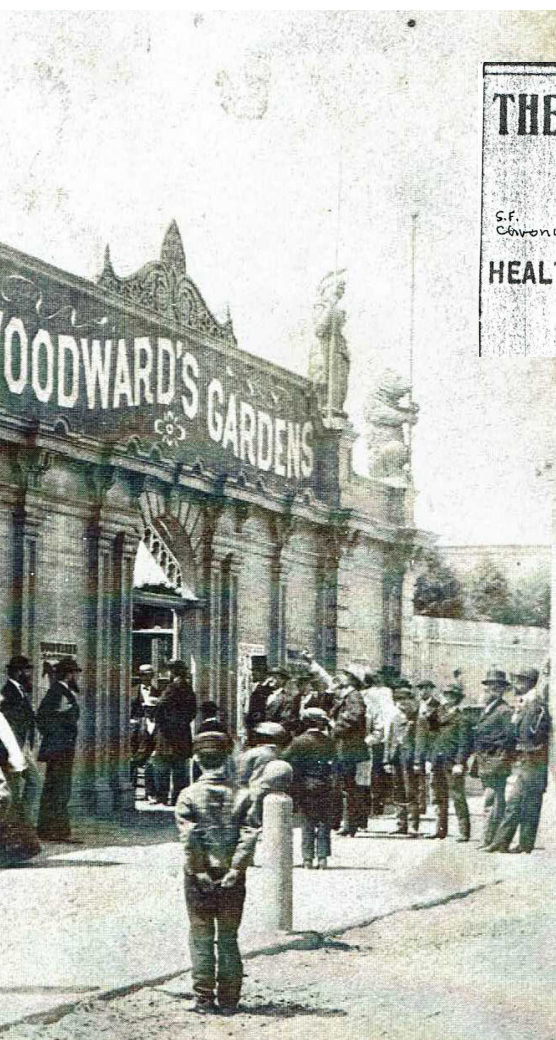
After an architectural competition, plans for Sutro Baths were approved on the City's Pacific coast at Land's End. The cornerstone for the new Olympic Club building was also laid on Post, between Mason and Taylor, promoted as "the most perfect building devoted to physical culture in the world." Many Dolphins were members.

In addition to the four horse racetracks in the City, Ocean View Park on Sunday was the site of greyhound races. Charles

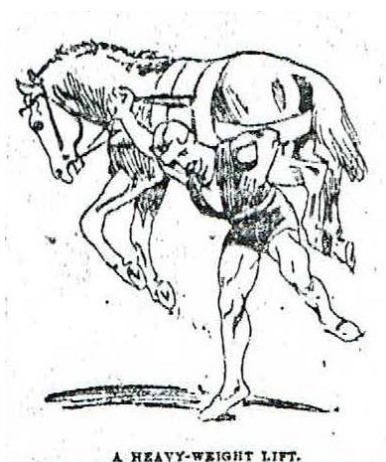
In the 1890s, the Tug-of-War became a regular event at the annual Dolphin picnics, with Dolphins and South Enders going at it if their picnics were close to each other.

Right: Old Clubhouse at foot of Van Ness Painting by Margaret Schneebeil; Below: Mrs. Meihling lifted ladies above her head.





Far left: San Francisco's first zoo and amusement park, was located on Duboce between Valencia and Market streets; Left: the first president of the Dolphin Club, Emil Kherlein, left the Club and started the Hotel Nymphia, a notorious brothel; Below: Professor George Meihling liked to lift horses.



Wieland's hound "Examiner" often won top honors. His brother, Robert, kept both trotting horses and racing greyhounds. Eventually, gambling got both brothers into financial hot water.

Dolphin George van Guelpen of the white Cigar Makers Union had a Chinese cigar maker arrested for using the label of the white Cigar Makers Union. It would seem to be a trivial matter, but it was one of the continuing efforts by Van Guelpen and his union to combat this commercial rival. Pursuing his political ambitions, however, Van Guelpen was accused in January 1896, of using \$900 in funds from that White Cigar Makers Union to finance his candidacy for SF County Clerk, but it did not help him win the election. He eventually returned the "borrowed" funds.

In 1896, after many ignored warnings, the City Health Department finally destroyed Chinese rookeries, or slums—severely cramped living quarters in the center of numerous Chinatown blocks. Vermin-infested and declared uninhabitable by the authorities, the rookeries also included tanneries, fish-drying operations, and other businesses. The owner of one such rookery was the mother of an original Dolphin, who, to no avail, protested their destruction.

Emil Kehrlein, the Dolphin Club's first president, and son of one of the founders, together with his brother Valentine, who had both left the Club to help start the Triton Swimming and Boating Club, went on to build the largest brothel in the city—the Hotel Nymphia—at 790 Pacific. It held some 300 occupants, Chinese women who, once installed, could not leave and, after a few years would die from despair, starvation, or suicide.

