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OCT

30

2010

2011

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30 Sep 2011 - 31 Dec 2011



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

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Thoughts From Independent Observer Steven Munatones

Posted by Xtreme Dream Team on Sep 28, 2011 in Blog, Slider | 4 comments



photo credit Christi Barli

Diana,

Per your request: I do not believe the media adequately or accurately portrayed the high level of risk that is inherent in your Cuba swim. Whether we are talking about distance or time in the water, hyperthermia, heat exhaustion, shark bites, stings, lightening strikes or just plain ol' inadvertent human error (e.g., getting cut on a propeller, swallowing a jellyfish), your swim was extraordinarily fraught with high risk. Danger. Peril. Uncertainty. Unknowns. Accidents. You faced challenges of similar magnitude that early adventurers faced climbing up Mt. Everest or walking to the North/South Poles or crossing continents.

It is a fact that most channels never see a successful swim on the first attempts. The marine environment is simply too difficult and too unknown for early successes. It took 3 years for the first successful English Channel swim after the first attempt and then 2 decades passed before the second

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Diana's Tweets



- 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 2 hours ago from HootSuite
- @rosementon Possibly, we shall see :) about 21 hours ago from HootSuitein reply to rosementon
- Would love to share with you all a tid-bit from Don "Woodkayaker" McCumber <http://ow.ly/6IKcY> The photos are just awesome! about 21 hours ago from HootSuite
- @internationalji Healing well with the support of my amazing team. Thank you about 21 hours ago from HootSuitein reply to InternationalJi
- @waynegilliam Did you enjoy the webinar? about 21 hours ago from HootSuitein reply to WayneGilliam

successful swim. This is the kind of marathon swimming history that you face and that you are part of.

And I do not believe we will see a swimmer successfully swim from Cuba to Florida without a wetsuit,

without protective swimwear, without fins and without a shark cage in my lifetime. Is that a challenge to

other marathon swimmers? No, that is simply my assessment of the difficulty of successfully crossing

[12 captures](#)

30 Sep 2011 - 31 Dec 2011

AUG SEP OCT
2010 2011 2012



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Lastly, for those who have never felt a Portuguese man o war sting, you cannot imagine the pain, and for those who have felt a Portuguese man o war sting, you cannot never forget it.

Steven Munatones

Editor In Chief, Daily News of Open Water Swimming

Chief Administrator and Board Director, International Marathon Swimming Hall of Fame

Founder, Open Water Source

www.openwaterswimming.com



4 Comments



Na'ama

September 28, 2011

Amen to the reality check and the calibration of just how difficult and truly heroic a challenge this was and still is. The fact that some crossins/climbings/apex-reachings did not succeed the first or second or 10th time do not make the attempts less amazing. If anything, they make the sheer extreme dream of achieving them shine through. If it was easy, someone would'a done it already. So yes, this was an Extreme Dream. While most of us don't even know how to dream on that level, you go and chip at the gulf between dream and action and build into a bridge to reality. That, my dear Diana, is the breathtaking beauty and awe of and Extreme Dream. You go on dreaming. Your dream infuse us all with a measure of that heart-quickenning, admiration-noting, soul-spreading and teach those who don't yet know, how to dream.

Reply



Vanessa

September 28, 2011

Thank you! That was so beautiful! 😊 KEEP IT UP DIANA!!!!

Reply



Wendy

September 28, 2011

Yesterday, discussing your swim with a friend, I likened it to running back and forth across the 405 freeway for 103 miles and hoping not to be hit!

Reply



elivela67

September 29, 2011



I think it's fairly typical for people not to have any concept AT ALL how hard what you are attempting truly is! I have swum in open water not even 1/100th of the severity of the swim you are attempting for only 1-2 miles and it was exhausting and downright harrowing at times.

[12 captures](#)

30 Sep 2011 - 31 Dec 2011

You swim farther than most people are willing to ride in a climate controlled car!

Long distance anything is so foreign to many people because most have never pushed themselves to an edge like that. Not having experienced it, they can't fathom it so somehow it becomes "not that big of a deal".

I am amazed at what you have been able to do. The sheer effort of it, marine life and peril notwithstanding, is incredible. It's inspirational!

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◀ 30 ▶
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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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- Bonnie's Reflections
- Thoughts From Independent Observer Steven Munatones
- When you Dream Big
- the most venomous marine animal known

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- Karen Ratts on Bonnie's Reflections
- Don McCumber on Don "Woodkayaker" McCumber
- Neil van der Byl on Don "Woodkayaker" McCumber

Archives

- September 2011 (42)
- August 2011 (36)
- July 2011 (20)
- June 2011 (11)
- May 2011 (15)
- April 2011 (4)
- March 2011 (2)
- February 2011 (1)
- January 2011 (2)
- October 2010 (3)
- September 2010 (7)
- August 2010 (14)
- July 2010 (13)

AUG **SEP** OCT

◀ **30** ▶

2010 **2011** 2012



▼ About this capture

[12 captures](#)

30 Sep 2011 - 31 Dec 2011

