



ANDREW PACKER

Solo Trans-Monterey Bay Marathon Swim

Age 29 at time of swim

Date: SEPT 6-7, 2023

Course: A Single Crossing of the Monterey Bay as defined by MBSA course and rules.

Swim route chosen was North to South, from Harbor Beach to San Carlos Beach.

Straight Line Distance: 25.1 STATUTE MILES, 40.3 KILOMETERS

Overall Swim Duration: 14h, 7m, 38s

START/FINISH	LOCATION	LATITUDE/LONGITUDE	TIME
Start	Harbor Beach, Santa Cruz	36.961896, -122.000451	19:15:37
Finish	San Carlos Beach, Monterey	36.609511, -121.894490	09:23:15

Observer 1: SCOTT TAPLEY **Observer 2:** N/A

Boat & Captain(s): Aqua One; Bryan Temmermand & Sylvia Lacock (PACIFIC OPEN WATER SWIM CO.)

Swimwear/Equipment: Standard only. Swimsuit (briefs), single latex cap (yellow Birdwatcher/Lisa Amorao memorial), goggles (both tinted and then clear), ear plugs, Desitin Cream.

Planned Course: Santa Cruz Harbor to Monterey (harbor to harbor)
25.1 STATUTE MILES, 40.3 KILOMETERS

Actual Course: SAME AS PLANNED

Final Swim Duration: 14 HOURS, 07 MINUTES, 38 SECONDS

Crew: Sylvia Lacock

Feeding Plan:

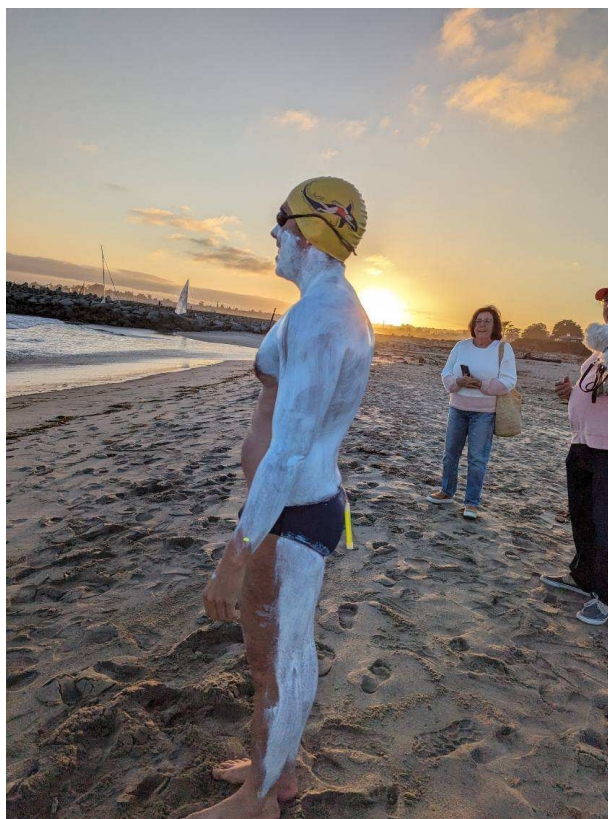
See report/log.

Swim Category:

Unassisted Solo Marathon Swim

Rules

1. This swim was conducted following Marathon Swim Rules as defined by the [Monterey Bay Swimming Association](#). These rules are based on those used by CSA, CS&PF, SBCSA, CCSF. These rules are often collectively referred to as "English Channel" rules, however there are minor differences with the actual rules for swimming the English Channel.
2. This swim was conducted in the spirit of marathon swimming as described here: [Marathon Swimmers Federation](#)



Weather & Ocean Observations:

Light to no wind. Glassy surface conditions. Water temp ranged from 57.3 to 62f with most of the water about 60F. Mixed swell with 2ft rolling S and 2-4ft rolling NW.



Wind: SW 5 knots, dropping quickly to 0-1 knots E overnight. Changing to 2 knots SW until 4am, then 0-2 knots SE until sunrise, and then 0-4 knots NW.

Most of the swim was completed in 0-2 knots of wind and very flat water.

Water Temperature (degrees Fahrenheit): Low 57.3F, High 62F (mostly 60 +/- during the swim)

Air Temperature (degrees Fahrenheit): Low 57F, High 68F

Skies: Swim began under clear and then starry sky. Overcast after midnight. Dense fog to the West, but clear with good visibility along the route.

