**2026 Open Water Swim Season Summary**
**Delia G. Perez – Open Water Representative**
**Delaware Valley Local Masters Swim Committee**

The 2026 Open Water Season once again offered its usual fun swim events this summer but the very noticeable lack of communication still remains among a few race directors resulting in the scheduling of swims competing for the same dates in the summer. It seems absurd to schedule three open water swims during the same July 11th and 12th weekend.

On July 11th 2026, the Tim Kerr Charities 1.2 Mile Swim in Avalon, NJ, started at 7:30 a.m. followed by the Pier-to-Pier Swim in Wildwood, NJ, at 10:30 a.m. that morning. It's important to note, **Midge Kerr**, race director for the Avalon swims, posts the dates for her swimming events in the winter, well ahead of the beach patrols or other event organizers.

On July 12th 2026, the 46th Annual One Mile City Masters Swim in Ocean City, NJ, was held at 4:30 p.m. that day. By crowding three swim events into the same weekend, these summer swims lose swimmer participation due to the lack of coordinated scheduling.






May 24th 2026 and the 38th Annual Jim McDonnell Lake Swims included 141 swimmers in the One-Mile Swim and 117 swimmers in the Two-Mile Swim held in Lake Audubon, Reston, Virginia. Additional race information and results found at:
Results Overview For Reston Masters' Jim McDonnell Lake Swims

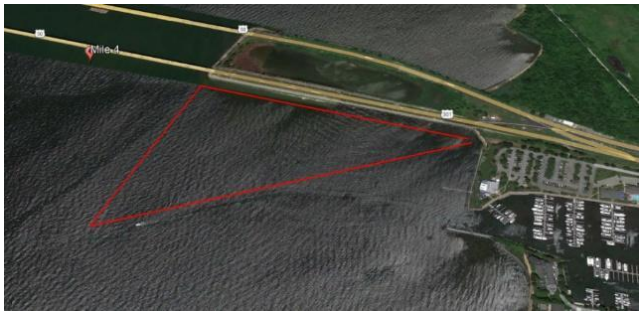


June 7th 2026 and the 14th Annual Stampone O'Brien Dilsheimer Holloway Escape the Cape Triathlon includes a One-Mile Swim in Cape May with a 12-foot jump off the Cape May/Lewes ferry at 6:20 a.m. in the morning. Ever since its inception in 2013, the race director, Steve Delmonte, typically schedules his event either during the same weekend or just before or after the annual Great Chesapeake Bay Swim. Results can be found at: www.DelMoSports.com



June 13th 2026 and this early season-opener swim was initially scheduled for May 24th 2026 but rescheduled to June 13th 2026 due to chilly water and strong gusty winds predicted for the original date. The 69th Annual Navesink Swims (.8 or 1.6 or 2.4 or 3.2 miles) in the Navesink River attracted 144 participants as compared to 204 swimmers in 2025 and 244 swimmers in 2024. There were 48 swimmers participating in the .8 Mile Swim (1 Loop around the course); 44 swimmers in the 1.6 Mile Swim (2 Loops); 33 swimmers in the 2.4 Mile Swim (3 Loops); and 19 swimmers in the 3.2 Mile Swim (4 Loops), who competed in the various distance swims. This early season swim is a favorite among local swimmers and worth the drive to participate and prepare for the summer open water swim season.





**View from the water for the 4.4 Mile Great Chesapeake Bay Swim Course.**

**One Mile Bay Challenge Swim Course at the Base of the Chesapeake Bay Bridge.**



**Finishing Area**



**June 14th 2026 (left to right): Delia Perez (National Park, NJ) with her 1st Place Award for the One Mile Challenge Swim (women age 70 to 75), Doug Frohock (Mamora, NJ) with his 2nd Place Award for the 4.4 Mile Swim (men age 75 to 79) and his 35th 4.4 Mile Swim Completion Award, and Dave English (Swedesboro, NJ) with his 2nd Place Award for the One Mile Swim (men age 75 to 79).**

June 14th 2026 and the annual Great Chesapeake Bay Swim held nearby Annapolis, Maryland, once again hosted the 4.4 Mile Swim and One Mile Bay Challenge Swim. Race Director, Jason

Chance, and the current race organizers are still learning about how to manage a good swim experience. Some lingering issues that still need to be addressed include: access to sufficient portable toilets, an overcrowded finishing area, a slow-slog for the award ceremonies, spectators with dogs getting in the way of swimmers, and better parking logistics. It is stunning to see spectators with dogs oblivious to the leashes in the way of tired swimmers struggling through the crowd while creating trip hazards.

