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Diana Nyad Xtreme Dream 103 miles. Cuba to Florida. Summer 2011

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Don "Woodkayaker" McCumber

Posted by Xtreme Dream Team on Sep 29, 2011 in Blog, Slider | 5 comments



Photo by Christi Barli

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Diana's Tweets



- Ladies & Gentleman, Mr . Wayne Lewis
SPEAKS: <http://ow.ly/6K47W> about 6 hours ago from HootSuite
- @michaeldavis777 my pleasure! about 9 hours ago from HootSuitein reply to michaeldavis777
- Sorry for the mistake on the dates for the webinar. Who was able to attend? How did you enjoy it? about 10 hours ago from HootSuite
- Myself and my team try hard to keep you all updated. Missed anything? Check out the blog for lots of info, videos & updates <http://ow.ly...> about 14 hours ago from HootSuite
- @rosementon Possibly, we shall see :) 06:10:04 PM September 29, 2011 from HootSuitein reply to rosementon

Diana has inspired so many people... it's quite amazing, really. A time came, after she first encountered what we now know, was "box jellies", or "sea wasps". She was in so much

pain, and struggling just to get her breath, but she still didn't want to give up. She was doing

[11 captures](#) she could, just to swim as many strokes as she could. I was on the water with Diana, with shield equipped kayak. Mark had friend. People was searching for a way to inspire

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Diana onward, almost begging for someone to step up and help.



Photo by Christi Barli

I knew, that it was MY time, to "Nyad up". I found a way to reach her, to communicate with her, and to give her some of the same inspiration, in turn, that she has given to so many people... and it is one of the proudest moments of my life. These last few days have been a life-changing experience for me, and I'm sure, everyone that was involved.

-Don "Woodkayaker" McCumber

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Don McCumber

September 29, 2011

Diana -

I am so proud, to have played a small part in the overall effort of the incredible team that you put together. I am thinking, at this moment, of the gathering of the team in Key West, after the swim was finished. I can't recall exactly who said it, but it was true...

This team... these people... we ARE the beach that you wanted, so much, to be crawling up on, at the end of your long swim.

Your quest may have changed... but it has not failed. You have inspired, and you CONTINUE to inspire so many people. This whole effort can't be taken as anything other than a huge success.

Thank you, Diana, for bringing me into this family, and letting me be a part of it.

Don "Woodkayaker" McCumber

Reply



Kate Fitz

September 29, 2011

Brilliant. Thanks for your insight and care

Reply



Bia

September 29, 2011

Way to go! What an incredible group you gathered Diana!

Reply



Neil van der Byl

September 29, 2011

Love the old school oars and modern head-cam!

Reply



Don McCumber

September 29, 2011

Neil van der Byl -

Thank you – good eye! I was using a greenland-style paddle that I carved myself, from an 8' long 2" by 4" piece of western red cedar... definitely "old school". 😊 I carved it to similar

specs that an inuit kayaker could have used 100 or 200 years ago. It was amazingly effective, at helping me to stay right by Diana's side. When she was resting, and treading water to stay in place, I was able to use a "sculling stroke", to counter-act the side forces of the waves on my kayak... effectively treading water, just as Diana was doing. Those old inuits had a trick or two up their tuliuks.

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Diana Nyad's Xtreme Dream

"Diana is more than a swimmer. She's a beacon of hope to us all that we can dream big, live life large, and look back at all of it with no regrets whatsoever."

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