Currents: Unfavorable current south of Soquel Hole to South of Monterey Canyon. Easing up approx. 2 miles north of Lovers Point.

Jelly Fish/Wildlife:

A few jellyfish stings – Pacific Sea Nettle. Dolphins. Sea Lions. Possible Whales (audible).

Historical Claims:

This is believed to be the 13th verifiable solo marathon swim across Monterey Bay.

Observer Narrative

By Scott Tapley

Andrew initially contacted the Monterey Bay Swimming Association about observing and ratifying a solo swim of the Bay's 25-mile harbor to harbor route back in 2021. For a collection of reasons, he postponed the swim and eventually rescheduled a swim window with the Pacific Open Water Swim Co. as his pilots. Andrew has been working with Bryan & Sylvia of POWSCO in preparation for his swims and they would function as both swim crew and pilots for the swim.

The date of the window was Wed Sept 6 through Saturday Sept 9. I spoke with Andrew about his goals and expectations. Ultimately his goal was to complete the crossing, but he also wanted to complete the swim in a time that reflected his current fitness and training. Andrew had recently set a new speed record for swimming the Strait of Juan De Fuca less than two weeks earlier. I took this to mean he was not interested in starting a swim with less-than-ideal conditions. Finding a "perfect" day in Monterey Bay is a bit of a unicorn. The most common challenges include cold water (often below 54f), currents that are not dictated by tides and can be difficult to predict, toxic jellyfish blooms, and wind. After careful analysis of the weather forecasts, it looked to me like a swim beginning Wednesday evening and finishing before Noon on Thursday would be ideal. Given Andrew's swim speed, this was a very reasonable window of opportunity, assuming the forecast held. In fact, when looking at the forecast it felt like we had found that unicorn. Water close to 60f, light to no wind in the forecast, and recent inquiries reported little or no Sea Nettle (jellyfish) blooms. The forecast also showed a constant SW, WSW, and SE wind pattern the prior day, and strong NW/W wind patterns later in the week. Southerly winds equal a swim against choppy head winds when swimming to Monterey.



There was also a long-period south swell (2ft @ 16 seconds) and a northwest wind swell (6ft @ 9 sec) making for combined open sea swells of about 4-6 feet, but nothing that would prevent a swim from starting. The only challenge presented by the swell was a swim start that required negotiating some waves. The surf was much higher on Tuesday, and fortunately decreased to waist high beach break on Wed evening.

Andrew chose to dedicate his swim to Lisa Amorao, who sadly drowned in a swimming accident in May of 2022. During the swim, Andrew's crew spread flowers just before 1:AM, and a short time later he was visited by a frolicking pod of bottle nose dolphins.

Under clear skies, Andrew stepped off the Santa Cruz Harbor Beach, directly in front of the Crows Nest restaurant, adjacent to the Santa Cruz Harbor entrance at 7:15 on Wed evening.

The wind still out of the SW but was light. Within an hour, the wind had dropped to nothing, and the sky was filling with stars. Andrew took his first feed of Scratch nutritional sport drink at 8:15 and switched to clear goggles. From that point forward Andrew fed at approximately 30-minute intervals, consuming Scratch, sports gels (with and without caffeine), sports gummies, honey stinger waffles, and apple juice. The apple juice was introduced by Sylvia to help Andrew get his bladder moving. He was having some trouble urinating fully during the first 4 hours of the swim. Andrew was a fast feeder, finishing his nutrition and continuing to swim in a matter of 15 to 30 seconds,

with a few exceptions to get his bladder going. He also consumed 400mg of Ibuprofen at 2:15 and 5:45 and used some mouth wash to clear his mouth on occasion.

At 10:08 he said, "I feel like I can swim forever at this pace."

At 11:15, Andrew received his first jelly fish sting. He would be stung a few more times during the swim, but nothing that affected his health or attitude. Andrew did report touching mysterious objects and being bumped a few times by strange things in the dark. This would usually prompt a swift and loud kick, then Andrew would sprint for a few yards before settling back into his swim. At 1:45 he announced, "There's a lot of stuff in this water."

Throughout the night, Andrew was visited by a few sea lions, several birds, a pod of dolphins, and we think we could hear the breathing of whales hiding in the dark, just out of view.

We passed over the Soquel Hole without noticing, but as we passed over the Monterey Canyon, especially as we left the southern rim of the canyon and for another several miles, Andrew was fighting a current. This was also about the time he was feeling sluggish (he said bonking), and Sylvia worked to juice him up with a few more calories and warm feeds which seemed to do the trick. He still had the current to contend with.

