



# Sea Otters Relay, 6 Person Trans-Monterey Bay Relay Swim

Date: September 11, 2016

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

Swim route chosen was North to South, from Cowell beach to Lovers Beach.

Straight Line Distance: 24 statute miles

Overall Swim Duration: 12 hours, 41 minutes

START/FINISH	LOCATION	LATITUDE/LONGITUDE	TIME
Start	Cowell's Beach	36°57'42.27"N, 122° 1'23.82"W	03:36:00
Finish	Lovers Beach	36°37'30.11"N, 121°54'58.53"W	16:17:00

Independent Observer 1: Christopher "El Sharko" Blakeslee Independent Observer 2: Joel Wilson

Boat & Captain(s) & Navigation: [Silver Prince](#), Monterey Bay, Alex and Leroy

## Swimmers (all swimmers are members of the South End Rowing Club, San Francisco, CA)

1. Asha Allen
2. Jane Mason
3. Becky Margulies
4. Jessica Moll
5. Leeann Borton
6. Joy Hollenback

Crew: Cara Kulas (kayak)

**NOTES: The entire team completed the swim naked, with the exception of wearing the standard single gap, and goggles.**

Swim legs of 1 hour each were used for the first rotation, then dropped to 45 minutes for the purpose of safety (agreed upon by the entire team and approved by the observers). The mid-swim change to leg duration puts this swim in a unique category and should not be compared to other relay swims that adhered to all published rules for relay swims.



**Swim Category:**

Unassisted Marathon Relay Swim

**Rules** (see pre-swim observer plan and rules review below for more detail):

1. This swim was conducted following Marathon Swim and Relay Rules as defined by the Monterey Bay Swimming Association. These rules are based on rules used to govern unassisted marathon relay swims in the English Channel by the [CSA](#) and [CS&PF](#) with the following exception:

**Costume & Swim Gear:**

1. All swimmers used swimwear that conforms to MBSA, CSA, CS&PF and MSF definitions of standard equipment. (Speedos, 1 Cap, and Goggles) with the exception of wearing NO SWIMSUITES.
2. Swimmers were allowed to use Vaseline or other “grease” for chaffing.
3. Swimmers were allowed to wear one standard silicon or latex swim cap.
4. All swimmers used standard swim goggles.
5. Swimmers were allowed to wear Ear Plugs.

**Feedings:**

N/A - Swimmers fed between swim legs while on the boat. No feeds were administered to swimmers while in the water.

**Weather & Ocean Observations:**

(see observers synopsis below)

**Historical Claims:**

- This swim was observed and ratified by the Monterey Bay Swimming Association.
- This was the first relay swim to be completed entirely without swim suites (naked).
- The history of trans-Monterey Bay relays swims includes swims that followed a variety of courses, including between 4 and 8 swimmers, and used leg durations ranging from 20 to 60 minutes. All swims ranged from 24 to 26 miles in distance. Most swims were completed in standard (briefs or jammer) non-porous swim suites, 1 cap, and goggles and were continuous non-stop swims with no assistance provided to swimmers during each leg. The fastest known swim was completed in 9 hours, 45 minutes and included 6 swimmers swimming 20 minute legs.
- See <http://www.swimmontereybay.org/successes.html> for further Monterey Bay swimming history and records.
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**Monterey Bay Swimming Association – Swim Observer Narrative**  
**Synoptic by Chris Blakeslee for September 11, 2016**

***Re: Otter 6 women's relay from Cowells Beach in Santa Cruz to Otter Cove (near  
Lover's Point in Monterey in 12hours 41minutes***

I was an observer along with Joel Wilson for the above 6 women's Monterey Bay swim on Sunday September 11, 2016. I observed the entire swim from 3:36am to 4:17pm. The swim was successfully completed by the six members of the team under the following conditions:

- All six members swim with only one latex (otter logo) cap and goggles without any other costume so swimmers were nude.
- All six members swam a 1 hour first leg and a 45 minute second leg and three swimmers swam a third leg (please see swimmer logs).

Under these conditions, then, the swim was successfully completed in 12 hours and 41 minutes starting from Cowells Beach on the North side of the Santa Cruz pier to Otter Cove, near Lover's Point in Monterey. The Pilot Boat, Silver Prince, logged 23.83 miles to it's point outside the kelp bead leaving approximately ¼ mile giving the total distance traveled of 24.45 miles. (Google maps measures the straight line distance of 24.31 miles) – see attached map) so something over 24 miles. I have also included the GPS map of the swim as part of this report.

