

**2025 Open Water Swim Season Summary**  
**Delia G. Perez – Open Water Representative**  
**Delaware Valley Local Masters Swim Committee**

The 2025 Open Water Swim Season attempted to offer its usual fun swim events this summer but there was a noticeable lack of communication among a few race directors scheduling competing swims at the same time. The July 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> weekend was absolutely absurd with four (4) events scheduled that weekend. On July 12<sup>th</sup> 2025, the Pier-to-Pier Swim in Wildwood, NJ, began at 10:30 a.m. and the Tim Kerr Charities 1.2 Mile Swim in Avalon, NJ, started at 11 a.m. that morning. It's important to note Midge Kerr, race director for the Avalon swims, schedules her swimming events in the winter, well ahead of the beach patrols or other event organizers.

On July 13<sup>th</sup> 2025, the 2.4 Mile Poverty to Cove Swim in Cape May, NJ, began at 7:30 a.m. and the One Mile City Masters Swim in Ocean City, NJ, started at 4:30 p.m. By crowding four swim events into the same weekend, these swims lost swimmer participation due to a lack of coordinated scheduling. Swim enthusiasts braced themselves either for chilly water temperatures or rough seas resulting in a number of canceled and/or rescheduled swims this season. Given the chilly ocean temperatures and rough seas, swimming in the back bays and river swims are more popular these days.



**Lynne Dunn (green changing robe) and friends warming up after swimming in the Navesink River.**



**Navesink River swimmer wearing his Cedar Island 5K Swim tee shirt.**

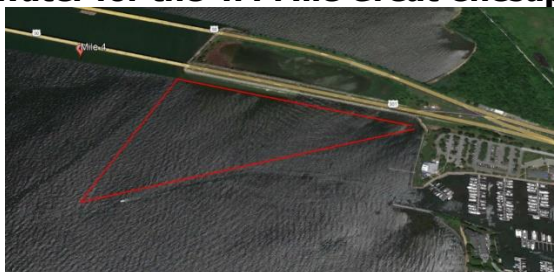
May 25<sup>th</sup> 2025 and these season-opener swims also begin with the 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Navesink Swims (.8 or 1.6 or 2.4 miles) in the Navesink River attracted 204 participants as compared to 244 swimmers in 2024. This year, the river was a very cold 58 degrees and the distances were shortened allowing swimmers to safely participate in the various distance swim events. 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. Results can be found at: [Navesink or Swim Distance Festival 2025, 05/25/2025 : : my.race|result](#)

May 25<sup>th</sup> 2025 and the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Jim McDonnell Lake Swims included 197 swimmers in the One-Mile Swim and 142 swimmers in the Two-Mile Swim held in Lake Audubon, Reston, Virginia. Additional race information and results found at: [Reston Masters' Jim McDonnell Lake Swims Results](#)

June 8<sup>th</sup> 2025 and the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual DeSatnick Real Estate Escape the Cape Triathlon includes a One-Mile Swim in Cape May with a 12-foot jump off the Cape May/Lewes ferry. Ever since its inception in 2013, the race director, Steve Delmonte, schedules his event either during the same weekend or just before or after the annual Great Chesapeake Bay Swim. They no longer offer the option to sign-up for the swim portion of the triathlon only. Results can be found at: [www.DelMoSports.com](http://www.DelMoSports.com) or [2025 Escape the Cape Triathlon » RTRT.me](http://2025.Escape.the.Cape.Triathlon.RTRT.me)



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



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



**June 7<sup>th</sup> 2025 “Eve of the Chesapeake Bay Swim Ritual” (left to right): Dave English (Swedesboro, NJ), Delia Perez (National Park, NJ) and Doug Frohock (Mamora, NJ) at the finishing area for a final check on conditions.**

June 8<sup>th</sup> 2025 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 still have lots to learn about managing a good swim experience – such as sufficient portable toilets, overcrowded finishing area, late day award ceremony, spectators with dogs getting in the way of swimmers, and better parking logistics. Spectators with dogs allowed leashes to get in the way of tired swimmers struggling through the crowd and created trip hazards. One of the most bizarre sights involved spectator family with an overweight golden retriever and they held up awards to allow the dog to mount the award platform, so the dog could pose on the first-place tier.