The flashing red lights at Moss Landing, the glow of Salinas, and the coastal lights of Monterey were visible throughout the swim, but we lost the stars to marine layer sometime in the early morning. We were riding along the thin edge of a fog bank. Looking right out to sea was a dark and dense fog layer right down to the surface of the water. Looking left at Andrew and toward land the water was silky smooth and visibility was still well-over 10 miles. It was strange, but calm, and I had my fingers crossed the fog would not engulf us. It didn't.

About 3 miles from San Carlos Beach, we were still crabbing to the SW to stay on course, and Bryan and Sylvia managed to keep Andrew on the plotted route line the entire swim. As we approached the shadow of Point Pinos, the current changed, and we could finally angle directly toward San Carlos Beach to the Southeast.

Andrew was in a great mood the entire swim. He even said please and thank you during feed stops and appeared relaxed throughout the swim. You could attribute some of this to the perfect sea surface conditions and warmish water (it remained close to 60f for most of the swim), but I think that's just how Andrew operates. He is simply a nice and positive person, and this shows up in the way he carries himself, even under the pressure and pain of completing an ultra-marathon swim.

At 9:23 in the morning, Andrew waded into the shallows and walked quietly onto San Carlos beach to become the 13th person to complete an unassisted solo marathon swim across the length of the Monterey Bay.



Monterey Bay Swimming Association

Swim:

Swimmer: ANDREW PACKER

Date: 9/6/23

Observer 1: SCOTT TAPLEY

Observer 2:

Boat & Captain(s): BRYAN TEMMERMAN / SYLVIA LACOCK

Planned Course: SC HARBOR TO SAN CARLOS - MONTEREY BAY LEAGUE N7S

Actual Course: SAME

Final Swim Duration: 14:07:38

Start Time: 7:15:37 PM (19:15:37)

Finish Time: 9:23:15 AM

Start (GPS OR WRITTEN DESCRIPTION): HARBOR BEACH, SC.

Finish (GPS OR WRITTEN DESCRIPTION): SAN CARLOS BEACH, MONTEREY.

Crew Members and Roles:

SYLVIA.

Additional Notes:

CAP, GOGGLES, SUIT (GOGGLES)

DEPTW GRAPE, EAR PLUGS.

