The South Ender is the newsletter of the South End Rowing Club, published three to four times per year since 1931. We publish material by our members that reflects the ideals, purposes, and accomplishments of the South End.

It’s our members who make this newsletter, so send articles, short items, archived newspaper clippings, bawdy songs, and high-resolution photos to newsletter@serc.com.

We reserve the right to edit all submitted material, but we’ll be nice about it, we promise.
Letter from the President

By Simon Dominguez

Hello SERC friends,

On September 9, we went into battle against our neighbors next door in the annual SERC/DC Triathlon: an epic battle to see which club has the best swimmers, rowers, and runners. I was so proud of the turnout from the South End and the work everyone put in to make it such a special day, especially the event director, running commissioner, and board member Sarah Glazer. We won the swim, we won the run, we got defeated in the rowing—but we definitely won the award for the club that had the most fun. I am so glad I am a South End Rowing Club member (I don’t think I would look good in blue anyway).

Thank you to all who showed up and competed. I don’t think I have ever seen so many of our athletes stretch themselves by doing more than one leg of the Tri. There was so much red out on the run and row, and so much yellow during the swim, that I didn’t even notice the blue and orange. We showed up in force and made a statement. And despite the final score, we had many individual successes.

On September 29, the annual South End Rowing Club Alcatraz Invitational swim was held and it, too, was a great success. It is our biggest fundraising event of the year and one of the reasons we can keep our annual fees so low. We had over 600 swimmers make the trek from The Rock to Aquatic Park, many of them first-timers.

I am often asked if I have ever done any impressive swims. When I answer, the question that is always asked after this is, “Have you done Alcatraz?” And there is always a look of surprise when I tell them that I have not only swum it, but I have done so a number of times. Please do not every forget how lucky we are to belong to this great club with one of the best playgrounds in the world at our doorstep.

I want to give a special shout-out to all the club members who volunteered for the Invitational, but especially to Race Director Laura Hovden. Laura and her team worked tirelessly on this all year and were the reason the event was so successful. If you see Laura at the club, please thank her. She worked so hard and had so many balls in the air managing the event but still managed to keep a cool head and get things done.

Thank you Laura and Sarah. You girls rock. You are great role models for our club!

Regards,

Simon
Friday morning the swimmers started showing up on our beaches with their wetsuits and nervous looks. The water was cold. But they were swimming the Alcatraz Invitational the next morning and they were excited. Our special guest, Chloe McCardel, had just flown in from England the night before but she was up and at the water at 6 a.m. to swim with a very large group of SERC swimmers and to enjoy Beer Friday. We got to hear stories about her English Channel adventures this past summer.

Friday evening the happy swimmers began showing up at the club to register. Lots of South Enders were on hand to greet them and show them around. A few brave souls donned their suits and took a dip with Chloe before joining the gleeful crowd at the bar. Al Jaurique and his amazing kitchen crew had prepared a wonderful pasta dinner for everyone. Nikki Stroka and Sarah Glazer were happy to sell our new friends a sweatshirt or hat. The bar was as hopping as it usually is when Kim Howard is in charge! Most everyone went home by 9 p.m. but Jim Bock and Joe Butler were hard at work getting the tents and lights set up for the big day.

Saturday 5 a.m. and our halls were filled with volunteers. Elizabeth Glass got up early to feed the volunteers before setting up her emergency services. Luckily, few services were in need that day, but Elizabeth and her team were ready. Ranie Pearce and Danielle Ruymaker checked in the volunteers and gave each of them a cool new T-shirt. By 6 a.m.
the swimmers were arriving to check in and get body marked. **Sarah Roberts** had mobilized an excellent crew to answer questions and keep people moving through the registration lines. That group handled about 800 participants in a very short time with no major issues and relatively few minor ones. Chloe McCareel joined the body marking team while chatting with our guests. They were very excited to hear from such a swimming superstar.

Meanwhile **Jenn Lawson** was doing her magic with the pilots, kayakers, and rowboats. They all had their map with their positions on the water. Jenn laid out the plan and everyone went to work to launch the boats. We were very excited to have the rowers as an integral part of the swim this year and they proved to be very valuable as they are higher in the water and more visible to the swimmers.

Saturday 7:30 and **Gary Emich** had everyone’s attention as he gave the nervous swimmers the instructions on the jump, the tides, and where to sight to get to the finish line. Jim Bock had the fun job of capturing a sailboat with a brand new huge SERC flag, which the swimmers would follow and use for navigating. As Gary finished his instructions, the swimmers followed the bagpiper and **Patrick O’Malley Daly**, who was bearing the SERC flag, and walked through the tourists down to the boat launch at Pier 41. The swimmers and spectators boarded the Red and White Fleet boats under blue skies and headed to the island. Gary and **Steve Hurwitz** positioned the boats and led the plunge into the water off Alcatraz at about 10:30. They proudly reported that they had all the swimmers off the boats in four minutes!

For the next hour and 39 minutes, swimmers crossed the finish lines with big smiles on their faces, many stumbling as they exited the water. **Niland Mortimer** and his finish line crew were hard at work counting swimmers, removing timing chips and placing medals around their necks. Major kudos go to Jenn Lawson and the pilots, kayakers, and rowers who escorted over 600 swimmers to shore. We are proud to say we didn’t lose anyone! Jenn was amazing as she directed the swim, coordinating with all our crew as well as the Coast Guard, police, support boats, emergency services, and the finish line. We hope she agrees to do this again next year!!!

Back on shore we have our bag checkers to thank for arranging and distributing all the swimmer gear. Capurro’s cooked a nice breakfast for all and many thanks to **Bill Wygant** for emceeing our awards ceremony. As our guests and most volunteers left to enjoy the day, our cleanup crew was hard at work. The park service commented that the grounds were cleaner than when we started. At 3 p.m., the street opened up to tourists and all was back to normal. But the camaraderie and goodwill from the many volunteers’ efforts were felt long after the tents came down.

This event is the biggest fundraiser for our club. It wouldn’t have happened without all our volunteers. We had 700 swimmers who registered and paid, and a total of 623 who actually swam (some were no shows), up from 536 the previous year. We raised approximately $68,000, which was an increase of $16,000 from last year. Thank you to **Susan Blew** for paying all the vendors and tracking expenses and to **Susan Wintersteen** for all her help in the office.

