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AUG 30 Posted 2:01pm

Voyager Departs For Cuba



© Dawn L Blomgren

**Friday August 30, 2013, 1:45pm local time
aboard the vessel *Dreams Do Come True*
in Hemmingway Marina, Havana, Cuba**



© Dawn L Blomgren

Diana's escort boat, Voyager, left Oceanside Marina in Key West en route to Cuba yesterday morning at 4:27 a.m. carrying many of the key players in Diana's Xtreme Dream: Navigator John Bartlett, Chief Ops John Berry, Driver Dee Brady, Handler Pauline Berry and crew member Taylor Cline.



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Voyager made a quick crossing in about 12 hours for the purpose of checking currents, water temps and conditions that Diana will encounter on her swim back to Key West.



Around 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, Ground Ops Chief Vanessa Linsley briefed the team about what to expect during the crossing and customs procedures and arrival in Cuba.



About halfway through the meeting, Diana and Head Handler Bonnie Stoll made a surprise appearance and were greeted with cheers and hugs from the team.

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The rest of the XTreme Dream Team, about 40 members in total on four boats, left the marina between 7 and 8 p.m., arriving in Cuba 14 to 17 hours later.



Even the names of the boats involved seem to be perfectly planned, among them: "Dreams Do Come True," "Sentimental Journey," and "Kinship."



Next up for the team is Diana's press conference at 4 p.m. at Marina Hemingway, followed by the last meeting between Diana and her entire XTreme Dream team before the swim starts. When Diana will jump into the water to begin her ocean crossing is not yet finalized. The start time will be determined after last-minute consultations with experts on weather, wind conditions and currents.

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