Joel and I got to the Silver Prince in the Santa Cruz Harbor at about 2:30 am to load and meet the swimmers. The six swimmers had agreed on a swimming order as below:

- 1) Asha Allen**
- 2) Jane Mason**
- 3) Becky Margulies**
- 4) Jessica Moll**
- 5) Leeann Borton**
- 6) Joy Hollenback**

Lights to the kayak and boat shortly after. At about 3 am I read the Monterey Bay Swim Association rules from the binder provided. At about 3:20 the Silver Prince

pulled into position about 100 yards from the beach and we released the kayak to the stern of the boat. The Kayaker was Cara Kulas and the Kayak was well lighted. At about 3:30 am we sent the first swimmer, Asha Allen, into the beach and she walked to above the high tide mark. It was very foggy and misty but we could see to the beach with the Dream Inn lights behind the swimmer. At 3:36 the swimmer entered the water and began the swim/relay. Asha swim leg was for 1 hour as did all the next 5 swimmers. Swimmer 4, Leeann Borton was very cold at the end of her 1 hour leg and it was decided by all the swimmers that the next legs would be 45 minutes until the finish. The swim was completed in this manner and the swim finished 12 hours and 41 minutes later when Becky Margulies walked up on the beach at Otter Cover (near Lover's Point) above the high tide mark with no swim suit on and shocked the divers in the water and the tourists on the bluff above.

The swim was almost exclusively done under foggy, misty conditions which made for low winds but cold air temperatures. The average air temperature was 57f (except at the finish the temperature went up to 63f) as was the water temperature 57f for the entire swim. Winds started out at 3 mph out of the Northwest and switched about half way across the Bay to 3 mph from the southwest. About half way we began seeing pods of Humpback whales and sea lions. At one point there were a pod of Humpbacks 100 yard directly in from of us. There were Short-tailed shearwaters from down under, gulls, pelicans over the entire swim. Nearing the final legs other boats in the area reported a blue shark 1 mile to the east and a Great White Shark about 2 miles to the east of us.

All of the swimmers were very enthusiastic about their swim legs with no complaints and all were in good spirits as were finished and docked in Monterey Harbor.