Another slightly less reprehensible, original Dolphin was Thomas Fraser, who ran a pharmacy at 7th and Howard that sold cocaine and laudanum without a prescription. He was twice arrested and twice acquitted. The Pacific Society for the Suppression of Vice attempted to handle the plague affecting some 8,000 addicts (about the same number as today, and with the same lack of success).

A greater danger for law abiding citizens or visiting sailors could be found in the North Beach watering holes: too much alcohol, especially if it was spiked. A convenient trap hole in the floor of a cooperating bar and the client might find himself "Shanghaied" and in a convenient Whitehall to be rowed out to a waiting ship. By the time the reveler sobered up he might

be out of sight of land. And then there was “crimping.” If a captain kept too few of his crew onboard while the rest went into town, the watch was in some danger of being surprised by thieves who would climb aboard and make off with whatever they could carry. They often had lairs along the undeveloped parts of the city’s southern shoreline where they could hole up to safely divide their loot before dispersing into the ramshackle world of the nearby waterfront. That particular kind of criminality petered out with the introduction of steamships.

A shooting festival at Shell Mound Park in Emeryville in 1894 drew more than 500 marksmen, including women. They came to compete from as far away as New York and Massachusetts. Ferry boats dropped off passengers from the City—among them several sharpshooting Kehrleins—right next to a rail station that went directly to the park.

Sadly, Mrs. Robert Weiland, 26, died suddenly that year, leaving two young boys and a widespread reputation for kindness and generosity, two qualities that had earned that large family much praise.

A reorganization of the Pacific Coast Amateur Rowing Association resulted in A.P. Rothkopf and Thomas Keenan being named the Dolphin Club representatives. Appropriately, the Club’s Summer Frolics in 1894 showed off brilliantly the wonderful six-oared barge, Wieland, which could carry more than two dozen people, including the crew. It had no equal on the Bay. Also lending uniqueness to the Bay’s aquatic world was Black Point Beach, which the San Francisco Chronicle called the “Coney Island of the California Coast.” While the changing shacks and cavorting youths of the 1880s might have seen better days, swimmers and boaters of the 21st century who swim off the Cove’s bleachers continue to make this storied beach a San Francisco aquatic treasure.

In 1896, Charles Cavill, son of Fred Cavill, the English Channel record holder, and one of a family of swimmers from Australia, swam across the Golden Gate from Devil’s Point, with no bridge to guide him, he followed a zig-zag course to a point in Fort Winfield Scott in the Presidio. A select crew of Dolphins escorted him on this 75-minute tidal journey, along with a flotilla of tugs and other boats.

Cavill also swam from Sutro Baths around Seal Rock and back accompanied, as usual, by a Dolphin Club crew. A crowd

of thousands gathered on Sutro Heights and the Cliff House to watch him. He used the side stroke throughout. The freestyle crawl had yet to be invented. He also swam from Seal Rocks south along the beach until he found a gap in the breakers and came to shore. In 1897, Cavill drowned, probably from asphyxiation, while giving a “trick” exhibition of staying under water for a record time. Death, medical authorities noted, could also have come from a heart attack.

In October 1896, the first Ladies’ Day was held at the brand-new DC Clubhouse built at the foot of Van Ness whose core is still the Dolphin home. The new building was mostly from the labor of club members and the total cost estimated at \$2500, maybe \$100,000 in current dollars. The original architect was A.C. Lutgens, a founding Dolphin who was well-known for his work in the Bay Area, notably Sonoma’s City Hall, still extant in the center of that city. There were, of course, lots of festivities at the opening of the new location with swimming, boating, music, and dancing. The highpoint was Dolphin John H. Caughlan who, after being in two races earlier, topped off the day’s athletic activities by swimming from the new Club House to Fort Point, about 3.5 miles, in an hour and 15 minutes. It is now a regular Club swim, but in reverse—from the Point to the Club.