The One Mile Bay Challenge began at 7:30 a.m. and the 4.4 Mile Swim strangely started at 6:45 a.m. With such an early start to the day, we still had a long day ahead before finally heading home to New Jersey. A total of 482 4.4 Mile Swimmers (as compared to 482 in 2025 and 495 in 2023) participated and 42 swimmers did not finish due to medical concerns or didn't make the time cut-offs. There were a total of 216 One Mile Bay Challenge Swimmers (as compared to 291 in 2025 and 264 in 2023) who finished but 3 swimmers did not complete the One-Mile swim. The 2024 Swims were cancelled due to rough water conditions and high winds. The water temperature hovered at a toasty 77° but the winds created tough choppy conditions for both swims throughout the day with nausea and sea sickness a common complaint. As usual, the One Mile Bay Challenger triangular-course forced swimmers into wind-driven choppy water for the first leg, then into a strong outgoing tide on the second leg of the course and the last leg finally offered calmer conditions for the swimmers to the finish. Results can be found at …
Results Overview For Great Chesapeake Bay 4.4 Mile Swim & 1 Mile Bay Challenge

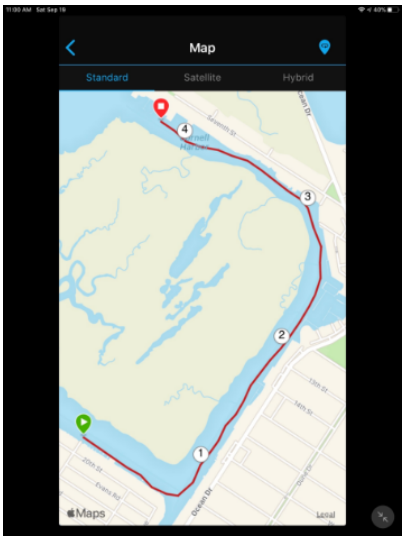


July 11th 2026 and the 11th Annual Pier to Pier Challenge was held in Wildwood, New Jersey. There is a preregistration fee of $30.00 and no parking on the beach in Wildwood, so add a parking fee to the cost of the swim. Unfortunately, again this year, the One-Mile Swim was scheduled for the same morning as the 1.2 Mile Swim in Avalon with its 10 a.m. start that

began two-and-half hours after the Avalon swim. Typically, this swim usually offers a family-friendly swim in the ocean and this year was no exception. The Wildwood Beach Patrol added a 5K Run and a 1 Mile Kids Run on the beach at 8:30 a.m. Given the unique course design, swimmers need to navigate in-and-out through the waves twice to finish the swim. This morning, only 66 swimmers (as compared to 96 swimmers in 2025) participated in the 1 Mile Swim and results for the Pier-to-Pier Swim can be found at:
Results Overview For Pier to Pier Challenge Swim & 5k Run



**Delia Perez (left) with 1.2-Mile Swim Director, Midge Kerr**




**Swim Course – 5th Avenue Bay Swim Race Public Dock to the Avalon Yacht Club**

July 11th 2026 – The 1.2 Mile Bay Swim is the first swim in a series of three hosted by Tim Kerr Charities in the back bay of Avalon, New Jersey. The 1.2 Mile Swim started unusually early at 7:30 a.m. (due to the tides) at 20th Street and finished at the Avalon Yacht Club. Race Director, Midge Kerr, attempts to cap the number of swimmers at 120 but today, there were 134 swimmers (as compared to 141 swimmers in 2025) in the field. Water conditions were pleasant with a 77° bay water temperature but when we turned west into the wind, there was choppy water to navigate for the final leg to the finish. And at the finish line, small towels, drinks, hoagies, Kohlers cream donuts and Sundae Best water ice greeted tired swimmers. Finishing times ranged from 20.38 to 44.01 minutes. It was a training swim complete with avoiding inexperienced swimmers but a pleasant morning well spent with friends! All proceeds benefited local charities such as Avalone Fire Rescue, Water Safety Team, Avalon Beach Patrol, and the Challenged Athletes Foundation. Results can be found at:
Results Overview For 1.2 Mile Bay Swim

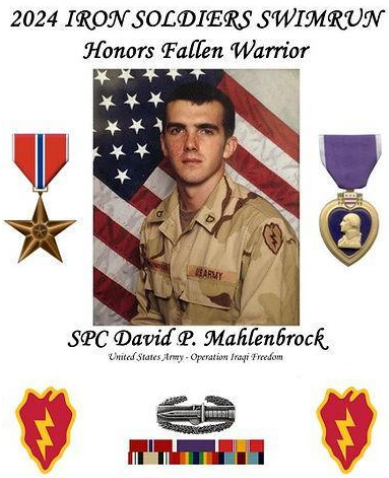


**Early Morning Smiles at 6:30 before taking the shuttle bus for the 7:30 a.m. start of the 1.2 Mile Bay Swim in Avalon (shown left to right): Doug Frohock (Mamora, NJ), Delia Perez (National Park, NJ), and Lynne Dunn (Seaside Park, N).**



**1.2 Mile Bay Swimmers in Avalon (left to right): Doug Frohock (Mamora, NJ), George Thieler (Egg Harbor Township, NJ), Lynne Dunne (Seaside Park, NJ), Walter Rockey (Ocean City, NJ), Delia Perez (National Park, NJ), Gaile Rockey (Ocean City, NJ) and Per Lundgaard (Newark, DE).**