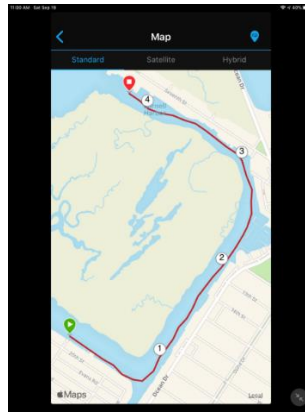
The 2024 GCBS Swims were cancelled due to high winds and rough water. This year, the One Mile Bay Challenge didn't begin until 10:30 a.m. and the 4.4 Mile Swim finally started at 1 p.m. It was a very long day for everyone. There was a total of 482 4.4 Mile Swimmers (as compared to 495 in 2023) and 291 One Mile Bay Challenge Swimmers (as compared to 264 in 2023) who completed their assigned swims. The water temperature hovered at a comfortable 71° but the winds created tough choppy conditions for both swims throughout the day. There were 50 swimmers who did not finish their swims. After finishing their swim, one very experienced 4.4 Mile swimmer vowed never again would they register for this long swim event in the future. The One Mile Bay Challenger triangular-course forced swimmers into a strong outgoing tide on the second leg of the course and the final leg forced swimmers into the wind-driven choppy water all the way to the finish. Results can be found at ... [Great Chesapeake Bay 4.4 Mile Swim & 1 Mile Bay Challenge Results](#)



July 12<sup>th</sup> 2025 and the 10<sup>th</sup> 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, this year the swim was scheduled for the same morning as the 1.2 Mile Swim in Avalon with its 10:30 a.m. start, just a half hour earlier than 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 9 a.m. Given the unique course design, swimmers need to navigate in-and-out through the waves twice to finish the swim. This morning, 96 swimmers participated in the 1 Mile Swim and results for the Pier-to-Pier Swim can be found at: [Pier to Pier Challenge Swim & 5k Run Results](#)



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

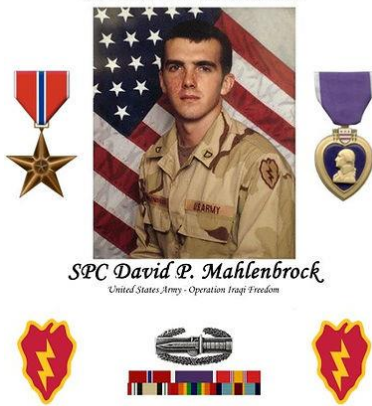


**Swim Course – 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bay Swim Race Public Dock to the Avalon Yacht Club**

July 12<sup>th</sup> 2025 – 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 at 11 a.m. 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 141 swimmers in the field. Water conditions were pleasant with a 76° 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, pizza, Kohlers cream donuts and Sundae Best water ice greeted tired swimmers. Finishing times ranged from 20.46 to 41.07 minutes. It was a training swim complete with avoiding inexperienced swimmers but a pleasant morning well spent with friends! Results can be found at: [1.2 Mile Bay Swim Results](#)

July 12<sup>th</sup> 2025 and the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Ocean City Iron Soldiers Swim & Run Biathlon was cancelled this year. Typically, this fundraiser is held in Ocean City, NJ, starting at 6 pm at 28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:Fred.klevan@comcast.net)) to confirm your entry.

*2024 IRON SOLDIERS SWIMRUN  
Honors Fallen Warrior*



*SPC David P. Mahlenbrock  
United States Army - Operation Iraqi Freedom*



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.