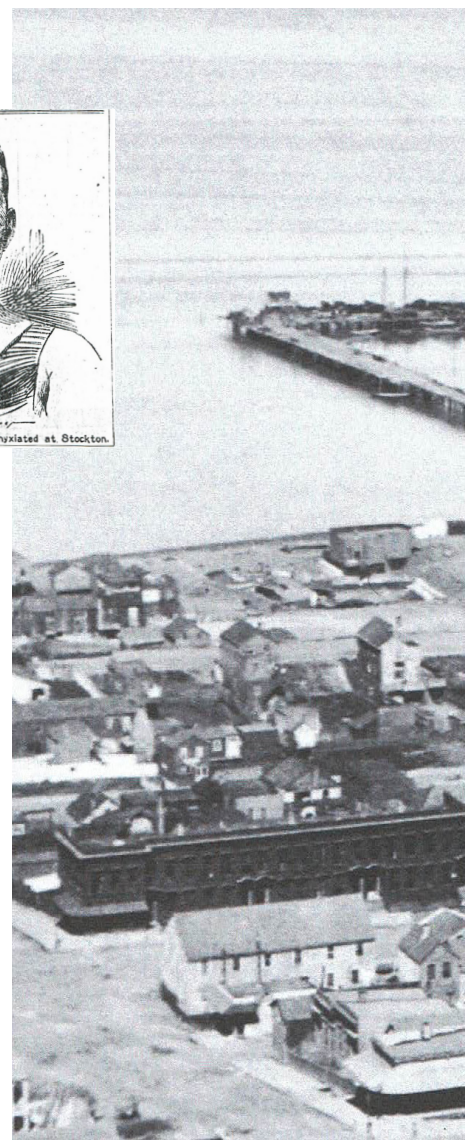
On October 17, 1897, that very same Mr. Caughlan crosses the Gate in 52 minutes, swimming from a bit west of Ft. Point to Lime Rock, accompanied by a large number of crowded boats, including a boat of Dolphins. He used his usual side stroke the entire way.

In May 1897, the name Alex Pape appears in the pages of Dolphin Club history, where it was to show up many times. His principal rival, W.O. Patch, often appears with him as they end up competing for the Dolphin Club’s diamond medal, and as two members of a four-man rowing crew that was unbeatable. Medals were a way to offer competitors something of monetary value but not actual money, as that would have turned the winners into professionals. Pape had been an outstanding swimmer at the Olympic Club but, wanting to try the salt waters of the Pacific, joined the Dolphin Club and discovered its wooden boats! Though lacking in any recognizable technique, Pape was a strong man and at first that was enough. In May 1897 he



Charles Gavill, Champion Swimmer, Asphyxiated at Stockton.

In September, 1896, Australian Charles Cavill became the first person to swim the Golden Gate.



1,600 foot Meiggs Wharf at the foot of Powell Street was built to dock and service arriving ships. It was not popular.



**Sonoma City Hall
designed by Adolf
Lutgens.**



won a race in the Ariels regatta. Pape was rowing like a fiend with that wretched, clumsy stroke of his and pulled away to win by three lengths.

At the start of his rowing life, Pape often would go all over the course, unable to maintain a direct line to the finish. Often, but not always, his strength alone allowed him to finish first. Head-to-head races with Patch were major events. Patch's mother was born in Ireland, his father in Ohio, so Pape/Patch races were close to being an Irish boat against a German boat, which had become common at the Dolphin Club in the 1890s. In July 1897 Patch carried off the diamond Dolphin Club medal. In October, Pape returned the favor, beating Patch, even though, naturally for him, he went off course. Whoever won the medal three times got to keep it. Pape eventually did just that. Pape went on to become renowned for his unmatched and uncanny piloting of numerous Bay swimmers, women as well as men. He retired as the undefeated single scull champion of the West Coast, an ideal leader of the Dolphin Club as it entered what was to be a century fraught with disasters.

Soon after Walt Schneebeli joined the Dolphin Club in 1949, he set about researching the Club's history. He was exclusively interested in the Club's two founders—John Wieland and Valentine Kehrlein—and the first 25 charter members, which included their sons and their sons' friends.

He spent countless hours in libraries looking for any of their names in local newspapers and duplicating (paying 25 cents each time) the relevant pages. All those pages are now in the Club's archives.

Walt was the chief fish collector for the Academy of Sciences with no ambitions as a writer. After a couple of missteps, he found Sidney Hollister, who sympathized with Walt's goals and took on the writing role after first resigning as editor of this magazine. Sid's descriptions of the early years have been published in the Log recently; the fourth installment is found in this issue. He takes the story to the end of the nineteenth century, within sight of the 1906 Earthquake. His account here also features two examples of the work of architect Adolf Lutgens, the last active charter member and the designer of the core of the current Club and of Sonoma City Hall, still resplendent in the center of that town.

Sid recently suffered his own earthquake. We miss him. —KEITH HOWELL

Dolphin Swimming & Boating Foundation

The Dolphin Swimming and Boating Foundation (DSBF) supports the upkeep of City of San Francisco property at 502 Jefferson St. for public recreation and promotes community education in swimming, rowing, and boat building.

While the building remains central, our new commitment to community education allows us to further Club members' interests and strengthen our relationships within the maritime community. Community initiatives foster meaningful partnerships with Bay Area organizations with whom we share common objectives — safe swimming, rowing, and boat building.

