

Editor's Note

Open water:

Variety, adventure, helping others, and inspiration. Mix well, repeat.



Each year my swimming friends and I combine an open water swim with some down time. In 2012, we chose the St. Croix Coral Reef Swim.

Although our 5 miles was shortened to 2 miles after Tropical Storm Rafael blew through the racecourse, it was a great experience. The host resort, the Buccaneer, was a fantastic place for the race *and* the down time.

Future swims on our list include the Bermuda Round the Sound race and Race for the Conch Eco-SeaSwim in Turks and Caicos. We've even thrown some chillier swims up for discussion: This year's 9+ Mile National

Championship is in Vermont, and there's chatter about putting together a relay for Lake Tahoe someday, or trying Alcatraz, the Tiburon Mile, La Jolla, Big Shoulders, or even one of the races in Alaska. The beauty is in the variety.

A variety of open water enthusiasts have contributed to our 2013 open water issue. Author and swimmer David McGlynn writes about swimming across Death's Door in Lake Michigan. He makes the excellent point that many open water swims start with a group of people standing on a shoreline looking toward a distant shoreline with an adventurous eye.

It's no doubt that a sense of adventure led USMS members Roberta St. Amour and Denise Stapley to audition for the 25th season of Survivor, set in the Philippines. Their stories are in "Swimming Life" on page 6. Also in Swimming Life, Patricia Sener and her Coney Island Brighton Beach Open Water Swimmers turn adversity into adventure as they recover from Superstorm Sandy, finding ways to help others in the process.

Helping others is a mantra in the marathon swimming world, and successful swimmers consider it a point of pride to extend a hand and pay it forward. Contributing writer Elaine K. Howley, an accomplished marathoner and Triple Crown swimmer herself, has always admired the pioneering women who preceded her. In Splashback, on page 48, she looks at the accomplishments of the legendary Florence Chadwick and how she inspired others.

Inspirational is often used to describe pro triathletes and USMS members Jarrod Shoemaker and Sara McLarty, both of whom are featured in this issue.

However you like your open water, enjoy it, protect it, and help others enjoy it. You don't have to live near the coast or travel to an exotic locale, although it's a great way to spend a vacation. There are many lakes and rivers in landlocked states that are plenty exciting to swim in. There's something special about being in natural waters, and it's even more special when you share the experience with the people in your life who matter.

Laura Hamel, SWIMMER editor

THE SOCIAL SWIMMER

Tweeting about open water

@smsrob: Watched the elephant seals do some fighting and romancing as well

@Mike2Swim: You know it - we dig open water!

@brucknerchase: To positively impact how we ALL feel, think, act towards our oceans by getting everyone connected to our oceans.

@openwatersource: 8-second Pasta For Open Water Swimmers On The Go

@sbca: 62-year old Jim McConica just smashed the Anacapa-to-mainland record: 4:38:07. The greatest Masters distance swimmer adds to his legend.

@soozmoody: I had the privilege of sharing our plan of swimming from Europe to Africa for charity w/ study Rafa Nadal

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ON THE COVER

David McGlynn swimming across Death's Door, the chilly strait linking Green Bay and Lake Michigan. Photo by Mike Powley.

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