Our photographers did an amazing job capturing the day. Thanks to **Jeff Cooperman**, **Allen Luong**, and **Miguel Melendez** for their time and talent. See their photos here: [https://serc.smugmug.com/Alcatraz-Invitational](https://serc.smugmug.com/Alcatraz-Invitational)

**Save the date for next year – September 7, 2019!**
2018 PATHSTAR Alcatraz Swim Week

by Nancy Iverson

“I am so grateful to SERC. Thank you for opening your arms and doors to us throughout our journey. Thank you for all of your members’ love, kindness—and all your patience. You guys are so amazing. Thank you for your passion, compassion, and selfless love for helping people to help themselves!!! Chi Mi’Gwetch (a big, heartfelt Thank You)!”

These words are from participants in the 2018 PATHSTAR Alcatraz Swim Week (PASW), expressing their huge appreciation for the many ways scores of SERC members generously played a part in making the 2018 PASW successful.

Some background:
SERC member Nancy Iverson developed PATHSTAR (Preservation of Authentic Traditions and Healing), drawing from her experiences in the 1990s as a pediatrician at the Pine Ridge Reservation Indian Healthcare Service hospital in her native state of South Dakota, and as a SERC bay swimmer.

In the Pine Ridge, as in many American Indian communities, poverty, obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease run rampant. A common tribal statistic: More than half of people over the age of 45 have diabetes. If current conditions don’t change, one out of two children of color born after the year 2000 will develop diabetes, many of them before they reach adulthood. And yet, as Caitlin Baker, one of our teen participants years ago, often proclaimed, “Diabetes is preventable, not predictable.”

PATHSTAR is dedicated “to rebuilding and revitalizing health among individuals, families and communities ... We help restore well-being by inspiring habits and attitudes that lead to greater self-reliance and growth.

This year, nine participants joined the 2018 PASW, spanning five decades in age (16-56), with tribal affiliations including Oglala Lakota, Lower Brule Lakota, United Keetowah Band of Cherokee Indians, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Navajo Nation, and Utu Utu Gwaitu Paiute Tribe. The week included nutrition education, meal planning and preparation, an Alcatraz tour, life coaching, yoga, hiking, Pilates, kayaking, gardening—and, of course, swimming!

It culminated in our 16th annual PATHSTAR Alcatraz Swim on October 15. An awesome group of swim angels, pilots, kitchen helpers, and family and friends gathered in the Day Room before leaving for the island, and each and every participant had a wonderful and successful crossing. Pine Ridge participant Bessie LeBeau wrote, “the Alcatraz swim was quite an experience. In fact I don’t think I’ve done anything in my life as scary or satisfying!”

As in all the preceding years, the backbone of the PASW’s success is the enormous encouragement and rampantly enthusiastic support from SERC. Three South Enders were acknowledged with special awards this year. The Heart award went to Joyce Gagnon, one Starfish award went to Ben Stevens, and another Starfish award went to Bob Roper. (Bob received his Starfish award in the hospital, as he was consulting the tide book and confirming the start time for this year’s PATHSTAR Alcatraz swim. His son, Christopher, formally accepted the award for him at our post-Alcatraz swim gathering.)

Enormous thanks to everyone who helped out this year and for the offers already coming in for next year. The energy, enthusiasm, and contributions from SERC members make PATHSTAR a vibrant health community.

Mitakuye Oyasin: We are all related.
What It Means to Volunteer

by Lynn J. Sywolski

When I first joined the club, someone explained to me that SERC was a 100 percent volunteer organization and the only paid help was Howard Lazar, the (now former) janitor. Things today have not changed much, and the only paid employees at SERC today remain the cleaning staff and Susan Wintersteen, the club office manager.

Volunteering allows me the opportunity to give to someone else without taking anything from that person. The time and energy is focused 100 percent on what is being done, whether it be cooking, piloting, cleaning, or giving a walking tour to someone interested in joining the club.

In my online research, I learned some interesting facts about how volunteering is good for your mind and your body.

Volunteering helps counteract the effects of stress, anger, and anxiety.

OK, maybe not anxiety, if you piloted for the Bay to Breakers 2018.

Volunteering makes you happy.

Happiness for a swim director? Seeing swimmers cleaning the kitchen after eating.

Volunteering provides a sense of purpose.

Find purpose as a club member with one of the many wonderful projects Building Commissioner Jim Bock offers up on the Last Sunday Day of Service.

Volunteering helps you stay physically healthy.

Siegfried Auer, Siggy to all, believed that his health was directly related to the work he did at the club every day. The projects he did were many, and they were necessary. Some painting here, some spackling there, some hammering, and more. Today, we have a sundeck on the roof and a patio on the beach thanks to Sig.

Volunteering does not have to be a big grandiose gesture, and you don’t have to be an expert at anything. You just need to be willing to help.

Come down and support one of the club events listed online: http://serc.com/about/club-calendar/. Volunteering means something a little different for everyone, but the base concept is the same.

Please come volunteer: your club needs your help.
The First Viking Swim

After swimming the length of Tahoe in 2006 (thanks to Tim Spicer and crew), I stopped by Emerald Bay and looked out across the lake to see Cave Rock in the distance and thought that would be a great swim—from Cave Rock to where I stood in Vikingsholm.

July 5, 2007, my crew of three—Paddy Peyton, Bob Roper, and Dave Maloney—left my house super early hoping for a 3 a.m. jump. My swim would be from Cave Rock to Emerald Bay in front of Vikingsholm, for a total of 10.5 miles. Due to delays on the road, I finally got into the water about sunrise. I had not been in the water yet that season, so I was nervous that it might be a little cold. But as soon as I got into the water I realized it was perfect.

Paddy had an early version of a GPS but mostly navigated by line of sight. As we approached the west side of the lake it looked like we were super close for hours. We could see the island in Emerald Bay. As we approached the opening of Emerald Bay we realized we were on the south side of the opening and I ran into a back eddy. After being stuck for a while I swam north of the opening and found that the water was pulling me into the bay.

I was feeling super good at that moment. I could see the bottom already, though I still had 1.5 miles to go. I was feeling good most of the way and was super grateful for the South End support.

My wife, Pam, and daughter, Emily, were waiting for me at the finish line in front of the Vikingsholm. What I did not realize was that Dave and Bob had been arguing for the last couple miles of the swim. Dave could not wait to get out of the boat! We hiked out up the steep road to the car. Paddy headed back to the boat ramp with the Paddy Wagon. I remember how tired Roper looked hiking out of Emerald Bay.
It took me eight hours to complete the swim. It was my second width swim. The first was the Olympic Club route in 2004.