In early 2026, DSBF provided funding to Rocking the Boat for the first time and offered a second year of support to the Spaulding Marine Center, aiding youth boat building and education programs at both locations. The Dolphin Youth Swim Fund supports swim education through partnerships such as the Boys & Girls Club of San Francisco and the Presidio YMCA. We continue to collaborate with Baykeeper to protect a healthy Bay for all.

The Foundation is currently evaluating additional programs for potential funding and collaborative participation to advance maritime skills and awareness. The Foundation welcomes funding applications at its quarterly meetings.

For additional information, please visit dolphinfoundationsf.org or contact Diane Walton at president@dolphinfoundationsf.org.

DSBF Board of Directors

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In Memoriam



Loretta Madden on right (with Mimi and Dan Osborne in Santa Cruz)



Scott Sunbury



Sid Hollister

2026

Dolphin Club Swim Results

2025-26 Polar Bear

December 21, 2025 to March 21, 2026

First Last	Miles	Virgin	Old Goat
Oliver Fader	167		
Christophe Crombez	115		
Ted Tilles	103		
Tom Kuglen	81		
Crissa Williams	77.5		
Mike Thoresen	76		OG
Michael Tschantz-Hahn	73.5		
Tom Neill	73		OG
Thorsten Anderson	72		
Randy Edwards	70		
Mike Morales	70		
Miranda Rouse	67		
Stephen Balhoff*	64		
John Gibbon	64		OG
Maggie Lonergan	64		
Betsy Mayer	64		OG
John Ottersburg	64		
Laura Zovickian	63		
Bill Gardner	61.5		
John Stassen	61		
Peter Cullinan	60		OG
Kati Hopman	60		
Lauren Au	58.75		
Jeanne Hallacy	57		OG
Caius Vannouhuys	57		
Lawrence Remstedt	56.5		
Alice Ma	56		
Daniel Handler	56		
Tony Phillips	56		
Juliet Cox	55.5	V	
Pejmun Haghighi	55		
Alex Migoushov	55		
Jessica Huang	54.25	V	
James Bennan	54		OG
Joe Abrams	53.5		OG
Ben Chun	53		
D Nielsen	53		
Tor Lundgren	52.5		
Robin Hart	52.25		OG
Arnie Oji	52.25		
Kalani Leifer	52.25		
Tatyana Ovcharova	52		
Adam Goldberg	52		
Steve Hanson	52		OG
Jim Meade	51	V	OG
Kimberly Swan	50.25	V	
Henry Dombey	50.25		
Chris Wagner	50		
Dan Ryan	50		
Sal Balistreri	50		
Joni Beemsterboer	50		
Erik Cufino	50		
Andrew James	50		
Paul Miller	50	V	
Jamie Robinson	50		
Tamara Stears	50		
Dan Ryan	50		OG
Heather Warm	50		
Jean Lelu	50		
Kim Harris	49.75		
Barnaby Payne	49		
Phil Rollins	48		OG
Catherine Singstat	48		

First Last	Miles	Virgin	Old Goat
Beth Stein	47		
Daniel Rosario	46.75		
Fasica Alemayehu	46.5		
Amanda Ernzer	46		
John Mervin	45.5		
Egon Terplan	45.5		
Sergei Khorochev	45		
Eric Wind	45		
Claire Perry	44.5		
Elaine Van Vleck	44.5		
Tony Payne	44.25		
Wolf Richter	44		
Carter Sedom	44		
JB Melcher	44		
Miguel Gonzalez	43.5		
Pejman Moshfegh	43.5		
David O'Reilly	43.5		
Steve Schatz	43.5		
Eric Reed	43.25		OG
Peter Kruit	43		
Kamron Atabai	43		
Jim Frew	43		
Vince Huang**	43		
Alex Kroeger	43	V	
Jean-Marc Nugent	43		
Rebecca Tilley	43		
Jeff Citron	42.5		OG
Rebecca Handler	42.5		
K Duffy	42		OG
David Hua	42		
Chloe Noonan	42		
Emily Ozer	42		
Larry Scroggins	42		
Tee Minot	42	V	
Aaron Rosenthal	42		
Sona Sondhi	41.5		
Mackenzie Kirk	41.5		
Brendan Sheehan	41.5		
Renzo Sereni	41.25		OG
Mike Walsh	41.25		OG
Logan Craig	41		
Tom Bronn	41		
Sean Lavelle	41		
Tom Brown	41		
Alex Buehlmann	41		
Michael Caniglia	41		
Morgan Kulla	41		
Ruby Lipscomb	41		OG
Elizabeth Ozer	41		
Phil Reiff	41		
Tovia Sobel	41		
Will Stockard	41		
Mary Ludlam	41	V	
Cameron Morris	40.5		
Erin Gasser	40.5		
Kim Gorcyca	40.5		
Lewis Haidt	40.5		
Sunny McKee	40.5		OG
Bianca Liederer	40.5		
Heather Lockhart	40.5		
Kellen Dammann	40.25		
Ashley Hazel	40.25	V	
Humaira Ghilzai	40		