July 13th 2025 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 "sport of choice." In 2022, the swim was renamed as the DeSatnick Real Estate Poverty to Cove 2.4 Mile Swim presented 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 "pay to play" swim started early at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday morning. The 2.4-Mile Swim attracted 150 swimmers (there were 206 swimmers in 2024 as compared to 128 swimmers in 2023 and 230 swimmers in 2022. Results can be found at:

[Poverty To Cove 2.4 Mile Swim Results](#)



### **2025 Ocean City Masters Swim**

July 13<sup>th</sup> 2025 – The 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Ocean City Masters Swim was held in Ocean City, New Jersey, with a preregistration fee of \$35.00 for entrants for this 4:30 p.m. swim. There were 172 swimmers who finished the swim in this Ocean City tradition on Sunday, July 13<sup>th</sup> 2025. Swimmers enjoyed comfortably warm ocean temperatures with a good current but choppy water throughout the swim. Jacob Texter (20 years of age) won the Ocean City Masters Swim and finished the 1-Mile Ocean Swim in 19:37 minutes. Olivia Vecchio (18 years of age) was the women's winner in 21.23 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 a new downtown location. The 4:30 p.m. swim was a "point-to-point" race parallel to the beach, starting from the 12<sup>th</sup> Street beach and finishing at the 20<sup>th</sup> Street beach in Ocean City. Traditionally, the Masters Swim was always held in the evening at 6 p.m. with as many as 250 swimmers participating. During recent years, it was moved to 10 a.m. in the morning and it was no longer a well attend even. While current race organizers are still learning how to best manage this open-water swim event, they decided to return to the more traditional evening venue. This year, there were 172 swimmers as compared to 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 2025, 07/13/2025 : : my.race|result](https://my.race|result.com/races/2025/07/13/2025-07-13-oc-masters-swim)



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

July 19<sup>th</sup> 2025 and the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Sea Isle City Beach Patrol 1 Mile Ocean Swim was held in Sea Isle City, NJ. Swimmers preregister with 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. Prior to the swim, it was raining and some swimmers were chilled while waiting for the swim to start. Ocean conditions were somewhat challenging but good swimmers had fast finishing times and Luke Brennen (age 19 years) finished in 17:05 minutes. The swim went off in two heats – the first heat for male swimmers and the second heat for female swimmers. There were 210 swimmers this year as compared with 207 swimmers in 2024, 223 swimmers in 2023 and 205 in 2022. The overall swim results found at: [Sea Isle City Beach Patrol Mile Ocean Swim Results](#)



***Sea Isle City Beach Patrol***



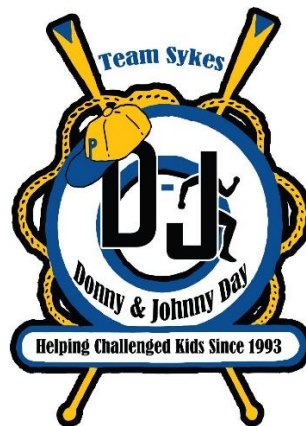
***Finishing area for the SICBP 1 Mile Ocean Swim***

July 19<sup>th</sup> 2025 – The Murry Mile Ocean Classic starts at 6:30 pm at 35<sup>th</sup> Steet in Avalon, NJ, and this swim is another Tim Kerr Charities event. A total of 64 participants braved the traditional “life guard” out-and-back swim course. Swimmers can dive into the thrill of the

open ocean with the Mile Swim. For those new to open water challenges, they've added a "bite-sized" Half Mile Swim option, ensuring everyone can join the fun. Courageous swimmers charge into the waves in a beach start alongside seasoned lifeguards and swimmers 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: [MURRAY MILE OCEAN CLASSIC Results](#)



**Finishing area for the Murry Mile Ocean Classic**



July 19<sup>th</sup> 2025 and the informal 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Donny Fund Day held its annual navigate a three-mile course on Lakes Bay (3 Mile 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>



***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***

July 27<sup>th</sup> 2025 would have been the date for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Jim Whelan Around the Island Marathon Swim in Atlantic City, New Jersey. This reconstituted version now held as the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Jim Whelan Around the Island Marathon Swim in Atlantic City, New Jersey, was held in the Atlantic City waters.

