

Did You Know?

By Jerry Clark

In addition to Diana Nyad's recent great open water swim, did you know...

That Germany's 33 year old Thomas Lurz's 25K open water swim at the FINA World Championships in Barcelona this summer was first by 4-tenths of a second?

That three people have crossed the English Channel swimming butterfly in the 138 years since people began swimming from England to France? Frenchman Sylvain Estadieu did this on September 23 this year with a time of 16 hours 42 minutes (and with a FINA official in the boat to verify his swim). Vicki Keith was the first person to do this in 1989 and Julie Bradshaw did it in 2002.

That Sarah Thomas and Craig Lenning undertook an attempt to complete a double crossing of Lake Tahoe without the aid of a wetsuit? The width of this lake is 21.25 miles. If successful, it would be the first time this had happened. Well they both made it, with Sarah having a total time of 22 hours 25 minutes and Craig coming in a few hours behind her. Sarah negative split the double crossing, going out in 11 hours 38 minutes and coming back in 10 hours 47 minutes. The temperature of the water was not revealed (brrr), but the altitude of Lake Tahoe is 6,225 feet above sea level, making for difficulty of getting the desired amount of oxygen per breath.

That Ashley Twichell, who has just recently moved to North Carolina from the Mission Viejo Nadadores, just won the RCP Tiburon Mile and the \$10,000 prize that went with the women's first place finish? In July this year, she won the 10K swim at the World University Games in Russia and she held the lead throughout the entire distance.