I’m amazed to see so many people are swimming the Viking swim lately!

**The Homewood to Glenbrook Width Swim**

My Tahoe swimming continued with a new adventure this year on June 28, 2018: Homewood, California, to Brookwood, Nevada. It’s approximately 12 miles.

I jumped at 3:34:09 a.m. The water was 55 degrees at the start. It didn’t feel too cold until my first feed. At the second feed I told my crew I would only feed on solids, for now the liquid was getting me cold. The air temperature was cooling off just before sunrise, so that had an effect as well.

Not long after that I swam into much warmer water, at 59 degrees. Then the sun came up and I was good with my core temperature.

My crew—Tom Wilhelm, Lucas Velzy, Patrick Henry, and **Meg Omainski** as the official observer—did a great job. At one point the GPS turned off and Tom was struggling with getting it back up. Going from west to east at that time of day makes the goal very hard to see because of the morning sun! Without the GPS we could not tell what direction the surface currents were pushing me. Fortunately, Tom got the GPS going again and we still had a great line.

The moon was nearly full and the wind was light so I couldn’t have asked for a better day or a better crew.

It seemed to take forever to get into Glenbrook. It’s a great place to start or finish a swim. I came out of the water at 1:10:52 p.m., for an official time of 9h36m43s.

**Tahoe Triple Crown**

For the “Tahoe Triple Crown,” you need to swim the length of Tahoe (Camp Richardson to Incline Village), the Viking (Cave Rock to Incline Village), and the Fat Middle (Homewood to Glenbrook).

I was able to swim the 12-mile width route two more times this year along with the new “Godfather” 12-mile width route, from Cave Rock to the beach north of the mansion made famous by the movie *The Godfather: Part II*.

As far as I know, **Rick Bartels** was the first to swim the Homewood to Glenbrook route many years ago as an English Channel training swim. When **Sylvia Lacock** swam the route from east to west last year I was inspired to swim the route as well. An adviser of LTMSF came up with the idea of the Tahoe Triple Crown so I thought I would shoot for the Triple X3.

**Big Blue Water**

With my three successful length swims (the Incline to Meeks Bay 16-mile swim), this makes 12 completed marathon swims in Tahoe so far. It’s always a team effort. Without the South End I would have never achieved any of the swims!

I am grateful to all the amazing pilots, crew, and observers who support us in Tahoe and the bay. In particular, all my early long swims were supported by Bob Roper. As Roper would say: “Time to stop yappin’ and make it happen!”

I am so grateful to have the Big Blue-Water Lake to swim in every summer. I am sure that my achievements will look small compared to the future of Tahoe swims. Sarah Thomas and Craig Lansing swam a double length (42.6 miles) a few years back. I also want to thank **Evan Morrison** for the advanced tracking to help keep better records of our swims as well. It’s just the beginning for marathon swimming around the world! See you in the water!
Rebuilding Muni Pier

by Fran Hegeler

How often do you think of the Muni Pier? I’ve been thinking about it a lot recently. Last week, I swam underneath it on a strong flood on my way to Fort Mason. As I threaded my way through barnacled columns, I marveled at the pier’s state of disrepair (and secretly prayed that my swim wouldn’t have an unfortunate coincidence with geologic events). Truth is, most of us take for granted the presence of the pier that defines Aquatic Park. And we shouldn’t.

An iconic, historic, water-based promenade that offers some of the best views of San Francisco, the pier also functions as protective infrastructure for the park and its many assets, from the historic vessels docked at Hyde Street Pier to shoreline structures like the Maritime Museum. And our club.

Safety concerns with the pier have already resulted in its closure during major events (such as July 4 celebrations and Fleet Week) because the deck cannot withstand the load. Light posts will soon be removed, and protective fencing may be installed at water level to enclose the pier and prevent swimmers from injury caused by the increasing likelihood of falling debris. (Yikes!)

The most recent studies undertaken by the National Park Service (NPS) indicate it will take $130 million or more to rebuild it—and that’s just to do so as originally designed. With rising tides and increased storm surge, it would be prudent to rethink that design.

Aquatic Park Pier is a federal asset, meaning it is owned and managed by the NPS. But it is also an icon for the city of San Francisco and one of the few places residents and tourists alike can enjoy free and uninterrupted views of the city skyline, the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz, and the San Francisco Bay. Restoring the pier is a major and complex undertaking, and will likely require resources and energy from multiple agencies—local, state, and federal—as well as from private and philanthropic concerns.

So, where do we begin?

Save Aquatic Park Pier (SAPP) is a citizen-led, volunteer organization operating as an initiative of the San Francisco Maritime Historic Park Association. The group’s mission is to raise awareness and resources to enable the Park Service to restore Aquatic Park Pier, as well as to preserve and revive the park and its shoreline and assets for generations to come.

We are currently devising an overarching strategy to integrate the political, publicity, fundraising, and project aspects of the initiative. Our effort now is intended to foster dialogue and cooperation among the various agencies involved with the pier, to identify and connect with potential donors (public and private), and to advocate the project’s urgency among all stakeholders.

The San Francisco studio of my company, SWA, devoted its (pro bono) summer student program to explore possible design ideas for the future of Aquatic Park. Check out the free exhibition—Baywatch: Design Ideas for Aquatic Park—which will be on display at the San Francisco Port from October 11 through the end of November.

If you are interested in volunteering or know people who you think could be instrumental in our effort, let me know. Supervisors Aaron Peskin and Catherine Stefani, both members of our club, have stepped up to help, as has past president Bill Wygant.

What can you do? Check out our Facebook page: like it, engage with it, share it. Check out our webpage (saveaquaticparkpier.com) and donate if you are able.

Questions? We’ll be talking about this effort as part of the SERC Members’ Meeting on November 28. Be there.

Rebuilding the pier will be a marathon effort, but marathons don’t intimidate South Enders. It’s got to be done.

Fran Hegeler is vice president of SERC and chair of Save Aquatic Park Pier.
The Dead Kennedys Pod

by Kevin Buckholtz

The Dead Kennedys is a group of South End swimmers who swim slowly. Naji Ali is the founding member and I caught up with him (which wasn’t hard given his swimming speed) for a few minutes of questions.