It seems this reconstituted version of the annual marathon swim may no longer exist. If so, most likely the organizing committee for the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> annual Jim Whelan Open Water Festival needed strong sponsors to host the 58<sup>th</sup> and 59<sup>th</sup> Around the Island Swim's 22.75 Mile open water swim marathon 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 the last year, 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 (1<sup>st</sup> male) and Ady Elko (1<sup>st</sup> female) finishers in the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Pageant Swim**

August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025 – Initially scheduled for Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025, the **96<sup>th</sup> Annual Pageant Swim** was cancelled due to rough surf conditions and instead, held on Tuesday, August 5<sup>th</sup> 2025 at 6:30 p.m. in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Logan Manning (age 16) won first overall and first male finisher in 22:17 minutes 19:04.2 and Ady Elko (age 16) won seventh overall and first female finisher in 23:51 minutes in the 96<sup>th</sup> Annual Atlantic City Pageant Swim at the Albany Avenue beach in Atlantic City. Initially, there were as many as 89 individuals registered for the swim but after the date was changed to a Tuesday evening, only 63 swimmers actually participated. Most of the participants live locally and the majority were under the age of 20 years. Age group award winners received teddy bears 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 also 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 is there to ensure safety for the swimmers.

Subject to ever-changing ocean conditions, the 2024 Pageant Swim was also rescheduled from its initial August 4<sup>th</sup> date and again on August 10<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 2024 date, there were less swimmers participating due to the changing dates for the Pageant Swim.

The 2025 Pageant Swim started at 6:30 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 south that left swimmers fighting against the current as they swam north to complete 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. Many 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 2025, 08/05/2025 : : my.race|result](https://my.race|result)



**Teddy Bear Smiles:**  
(left to right) **Polly Thieler (3<sup>rd</sup>)**  
**Susan Reich (1<sup>st</sup>)** and  
**Liz Casey (2<sup>nd</sup>)** finishers for  
60 to 69 females in the  
2025 Pageant Swim.



(left to right) **Cliff Clark (1<sup>st</sup>)**  
**George Thieler (2<sup>nd</sup>)**  
and **Doug Frohock (3<sup>rd</sup>)**  
finishers for males 70 and older  
in the 2025 Pageant Swim.



August 10<sup>th</sup> 2025 and the 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Mid-Summer Lavallette Ocean Swim was **cancelled** due to "unforeseen circumstances." Typically, this swim is held at 8 a.m. and in 2024, the swim was changed from an ocean swim to a bay swim due to lingering unsafe surf conditions in the ocean. The swim was postponed from Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup> 2024 to August 17<sup>th</sup> 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: <http://lavallette.org/beach/mileswim.html>



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

August 17<sup>th</sup> 2025 and the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Cedar Island Swim in Avalon, New Jersey, treated 248 swimmers (there were 251 swimmers in 2024, 229 swimmers in 2023 and 237 swimmers in 2022) to another interesting “adventure” swim around Cedar Island in 81-degree water. Wearing wetsuits was an option for participants who weren’t planning on placing in the top 5 overall finishers. The Tim Kerr Charities Cedar Island 5K Swim remains my personal favorite especially with the loss of the original Yates Swim – 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 race in Gardner’s Basin. So far, I’ve swam in all of the 15 Cedar Island Swims since inception and look forward to 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.



