



May 2013

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Observer Orientation Session Reminder

Observer Training Dates in LA (May 11) & SD (May 18)

CCSF and SBCSA Working in Concert to Expand Observer Training Sessions

The [Catalina Channel Swimming Federation](#) (CCSF) and [Santa Barbara Channel Swimming Association](#) (SBCSA) have announced an expanded Observer training calendar to meet the demand of nearly 60 attempts in the Channel Islands.

Take a moment to email [Paula Selby](#) and commit to one of these dates. It is important that we have a headcount in advance of the training day:

May 11 -- Observer training ONLY in Manhattan Beach (Los Angeles) at the home of John York at 9am Ideal for the inexperienced observer and individuals already CPR-certified. This half-day session, wrapping at 1pm, is dedicated to observer fundamentals with ample opportunity to discuss scenarios of open water swimming.

May 18 -- CPR/AED plus Observer training in Le Mesa (San Diego) at the home of Becky Jackman-Beeler at 8am CPR-AED review session and a focus on CCSF observer policies and procedures. This course will run until approximately 5pm. Lunch and breakfast items provided.

There is **NO COST** to participate in observer training! We request, in return, that you volunteer for one swim -- at a minimum. Catalina crossings are covered by two observers, typically pairing an experienced person with one who prefers additional on-the-water training.

CPR certification is **required** of all observers. Individuals who have not been CPR-certified since 2011 should opt to enroll in a comprehensive course offered by the [American Red Cross](#) or [American Heart Association](#).

Special thanks goes to the **Jim Neitz** and the **SBCSA Board** for hosting



Channel Webcam
from Point Fermin



SoCal Marine
Forecast



San Pedro Buoy
46222

last weekend in Ventura our first Observer Orientation session. We refreshed **14** observers in CPR-AED and in the afternoon covered the fundamentals of marathon swimming observation.

Volunteer to Support - Kayak for a Catalina Swimmer

Attempting to Connect Local Volunteers with Swimmers Traveling from Afar

Swimmers are responsible for bringing a coach and support team on their attempt. Thanks to the efforts of **Neil Van der Byl** and **Gracie Van der Byl**, our pool of support and kayak volunteers is expanding.

Volunteers supply contact info [HERE](#) and list the equipment they can bring for a Catalina Channel crossing. Naturally, the service **cannot** guarantee that a volunteer will be available on a particular date. Still, the Van der Byls have created this tool to assist solo swimmers with their recruiting efforts.

Two Clinics in Escorting Open Water Swimmers

David Clark Has Scheduled Sessions in San Diego and Long Beach

We have received several inquiries about the kayak escort training classes hosted by David Clark. He has dedicated two weekends for swimmers and their kayak support, first at La Jolla Shores on **Saturday June 29th**, then in Long Beach on **Saturday July 13th**. These free sessions are an opportunity -- for both the athlete and kayaker -- to learn-slash-practice skills to navigate, feed, and safety support a marathon swimmer. Please **RSVP** to [David Clark](#) at 858.453.0648 for complete details.

Deadline for 2013 Early-Entry Discount Has Passed

Congratulations to CCSF Swimmers Who Took Advantage of Applying Early

Starting on May 1st, the full CCSF sanction fees go into effect. Swim [applications](#) -- including medical certificate, payment of fees, membership dues, signed waivers, swim summary, and 'plan your swim' -- are always due at least **60 days in advance** of an attempt.

The [Dottie York Scholarship](#) is established to financially assist United States open water swimmers, who find it difficult to raise the necessary funds of a solo attempt. Scholarship applications are due at the same time as the swim application.

Monthly Newsletters Update Volunteers & Swimmers

Expect CCSF Newsletters to Arrive Semi-Regularly with Vital Info and Dates

Male record-holder **Todd Robinson** slices thru the water in August 2009