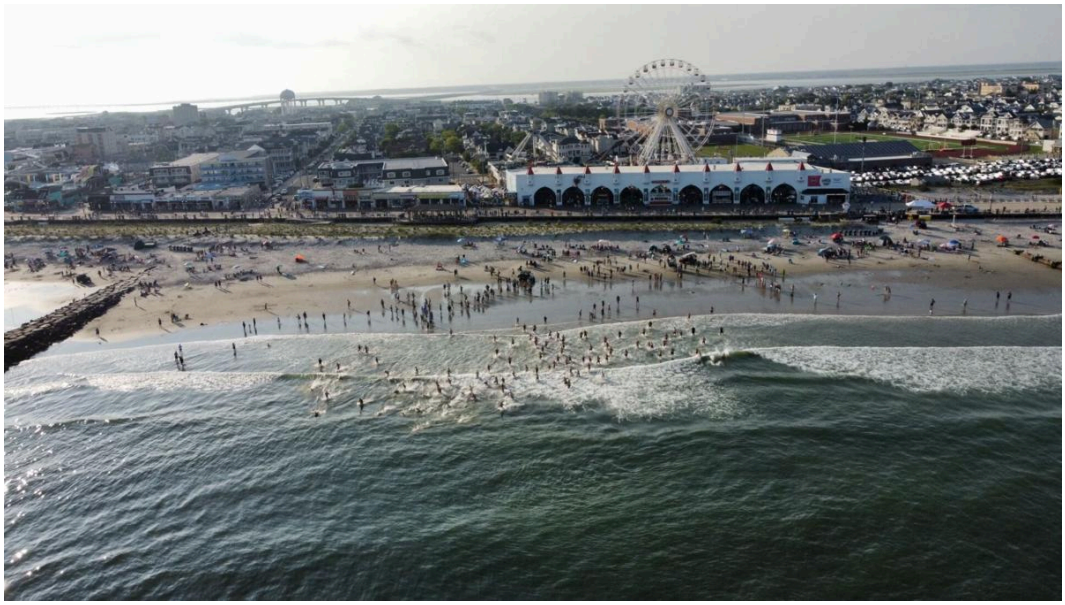
July 11th 2026 and the 25th Annual Ocean City Iron Soldiers Swim & Run Biathlon was not held this year nor last year. Typically, this fundraiser is held in Ocean City, NJ, starting at 6 pm at 28th Street and the Beach for a ¾ Mile Ocean Swim. This is an invitation only swim open to the first 100 entrants. Please email **Freddie Klevan** (Fred.klevan@comcast.net) for more information about this event.







HONORING A LOCAL FALLEN WARRIOR – ARMY SPC David P. Mahlenbrock of Maple Shade, NJ. SPC Mahlenbrock was killed in action December 3, 2004 when an improvised explosive device detonated as he was clearing a route in Kikuk, Iraq. He was assigned to the 65th Engineer Battalion, 25th Infantry Division. David graduated from Maple Shade High School, where he was a member of the football team and Captain of the wrestling team. Many participants say this night is one of the highlights of their summer and they try to make everything extra special for everyone involved, especially for the family of SPC Mahlenbrock.






**2026 Ocean City Masters Swim**

July 12th 2026 – The 46th Annual Ocean City Masters Swim was held in Ocean City, New Jersey, with a preregistration fee of $40.00 plus processing for entrants for this 4 p.m. swim. There were 219 swimmers (as compared to 172 swimmers in 2025) who finished the swim in this Ocean City tradition on Sunday, July 12th 2026. Swimmers enjoyed comfortably warm ocean temperatures with a good current but choppy water throughout the swim. Frankie Brady (30 years of age) won the Ocean City Masters Swim and finished the 1-Mile Ocean Swim in 19:46 minutes. Lily Kirk (15 years of age) was the women's winner in 20.36 minutes.

The Ocean City Masters Swim has been an annual event since 1979 and this summer, the swim is keeping its traditional evening venue at the 12th Street downtown location. The 4 p.m. swim was a "point-to-point" race parallel to the beach, starting from the 12th Street beach and finishing at the 20thStreet beach in Ocean City. Traditionally, the Masters Swim was always held in the evening at 6 p.m. with as many at 250 swimmers participating. During recent years, it was moved to 10 a.m. in the morning and there were less swimmers as the result of this scheduling change. While current race organizers are still tinkering with how to best manage this open-water swim event, they decided to maintain the more traditional evening venue. This year, there were 219 Swimmers as compared to 172 swimmers in 2025, 102 swimmers in 2024 and just 88 swimmers who swam during the 2023 morning swim. Final results can be found at: The Ocean City's T. John Carey Master's Swim 2026, 07/12/2026 : : my.race|result




July 18th 2026 and the Poverty to Cove 2.4-Mile Swim was held in Cape May, NJ. This swim began as a "fun" swim among friends in this invitation-only gathering previously held early in the morning (6:30 a.m. before the lifeguards reported for duty) and it was lots of fun to swim with the best tides and currents south down the beach. DelMoSports capitalized on this "friendly" insider swim that was "free" and open to all. Soon swimmers had to "pay to play," while DelMoSports sets its sights on charging swimmers big fees after years of knowing just how much triathletes are willing to pay for their "sports of choice." In 2022, the swim was renamed as the DeSatnick Real Estate Poverty to Cove 2.4 Mile Swim hosted by Inspira Health and resulted in more sponsor revenue for DelMoSports.

