

October 30, 2018

Dear Mr. Rutemiller

Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Bonnie Stoll and I served as Diana Nyad's Head Handler on four of her Havana-Key West crossings, including the final and successful swim of 2013.

It has, shockingly, come to our team's attention that there are some entirely illogical charges against the legitimacy of Diana's courageous swim.

Many of her core teammates on that final crossing, myself included, have written and submitted our reports and observations to WOWSA, with the purpose of gaining formal ratification.

It defies logic that forty-four individuals would collude to support a swim that was not carried out within the fair and accepted rules of the sport. I can gather testimonials from all forty-four who were out there for the 53 hours of the crossing, but suffice it to say that many of the core team are highly lauded professionals in their fields---esteemed individuals who would never participate in any fraudulent activities. I am listing the key professionals here. They have already signed their reports, given their word that they witnessed Diana Nyad swimming from Havana Cuba to Key West Florida , with no floatation device, no cage and no touching of the boat the entire way across the treacherous Gulfstream from August 31 through September 2, 2013.

Each one of these esteemed people is willing to appear in person or be contacted directly to verify their observations.

It is not only a grave insult to Diana , to hear these few haters express their vitriol, but it is an unsportsmanlike and unworthy affair, to have Diana's dedicated team experience aspersions cast upon their character as well. We all worked hard, with high inspiration delivered all around the world, for this lifelong dream of Diana's. We put in all the lonely, grueling training hours. We suffered as she suffered in her painful failure attempts. And we all deserved the emotional triumph on Smathers Beach when Diana spoke those now-famous words: "We should never, ever give up."

A short time after the swim, 2013, our intrepid navigator John Bartlett addressed a group of marathon swimming people and answered all their questions about the currents/tides/speed vectors of the crossing. Save one individual, all the people on that call declared afterwards that the navigation of the swim was understood and that Diana in fact swam shore to shore, fair and square. There were notables of the sport, such as the great Penny Dean, on that call.

My understanding is that a couple of these "haters" are fixated on a mis-report from way out at sea, that Diana had gone seven hours without drinking any fluids. I can assure you, as her Handler, I would of course never let that happen. We were a team versed in science and would not let any stone unturned, when it came to proper nutritional and medical care of our swimmer. But why these people wouldn't contact me directly and ask me about the mis-

report of her fluid intake, instead of irresponsibly launching negative attacks, escapes me.

Diana lives a large life, lifting people all over the globe toward their dreams. She inspired every one of us on her team to be our best selves. These few negative, petty individuals will not deter Diana, nor any of us who gave so much and got so much from chasing that Cuba Swim dream. But inaccurate, hostile words from these haters is simply unjust and we, Diana's team, now want to speak our own truth.

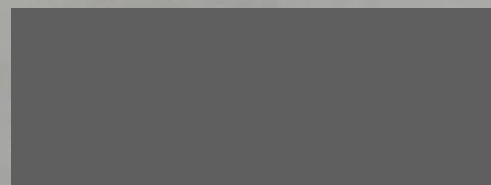
Thank you for "listening", Mr. Rutemiller.

Here is the list of the key team, as I say people from professional ranks who would not sully their good reputations by involving themselves with any expedition other than an honorable one. Trust me, such was Diana's Cuba Swim—honorable.

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Stoll

Bonnie Stoll

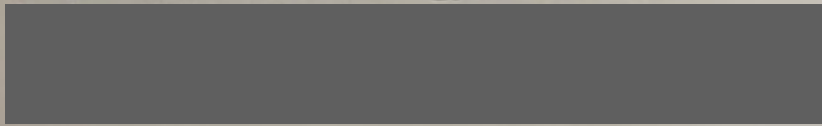


Dr. Angel Yanagihara
World-renowned Box Jellyfish Expert



Dr. Derek Covington

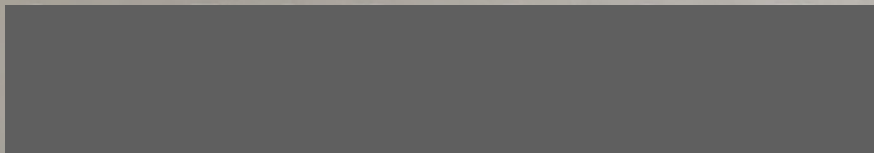
Chief Swim Med Team
Dept of Anesthesiology, Professor



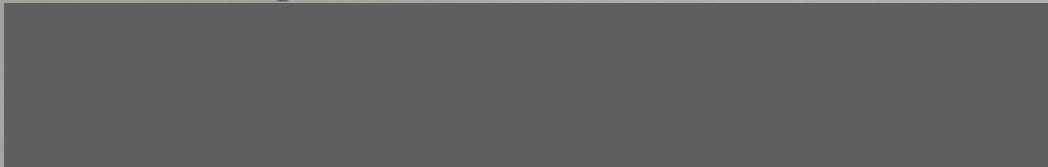
Candace Lyle Hogan
Swim Historian and Social Media Reporter



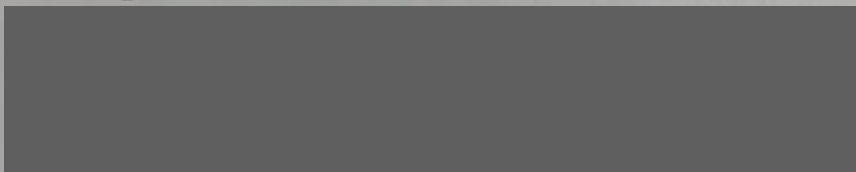
John and Pauline Berry
John: Team Ops Chief
Pauline: Second Handler/Nurse



Roger McVeigh
Official Independent Observer



Janet Hinkle
Independent Observer



Dee Brady
Captain Voyager escort boat

