

PETE AND PAT'S SWIM REPORT

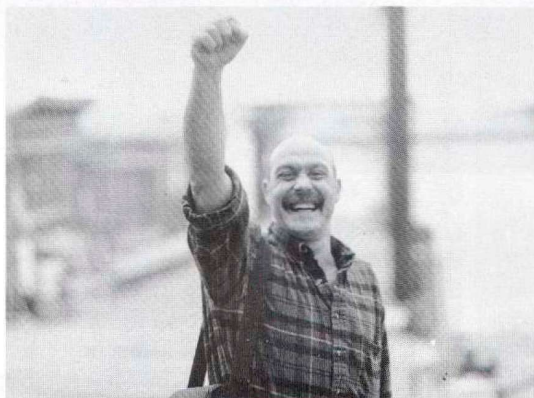
By Pete Bianucci & Pat North, Swim Commissioners

Is it the whirling dervish or maybe a windmill gone mad? As many of you are already aware, George "No Tide Rides" Kebbe broke Patrick Freilinger's Polar Bear record of 232 miles. George swam an amazing 255 miles in three short months. Congratulations, George. It is quite an achievement and a record that will stand for a long time. Another notable Polar Bear accomplishment is first timer Becky Fenson racking up 150+ miles, a ferocious effort. But let us just take a moment to reflect on those swimmers who stay in the icy waters for forty minutes to fill in two squares. They will make their forty miles with little fanfare, but they also should be acknowledged for their stamina and persistence. And one final Polar Bear note, North Lake Tahoe division. On March 4th, Laura Burtch competed against 9 other women for a 150 yd. splashdash in 41 degree water. In addition to racking up hundreds of polar bear miles over the years, Laura Burtch still managed to come in third place behind a wet-suited winner.

Speaking of wet suits, was that a wet suit Larry Scroggins sported for the New Year's Day Alcatraz swim? Not quite. Looking quite devil-may-care, Larry emerged from the icy cold waters attired in a black tuxedo, white shirt and tie. Painted on that is. On the other hand, Mr. Devil May Care Himself—that would be Liam Hennessey—emerged from those same icy waters visibly shaken. A remarkable athlete, Liam nevertheless found that swimming with cracked ribs proved a daunting experience. He still came in 8th place. And first place with flash bulbs flashing and cameras whirring was Suzanne Heim. Graciously, she waited on the beach to congratulate second place finisher, John Selmer. A Culinary note, all participants were tanta-

lized by the smell of pig wafting through the air.

Dan Osborne, first time participant and winner of last summer's Over 60 Swim, started off the new swim season by thumbing his nose at the young'uns by winning the New Year's Day Cove Swim. (We will be very discreet and not mention the "old" Swim Commissioner coming down late to find that the swim had already begun.) And always a man of inimitable style, Bill Powning backstroked his smile across the finish line, bring-



On his way to the North Pole: George Kebbe
ing the race to an end.

Once again Mother Nature snickered at *Homo Sapiens dolphinae* with their little tide books neatly charting and circumscribing nature into boxes and graphs, tides and currents. This year's Mid-Winter Gas House Cove provided a good reminder to us all that the tide charts are not the Bible, but rather, a set of probabilities to be weighed with experience and common sense. A strong flood should have lasted long enough to sweep all the swimmers into the cove, but the tide changed prematurely. Swimmers such as Jackie Merovich and David Broadbear had to fight their way into the cove. And admirably, we might add. First one in at 19 minutes was John Selmer.

At the February 16th Board meeting, we made a formal proposal to officially change the name of the Mid-Winter Cove to the Z-Man Mid-Winter Cove to honor David Zovickian's past work as Swim Commissioner. The motion passed unanimously. It seemed only appropriate that Laura Burtch came in first for the first Z-man. It was great fun as the Dolphins embraced the Z spirit. Along with the Z swim course, Z's were carved into the sand (Gina Rus), Z posters were plastered all about (Ruben Hechanova),

cut up bagels and donuts formed Z's on the table (Julie Lesage) and swim results designed themselves magically into a Z (Pam Derks). And best of all, Z-man T-shirts were given out as a special trinket to commemorate the event (Barbara and Mark Keller).

Finally, a modest proposal. When Herb and Eleanor left, they left behind an emotional wreck of a man in Lou Marcelli. But now, JOEY AND BABE, THE NEXT GENERATION have flown their way into the Duckmaster's heart. Unfortunately, the sacred ritual of bonding between a duckmaster and his ducks keeps getting interrupted by swimmers and people who want to row their boats. Now, *bonding interruptus* is a serious and often frustrating matter. So, having consulted with Al de la Peña, the Boat House Captain, Ken Frank, the Rowing Commissioner, Jon Nakamura, the President and with the full support of the Swim Commission, we propose a month's moratorium on swimming and the launching of any watercraft. The following dates are for your consideration: April 15 - May 15 or May 1 - May 30. Please let any Board member or officer know your feelings on this issue.

Quack.

