



July 2017

Favorites



Swim Catalina
Serving Since 1981



CCSF Gifts and Swag



Surface Water Temps

Three Records in One Week

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED -- First Catalina Crossing

A [fresh article in *Sports Illustrated*](#) declares the Catalina Channel "one of the great feats of endurance."

Sportswriter **Jon Wertheim** recounts the inspirational story of the first Catalina crosser, Canadian swimmer **George Young**. By accepting the \$25,000 prize money -- earmarked to pay his mother's medical bills -- George Young forfeited his amateur status and a chance at the 1928 Olympics. The [International Swimming Hall of Fame](#) posthumously inducted George Young as a Pioneer Open Water Swimmer.

The 1927 Catalina Channel race was the brainchild of **William Wrigley Jr.** The previous year, New York City celebrated **Gertrude Ederle's** English Channel crossing with a ticker-tape parade. Wrigley dreamed of capturing that same attention for Catalina Island by hosting an Ocean Marathon Race. Though Ederle declined his invitation to participate.

Hundreds traveled to Catalina Island to enter. A little more than 100 started the race on January 15th. Radio stations provided regular updates of the swimmers' progress, and who'd withdrawn due to hypothermia or fatigue.

Thousands lined the coastline to witness George Young finish at 3 in the morning. Based on inflation, his grand prize of \$25,000 would be worth today around \$350,000.

Additional [historical photographs](#) of the 1927 race. Pictured below, William Wrigley Jr and 17-year-old George Young at the prize-money awarding ceremony.



Catalina Weather



SoCal Marine Forecast



San Pedro Buoy 46222



RECORDS -- Three Milestones in One Week

Congratulations to Mexican swimmer **Samuel Neri** (*pictured*). Mid-June, Sami completed his sixth crossing of the Catalina Channel. This matches the [most crossings](#) with **John York**, who completed a sixth crossing on his birthday in 2000. Also, **Tina Neill** has swum six times (between 2007 and 2014).

The six swimmers, who call themselves the **Seven Sisters Relay**, became the first all-women's team to complete a two-way crossing in Catalina. Their first leg, from the mainland to the island, in 8 hours and 16 minutes broke a 23-year record. The Seven Sisters finished the 40-mile round-trip swim in a little more than 18 hours.

Also in June, **Nathalie Pohl** of Germany made an [impressive solo crossing](#) in 9 hours and 9 minutes. Congratulations swimmers! Every Catalina Channel crossing is remarkable and noteworthy. We regularly announce successful swims with photos at the CCSF [Facebook page](#).

At the end of the season, on **November 4th**, the CCSF will honor the swimmers at our annual awards banquet. At that time, the CCSF will deliver to every swimmer a copy of their official observer's log, a CCSF certificate and medal.



Six Women Representing Seven Sisters Colleges



The CCSF Awards Banquet will be held at the DoubleTree Hotel in San Pedro on **Saturday, November 4**. Standby for details.