Q: The club celebrates the speed of swimmers and sometimes the endurance. Kristine Buckley’s channel crossing, for example, is a testament to her will. What are the common traits of a Dead Kennedys member?

NAJI ALI: Well, for starters, we know how to swim (somewhat), most of us have our own original teeth, and the most important thing, a majority of us haven’t been arrested in the last six months. Actually, we love the water and being in the water. That could be one of the main reasons why we’re all so darn slow.

Q: There’s been a lot of talk about the enormous impact the Dead Kennedys have had on the club. Do you expect chapters at the Dolphin or Olympic clubs?

ALI: As far as I know, most Dead Kennedy swimmers have been banned from both clubs. I know for a fact that Kevin Buckholtz and Naji Ali have a 500-foot “stay away” order at the Olympic Club. (Geez, you’d think folks would realize the point of a birthday swim is to swim naked!)

In time they may see the light. This is pretty heady stuff though. It’s the next turn of the evolutionary clock in swimming. We’ve gone from swimming as a means to get from point A to point B, to swimming and free diving as a profession for fish or pearls. The competitive period has been around for only 2,000 years or so.

Our approach is one of mindfulness. We may make forward progress, or we may not. We don’t know, nor do we care.

Q: What’s a day in the life of a typical Dead Kennedy?

ALI: Let’s see (sounds of papers rustling). Oh, here we are.

1. Get up when you hear the alarm clock.
2. Turn alarm clock off and go back to bed.
3. Get back up after alarm clock is turned off, and drive down to the club and swim.
4. Swim.

That pretty much covers it.

Q: Favorite swim?

ALI: If a Dead Kennedy can make it from the beach to the flag in under a week, with minimal assistance from the coast guard, it’s a good swim.

Q: Our readers will want to know about the name. Is it more than aquatic homage to Jello Biafra’s band?

ALI: Who’s he? Oh, him! Yes. Yes, of course. You see, we’re notoriously slow, we don’t kid ourselves. In fact, if we were in a race with a dead man (for instance John Kennedy), we’d still lose by 10 yards.

And of course our motto is and always will be: we’ll get there when we get there!
The Ironman World Championship and the South End Rowing Club

By Marc P. Cruciger, M.D.

In 1977, during an awards banquet at the Waikiki Swim Club for the Oahu Perimeter Relay Race, Naval Officer John Collins queried his fellow athletes at the table: "Which athletes are the most fit: swimmers, bikers, or runners?"

Interestingly, Collins and his wife Judy had been recently stationed in San Diego where they had seen the emergence of a new kind of athletic event called a "triathlon," so they were inspired to create their own triathlon on Oahu.

There were already three separate and famous endurance races in each category on the island to copy: the Waikiki Roughwater Swim (2.4 miles), the Around Oahu bike race (115 miles and usually done in two days) and the Hawaii marathon (26.2 miles). OK, they thought, do them consecutively on one day as a triathlon! "Whoever finishes first, we'll call him the iron man," Collins said.

On February 18, 1978, the first Hawaii Ironman Triathlon was held on the island of Oahu. Eighteen showed up, 15 decided to give it a go, and 12 completed the race. "The name of the game was to finish. We didn't have any first place. Finish as opposed to not finish," Collins recalled in a recent interview. Gordon Haller came in first with a time of 11 hours, 46 minutes, 58 seconds.

In 1979, 50 competitors showed up but only 15 decided to do the race because of poor weather conditions. Lynn Lemaire, a champion cyclist from Boston, finished sixth, becoming the first female Ironman. That year Sports Illustrated published a 10-page article bringing the event to national attention.

As news of the Ironman event spread, it sparked the curiosity of a nation of baby boomers who were taking fitness seriously.

In 1981, the new owner of the event, Valerie Silk, moved it from Oahu to the Big Island of Hawaii at Kona. Silk, overwhelmed by popular demand, instituted a qualification system in 1983. In addition, she set cutoff times for completion of each of the consecutive events. Despite those hurdles, to say nothing of the intense training, athletes from far and wide wanted to do the Ironman race.

Among those athletes were, no surprise to this publication, members of the South End Rowing Club. And why not? Many of them were swimmers who also ran and biked. And they were no strangers to "tough races." Alcatraz and Golden Gate Bridge swims had been on the SERC's calendar for years, and many marathon swimmers and other endurance athletes were already training here.
Duane Franks was the first to do it in 1982, followed by Andy Field and Dominic Spinetti in 1983. For Mike Laramie, the Ironman was just what the doctor ordered: his first was in 1985, his last was 2012, with 15 Ironmans in between!

And the SERC’s female members were not only competing, but winning. In 1992, Ahelee Sue Olson not only won her age group but set a world record. In 1999, Michelle Deasey was the #1 female amateur.

Cofounder John Collins once famously quipped, “Swim 2.4 miles, bike 112 miles, run 26.2 miles—brag for the rest of your life!” Below are the members of the SERC who successfully completed the Ironman World Championship. Although none of them would brag about it, no doubt all feel a bit of pride in their accomplishment.

South End Rowing Club members who successfully competed in the Ironman World Championship in Kona, Hawaii

Note: I did the best sleuthing I could to compile the following list. My apologies for anyone I missed!

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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Duane Franks</td>
<td>Vince Fausone</td>
<td>Vito Bialla</td>
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<td>1983</td>
<td>Andy Field</td>
<td>Ahelee Sue Olson</td>
<td>Ahelee Sue Olson</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Duane Franks</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>Mike Laramie</td>
<td>1993 Ahelee Sue Olson (age winner and record)</td>
<td>2000 John Jena</td>
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<td>Mike Laramie</td>
<td>Jim Grant</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mike Laramie</td>
<td>1995 Ahelee Sue Olson</td>
<td>2001 Mike Laramie</td>
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<td>Mike Laramie</td>
<td>Jim Grant</td>
<td>2002 Mike Laramie</td>
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<td>Mike Laramie</td>
<td>1997 Mike Laramie</td>
<td>Patricia Banks</td>
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<td>Mike Laramie</td>
<td>Jim Grant</td>
<td>Pedro Ordenes</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>Mike Laramie</td>
<td>1998 Ahelee Sue Olson</td>
<td>2007 Mike Laramie</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>Mike Laramie</td>
<td>Jim Grant</td>
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<td>Mike Laramie</td>
<td>1999 Duane Franks</td>
<td>2009 Matt Davie</td>
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<td>Mike Laramie</td>
<td>Michelle Deasey</td>
<td>2010 John Jena</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mike Laramie</td>
<td>(#1 female amateur)</td>
<td>2012 Mike Laramie</td>
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Congratulations, newly promoted pilots!

