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AT Feature: Second Annual Treasure Island to YMCA Open Water Swim (Ti2Y)-Part 1

Come back on Tuesday Part 2 and Wednesday for Part 3

Story and Photos by Gordon Johnson



*It's "wee morning" early, but brother and sister open water newcomers, **Caitlin** (17) and **Robert** (16) **Catelli** of the Santa Rosa Neptunes USS team give us a "good morning" smile as they prepare for their swim. We asked them why they decided on this one as their first open water swim... "We wanted to do Alcatraz, but it was full." "It was Caitlyn's senior goal and she wouldn't do it without Robert; they're very close." Mom added. Caitlyn's been swimming for eight years and Robert for five.*

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For those who have swum open water in the past, you know what's involved and what it's all about. But, for our readers who have a pool background, we will try in this rare three-part series to give you an idea via words and pictures of the feel of an open water event. It's quite a different event with a whole differnt feel than swimming competively in a pool... Cold salt water, currents, marine life surprisingly popping up in front or to the side of you, boats & wakes, bridges, piers and having to exit the water and run to the finish line... these are just several of the differences.

The Second Annual Treasure Island to YMCA Open Water Swim (Ti2Y) is a charity swim benefiting the Youth Chance High School, a school for students who have been expelled from other public schools run and taught by YMCA employees. Currently, they have 30 students. The participant limit for this open water event is 400 swimmers, and from the looks of things, they may reach that limit in their third annual race. Most of the swimmers are from the Bay Area, but some came from as far as Texas and Dublin, Ireland to participate this year! And, the age range was 12-71! We were so blessed and enriched by meeting some of them! We, and our son Jonathan (15) who swam his first open water swim had an absolute blast! We hope you enjoy this special three-part series and, after reading it and seeing that it truly is a sport for enjoyed by all ages, maybe give it a try yourself next year!



The YMCA gym was packed, as swimmers from as far away as Dublin, Ireland prepare for their swim.

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As the Ferry pulls away from the dock, we got a beautiful view of San Francisco's historic Ferry Building.



This group of young swimmers along with their coach from Seaside (near Monterey) did extremely well, as many of them won awards. In

Kelly McCabe-Diablo Valley College
 Katy Erhardt-Diablo Valley College
 Blake Henderson
 Sean Peneyra-Vista Diablo
 Sam Craven-Vista Diablo
 Jocelyn Chang
 Ryan Wall
 Dewing Park 8&un Girls
 Jimmy Bailey-Diablo Valley College
 Blake Henderson
 Chelsea Allard
 Suzanne Heim-Bowen
 Dave Boatwright
 Kate Dwelley
 Lauren Rogers

back is Coach **Ken Fittro** and **Molly Fittro** (16), **James Fittro** (12),
Luke Phillips (13), **Samantha Harris** (13), **Elli Smith** (14), **Wesley**
Morrow (13)

Three of the swimmers joined their coach last year and others swam Alcatraz. Word spread through the team and others wanted to do it!

The team now swims three open water events each year.

(SPECIAL NOTE: Samantha and Elli took second and third in the women's wetsuit 13-19 age division AND not to be overshadowed, Luke and Wesley also placed second and third in men's wetsuit 13-19 age division! GO SEASIDE!!)



...**Kyle Tully** (15 year-old Terrapin USS swimmer from Concord) checking out the course during the ferry ride over to the island



Swimmers had to jump in from the ferry and swim out to the starting area.



Swimmers getting into position before the start of the race... Position at the start of the race is extremely important and "skin" swimmers who jumped in early with the wetsuit swimmers had to wait in the cold water, which, obviously is not a problem for the wetsuit swimmers. But, it paid off for the skin swimmers who got the benefit of being first when the race started .



A swimmer and one of the kayakers pass a couple of Navy vessels.



There were many boats and kayacks to keep the course secure from traffic and help the swimmers if needed. We had a little action, as the SFPD boat had to race ahead to intercept an oncoming power boat to keep it from entering the course of swimmers.

- [Second Annual Treasure Island to YMCA Open Water Swim Overall Group Wet Suit Results](#)
- [Second Annual Treasure Island to YMCA Open Water Swim Overall Skin Results](#)

**AT Feature:
Come back on Tuesday for Part 2
and Wednesday for Part 3**

Is your team not being covered in AT??? Do you have a swimmer(s)/coach that you would like to be featured in AT? Then give us a call at 60 WATER.

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