In 2023, DelMoSports transferred "ownership" of the Poverty to Cove 2.4 Mile Open Water Swim to the Cape May Beach Patrol. The Cape May Lifeguard Association receives 100% of the proceeds from this event. This swim started early at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday morning. The 2.4-Mile Swim attracted 143 swimmers (there were 150 swimmers in 2025, 206 swimmers in 2024, 128 swimmers in 2023 and 230 swimmers in 2022). Results can be found at: Results Overview For Poverty To Cove 2.4 Mile Swim



**Starting area for the Sea Isle City 1 Mile Ocean Swim**

July 18th 2026 and the 13th Annual Sea Isle City Beach Patrol 1 Mile Ocean Swim was held in Sea Isle City, NJ. Swimmers preregister for a fee of $30.00 and that is a bargain price these days. Swimmers are bused to the start of the 11 a.m. swim. Ocean conditions were rather comfortable and good swimmers had fast finishing times. Frankie Brady (age 30 years) was the first male swimmer finishing in 18:43 minutes and Delaney Burns (age 22) was the first female swimmer finishing in 21.08 minutes. The swim went off in two heats – the first heat for male swimmers and the second heat for female swimmers. There were 185 swimmers this year as compared with 210 swimmers in 2025, 207 swimmers in 2024, 223 swimmers in 2023 and 205 in 2022. The overall swim results found at:
Results Overview For Sea Isle City Beach Patrol Mile Ocean Swim



**Sea Isle City Beach Patrol**




**Finishing area for the SICBP 1 Mile Ocean Swim**

July 25th 2026 – The Murry Mile Ocean Classic was **moved** from the ocean to the back bay in Avalon due to rough surf conditions. The swim started at 6:30 pm at 35th Steet in Avalon, NJ, for this Tim Kerr Charities event. A total of 43 swimmers (as compared to 64 swimmers in 2025) braved what would have been the traditional "life guard" out-and-back swim course. Finishing times varied from 22 minutes to 50 minutes. Swimmers can dive into the thrill of the open ocean with the Mile Swim. For those new to open water challenges, they offer a" bite-sized" Half Mile Swim option, ensuring everyone can join the fun. Typically, courageous swimmers charge into the waves after a beach start alongside seasoned lifeguards while commemorating the legendary Avalon Beach Patrol Captain, Murray Wolf. The swim supports the Avalon Beach Patrol Alumni Association and the first 100 swimmers to register receive exclusive "swag" to enjoy.  Race results can be found at:
Results Overview For MURRAY MILE OCEAN CLASSIC







**Usual finishing area for the**

**Dave Hirsch (Cape May Court House, NJ)**

**Murry Mile Ocean Classic.** **at the finish line in the back bay.**

July 25th 2026 and the informal 32nd Annual Donny Fund Day held its annual navigate a three-mile course on Lakes Bay (Cardboard Boat Regatta, Swim, Kayak, or Paddle Surf across Lakes Bay or 5K Run or Walk along the shore of Lakes Bay). It is held at the Yacht Club of Pleasantville in Pleasantville, New Jersey. This fundraiser event costs $40 to pre-register and $50 onsite during the day of the event. For more information, visit their website:
https://www.thedonnyfund.org/events/donny-johnny-day
News & Events - The Donny Fund Inc.



**Jim Whelan – high school teacher and swim coach, Atlantic City Life Guard, Mayor of Atlantic City, NJ Assemblyman, NJ State Senator, and Open Water Swimmer (11/8/1948 – 8/22/2017).**

July 25th 2026 would have been the date for the 7th Annual Jim Whelan Around the Island Marathon Swim in Atlantic City, New Jersey. This reconstituted version of this open water

ultra-marathon swim event would have been held in Atlantic City, New Jersey, in both the back bay and ocean waters around Atlantic City.

It seems this reconstituted version of the annual marathon swim may no longer exist. If so, most likely the organizing committee for the 5th , 6th and 7th annual Jim Whelan Open Water Festival still need strong financial sponsors to host the 58th and 59th and 60th Around the Island Swims offering its open water ultra-marathon 22.75 Mile Swim around Absecon Island. The race was resurrected in 2019 as part of the Jim Whelan Open Water Festival, named in memory of the late Atlantic City mayor, state senator and advocate for swimming and water safety. All proceeds from the festival benefit Green Whales, a nonprofit supporting various children's swimming programs in Atlantic County. The event hosted by Green Whales, Inc. of Brigantine for 2022, honors the late New Jersey Senator and mayor, who was an Atlantic City lifeguard, teacher and swimming coach at Atlantic City High School. The 22.75-mile marathon swim around Absecon Island would start and end at the Atlantic City High School boathouse on Fairmount Avenue.