Brian Ip  Accompanying Pilot  Neil Heller  Lead Pilot
Amy Jakobsson  Accompanying Pilot  Sarah Roberts  Pilot
Kelley Prebil  Pilot
Swimming Around Alameda

by Craig Coombs

What would you do if you learned there was an “unclimbed mountain” right here in the SF Bay? A swimming accomplishment that no one had done, and that you could potentially be the first to finish?

That was my realization two years ago when I learned that there were no documented swims around Alameda Island in its current configuration. Yes, there was a swim contest around the island in 1927, before the Naval Base buildout. The last documented swim around the island was in 1951 when the island was only 14.66 miles around. That was before the South Shore buildout, as well as the addition of the marinas and the mudflats for a bird preserve.

Along with several friends from SERC and my MEMO (Marcia’s Enthusiastic Masters of Oakland) swim group, we went to work determining the best route around the island. We quickly learned that the 15.75-mile perimeter had to be done only at certain phases of the moon, had to accommodate two tide changes, and had to be completed before the afternoon winds kicked up. It took us two years to nail down the timing and for me to get in shape for the endeavor.

At three in the morning on September 9, 2018, my beach wrangler, Jeff Violet, and I weaved our way between the pot parties on the east end of Crown Memorial Beach and went to the water’s edge near the jetty. I slogged into the water at 3:16 a.m., kept walking 100 yards straight from the beach, and then dove into water deep enough to swim in. The stars were beautiful that night since “Karl the Fog” was elsewhere. I swam to my support boat piloted by Steve Waterloo, with the Marathon Swimmers Federation observer Ranie Pearce, and my support manager Danielle Ruymaker with help from John Zenner. SERC support is the best!

I’ve never had a swim with more beautiful conditions. Good thing, because I had to swim from the SE corner of the island (during an ebb) to the NW corner in time for slack at 6:35. I hit that point at 6 a.m. and started to exceed my expected times for the next three miles. That put me nearly 30 minutes ahead of the record pace of 7 hours 38 minutes set in 1951.

I saw and heard SERC and MEMO support all along the Oakland estuary. The building flood pushed me up to 4 mph during a short shot under the bridges that link Alameda to the East Bay.

The arm and shoulder muscle pain peaked around the 4th hour, and stayed at a high intensity for the remainder of the swim. You know what that’s like. You just live with it and keep swimming.

When I came back around the SE end, I almost ended up in the shallow mud of the bird sanctuary. I kicked back out to the boating channel and then made my way back to the starting point on the beach next to the jetty.

I finished the swim in 7 hours, 12 minutes, and 3 seconds, more than 26 minutes faster than the 1951 record.

Next step is for a woman to be the first to complete this swim and beat the time of a 57-year-old man!
Floatapalooza 2018

By Zach Margolis

Somehow, I was out of town for the first two Floatapaloozas in 2016 and 2017. All I really knew was that each year, our club gets together and a bunch of people float on inflatables of all shapes, sizes, and colors back to our clubhouse.

Every time I walked down the staircase from the day room to the kitchen, I'd look at that classic framed photo of Jim Bock towing an inflatable menagerie on our docks and wonder what shenanigans I had missed out on.

This year, I immediately blocked off my calendar when I saw the first emails whispering about the float, and I made sure my swim pod did the same. When I found out there was a theme with costumes, I made sure to get prepared: I got a bandana and a cowboy hat to go with my giant inflat-a-bull, and shaved my beard into a mustache. (It was an award-winning mustache.)

When we showed up on Sunday, September 9, at the club to inflate our floats, it was incredible seeing what people brought: Tori with her peacock, Carol in a hot pink suit matching her pink flamingo, Eric’s floating beer pong table, some swans, and more. All 60+ people carrying our floats from the club down to the Marina felt a little goofy, and based on the number of bystanders who asked what was going on, it must have looked that way too. When we made it to Yacht Harbor, it was surreal seeing Nick and Mark’s 6+ person unicorn waiting to join us.

As expected, general merriment ensued once we floated off the beach and attached to Jim’s sailboat. I was riding a little low in the water in my bull, so I didn’t have full visibility, but I know that out flotilla split in two at one point, and some floats were snagged on a buoy. We had a small scare with a line and some floats being caught around a swimmer’s leg, but in the end everything turned out fine.

We passed around plenty of beverages, including Matthew’s trademark double Jameson handles. Somehow Nancy made a mai tai in a tiki-themed bowl. I have no idea how the mai tai was transported to the float, but I’m glad it was there.

And of course in typical South End fashion, the party really started after we were towed in to Aquatic Park and landed on the beach. The music, the food, the drinks were amazing. I honestly don’t think I’ve been to a better party in my entire life.

In short, the Floatapalooza lives up to the hype. Huge thanks to Jim Bock for having the inspiration and determination to will such an amazing event into existence. I had a great time and I’m looking forward to more floats for many years to come!

All photos by Fran Hegeler
1,000 Chas Laps
by Chas De Ferrari

I began swimming this route almost six years ago. It went against the wisdom of only swimming into the current to make the return with the current easier. I can't lie: I've experienced some anxious times over the last six years.

I was looking for a challenging swim that didn't require piloting. I was over the piloting thing at the time.

The genesis of the name traces back to a sauna discussion about just what the heck I was up to. I described how this route was like swimming a lap in a pool, my pool being defined between the beach, the Creakers and Gas House Cove. Someone blurted out "Oh, like a ChasLap." And so it began!

I began counting ChasLaps on my 65th birthday (July 24, 2013) with the goal of completing 200 ChasLaps a year, for a total of 1,000 by my 70th birthday. I missed by a month and a day—but no worries, overall I feel pretty good about the outcome.

It was a good run over the five years. Now, I need to search around for a good next project to work on.

Good swimming to all. Cheers!

Editor's note: The ChasLap course is, as Evan Morrison writes, "the longest, burliest standard training swim one can do in the Aquatic Park vicinity." See https://evan.marathonswimmers.org/chas-lap/

From One Buoy to the Width of Lake Tahoe
by Rachel Basso

Al Jaurique started taking swim lessons at the YMCA after he saw how much fun his kids were having. One thing led to another, and pretty soon he was dipping his toes in the waters of Aquatic Park.