WEARER LISA BIRDWATER CAP 😊

Monterey Bay Swimming Association

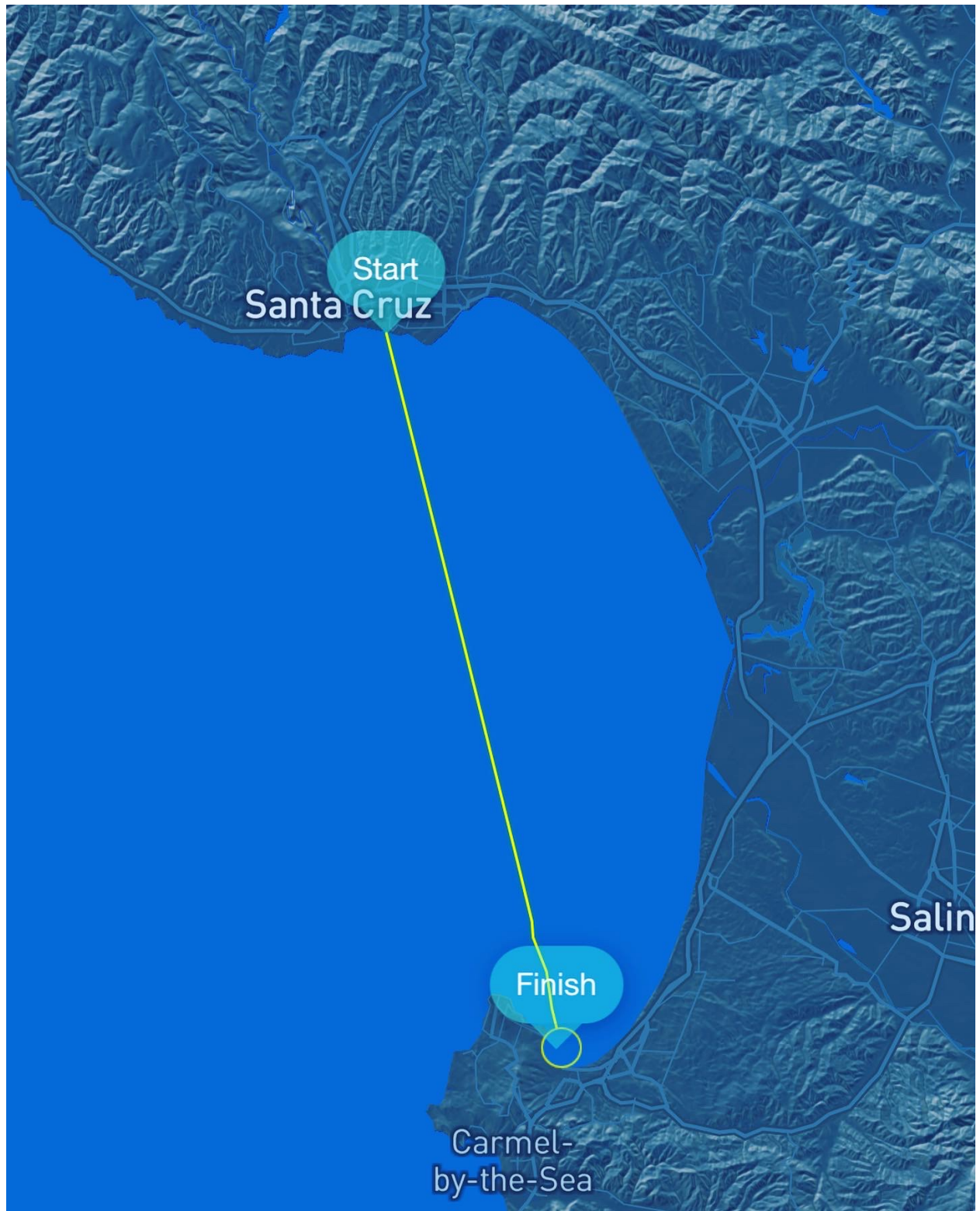
Time	Temps C or F		Wind mph, kph, or BF		Stroke Rate	Notes & Observations
	H2O	Air	Speed	Dir		
7:15:37	62.9	68	5K	SW	66	START. HARBOR BOAT / CROWS NEST.
8:15	61.9	60	Ø	/	68	7:45 - WIND Ø FEED 50Z SCRATCH CHANGE TO CLEAR 60 GUMS
21.4 8:45	61.7	58	Ø	/	68	FEED 50Z SCRATCH 35 SEC Fed. + Gummies, 21.4 TO FINISH.
20.2 TF 9:15	61.6		Ø	/		STAYS OUT / FLAP WATER, ANDREW DOING GREAT. FEED 50Z SCRATCH + 20.2 CAFF. BU.
19.0 9:45	61.4	57	Ø	/	67	FEED 50Z SCRATCH. - "HAVE NOT Pd" "SORRY FOR THE PACE"
10:08	EARLY FEED		TRYING TO HELP HIM "P"			FEED 80Z Apple Juice + 2 honey sticks w/ Apple. Feels like he can swim forever
17, 10:40	61.1	57	Ø	/	66	50Z SCRATCH, 2 X2000 ADVIL STILL NO P - ONLY "SPURTS"
11:15	60.7		Ø	/		Feed Gummies + mouth wash First Jelly Sting
14.7 11:45	60.7	57	Ø	/	65	FEED - 2 min w/ Apple STAYS GOING. STILL NO REAL "P" - FEELS FULL.
13.5 12:15	60.7	60	1	E	65	40Z Warm Wat w/ Apple + Caff. BU.
1/2 way 5:15 12:45	60.9		0	/		50Z feed Scratch. FAST 15 sec. Feed.
11.7 1:15	60.6	57	Ø	/		1:08 - Jelly Sting. Feed - 50Z Scratch + Gummies Reporting Stings
1:45	59.7	57	Ø	/	64	50Z Scratch. "lots of stuff in this water" Dolphins
10.2 2:15	59.5	57	1	SE	64	2X200 ADVIL 50Z Scratch.