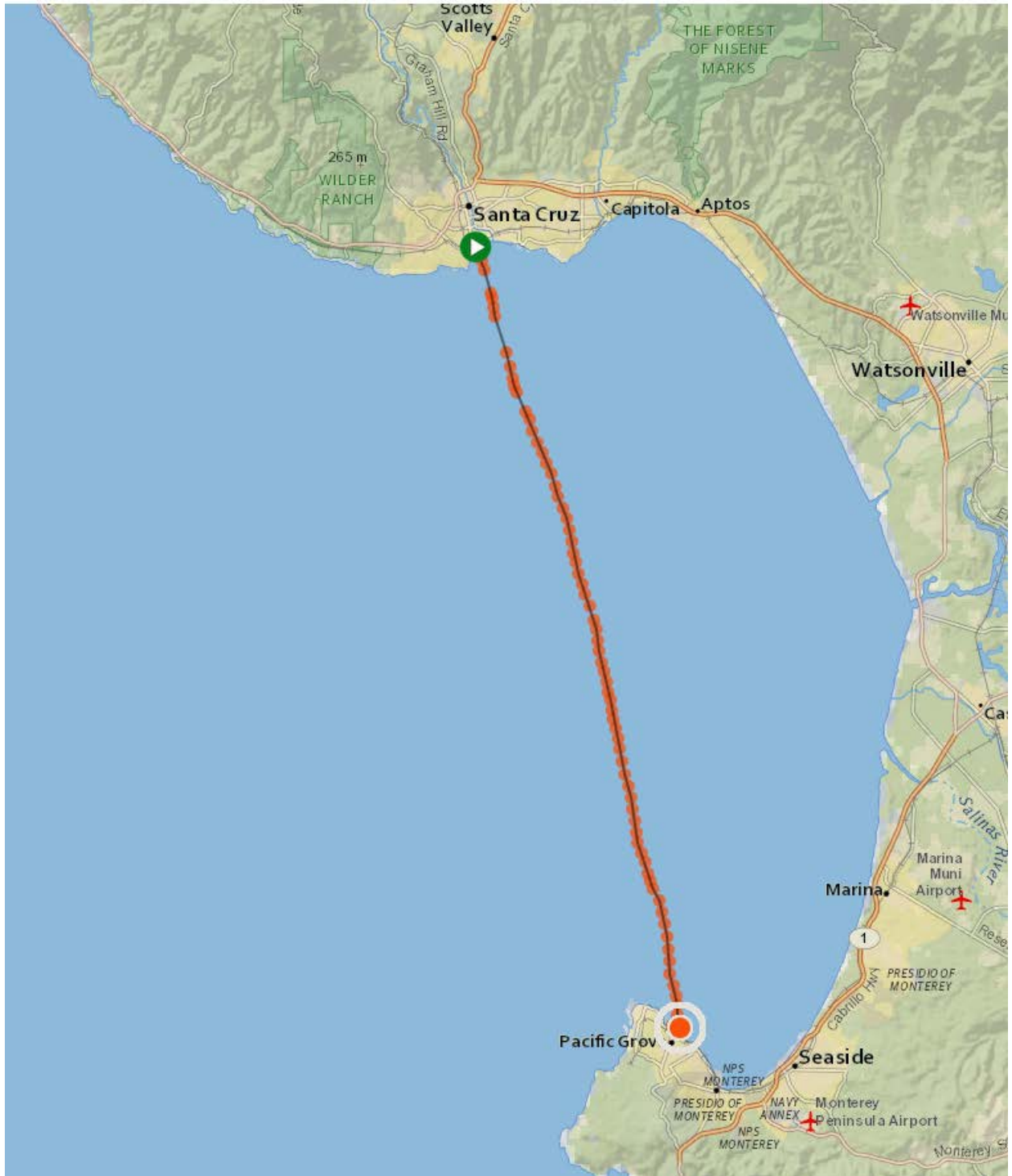
## **El Sharko**



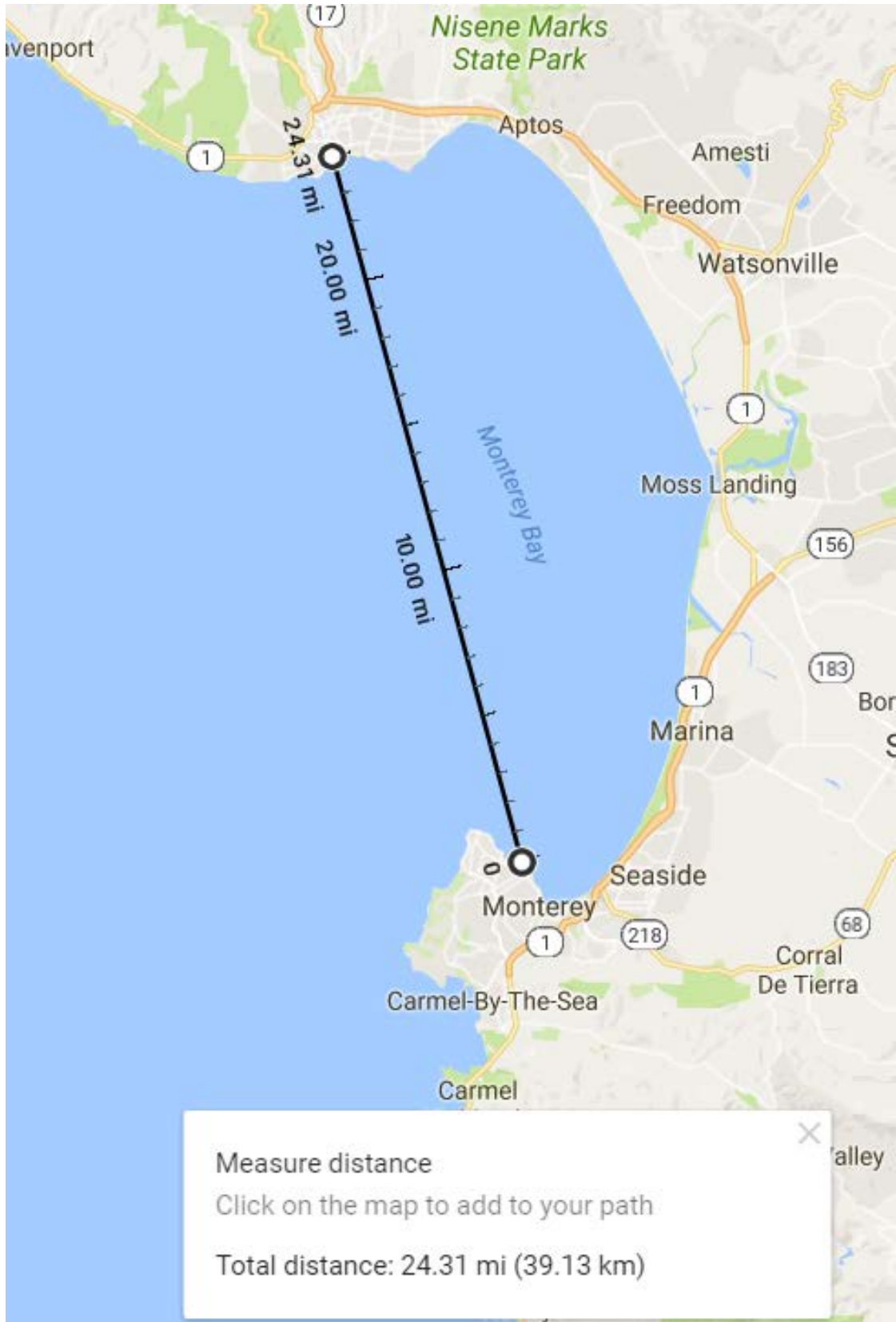
“I never met a shark I didn't like”