Once ready to tackle the challenge of open water, the swimming community connected Jaurique with other passionate individuals to show him the ropes. “They’ll take anybody out and stay with you on a paddleboard, they’ll help you with stroke, and they’ll help you with acclimation. Swimming has a really great community.”

At 50 years old, Jaurique plunged from outdoor pool to open ocean with an experienced partner as a guide who advised him, “Swim to the shore, get out, breathe a little bit, and come back.”

He admits that the first time he hit the open ocean, he chickened out and paddled his way back to shore. “I got out to the first buoy (25 yards) and survival mode kicked in. I can’t explain the feeling. You have to go through it.”

Ready to call it quits, Jaurique recalls, “I thought to myself, I’m just going to get out and go home. When I stood up and got out, my guide was right behind me asking, ‘Where do you think you’re going?’”

Reluctantly, Jaurique got back in the water and ultimately overcame his fears, completing his first triathlon a few months later.

Now, at 62, Jaurique is constantly swimming outdoors, whether it’s the width of Lake Tahoe, up and down the pier in Santa Cruz, under the Golden Gate Bridge, or in the Y’s outdoor pool where his love for the sport began.

Note: This is an excerpt from a profile of Al that recently appeared in the San Jose Mercury News. To read the full article, “San Jose dad finds ocean swimming late in life,” visit https://www.mercurynews.com/2018/08/15/san-jose-dad-finds-ocean-swimming-late-in-life/
Aloha all, it has been an exciting year for the South End fleet, much more exciting than watching varnish dry.

I’m happy to say the biggest event was the completed restoration of the South End barge. It was a 12-year marathon for our 103-year-old boat. She was rededicated on a sunny June 2 with a big celebration, complete with period costumes, a brass jazz band, great food—and don’t forget the Chicken Poop Lottery! The lottery and fundraiser raised about $2,000 towards oars for the barge.

Dan McLaughlin christened the barge and then coxed it around the cove with an honorary mix of old and new members, Hurley Girls, and Boat Nighters: Tom Wurm, Kim Peinado Howard, Jessica Gammell, Elizabeth Glass, Patrick Allen, Dennis Puglisi. Passengers were Kim Prost, Will Newby, and Cy Lo.

The Valkyrie returned to the bay after a beautiful revarnishing. Many thanks to everyone’s patience for the 10-month repair and refinishing.

We have a professional boatwright who is working on the Lawley (that’s the boat turned upside down). Currently she’s replacing the keel, the backbone of a
boat. Nice to see progress on the Lawley after decades of drydock.

We've recently leased a "Lite Boat." What's that? It's a carbon-fiber rowboat designed for coastal rowing, and it's a class of boat that International Coastal Racing is using for competition. The "HMS Worthington" can be rowed by anyone cleared to row a wooden boat. She's faster and lighter than a wooden but wider and more stable than a shell. Don't wear your dress whites, as the Lite Boats don't have a transom (the back part of a boat), and you'll get wet! The lack of transom also makes her perfect for piloting swims. A swimmer in trouble can just swim right up the back of the boat and be rescued or repositioned, more easily than a kayak would be able to. Check her out!

Our oars look beautiful with the painted red and white blades. This is something you wouldn't have noticed when the blades were a dull grey, but painted, they're pretty works of art. You can immediately tell a South End boat on the bay with those distinctive oars. Please take care of them!

The fleet is in better shape than it has been in a long time. Breakdowns at sea are reduced. Last year the boats were "triaged," meaning immediate safety issues got addressed as top priorities. This year we're in maintenance and regular upkeep mode. We're starting to install ergonomic hardware to ease adjustments. This will be an ongoing task throughout the fleet this year and next.

For two years we've been using a more environmentally friendly varnish, the terrifically named "Le Tonkinoise." It has less outgassing, and the ingredients are linseed and other natural oils, and there's no need for paint thinner. It goes on beautifully with a wonderful gloss, and touch-ups are easy and very tough. Our boats look beautiful with it. If you have doubts about this product versus a more conventional varnish, know that our neighbors have been using it for years. And the club's hardest-working plank of wood, the top of the bar, was painted with it four years ago—with no failures or chips yet!

I'm happy to say that attendance at Boat Night these two years has almost doubled from the previous ones. The Boathouse crew has learned skills from these Thursday evenings; we can repair, fix, and install with purpose because of the dedication and skill of our Boat Nighters. We've got talented cooks who provide us with great dinners: All are good, some are amazing.

For new and old members, Boat Night is a good way to meet a fun group of people and it can also be a fast way to find a partner to row with or get a seat on the barge. Come visit and help the fleet, learn skills, and join in on the fun!

All photos by: Cy Lo
Private Parties and Non-Member Guests: Our Policies

by Simon Dominguez

Given the number of new members at the club (we’re nearly 1,400 strong now), we thought it was important that everyone is clear about the use of our club facilities for private events.

The South End Rowing Club is an adult sports club, and the use of our facilities is dedicated first and foremost to support that mission 24/7.

The club is a fantastic facility in a gorgeous location, but we’re not set up to accommodate private events that involve non-member guests.

Our rental policy, administered by our entertainment commissioner (and posted on our website), does permit the occasional private event when it doesn’t conflict with scheduled club activities. Given how much the club is used, these are planned well in advance and have to meet a number of other conditions (such as fees, insurance, etc.). Some events may even involve board approval. Even so, club members are permitted to use the facilities during these occasional rentals.

It bears mentioning that members occasionally have impromptu swims or rows, accompanied by “potluck” offerings, to celebrate another member’s birthday—but even these gatherings are centered on participation in our sports and do not involve non-members.

Each member can bring up to two guests to use the club facilities for sports, so long as they pay the day-use fee of $10 each and sign the insurance waiver. We ask that you all read and adhere to our guest policy, which is posted online and was sent to all members in June.

The club is not an appropriate venue for children’s birthday parties.

The club is not open for everyone to bring a group of their friends or colleagues to watch fireworks or the airshow.

It’s never appropriate to prop the door open so that non-members can come and go as they please.

We all enjoy a good party at the South End, but remember that our social gatherings are associated with our sports and our fellow members. We’re a sports club, not a country club. And our ability to retain our lease and insurance is contingent on staying focused on our mission.

Please help us do that.