The Around the Island Swim started as a $100 bet between two beach patrol members and became one of the premier open water events in the world. After a hiatus, the Green Whales resurrected the race in 2019 as part of the Jim Whelan Open Water Festival to raise money for youth swimming education.




**Logan Manning (1st male) and Ady Elko (1st female) finishers in the 97th Annual Pageant Swim**

August 8nd 2026 – The **97th Annual Pageant Swim** was held on Saturday, August 8th 2026 at 6:15 p.m. in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Logan Manning (age 17) won first overall and first male finisher in 21:57 minutes and Ady Elko (age 17) won third overall and first female finisher in 24:32 minutes in the 97th Annual Atlantic City Pageant Swim at the Albany Avenue beach in Atlantic City. There were 56 swimmers who participated in the Pageant Swim as compared to 63 swimmers in 2025, when the swim was rescheduled to Tuesday evening, August 5th 2025, due to rough water conditions. Most of the participants live locally and the majority were under the age of 20 years. Age group award winners received small plush toy dolphins (with tee shirts) along with commemorative Pageant Swim swag to take home.

The Atlantic City Pageant Swim is the oldest continuous open water swim race in the United States and for many years, it was directly connected the Miss America Pageant held in Atlantic City. The Egg Harbor Township Seahawks Swim Club in conjunction with USA Swimming host the event, and the Atlantic City Beach Patrol ensures swimmer safety.

Subject to ever-changing ocean conditions, the 2024 Pageant Swim was also rescheduled from its initial August 4th date and again on August 10th 2024, due to cold ocean temperature and dangerous swimming conditions. At that point, there were only 41 swimmers (preregistered fee of $40.00) who participated in the 9 a.m. Sunday morning 1.2 Mile Ocean Swim when they faced challenging waves while attempting to swim through the rough surf out to the box course in the 65°degree ocean water. Brian Elko, the race director and the coach of the Seahawks, asked the swimmers for feedback about the swim to make it a more enjoyable experience for future swims. Due to the multiple rescheduled dates for the swim from its original August 4th 2024 date, less swimmers participated due to the changing dates for the Pageant Swim.

The 2026 Pageant Swim started at 6:15 p.m. and the 1.2 Mile Swim can actually be a longer swim due to currents and waves affecting the course marker buoys. It was a very challenging swim with a strong current heading north that had swimmers fighting against the current as they swam south to the second turn buoy in the "box" course. The traditional Pageant Swim was set along a 1.5 Mile course parallel to the beach from north to south. The "box course" lends itself to tougher swims because swimmers will be swimming into the current at some point along the course. Most seasoned swimmers prefer the traditional course and hope city officials will allow the race organizers to return to the historic Pageant Swim course – if so, swimmer participation would most likely increase again. Results can be found at: Pageant Ocean Swim 2026, 08/08/2026 : : my.race|result



**Awaiting the start of the 97th Annual Pageant Swim on Albany Avenue Beach in Atlantic City, New Jersey**




**Lynne Dunn (Seaside Park, NJ) strolling to the finish – she took 1st place (women 50 to 59 yr.) with her winning time of 42:54 minutes.**



**Start of the Doc Turner Ocean Swim**

August 9th 2026 and the Annual Doc Turner Ocean Swim started at 4:00pm on the beach off 33rd Avenue in Longport, New Jersey. Approximately 50 swimmers enjoyed good ocean swimming conditions for a very pleasant early evening swim. Originally known as the Captain Turner Ocean Swim, it was renamed the Doc Turner Ocean Swim to honor Captain Turner and Doug "Doc" Farrell. The swim course is approximately 1/2 mile with the current. Water safety during the event is provided by the Longport Beach Patrol. There is no registration fee, but donations are accepted and can be made out to the Longport Lifeguard Association. If you have any questions, please call (609-822-3898) with any questions. Check-in for the swim takes place at 3:00 pm outside Beach Patrol HQ at 33rd Avenue in Longport. Swimmers are requested to arrive early to check-in for the swim.







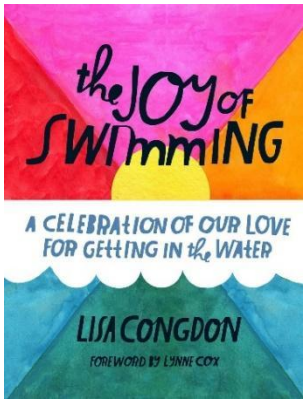


August 15th 2026 and the 41st Annual Mid-Summer Lavallette Ocean Swim was held at 8 a.m. and 128 swimmers were treated to unexpected delightful conditions with 77º water temperature and a strong southbound current to the finish.