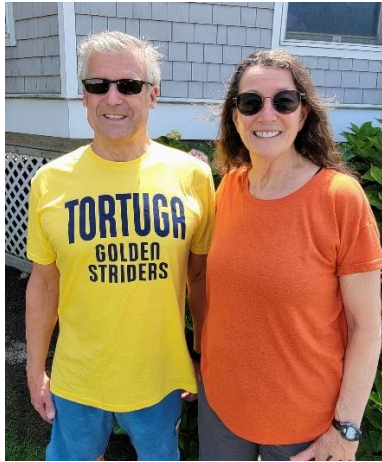
**Midge Kerr, Cedar Island 5K Swim race director, working at the registration table.**



**Tim Kerr, all smiles as usual, assisting in the registration area to support the 5K swim.**



**Cedar Island 5K “swag bags” for registered swimmers.**



**Masters Swimmers, Ron Marks (Mamora, NJ), who also swims with the Fort Lauderdale LMSC, and Delia Perez (National Park, NJ) enjoy the pre-swim shade.**



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

It was a warm, humid and sunny afternoon in Avalon, and smart swimmers stayed in the shade before the 3:15 p.m. start of the swim. The 81-degree back bay waters were warmer than usual and the 14 mph winds from the south with gusts up to 19 mph, were less than cooperative for us today. We entered the water for the massive start of the swim at the Avalon Yacht Club and noticed the remains of an incoming tide pushing us back. The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual 5K Cedar Island Swim hosted its usual "flailing arms and legs" in-water start with 248 swimmers of the actual 296 registered participants, heading into the back bay of Avalon at the same time. At the start of the swim, Polly Theiler (Egg Harbor Township, NJ), was surprised by a male swimmer who kicked back at her, caught his foot in the top of her swimsuit, and stripped it off her shoulders down to her waist. After this unexpected shock, she paused to hastily readjust her swim suit, and get back to the business of swimming.

Given the turbulent start to the swim, it was difficult to see the first small buoy over the top of swimmer heads thrashing through the water. There was the usual "bunching up" of swimmers by the first turn buoy with the inexperienced stopping and blocking experienced swimmers trying to swim around them. As usual, the first leg was the toughest as we swim into choppy water churned up by the 14 to 19 mph winds from the South.

Due to the choppy water and sun glare, it was difficult to find the small turn buoys along the course. After completing the first leg of the course, we swam in somewhat slack tide conditions to the second turn buoy. By the middle of the third leg, we finally found a little push with the slightly outgoing tide. The traditional "champagne sip" is usually located at a dock area about  $\frac{3}{4}$  along the swim course, where a swimmer really has search to find the boat for a sip of bubbly. As we turned into the final fourth leg of the course, we finally found the outgoing tide for 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, offers a "champagne toast" as a very inventive way to celebrate the swim while refreshing the palate from all the salty water. Our after-swim refreshments

usually include pizza and the locally-made amazing cream puff pastries 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 Results](#)

Lucky for us, 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. Thankfully, Midge maintains her original concept for the 5K Cedar Island Swim with awards limited to the top 5 male and top 5 female finishers overall, plus masters, and grandmasters only. After a trial run to include age group awards in 2021, Midge saw the combativeness as a disaster for this much beloved swim!!! Midge said, "We are staying with no age group awards after trying it in 2021 for the first time. 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."

Awards were given to top finishers individually with the benefit of a crowd of cheering on the swimmers. The 5K Cedar Island Swim also attracts some of open water swimming "royalty" like **John Kenny** (age 44 – Bridgeport, PA) who heads of French Creek Swimming and finished 1<sup>st</sup> overall in 50:32 minutes. **Kaitlyn Crouthamel** (age 20 – Cape May, NJ) finished 4<sup>th</sup> overall and 1<sup>st</sup> female swimmer in 51:43 minutes. **Bobby Pugh** (age 62 – Wyndmoor, PA) finished 16<sup>th</sup> overall in 54:53 minutes and earned the title of Male Grandmaster Swimmer. **Susan Reich** (age 67 – Ocean City, NJ) finished 49<sup>th</sup> overall in 59:40 and earned the title of Female Grandmaster Swimmer.