If you are thinking about hosting guests at the club and are unsure about whether your plan conforms to our policy, don’t take matters into your own hands and guess. Reach out to the entertainment commissioner (entertainment@serc.com) or to an elected board member (president, vice president, secretary, or directors at large).

HOLIDAY CHEER

Bring the holiday to your home or office! White, shimmering, lit 6.5’ and 7.5’ trees available directly after the holiday party on Dec. 1 in exchange for a donation to the club.

Contact Jane at Entertainment@serc.com.
The South End Rowing Club lost someone truly irreplaceable when **Paul Nordquist** succumbed to colon cancer in Tacoma, Washington, on August 14. Just two weeks shy of turning 51, he was no longer able to keep fighting the disease that he and his extraordinary wife, **Melissa Braisted-Nordquist**, had kept at bay for three and a half long years.

Like most things Paul did in his short life, his activity at the club was marked by energy, infectious enthusiasm, and achievement. He was known by many here as an accomplished rower, a sport he knew little about when he moved to San Francisco in 2003—but decided to try when a club member insisted he investigate the South End. It was a decision that enriched not only his life, but also the club and its members.

Paul took to rowing and the club with same enthusiasm he had shown as a bicycling aficionado and expert telemark and downhill skier, and quickly became an oarsman to be reckoned with:

- With **Josh Young**, Paul won the heavy double rowing event in the annual South End-Dolphin triathlon in 2003, 2004, and 2006.
- He also came in first place with **Jessica Gammel** at the Petersen Regatta in a Viking-class double in 2007—and scored another first-place win in this rowing category at the Petersen with **Rory Moore** in 2007.
- And then, in 2008, Paul and Rory won the heavy double category of the North American Open Water Rowing Championship.

As the club became an important part of Paul’s life, he soon began volunteering at club events and served on the board of directors as rowing commissioner for three terms from 2006 through 2008, and then as gym commissioner for a term in 2009.

According to several members who sat on the board with Paul, he was a reliable voice of calm and reason who would defuse disagreements with his dry wit.

Indeed, for many who knew Paul, that sense of humor, along with his lively personality and easy sociability, are the memories that burn most bright. As his childhood friend Christian Lucky noted: “Paul’s wit was sharp as a razor, but not mean spirited. His knowing look and half-smile would say ‘We know something you and I. We are in this together.’”

That wry, half smile grew broader when he met accomplished swimmer and fellow club member Melissa Braisted, whom he married in 2008. In the most South End fashion possible, he proposed to her off Fort Mason—he in a heavy single Whitehall-class boat, she in the water. His notes in the comments section of the log book simply read: “She said yes!”

A couple of years later in 2010, Paul and Melissa moved north to his hometown of Tacoma. The club was enlivened by their visits south—and Paul, as usual, would turn any social gathering into an occasion.

But there was little to celebrate in early 2015 when Paul was diagnosed with stage IV colon cancer. The surgeries and chemotherapy treatments that extended Paul’s life were performed in Tacoma as well as in New York City—and Paul and Melissa flew across the country time after time as they tried to beat back the disease.

All the while, Melissa’s ongoing blog entries about Paul’s health kept South Enders and other friends apprised of Paul’s condition—and let them know that her devotion to Paul was unwavering. Her love and support surely also prolonged his life far past initial expectations.
Paul died at home with Melissa by his side, and his brother Chris nearby. A celebration of his life was held on September 8—and every pew in St. Mark’s Lutheran Church by the Narrows in Tacoma was packed with family and friends from all over the country. “I never knew anyone who had so many friends as Paul,” said his father Phil shortly after the service.

In his eulogy, childhood friend Christian told mourners in the overflowing church of how he had been compelled to write down Paul’s response to a question about what he had learned from his battle with cancer. Paul answered simply:

“I have learned how grateful I am for life. I am thankful for my family who gave me a loving and stimulating home. I am thankful for Melissa, and the life we have made. I am thankful for friends. I recognize more clearly now than ever how grateful I am. That is what I have learned. I think that is enough. I think that is a great deal.”

Paul leaves behind his wife Melissa, parents Phil and Helen, brother Chris, and innumerable friends across the nation of every imaginable background. If you knew him you were fortunate.

Bob Roper
by Nancy Iverson

Swimming the span of the Golden Gate Bridge in 17 minutes and 21 seconds, Bob Roper set the world record for that swim in 1969, a record still unbroken at the time of his death on September 27, 2018. In keeping with one of his favorite aphorisms, “Anything worth doing is worth overdoing,” he also set incredible records for manifesting enthusiasm, generosity, tenacity … along with powerful expressions of his sometimes gnarly temperament.

With the news of his death the flags at San Francisco’s South End Rowing Club were lowered to half mast in his honor, and as tears flowed freely into the bay, swimmers and rowers mourned the loss of one of the club’s most legendary and beloved members. And also, spirits soared as family and friends began to share memories and recount their stories of this larger-than-life man.

Born in San Francisco on November 26, 1938, to Eddie and Eleanor (Toronto) Roper, Bob grew up in the Sunset neighborhood, attended St. Gabriel’s Elementary School, and graduated from Riordan High School. He remained a loyal alumnus, reminiscing about and celebrating the Class of ’56 with fellow classmates at every opportunity. Their favorite cheer: “Hard as nails, tough as bricks, we’re the class of ’56!” He worked for 27 years in the San Francisco Sheriff’s Department and retired from there in 1993.

A record-setter as a teen, he was elected to the Riordan Hall of Fame for his achievements in track. Injuries incurred during years of his avid participation in track, football, and basketball culminated in a shattered knee, which led him to the swimming pool at the Olympic Club. Never one to meet any challenge halfway, he set records there—such as swimming 214 miles in 2 weeks—in the pool—as part of the ‘Mississippi Swim’ competition.
But, as he was frequently heard to proclaim, “Only a fool swims in a pool,” and, inspired by his father’s stories of swimming the Golden Gate Bridge in 1917 and 1919, he left the confines of a pool to explore the horizons of the San Francisco Bay and joined the South End Rowing Club in 1967. He could regale almost any audience with an inexhaustible repertoire of his personal epic swim tales—round-trip Golden Gate Bridge, Maui Channel and Waikiki, and a Farallon Islands relay escapade, to name a few.