In 2025, the Mid-Summer Lavallette Ocean Swim was cancelled due to "unforeseen circumstances." In 2024, the swim switched from an ocean swim to a bay swim due to lingering unsafe surf conditions in the ocean. The swim was postponed from Sunday, August 11th 2024 to August 17th 2024, because of very rough surf and ocean conditions. In 2024, just 40 swimmers finished the swim as compared to 77 swimmers in 2023 and 84 swimmers in 2022. See results at: 41st Annual Lavallette Mid-Summer Mile Ocean Swim






**The Triple-Ladder Finish for the Cedar Island Swim**

August 30th 2026 and the 16th Annual 5K Cedar Island Swim in Avalon, New Jersey, hosted d 276 (actually 307 registered) swimmers (there were 248 swimmers in 2025, 251 swimmers in 2024, 229 swimmers in 2023 and 237 swimmers in 2022) to another interesting "adventure" swim around Cedar Island in 76-degree water. Wearing wetsuits is usually an option for participants who aren't competing to place in the top 5 overall finishers – whether wetsuit legal for not due to water temperature – and today was wetsuit legal. The Tim Kerr Charities Cedar Island 5K Swim remains my personal favorite especially after the loss of the original Yates Swim – it was a wonderful navigational swim starting in the inlet between Atlantic City and Brigantine and swimming west into the back bay with an incoming tide to finish the swim in Gardner's Basin. So far, I've swam in all of the 16 Cedar Island Swims since inception and look forward to navigating even more.

According to the World Open Water Swimming Association, the Cedar Island 5K Swim was named as One of America's Top Open Water Swims. This list includes the most unique, most popular, most historic, most beautiful, most interesting, and most challenging open water swims across the 50 states of the United States of America. Typically, the Cedar Island 5K Swim helps to raise funds for favorite Tim Kerr Charities.




**Midge Kerr, Cedar Island 5K Swim race director, at the registration table.**



**Tim Kerr, all smiles and assisting as usual to support the 5K Swim.**




**Delaware Valley LMSC Open Water Representative, Delia Perez (National Park, NJ), with the Cedar Island 5K Race Director, Midge Kerr, enjoy a pre-swim pose at the Avalon Yacht Club.**

A warm, humid and sunny morning in Avalon, welcomed us and smart swimmers stayed in the shade before the 9:40 a.m. start of the swim. The 76-degree back bay waters

were very comfortable and the 5 to 7 mph winds from the south thankfully didn't churn up the water during the first leg of the swim today. We entered the water for the massive start of the swim at the Avalon Yacht Club and during slack tide conditions. Olympic swimmer and Swimming Hall of Fame inductee, **Rowdy Gaines**, started today's swim.




**Rowdy Gaines, Olympic swimmer, Swimming Hall of Fame Inductee, and driving force behind the Step Into Swim nonprofit initiative, starts the 5K Swim.**

The 16th Annual 5K Cedar Island Swim once again offered its usual "flailing arms and legs" in-water start with only 276 swimmers of the 307 registered participants, heading into the back bay of Avalon at the same time. Typically, swimmers experience others ramming into them, getting kicked or punched, and having their goggles jostled while this agitated crowd slams into each other to sprint to the first turn buoy in the back bay channel. Wisdom has taught me the prudence of waiting for the mass of humanity to swim by while patiently waiting for the "maddening crowd" to just swim ahead.

Given the turbulent start to the swim, it is difficult to see the first small buoy over the top of swimmer heads thrashing through the water. There is the usual "bunching up" of swimmers by the first turn buoy with the inexperienced stopping and blocking others trying to swim around them. As usual, the first leg remains the toughest as we swam during slack tide into the slight winds from the South.

Due to sun glare, it is difficult to find the small turn buoys along the course. After completing the first leg of the course, we swam with similar slack tide conditions to the second turn buoy. By the middle of the third leg, we usually find a little push with the slightly outgoing tide. As we turned into the final fourth leg of the course, the outgoing tide provides a faster push to the finish back at the Avalon Yacht Club. It is somewhat difficult to actually find the finish area due to the sun glare and not enough flags indicating the finish area.