# Otters Relay Monterey Bay

0 km  
0:00



### Map Measurement by Google



Measure distance ✕  
Click on the map to add to your path  
Total distance: 24.31 mi (39.13 km)



9/11/16 16:28	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.62737	-121.91264
9/11/16 16:18	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.62811	-121.91643
9/11/16 16:08	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.62896	-121.91559
9/11/16 15:58	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.63283	-121.91386
9/11/16 15:49	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.63686	-121.91379
9/11/16 15:38	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.64107	-121.91461
9/11/16 15:28	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.64534	-121.91628
9/11/16 15:19	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.65036	-121.91786
9/11/16 15:09	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.65565	-121.91835
9/11/16 14:59	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.66095	-121.91849
9/11/16 14:49	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.666	-121.9194
9/11/16 14:39	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.67154	-121.92088
9/11/16 14:29	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.67671	-121.92221
9/11/16 14:19	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.6817	-121.92369
9/11/16 14:09	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.68675	-121.9267
9/11/16 13:59	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.68967	-121.92833
9/11/16 13:50	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.69315	-121.9296
9/11/16 13:39	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.69791	-121.93129
9/11/16 13:29	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.70215	-121.93301
9/11/16 13:19	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.70635	-121.93518
9/11/16 13:09	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.71071	-121.93599
9/11/16 13:00	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.71582	-121.93666
9/11/16 12:51	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.72051	-121.9381
9/11/16 12:40	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.72564	-121.93869
9/11/16 12:30	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.73046	-121.94031
9/11/16 12:20	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.73559	-121.94186
9/11/16 12:10	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.74111	-121.94322
9/11/16 12:00	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.74644	-121.94449
9/11/16 11:51	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.75109	-121.94583
9/11/16 11:40	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.75525	-121.94685
9/11/16 11:30	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.75927	-121.94814
9/11/16 11:20	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.76316	-121.94888
9/11/16 11:10	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.76741	-121.94957
9/11/16 11:01	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.771	-121.95084
9/11/16 10:52	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.77492	-121.95178
9/11/16 10:41	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.77953	-121.95317
9/11/16 10:31	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.78368	-121.95422
9/11/16 10:21	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.78813	-121.95549
9/11/16 10:11	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.79292	-121.9565
9/11/16 10:01	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.79748	-121.95749
9/11/16 9:53	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.80177	-121.95871
9/11/16 9:41	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.80772	-121.96062

9/11/16 9:31	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.81264	-121.96304
9/11/16 9:21	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.81714	-121.96477
9/11/16 9:11	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.82145	-121.96655
9/11/16 9:01	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.82612	-121.96825
9/11/16 8:52	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.83044	-121.96962
9/11/16 8:42	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.83523	-121.97038
9/11/16 8:32	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.84008	-121.9718
9/11/16 8:22	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.84487	-121.97322
9/11/16 8:12	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.84958	-121.97513
9/11/16 8:02	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.8546	-121.97766
9/11/16 7:53	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.85863	-121.97894
9/11/16 7:42	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.86398	-121.98126
9/11/16 7:32	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.86852	-121.98372
9/11/16 7:22	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.87309	-121.98621
9/11/16 7:13	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.87748	-121.98866
9/11/16 7:02	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.88234	-121.99156
9/11/16 6:52	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.88723	-121.99268
9/11/16 6:42	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.89075	-121.995
9/11/16 6:23	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.89865	-121.99963
9/11/16 6:13	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.90174	-122.00083
9/11/16 6:03	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.90462	-122.0016
9/11/16 5:53	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.90984	-122.00301
9/11/16 5:35	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.91613	-122.00523
9/11/16 4:53	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.9311	-122.01109
9/11/16 4:44	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.93511	-122.01183
9/11/16 4:34	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.93885	-122.01248
9/11/16 4:27	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.94133	-122.01367
9/11/16 4:04	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.95086	-122.01659
9/11/16 3:54	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.95483	-122.01849
9/11/16 3:44	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.95861	-122.02081
9/11/16 3:32	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.96062	-122.02187
9/11/16 3:23	0-2465054	UNLIMITED-T	36.95697	-122.01874