**Oliver Fader,
winner of the
Polar Bear.**

First Last	Miles	Virgin	Old Goat
Eliana Agudelo	40		
Jim Barron	40		
Birdy Buckley	40		
Ryan Dalton	40		
Jonathan DePriest	40		
David Holscher	40		
Nancy Lange	40		
Laura Merkle	40		OG
Derrick Rebello	40		
Holly Reed	40		OG
Clay Tucker	40	V	
Firat Yener	40		
Peter Bostelmann	40		
Neal Powers	37.25		OG
Andy Bindman	35.5		OG
Peter Neubauer	33		OG
Diane Campbell	32.875		OG
Pia Hinckle	32.5		OG
Joe Gannon	32		OG
Mike Smith	31		OG
Joe Mannion	30		OG
Ken Miller	30		OG
John Hornor	29		OG
Lolly Lewis	29		OG
Maria Sereni	29		OG
Chris Bessette	28.75	V	OG
Denise Dugan	28.5		OG
Dorian Dunne	27.7		OG
Kristen Steck	27		OG
Jeffrey Tong	27		OG
Christine Varon	25.5		OG
Jon Nakamura	25.5		OG
Tamar Besson	25		OG
Marlin Gilbert	25		OG
Peter Hollingsworth	25		OG
Krist Jake	25		OG
Vicki Stolberg	25	V	OG
Terry Horn	23		OG
Nancy Hornor	22.5		OG
Kate Matthey	22		OG
George Robin	22		OG
Robin Rome	21.75		OG
Tom McGraw	21.5		OG
Anne Sasaki	21.5		OG
Nicole Lederman	21.5		OG
Jim Emery	21		OG
Anne Hamersky	21		OG
Aniko Kurczinak	21		OG
Michael Matthey	21		OG
Maryann Murphy	21		OG
Naphtali Offen	21		OG
Monica Towers	21		OG
Will Powning	21		OG
Laure Darcy	20.75		OG
Mickey Lavelle	20.5		OG
Lindsay Casablanca	20.5		OG
Debby Rose	20.25		OG
Peter Bartu	20		OG
John Dugan	20		OG
Stu Gannes	20		OG
Heidi Howell	20		OG
Keith Howell	20		OG
Daragh Powers	20		OG

2026 Yacht Harbor February 7, 2026

The wind spared us for a few hours and 68 swimmers set off from Yacht Harbor for Aquatic Park in 60F water. It was a fast swim and all 68 swimmers completed the 1.5 mile course in under an hour.

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: Ramsey Williams, Lead Swim
Commissioner: Maggie Lonergan

Test Swim: Ramsey Williams, Maggie Lonergan, Sharon Wong, Sophie Hays, Madeleine Crow, Jim Frew, David Spitzler, Tim McElligott

Volunteers: Derrick, D Neilson, Sue Garfield, Travis Bickham, Graham Abbey, Mara Iaconi, Lynn Sondag, Cynthia Barnard, Bobby Lu, Vicki Stolberg, Emily Nogue, Tommaso Trionfi, Diane Campbell, Joni Beemsterboer, Owen Convery, Betsy Mayer, Danny Silva, Emily Ozer, Elizabeth Ozer, Kalani Leifer, Mike Thoresen, Keith Gray, John Horner, Laura Grubb, Nancy Horner, Nanda Palmieri, Charmaine Leonard, Anya Durgerian, Kim Harris, Eric Shupert, Stephen Balhoff, Sean Lavelle, Jessica Huang, Will Stockard, Farrah Spot, Greg Norris, John Henderson, Jeannie Naughton, Humaira Ghilzai, Amy Brant

Pilots: Tim McElligott, Chris Clay, Ramsey Williams, Maggie Lonergan, Ellen Offermann, Diane Walton, Damian Guenzing, Lindsay Stripling, Phil Reiff, Nanda Palmieri, Gabe Scurlock, John Thorpe, Dominic Lusinci, Lilian Tsai, Keith Howell, Jeffrey Tong, Dmitry Kosorukov, Andrew Dunbar, Lewis Haidt, Pete Strietmann, David Buchanan, James Dilworth, Tom McCall, Jon Bielski, Diane Jackson, Chris Kocher, Abai Ni Ógáin, Clay Tucker, Gina Bianucci Rus, Dave Zovickian, Duke Dahlin, Carolyn Hui, Aaron G Smith, Kim Gorcycya, Kimberly Swan, Tom Bernard, Karin Christenson, Tom Kuglen, Tom Davis