Historically, the Cedar Island Swim was created as a challenge among friends in 2010. Race Director, **Midge Kerr**, also swam today and finished 3rd out of 16 in her very competitive age group (females 60 thru 69 years). In previous swims, along the swim course there was a "champagne stop" at an anchored boat along the swim course as an inventive way to celebrate the swim while refreshing the palate from all the salty water. After swim refreshments usually include pizza and the locally-made amazing cream filled donuts along with Athletic non-alcoholic beer! Chip timing was used for the swimmers and the results are posted on the website at: CEDAR ISLAND 5K SWIM
https://runsignup.com/Race/Results/31081#resultSetId-683548



**Swimmers at the rear after the start of the Cedar Island 5K Swim**

Kerr Charities hosts this fundraising swim for various charities (specially selected by Tim & Midge Kerr) and the swim is more like an informal training event with prizes awarded to just the top five overall male and female swimmers and grand masters. Midge maintains her original concept for the 5K Cedar Island Swim limits awards to the top 5 male and top 5 female finishers overall, plus masters, and grandmasters only. In 2021, after a trial run to include age group awards, Midge saw the extreme **combativeness** as a disaster for this much beloved swim!!! Midge informed us she wants "this to be "**friendly swim** and maintains **NO age group awards** after testing this for the first time in 2021. She said, "It just changed the dynamics and vibe of our swim. We embrace being with like-minded people for the **joy of swimming** and making a difference in our community." We couldn't agree more and bravo to Midge and Kerr Charities!!!

Awards were given to top 5 finishers individually with the benefit of a crowd of cheering on the swimmers. Trenton, NJ, siblings, **Luke Brennan** (age 20 with a finish time of 47:07 minutes) and his sister, **Maddy Brennan** (age 17 with a finish time of 47:37 minutes) (Trenton, NJ), were the first two swimmers to finish the race with just 30 seconds apart. **Gregory Brady** (age 60 – Ocean City, NJ) finished 14$^{th}$ overall in 52:47 minutes and earned the title of Male Grandmaster Swimmer. **Susan Reich** (age 68 – Ocean City, NJ) finished 34$^{th}$ overall in 55:19 minutes and retained her title of Female Grandmaster Swimmer.



**Maddy Brennan and Luke Brennan**

This year, Tim and Midge Kerr presented a **$15,000 check** to Sneakers for Soldiers, a nonprofit that provides athletic shoes to deployed U.S. Service Members as the 2026 Cedar Island 5K Swim's military nonprofit partner. Founded in 2018, the nonprofit provides athletic shoes for men and women service members overseas and so far, has provided more than 18,000 shoes for our soldiers serving in austere locations overseas.



**After a long day of fun with the Cedar Island 5K Swim, the Wildwood Ocean "Victory at Sea" swim friends are all smiles. Shown left to right are Will Morey**

**(Wildwood, NJ), Dave Hirsch (Cape May Court House, NJ), Dan Watkins (Elverson, PA), Joe Ragni (Wildwood, NJ), and Dan McConnell (Wildwood Crest, NJ).**




**September 12th 2026 and getting ready for the Point to Point Swim in Avalon (shown left to right): Lynn Dunn (Seaside Park, NJ), Ann Christensen (Mullica Hill, NJ), Christopher Neuman (Ocean View, NJ), and Doug Frohock (Mamora, NJ).**




**Before the crowd of swimmers arrive for the Point to Point Swim, (on the left) Delia Perez (Delaware Valley USMS Open Water Representation) pauses to pose with Tim and Midge Kerr (Race Director) with Tim Kerr Charities at the finish line.**

September 12th 2026 – Point to Point Swim is the third swim in a series hosted by Tim Kerr Charities in the back bay of Avalon, New Jersey. The 1.2 Mile Swim starts at 23rd Street and finishes at the Avalon Yacht Club. Race Director, Midge Kerr, who is personally promoting the "**joy of swimming**," and not racing, previously capped the number of swimmers at 120 and today there were 192 with 206 registered to swim (as compared to 152 swimmers in 2025 and 134 swimmers in 2024) in the field. Water conditions were comfortable with a pleasant 77º water temperature 78º air temperature with favorable Southeasterly 9 mph winds at our back today. The  high tide and good conditions resulted in fast finishing times for today's swim, especially with the outgoing tide giving swimmers an extra push to the finish at the Avalon Yacht Club.



**Point to Point Swimmers entered the back bay water at the 23rd Street Public Dock and navigate back to finish at the Avalon Yacht Club**

Stephen Jensen (age 41 years) was the first male to finish in 23:48 minutes and Kate Donahoue (age 28 years) was the first female to finish in 26:40 minutes. An assortment of rehydration beverages, Uncle Bill's breakfast sandwiches, Kohlers cream filled donuts and Sundae Best refreshing water ice welcomed swimmers after completing the course at the Avalon Yacht Club. Kerr Charities donated funds from the Point to Point Swim to an initiative known as "Step Into Swim," a national learn-to-swim program led by Olympic gold medalist Rowdy Gaines that funds free swimming lessons for children in underserved communities, aiming to improve water safety, health, and confidence in the water. We enjoyed a pleasant morning swim (10 a.m. start) marking the end of the open water swimming season at the South Jersey Shore. Results at: POINT TO POINT BAY SWIM




**Masters Swimmers bide a fond farewell to their final official open-water swim of the Summer Season (shown left to right): Molly Williamson (Havertown, PA), George and Polly Thieler (Egg Harbor Township, NJ), Gaile and Walter Rodkey (Ocean City, NJ), and Delia Perez (National Park, NJ).**