Tim and Midge Kerr presented a **\$25,000 check** to the Challenged Athletes Foundation Operation Rebound – Frontline to Finish Line: CAF's Operation Rebound® program strengthens the mental and physical well-being of members of the U.S. armed forces, active military personnel, as well as U.S. law enforcement officers, firefighters and paramedics with permanent physical injuries, by providing them opportunities to use sports and fitness to re-integrate into our communities and by empowering them through sports. CAF is there to support our service members from Frontline to Finish line.



**After a long day of swimming "fun," Polly and George Thieler (left)(Egg Harbor Township, NJ) happily pose with race director, Midge Kerr, and Delia Perez, Delaware Valley LMSC open water representative.**

September 20<sup>th</sup> 2025 – 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 23<sup>rd</sup> Street and finishes at the Avalon Yacht Club. Race Director, Midge Kerr, who is personally promoting the **“joy of swimming,”** and not racing, usually caps the number of swimmers at 120 and today there were 152 (as compared to 134 swimmers in 2024) in the field. Water conditions were comfortable with a pleasant 73-degree water temperature but unfortunately, swimmers needed to navigate directly into strong Northeasterly winds along the course. 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. It was a pleasant morning swim (9 a.m. start) marking the end of the open water swimming season at the South Jersey Shore. Results at: [POINT TO POINT BAY SWIM](#)

May through September 2025 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 aggregate 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](#)



**Delia Perez (left) with Barney Hungerford and Millie Walsh in Ocean City, New Jersey (July 2010). Barney (Class of 1950) and Millie (Class of 1964) both attended Fort Lauderdale High School (the Flying L's) in Florida.**

The 2025 Open Water Swim Season Summary is dedicated to the memory of our swim friend and open water swimming mentor, **Barney Hungerford**. He was the "Pied Piper" mentor of open water swims responsible for encouraging many swimmers to brave the sea with him. As a young man, his love of swimming led him to lifeguarding during the summer in Ocean City, New Jersey. He loved to tell stories about the prominent John Kelly family of Philadelphia, who also owned a shore home in Ocean City. They always kept the garage refrigerator stocked with cold sodas for the lifeguards and were always welcomed there. Barney dated Elizabeth "Lizanne" Kelly, and she was not as famous as her movie star sister, Grace Kelly, who eventually became Princess Grace of Monaco. Barney's noteworthy swimming prowess resulted in his induction into the Ocean City Beach Patrol Hall of Fame.

Barney had a successful career as a professional Cost Engineer and was invaluable consulting on corporate projects. He had a home in Haddonfield, NJ, and swam with a group of local swimmers at the Haddowood Swim & Tennis Club in Deptford, New Jersey. He sold his home in Haddonfield and moved to Wayne, PA, to be closer to the corporate office and started swimming with the local Valley Forge Masters. After he retired, he coached the young swimmers at the Agnes Irwin School in Bryn Mawr, PA. He eventually sold his condo in Sea Isle City and bought a 42-foot sailboat that he kept in a Longport, NJ, marina. He could retreat and recover on his sailboat after his ocean swims. His sailboat was his cabin on the water and one winter, he fulfilled a lifetime dream and sailed the inland waterway to Florida.

In 2000, Barney "shifted" his role of Open Water Representative with the Delaware Valley Local Committee for United States Masters Swimming to Delia Perez. He happily "handed-off" this responsibility to yours truly and laughed all the way back to the shore!!! The summer of 2011 was Barney's last swim season with us. In late May 2012, he suffered a serious stroke, was hospitalized, and then experienced a series of debilitating strokes that resulted in full-time assisted living in Texas and then in Thailand. At 92 years of age, Barney Hungerford passed away in March 2025. For years now, we have missed seeing him on the beach with us during our summer swim season. We miss his good humor and remember how he loved to share his big hugs and hearty laugh with so many of his swim friends.

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

11<sup>th</sup> October 2025

"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.