



Hartford HealthCare
St. Vincent's Medical Center

Swim Talk NEWSLETTER



February 2022 Published by the Swim Marathon Committee

Attention: Boaters, Swimmers and Volunteers

Registration is NOW OPEN for the
35th Annual Swim Across the Sound Marathon!
August 6, 2022

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER TODAY!

Swim Across the Sound 2021: Journey to Success

By Bill Selski, Escort Boat Captain and Boat Recruitment Officer



On August 7, 2021, my wife Debbie and I once again volunteered our boat, Journey, as an escort boat for the 34th Annual Swim Across the Sound Marathon. This year would prove to be our most exciting yet!

We have done this for several years since 2011 and each marathon is unique. One year, we were a perimeter boat, helping to keep the escort boats on course. In subsequent years, we have had 5-person

and 2-person relay teams on board. In those years we had two 2nd place finishes! The swimmers were great, and our course had to be spot-on to prevent increasing the distance for the swimmers.

2021 was our first time escorting a solo swimmer. Andy Rieger from Houston, Texas, and his coach Kurt Matheson from Princeton, New Jersey, were our participants. They are both West Point graduates who were on the Army swim team together.

It was a calm day for the marathon. Just a slight

breeze out of the SSW. Somewhat overcast, and no seas to speak of. The swimmers left the beach outside of the Port Jefferson breakwater at 8:33 a.m. The voyage across the Sound was very slow but I was able to stay in gear most of the way. The swimmer was that fast. The day progressed with nutrient bottles and energy packets tossed to the swimmer on a rope every 30 minutes to help Andy keep up his strength.



We reached the mid-course buoy at 11:35 a.m., with the high tide at 11:47 a.m. The swimmer, Nikko Price, on escort boat #4 was now side by side with Andy. We still had the second half to go. The tide shift now pushed the swimmer east, whereby we had to hug the west side of the course. My site was set for buoy R2A at the mouth of Black Rock Harbor.



Boat #4 and our boat Journey, boat #5, reached R2A in tandem. I was west and he was east. My course was now to buoy R4 to have the swimmer round the buoy in the channel, then head for the finish line east of buoy R6. The other swimmer was heading east of the channel at buoy R4 when boat #4 got his attention and directed him to the channel side of buoy R4. We were now ahead!

Andy gave it a final push to the finish line at 2:26 p.m., arriving 5 hours and 56 minutes after leaving the beach at Port Jefferson. That would be 1 minute 10 seconds ahead of the second-place swimmer - a new course record for the Swim Across the Sound Marathon.

Congratulations to all the 2021 swimmers and boat captains!

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)



Swim Across the Sound 2022

Registration is NOW OPEN for the 35th Annual Swim Across the Sound Marathon. The date is Saturday, August 6, 2022.

[Click Here to Register as a Boater, Swimmer or Volunteer](#)

What's New This Year?

COVID-19 Vaccination Required:

Website Registration:

Our top priority continues to be the safety of all and that includes following COVID-19 guidelines by Hartford Healthcare, The States of CT and NY and the CDC. Please be prepared to show proof of vaccination in order to participate. Vaccination status will be verified closer to the event.

The Swim Committee has been working hard over the past few months to create a registration site that is user-friendly. As this is a new registration site, no username or password is required. Visit www.swimacrossthesound.org to register and for more detailed information about the Swim Marathon.

Your Vote Can Help Us Secure \$1,000 from Fairfield County Bank!

Fairfield County Bank has been a proud sponsor of Swim Across the Sound and the Ronald J. Bianchi Golf Tournament for many years. For the month of February, they are giving an extra donation to a local charity whose focus is Cancer Prevention, and we need your help!

The organization that gets the most votes at the end of February, gets awarded \$1,000! Please take two minutes to follow this link: [Fairfield County Bank](#) and click the blue button that says **"Vote Today!"** to cast your vote for Swim Across the Sound.

With a \$1,000 donation, Swim Across the Sound can help in so many ways, including with one of the below:

- Provide 20 patients with rides to and from treatment
- Provide approximately 6 screenings/mammograms for under resourced or uninsured women
- Help pay one month of utilities for 6 patients who have been unable to work during treatment
- Provide wigs for 4 patients to help protect their dignity throughout their battle

Please help the Philanthropy Team and **vote for Swim Across the Sound!**

We look forward to seeing you August 6th!

St. Vincent's Medical Center | Philanthropy Department
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