



September 2022

## Recognizing 2022 Swimmers and Volunteers

### AWARDS BANQUET -- Saturday, November 5

The CCSF will return to the San Pedro DoubleTree hotel for the [annual awards banquet](#).

You are invited to join us on Saturday, November 5 to celebrate the 2022 Catalina Channel season. We will recognize every solo and relay swimmer and present to them their hard-earned medallion, CCSF certificate and a copy of the official observers' log.

Banquet tickets are available to purchase at the CCSF portal. Find the link at [the official CCSF website](#) under the FORMS field. We aim to keep tickets inexpensive and chose not to raise prices from the 2021 banquet.

Please, join us on November 5 to recognize all the observers and kayakers, plus honor the remarkable 2022 Catalina Channel swimmers.

#### Favorites



**Swim Catalina**  
Serving Since 1981



CCSF Gifts and Swag





Catalina Weather



## BOB WEST-- In Memoriam (1935-2022)

The CCSF community mourned the loss this summer of beloved La Jolla Cove swimmer Bob West. Read his obituary at [the beautiful website](#) his family built to memorialize Bob's warm and generous spirit.

"La Jolla Bob" swam solo across the Catalina Channel – twice. Each time setting the CCSF age record. His record from 1998 held until only a few years ago when 64-year-old Jim McConica finished another of his many crossings.

Bob was the fifth person to complete the Triple Crown of open water swimming (Catalina, Manhattan and England).

For three-decades, Bob mentored dozens of athletes into becoming open water marathon swimmers. A couple of those swimmers are now International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame inductees.

---

## ANDREA KARGE -- Swimaversary

Andrea Halligan (née Karge) recently [recalled her experience swimming the Catalina Channel](#) with Bottom Scratcher on one of the most tragic days in America. She finished in the early morning hours of September 11th, 2001.

Her support team learned of the terrorist attacks when Andrea was about 90-minutes from reaching the mainland. They chose to not share the horrid news. Instead, Andrea's supporters tried their best to conceal their anguish in order celebrate with her.

Andrea would not learn about the Twin Towers and Pentagon bombings until much later on that Tuesday afternoon. She turned on the TV after a well-deserved nap.

More than two-decades later, Andrea fully appreciates how her boat crew allowed her to savor the achievement on a day when the world shifted on its axis (quote) "It changed every aspect of my life. Any sort of challenge, I'll figure out a way. That to me is the joy of accomplishing one of those channel swims."

Curious about other momentous swims like the ones by Andrea and Bob West? Catalina Channel Swimming Federation co-founder Penny Lee Dean [wrote an account](#) of every Catalina Channel crossing from the 1927 Ocean Marathon Race thru the 2016 season.

---

## Bob West in his element



Fellow solo Catalina Channel age record holders, Carol Sing and Bob West share laughs during a 1995 relay swim across the Catalina Channel.

---

2023 solo and relay aspirants  
may begin to apply for CCSF sanction in January.