7:52:50

Time	Temps C or F		Wind mph, kph, or BF		Stroke Rate	Notes & Observations
	H2O	Air	Speed	Dir		
9.5	2:45	59.3	57	0	64	5oz SCRATCH + 1/3 PORTANT. "Ping" some - still struggling to P. MOUTH WASH + CAF, 60
8.7	3:17	59.2	60	2	SW	64 WANTS WARM WATER + APPLE JEST
8.0	3:45	59	60	2	SW	LIGHTS OF MONTEREY BOTTLING PLANT Feeds like he barked - needs food.
	4:00	59	57	2	SW	(58) XTRA FEED - SCRATCH + 60 4oz
7.4	4:15	59		1	E	61 2 waffles, 6oz Apple Sauce + water SAYS FEELS COLD.
6.85	4:45	60	56	0	61	6oz Wm Water + Apple Sauce, + Scratch. Feels water settling warmer.
6.35	5:15	61	56	2	SE	5oz SCRATCH + PORTANT, 6 miles out, still current, crabbing a bit to stay on line.
5.8	5:45	61.8		2	SE	61 2x200 ADVIL + SCRATCH. Feeling Tired from Sleep Deprivation
5	6:15	61.6	60	2	SE	62 WARM SCRATCH 5oz 6oz w/cash.
4.2	6:55	61.1	60	2	SW	62 SCRATCH. Expressing some concern about swimming near Puma
3.6	7:23	57.3	61	4	NW	61 Waffles + Scratch. 5oz Thinks he is closer than he is (it looks close)
2.5	8:02	58		0		SCRATCH, @ 2.4 miles out, ^{WGSW} CURRENT CORRECT
1.25	8:44	61.1	62	0		60 + SCRATCH.

9:23:15

Track Line shown by Pacific Open Water proprietary tracking system.



9:28

share.garmin.com

Map Message Locate

Map showing the Monterey Peninsula area. The station 333 arthur is marked with a blue dot on the coast. Scott Tapley is marked with a red dot. The map includes labels for Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Marina, and Monterey. A scale bar indicates 5 miles.

4:54

ndbc.noaa.gov

refresh page every 10 minutes.

Conditions at 46092 as of (4:01 am PDT) 1101 GMT on 09/07/2023:

Unit of Measure: Imperial Time Zone: Station Local Time Select

Click on the graph icon in the table below to see a time series plot of the last five days of that observation.

Wind Direction (WDIR):	SE (140 deg true)
Wind Speed (WSPD):	1.9 kts
Atmospheric Pressure (PRES):	29.97 in
Pressure Tendency (PTDY):	-0.01 in (Falling)
Air Temperature (ATMP):	60.6 °F
Water Temperature (WTMP):	60.8 °F
Wind Speed at 10 meters (WSPD10M):	0.0 kts
Wind Speed at 20 meters (WSPD20M):	0.0 kts
Combined plot of Wind Speed, Gust, and Air Pressure	

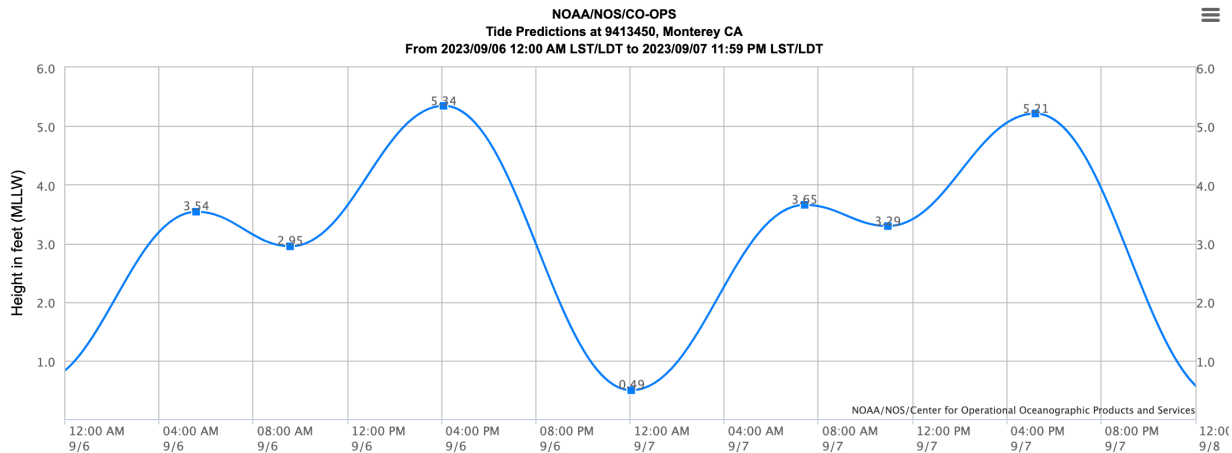
Previous observations

TIME (PDT)	WDIR	WSPD	GST	WVHT	DPD
		kts	kts	ft	sec

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*Note: KLM and GPX files available on request.
Pacific Open Water Swim Co. ran a secondary tracker.*