Place	Swimmers Name	Swim Time	LCP
1	Joby Bernstein	25:17	10
2	Jessica Huang	26:33	9
3	Travis Bickham	27:39	8
4	Gianluca Caltagirone	28:04	7
5	Kalani Leifer	28:13	6
6	Miranda Rouse	28:15	5
7	David Holscher	28:50	4
8	Steve Schatz	29:54	3
9	Chris Kelly	30:30	2
10	Ken Schwarz	30:36	1
11	Anna Schatz	30:53	
12	Georgie Alcock	31:04	
13	Bill Gardner	31:06	
14	Ben Clark	31:25	
15	Emily Ozer	32:17	
16	Tovia Sobel	32:37	
17	Keith Gray	33:18	
18	Will Stockard	33:20	
19	Heather Warm	33:32	
20	D Neilson	33:39	
21	Madeleine Crow	33:40	
22	Sean Lavelle	33:48	
23	John Gibbon	34:03	
24	Elizabeth Mayer	34:03	
25	Gary Arabatyan	34:23	
26	Steve Hansen	34:38	
27	George Morris	34:46	
28	Fiona Donald	34:52	
29	David O'Reilly	35:09	
30	Eric Wind	35:26	
31	Elspeth Farmer	35:50	
32	George Chomoles	35:51	
33	Danny Silva	36:22	
34	Danny Wohliner	36:35	
35	Tracy Joyner	36:49	
36	Tamara Straus	37:09	
37	Marie Sayles	37:10	
38	Chloe Noonan	37:41	
39	Connor Mehan	37:50	
40	Joe Ferrero	38:12	
41	Dean Badessa	38:21	
42	Mickey Lavelle	38:22	
43	Elizabeth Ozer	38:40	
44	Kathy Wallace	38:47	
45	Miguel Gonzalez	38:56	
46	Laura Grubb	40:44	
47	Robert Blum	40:55	
48	Ellen Hathaway	40:57	
49	Nancy Horner	41:00	
50	Darcy Cohn	41:10	
51	Tamara Besson	41:16	
52	Nancy Booth	41:37	
53	Catherine Singstad	41:56	
54	John Horner	42:01	
55	Kathleen Duffy	42:47	
56	Eric Reed	42:57	
57	Robin Hart	43:22	
58	Eliana Agudelo	44:04	
59	Kati Hopman	44:37	
60	Peter Neubauer	44:44	
61	Annie Obendorf	44:44	
62	Steve Balhoff	44:44	
63	Ally Sillins	44:44	
64	Robin Rome	45:47	
65	David Holmes-Kinsella	46:49	
66	Lorna Newlan	49:30	
67	Andy Ach	51:58	
68	Elliot Evers	56:33	



**Left: Starting
line at Yacht
Harbor; Right:
pilot briefing**



2026 Walt Schneebeli Over 60 Cove May 3, 2026

37 swimmers chose one of three courses: to the second buoy and back, to the flag and back, or a clockwise cove. A group of swimmers chose to walk along the beach to the second buoy and float back! Congrats to all the swimmers and volunteers who made this swim happen!

Lead Swim Commissioner: Maggie Lonergan

Volunteers: Peter Cullinan, David O'Reilly, Dean Badessa, Joe Ferrero, Alice Jones, Janine Corcoran, Niki Ragone, Greg Norris, Mary Cantini, Danny Silva, Tovia Sobel, Miranda Rouse, Crissa Williams, Teri Baldini, Eric Wind, Morgan Kulla, Liam Hennessey, Kathy Wallace, Anne Dietrich, Robin Rome, Steve Schatz, Robin Hart, John Horner, Sue Garfield, Thorsten Anderson, John Heller, Liam Hennessey

Pilots: Ally Sillins, Ellen Hathaway, D Nielsen, Heather Warm, Rebecca Tilley, Clara Agnes Ault, Marlin Gilbert, Dean Badessa, Alex Kroeger

Swimmers

Diane Campbell
David Spitzler
Donna Schumacher
Julia Brashares
Diane Walton
Bob McKenzie
Liam Hennessey
Kathy Wallace
Stephen Hanson
Sally Campbell
Kelley Heye
Jennifer Weller
Jim Meade
Nancy Horner
Margaret Keenan
Amy Kretkowski
Will Powning
Keith Nelson
Phil Gaal
Nathaniel Berger
Mickey Lavelle
Todd Bloch
Robert Blum
John Horner
Dorothy Niccolis
Christ Jake
Sunny McKee
Holly Reed
Morgan Kulla
Claire Trepanier
Anne Diedrich
Peter Neubauer
Robin Rome
Steve Schatz
Alice Jones
Mary Cantini
Sarah McCusky

The Pier 15 swim offers a stunning view for left-side breathers.



