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AT Feature: Second Annual Treasure Island to YMCA Open Water Swim-Part 3

Story and Photos by Gordon and Debbie Johnson



This balloon arch could served as a focus point for the swimmers to head toward. The awards ceremony took place after the race and everyone had a chance to warm up and eat some great food supplied by the YMCA.

When we arrived at 6 a.m., it was still dark and we hadn't eaten. We just piled out of bed and put our pre-packed gear in the car and headed from Concord to San Francisco YMCA. Needless to say, by the time we got there, we were hungry. This, being our first experience with open water swimming, we didn't know quite what to expect. So, the various tables of abundant amounts of healthy comfort food and beverages were a welcome sight! Then, after a morning on the ferry, a good amount of brisk, fast-paced walking and a long swim, coming back to that abundant harvest of food was fabulous! The volunteers manning the tables were cheery, warm and

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welcoming, encouraging everyone to take as much as they desired! And for the swimmers, the showers, hot tubs and saunas were relaxing and rejuvenating; giving them renewed energy. All the volunteers and officials very gracious, kind and accomodating, and we can't wait to do it again next year!

After the awards ceremony was over and we said our good-byes to our new and old friends, ours and the Tully family enjoyed another treat as we strolled through the nearby Embarcadero Farmer's Market, shops and eateries! This was a wonderful ending to a perfect day, so plan to do join us next year! You'll be so glad you did!

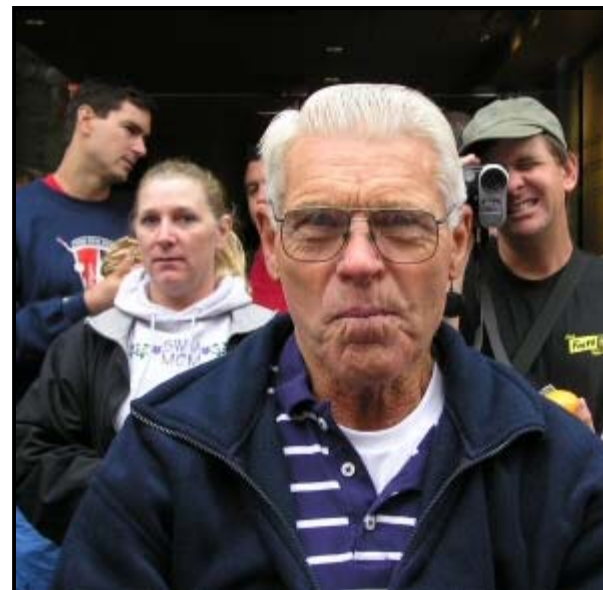


The announcers were full of smiles and kepts things going smoothly.

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Alan Schmeiser, 71, from Dixon, CA. was the oldest person to compete and finished in a very impressive time of 35.22!



And, Kate Caldwell, 68, of Richmond, CA. won the women's Over 60 division!

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



*All the **Diaz** siblings (**Toni, Cesar and Bella**), all Walnut Creek Aquabears, came away with awards. Toni was first overall in skin division in 30.16.9, Bella took second in the 19 & Under women's skin division in 32.08 and Cesar took fourth in 19 & Under men's skin division in a 36:59.3. They're making quite a name for themselves in open water swimming!*



Concord residents, **Kyle Tully** (15, Terrapins) and **Jonathan Johnson** (15, Terrapins USS & Walnut Heights rec team) finished third (Kyle, 33:30.0) and second (Jonathan, 32:57.2) respectively in the 19 and Under men's skin division.



First place (30:18.6) in men's 19 & Under skin division went to **Edward Malick**, 14, who swims for the Gilroy Gators in the 1,000, 1,500 and 1,650 events -- a true distance loving swimmer! This was Edward's first open water swim. He has Seaside Swim Team coach **Ken Fittro** to thank for inviting him.

(NOTE: That's Edward's brother smiling in the background and the Diaz siblings' dad, Tony, next to him.)

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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