May through September 2026 and French Creek Racing hosted a series of six (6) river swims, each one ½ mile in length, swum in the Schuylkill River. Many Delaware Valley Masters swimmers participated in these swims. If a swimmer missed one or more swims, their overall aggerate swim score correspondingly reduces their ability to score well in the swim series. Some of the reported results do not fully represent the swimmer's proficiency in the water. Results may be found at … Learn, Train, Race | Triathlon Results | French Creek Racing

The 2026 Open Water Swim Season Summary is dedicated to **Midge and Tim Kerr** who have gone above and beyond to support worthy causes by hosting athletic events at the South Jersey Shore. Midge serves as the race director for their athletic charity events and has been hosting swim events since 2000. In 2005, they held their initial invitation-only **5K Cedar Island Swim**, and it has become a nationally prominent must-do swim without age group awards. In 2021, Midge decided to try a "trial run" to include age group awards but as the start of the swim and also at the finish line, she immediately saw the extreme **combativeness** among some swimmers as a disaster for this much beloved swim!!! The one-and-done trial ended, and thankfully, Midge wants her swims to be **"friendly swims"** and maintains her strict **NO age-group awards** protocol after observing swimmer behavior throughout the swim in 2021. Midge feels it just changed the dynamics and vibe of our swims. Instead, she chooses to embrace being with like-minded people for the **joy of swimming** and making a difference in our community. We couldn't agree more and bravo to Midge and Kerr Charities!!!

They recently partnered with Olympic gold medalist, **Rowdy Gains**, who is affiliated with the national learn-to-swim program, "Step Into Swim," that funds free swimming lessons for children in underserved communities, focused to improve water safety, health, and confidence for children in the water.




**Tim and Midge Kerr**

During his 13-year professional hockey career that included 11 years with the Philadelphia Flyers, **Tim Kerr** accumulated a number of honors and recognitions. Tim was the 7th player in National Hockey League history to score 50 or more goals in 4 consecutive years. Tim still holds the NHL record of 34 power play goals in a single season and the Flyers Team record of 17 hat trick goals. He compiled 674 points in 655 professional games. In 1988, Tim was awarded the Masterson Trophy for dedication and sportsmanship.

In 1992, the Philadelphia Sportswriters Association recognized Tim Kerr as the Most Courageous Athlete by awarding him the Sog Grauley Memorial Award. The Philadelphia Flyers inducted Tim into the Hall of Fame in 1994, and his name hangs on a banner in the Wachovia Center.

Tim has also successfully achieved a broad business base. As a successful licensed realtor for 20 years, He also carries licenses for insurance and securities. After his retirement from hockey, Tim and his family moved to Avalon full time, and Tim established his very successful real estate business, Tim Kerr Sotheby's International Realty.

**Midge Kerr** serves as the race director for all the Kerr charity events. She started pursuing these events when she began multipart racing in 2000 without even knowing how to swim! Midge immediately loved the challenge of the events and camaraderie in the sport. In 2005, their son, Wes, and then again in 2006, their son, Garret, were successfully treated for different bone conditions at CHOP. At the time, Kerr charities only had the Tim Kerr Run.

The Kerrs saw many sick children during their stay at CHOP and knew how incredibly fortunate they were to be going home with healthy children. Both the Islandman and Islandkids events were developed as a small thank you and a way to give back and help others. Midge continued to add races to the organization and today there are now seven events which are all held in Avalon, NJ. Midge has competed in close to 250 triathlons

ranging from Sprint to Ironman distance. She is an accomplished 10-time USAT All American from 2008-2017 and a 2-time member of Team USA. Bravo to both Midge and Tim Kerr!!! We cannot change challenging conditions or ensure the things we love will last forever. But as a teachable moment for us all to consider, Kelly Annie, a jewelry designer who created her own "perfectly imperfect collection" of handcrafted jewelry with soul, her "keep on swimming" bracelet inspires us to remember – "Life can be as hard to live as swimming against the tide. Even in the worst of times, if you will just remember to keep swimming, sooner or later you will develop the ability to swim through life like a fish through the ocean."

"To me the sea is like a person – like a child I've known a long time. It sounds crazy, I know, but when I swim in the sea, I talk to it. I never feel alone when I'm out there."
~ Gertrude Ederle ~

Delia G. Perez
Delaware Valley United States Masters Swimming
Open Water Representative

14th October 2026

"Nothing in the world is as soft and yielding as water. Yet for dissolving the hard and inflexible, nothing can surpass it. The soft overcomes the hard; the gentle overcomes the rigid." ~ Tao Te Ching ~



Wading into the ocean, the water bears our weight as it slides through our fingers and between our toes. We become keenly aware of the abundance of life as well as every one of our fellow swimmers. We realize why we swim and why the pull is relentless. We immerse ourselves in the water and feel so relaxed and connected to the good in the world. We are rinsed of time as past and future dissolve, and there is only this moment.