2026 John Nogue Pier 15 Swim for Science June 20, 2026

Our annual tradition of celebrating John Nogue continued this year, with 40 swimmers completing the 2-mile route from Pier 15 to the club. Emily and Sofie Nogue joined us on the Adventure Cat and on the dock for breakfast after the swim. Thank you as always to the pilots and volunteers.

Lead Pilot: Diane Walton

Lead Swim Commissioner: Ben Chun

Test Swim: Jessica Huang, Sean Lavelle, Vincent Huang, Ally Sillins

Volunteers: Tim Kreutzen, Stephen Balhoff, Wafaa Sabil, Andy Stone, Marianne Sarrazin, JB Melcher, Robin Hart, Ashley Hazel, Fiona McCusker, Jim Frew, Duke Dahlin, Chris Igo, Mara Iaconi, Tamar Besson, Betsy Mayer, Ken Schwartz, Elspeth Farmer, Aaron Rosenthal, Nancy Booth, Aude Bouagnon, Erin Gasser, Carolyn Hui, Eric Shupert, Jean-Marc Nugent, Denise Sauerteig, Mackenzie Kirk, Aniko Kurczinak, Anya Durgerian, Nick Churcher, Humaira Chilzai, Keith Gray, Robert Blum, Emily Nogue, Morgan Kulla, Alex Kroeger, Janine Corcoran, Tim Kreutzen, Stephen Balhoff, Wafaa Sabil, Andy Stone, Marianne Sarrazin, JB Melcher, Robin Hart, Nanda Palmieri, Susan Allen

Pilots: Diane Walton, Ellen Offermann, Tom Bernard, Ramsey Williams, Jimmy Haber, Ben Chun, Aaron Smith, Sean Johnson, Hal Offen, Heidi Williams, Dmitry Kosorukov, Chris Kocher, Jon Bielinski, David Buchanan, George Morris, Abai Ni Ógáin, Grant Mays, Tom McCall, Nanda Palmieri, Mikhail Melnikov, John Thorpe, Diane Livia, Dominic Lusinchi

Place	Swimmers Name	Swim Time	LCP
1	David Spitzler	32:07	10
2	Miranda Rouse	32:51	9
3	Mackenzie Kirk	33:44	8
4	Jean-Marc Nugent	34:15	7
5	Andrew Cunningham	34:44	6
6	Stephen Balhoff	35:58	5
7	Ken Schwartz	36:04	4
8	Heather Warm	38:16	3
9	Brian Swartz	38:47	2
10	Daniel Rosario	41:49	1
11	Elizabeth Mayer	42:18	
12	Danny Wohlnier	42:43	
13	David O'Reilly	42:50	
14	Rohin Daswani	42:59	
15	Margaret Keenan	43:24	
15	Elspeth Farmer	43:24	
17	Kathleen Sheridan	43:51	
18	Eric Wind	44:12	
19	Aniko Kurczinak	45:18	
20	Joe Ferrero	45:26	
21	Erin Gasser	45:49	
22	Danny Silva	46:00	
23	Stephanie Benight	46:10	
24	Lindzy Bivings	46:35	
24	Denise Sauerteig	46:35	
26	Henry Dombey	46:48	
27	Chloe Noon	47:28	
28	Lewis Haidt	48:27	
29	Mickey Lavelle	48:36	
29	Connor Clark	48:36	
31	Nancy Booth	48:50	
31	Nancy Hornor	48:50	
33	Holly Reed	50:07	
34	Wafaa Sabil	50:21	
35	Marlin Gilbert	50:33	
36	Aaron Rosenthal	51:22	
37	Kathleen Duffy	51:31	
38	Molly Blevins	52:47	
39	John Hornor	52:59	
40	Carolyn Hui	54:47	

*Ladies Cup contenders must pilot at least one out-of-cove club swim during the season to be eligible.

2026 Baykeeper Bay Bridge Swim July 18, 2026

This year's Baykeeper Bay Bridge Swim was a memorable success. Conditions were excellent, with light winds, making for a fantastic day in and on the water. All 47 swimmers safely reached the cove, finishing in impressive times ranging from 42 minutes to 1 hour 12 minutes. A huge thank you to all of the pilots and volunteers whose teamwork and dedication made the swim such a success. After the swim, Baykeeper set up an information table for participants and supporters. The names of the three fastest swimmers will be engraved on the 'Golden Rivet' trophy plaque in recognition of their outstanding performances.