No one could be around SERC for long without hearing Bob proclaim, “It all begins and it all ends on the mighty shores of the great South End,” and he did his best to make sure that rang true for all those with whom he came in contact: with his own swimming passion and prowess; as a major force for decades with the Sunriser swims; through imagining and organizing Nutcracker swims; as the founder of the Roper Invitational Golden Gate Swim; with his guidance for nonprofits such as FAST (“the Arizona kids”) and PATHSTAR; with his persistence and dedication to the SERC Christmas Fund; and with his exceptional generosity in encouraging everyone from the most unlikely candidates to star-studded athletes to begin swimming, swim some more, imagine more swims—and then keep swimming and keep dreaming. Whether piloting someone on a swim or helping someone navigate the twists and turns of life, Bob gave unstintingly from the depths of his kindness, quirkiness, wisdom, and experience as he accompanied so many through challenges and joys.

Bob wholeheartedly expressed his gratitude for a wonderful life, and his eyes always shone just a bit more brightly when he talked with (or about) his son Christopher Roper, his granddaughter Elizabeth, and his daughter-in-law Jacquelyn. Bob and Christopher were an awesome father-son team, whether savoring the great outdoors together in places such as Lake Tahoe and Camp Mather or navigating the complexities of tough times and decisions, especially in the last weeks of Bob’s life.

“Only the bold swim in the cold” is another slogan that Bob gleefully embraced. He designated February 9, allegedly the coldest day of the year in the SF Bay, as the “Dreaded 9th of February,” and he established the tradition of choosing an especially long and challenging swim for that day. In keeping with this tradition, South End Rowing Club swimmers are planning an epic swim in Bob’s honor for February 9, 2019. Following the swim, family and friends are invited to gather to share memories and stories of this truly remarkable and dearly beloved man.

Details about the February 9 gathering will be posted on the South End Rowing Club Facebook page closer to that date.

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**IMUA ... an ode to Bob Roper**

*by Randy Brown*

Forward always forward, like King Kamehameha who marched his warriors from the southeasternmost island of Hawaii
To conquer the island chain.

On your last walk, you marched to the northwest corner of the hospital and I followed you there.
There, shrouded in the mist, was our beloved Golden Gate.

Only the solid base of the south tower could be seen.
Soon your ashes will swirl white like clouds in the green waters under the Golden Gate.
Having left your body you are seemingly invisible now,
Like the hidden, mist-shrouded gate.
You will always firmly be a part of us as we swim.

Forward ever forward.

*Note: “Imua” means “forward” or “charge,” used when commanding warriors to enter battle.*
Welcome New Members

By Kathy Bailey, Membership Commissioner

Aaron Burby
Aaron Phillips
Adam Joseph Carlin
Alessandra Noelting
Alex Kirzinger
Alex Strand
Alexandra Lawson
Amy Richardson
Andrew Kavanagh
Ann Massie
Ann Neir
Annie Fryman
Arianne Goodman
Aslihan Canocoban
Azul Dahlstrom-Eckman
Barbara Lubben
Beth Allen
Beth Sutey
Bianca Mendez
Bill Arena
Brendan Strongin-Kain
Brenna Brown
Brian Beamer
Brian Gerrity
Casey Hudson
Chloe McCardel
Chris Weldon
Christopher Roach
Claire Stein
Colin Kramer
Conor Howard
Dana Jae Labrecque
Daniel Conway
Deirdre Crossan
Diego Fonstad
Donald Booth
Doug Burrows
Edward Maguire
Eileen Devlin
Eli Swanberg-Kerns
Elizabeth Creely
Ellen Brady
Ellen Harrington
Eric Scaff
Erin Reilly
Francis Kennedy
George Carvalho
Graham Major
Graham Tibbets
Gustavo Pesce
Hanah Allen
Hans Niclas Ulstrom
Harris Loeser
Hellena Pappas
Hunter MacNair
Ian Thiel
Jack Van Wyk
James Hamrick
Jean-pierre Wack
Jeff Moline
Jeffrey Miller
Jennifer Haeusser
Jerome Juan
Joanne Sakai
John Clark
John MacDougall
John Mush
John Quackenbush
John Sherk
John Snyder
Joseph Karp
Joseph Kavanagh
Josh Bernstein
Joshua Potocko
Karl Fleischer
Kate Boden
Kate Flaming
Katherine Finck
Keaton Dunsford
Kevin Lorne
Krista Dixon
Kristin Bagby
Lauren Munoz
Leah Baker
Lisa Fletcher
Loren Collado
Louis Fox
Manuel Rodriguez
Marissa Muller
Mark Hudnall
Martha Lockie
Mary Riley
Matthew Friday
Matthew Grenby
Mavis Brooke
Maxim Mezhanskiy
Maxwell Hall
Melanie Kaplan
Merri Pittman
Michael Echavarria
Niclas Comstedt
Nicolas Malone
Patrick Woods
Paul Bales
Peter Kragelund
Pia Macchiavello
Polo Crosbie
Ricardo Moreno
Rob Buechel
Robert Telle
Runar Gudbjartsson
Ryan Allen
Ryan McCarthy
Saad Baiwa
Samantha Drake
Sarah Mehl
Scott Miller
Sean Perry
Sean Wong
Simon Greenwood
Simon Michael
Stefan Reich
Stephen Hartley
Steven Pressacco
Sylvie Lesueuril
Talbott Crowell
Theresa Kavanagh
Timothy Dunn
Timothy McDonald
Timothy Treacy
Trent Kloppenburg
Tyler Drake
Vanessa Brown
Veronique Borges
Victor Colborn
Viktor Morkovkin
Vladislav Eroshin
William Johnson
William Veiga
Wills Mcmah

In Memoriam

Paul Nordquist (August 31, 1967 – August 14, 2018)
Former Rowing Commissioner

Robert Roper (November 26, 1938 – September 27, 2018)
Life Member, Veteran Head Pilot & Swim Commissioner

“A Promise Made Is a Debt Unpaid — The Trail Has its Own Stern Code," “Stop Yappin’ and Make It Happen,”
“Only the Bold Swim in the Cold,” “Victory Has Many Suitors, but Defeat Is an Orphan”
Invitation design: Zina Deretsky

**SHIMMER AND SPARKLE**

at our
Snowy Starry Night 2019 Holiday Party
Black tie, white, silver, ice crystal encrusted long gowns or come as you are, just don't miss it!

Saturday, December 1st
from 5 to 8 p.m.

Group Photo at 5:30 p.m. - don't be late!
Dinner, Dessert, Award Ceremony

Tickets
$35 online (see serc.com) or
$40 at the door

All are welcome