Lead Pilot: Tim McElligott

Lead Swim Commissioner: Damian Guenzing

Pilots: Tim McElligott, Damian Guenzing, Maeve Lavelle, Nathaniel Berger, Marci Glazer, Gina Bianucci Rus, Sharon Wong, Kathleen Sheridan, Dominic Lusinchi, Lilian Tsai, Barry Christian, Jeffrey Tong, Pete Strietmann, Dmitry Kosorukov, Jon Bielinski, Tom McCall, David Buchanan, Grant Mays, Farrah Spott, Dave Zovickian, Otto Williams, Ellen Hathaway, Stephen Hattwick, Hal Offen, Nancy Horner, Emily Pimentel

Volunteers: Robin Rome, Clara Ault, D Nielsen, Tracy Joyner, Mary Cantini, Henry Dombey, Samuel Mannarino, Marianne Sarrazin, Ruby Lipscomb, Vicki Stolberg, Fiona Donald, Mara Iaconi, Jim Frew, Emily Nogue, Ernst Halperin, Lindzy Bivings, Emily Ozer, Molly Blevins, Antoine Roux, Mike Thoresen, Lewis Haidt, William Ault, Peter Neubauer, Carolyn Hui, David Spitzler, Beth Stein, Kati Hopman, Denise Sauerteig, Diane Walton, Erin Gasser, Robert Blum, Amy Brant, Anne Diedrich, Aniko Kurczinak, Tor Lundgren, Ben Thompson, Eric Shupert, Alice Jones, Chris Igo, Owen Convery

Test Swim Pilots: Tim McElligott, Farrah Spott, Damian Guenzing, Eliana Agudelo, Madeleine Crow, Dominic Lusinchi

Test Swimmers: Denise Sauerteig, David Spitzler, Kathleen Sheridan

Place	Swimmers Name	Swim Time	LCP
1	Jessica Huang	41:45	10
2	Ben Chun	43:00	9
3	Kalani Leifer	44:54	8
4	Ken Schwartz	47:14	7
5	Christophe Crombez	48:02	6
6	David Holscher	48:13	5
7	Jeff Citron	50:10	4
8	Emily Ozer	50:14	3
9	Heather Warm	51:00	2
10	Sean McFadden	51:08	1
11	Brian Schwartz	51:10	
12	D Nielsen	52:34	
13	Ben Hu	53:20	
14	John Gibbon	53:28	
15	Elizabeth Mayer	53:40	
16	Beth Stein	53:41	
17	Alice Jones	53:53	
18	Jason Prodoehl	53:58	
19	Ted Chivetta	54:04	
20	Daniel Rosario	54:48	
21	Andrew Pinetti	55:06	
22	Madeleine Crow	55:49	
23	Will Stockard	55:52	
24	Margaret Keenan	56:03	
25	David O'Reilly	56:20	
26	Clara Ault	57:24	
27	Lindzy Bivings	59:20	
28	Bobby Lu	59:34	
29	Chloe Noonan	59:49	
30	Eric Wind	59:58	
31	Sunny McKee	59:59	
32	Chris Igo	1:00:33	
33	Marlin Gilbert	1:02:29	
34	Jamie Robinson	1:02:55	
35	Mike Thoresen	1:03:15	
36	Molly Blevins	1:03:25	
37	Kathleen Duffy	1:03:40	
38	John Horner	1:03:47	
39	JB Melcher	1:03:57	
40	Robin Hart	1:04:56	
41	Ally Sillins	1:04:59	
42	Eliana Agudelo	1:05:06	
43	Peter Cullinan	1:06:57	
44	Lewis Haidt	1:07:02	
45	Peter Neubauer	1:09:55	
46	Carolyn Hui	1:11:12	
46	Kati Hopman	1:11:12	

50 Years of Women in the Dolphin Club

October 2026 marks 50 years since women changed the Dolphin Club forever.

In October 1976, six trailblazing women filed a lawsuit that opened the doors of both the Dolphin Club and the South End Rowing Club to female members. Their lawyer noted that "the basis of the suit was not gender bias, but federal law that governed any institution operating on public parkland". The result was historic: women officially joined in early 1977, and many of those original members remain active in the club to this day.

To honor this milestone—and the women who made it happen - the club is celebrating all month long with events throughout October 2026:

There are plenty of ways to participate, volunteer, and celebrate. Signups to come. These events are not just for women — everyone is welcome, so please join us!



SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR: FALL 2026

- PODCASTS: WEEKLY THROUGH OCTOBER
- SUNDAY, SEPT 20: "50" SWIM / ROW-OUT
- FRIDAY, OCT 2: MIXER/HAPPY HOUR
- SATURDAY, NOV 7: LADIES 20-YEAR LUNCHEON

*PARTICIPATE, VOLUNTEER & CELEBRATE —
EVERYONE IS WELCOME, PLEASE JOIN US!*



Jessica Huang (1st place) and Ben Chun (2nd place).



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 Schneebeli 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	11/14		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			

* 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

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

Fort Point
3.5 miles

Crissy Field
2.5 miles

Yacht Harbor
1.5 miles

Gashouse Cove
1 mile

Aquatic Park
Cove

Pier 411/2
1.2 miles

Pier 43
1 mile