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24th Annual Maryland Swim for Life



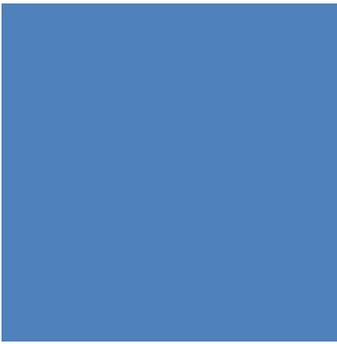
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Saturday, July 11, 2015

1, 2, 3, 4, or 5-Mile Open Water Swims, plus the **2.4 Triathlon Challenge Swim**
Rolph's Wharf Marina, Chestertown, MD

Organized by the District of Columbia Aquatics Club, Inc. and
Sanctioned by Maryland LMSC for USMS, Inc., Sanction No. Pending



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Maryland Swim for Life

Register online today.



REGISTER ONLINE AT:
<http://swimforlife.swimdcac.org/>
**CLICK ON THE
“REGISTER NOW”
BUTTON TO GET STARTED.**



The *District of Columbia Aquatics Club (DCAC)* (<http://www.swimdcac.org>) is proud to host the 24th Annual Maryland Swim for Life on Saturday, *July 11, 2015*. DCAC is one of the largest United States Masters Swimming teams and is a 501(c)(3) organization. Proceeds from *Swim for Life* support a number of local organizations assisting individuals and families affected by HIV/AIDS, as well as the Chester River Association, which advocates for the health of the Chester River.

REGISTRATION AND FUNDRAISING

The registration fee for Swim for Life is \$30 before June 27 and \$40 after. With your registration fee, you will receive breakfast, a picnic lunch, a swim cap and a t-shirt at Rolph’s Wharf on race day. We strongly encourage swimmers to register for *Swim for Life* through *Club Assistant*, which allows you to reach out to family and friends and collect

donations online. Club Assistant will also confirm your USMS registration or allow you to purchase your one-event USMS registration (“OEVT”) if you are not USMS-registered. Online registration will close at 11:59 pm eastern daylight time on Thursday, July 9, 2015. We will still accept race-day registrations if you are unable to register online.

TRAINING/ELIGIBILITY

All swimmers must be 18 years of age and registered with USMS to participate in this swim. USMS registration is easy to do online at www.usms.org/reg. One-event USMS memberships are available for a fee of \$30 during online registration. All swimmers are urged to train for this event, and novices are urged to enter the shorter distance waves (see schedule for required completion timing). All swimmers, “seasoned” and new, are welcome at this wonderful event.



A day of fun and friendship - all for a great cause

LOCATION

This year's event will again take place at Rolph's Wharf Marina on the Queen Anne's County side of the Chester River, three miles south of Chestertown in Kent County.

<http://www.rolphswharf.com>. This beautiful setting, near a charming small town, is well worth a day trip or a weekend of exploring.

DIRECTIONS

From the Chesapeake Bay Bridge: Take 50 East to 301 North. 50 East and 301 North separate approximately 9 miles past the Bay Bridge. Stay on 301 by taking the left fork. In approximately 5 miles, take the Route 213 North exit toward Chestertown and Washington College. After 2 miles, you will pass through Centreville. Proceed another 10 miles and turn left onto Rolph's Wharf Road. A Swim for Life banner will mark this turn. Follow Rolph's Wharf Road for 2 miles and a volunteer will direct you for parking. If you plan to drive Saturday morning, it is best to leave early to avoid summer bridge traffic.

WATER

Water temperature on swim mornings is usually in the mid-70s. Wetsuits are allowed, but will be scored separately (most swimmers do not wear one as the water is very comfortable); flotation devices (e.g., pull buoys, paddles, fins) are not. USMS regulations prohibit wetsuits if water temperatures exceed 78 degrees.

SCHEDULE

7:00 – 8:15 a.m.	On-Site Registration (check-in) and Breakfast
8:30 a.m.	Opening Ceremony and Swimmer Instructions
9:00 a.m.	Swim Start
12:00 p.m.	Swim Cutoff
12:30 p.m.	Picnic Celebration and Awards Ceremony

Every swimmer must be registered and checked-in by 8:15 a.m. on race day. All pledge money not submitted online is also due by 8:15 a.m., in order to be included in fundraising totals used to determine prizewinners. ABSOLUTELY NO changes to race distance will be permitted after registration closes. To ensure the validity of the swim results, no mid-course changes are allowed, except for safety reasons. If you do not complete your designated distance, you MUST inform the event coordinators. During check-in, swimmers will be body-marked and capped according to distance, and will receive a timing chip on a Velcro strap, to be worn around one ankle.

SAFETY

Safety support at the swim will be provided by the U.S. Coast Guard and their Auxiliary, Maryland Natural Resources Police, the Chesapeake Paddlers' Association, the Chester River Association, the Kent and Queen Anne's County Rescue Squad, Chesapeake Bay Boston Whalers Club, and other local volunteer boaters and kayakers. ***There are no lifeguards on duty – participants and guests swim at their own risk.***



2015 Swim for Life Swimmer Instructions

HAVE FUN, RELAX, ENJOY GOOD COMPANY, THE DAY, AND THE RIVER!

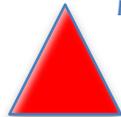


COURSE

There will be 5 large inflatable yellow buoys on the course at ½ mile intervals. See map. Each wave will turn around at the buoy that marks the halfway point of their swim. Five milers will swim by all 5 buoys, turning around at the 5th, at mile 2 1/2. Each buoy is spray-painted with its respective wave number (i.e., the first buoy, located ½ mile from the start, is labeled “1 mile” because that is where the 1 mile swimmers turn around). The **2.4-Mile Triathlon Challenge** buoy, at 1.2 miles from the start, will be marked with a special orange buoy. All swimmers will start the swim in the same direction – up river (North). Upon reaching the appropriate buoy, swimmers will go around that buoy and swim back down river (South).



Swimmers should always keep buoys on their LEFT going NORTH. Swimmers should always keep the buoys on their LEFT going SOUTH, with the exception of the 2nd buoy (at mile 1), which you must keep to your right on your return. Kayakers will be there to be sure you swim to the correct side. This prevents unfair shortcuts due to the curve of the river.



PLEASE NOTE: *There is a fishing weir between the first and second buoys. This is a type of net stretched across the river. You will know you are getting close to it when you see sticks standing up in the water in a row perpendicular to the shore. You can easily swim right over the net. Look for kayakers directing you towards the easiest crossing points.*



START PROCEDURE

All swimmers must wear a timing chip on a Velcro strap around the ankle. Swimmers will start in the water, in 6 waves according to distance: 5 milers first, followed by 4 milers, then 3 milers, the 2.4 Mile Triathlon Challenge swimmers, the 2 milers, and 1 milers last. Each group will begin 5 minutes after the preceding group has started.

SAFETY BOATS

For your safety, USCG and NRP patrol boats are located near 3 locations: start/finish, half-way along the 2 ½ mile course (3rd buoy, 1 ½ miles upriver), and by the final buoy (5th buoy, 2 ½ miles upriver). Paddlers in kayaks and paddleboards will be stationed at all turn buoys and along the outside length of the course. Volunteer powerboats will also patrol swimmers along the course. Kayakers and paddleboards will keep swimmers on course, provide swimmers food and drink, act as a buffer between swimmers and boat traffic, and be available for water assistance. A local rescue boat with medic/dive personnel will also be on hand.



The Course

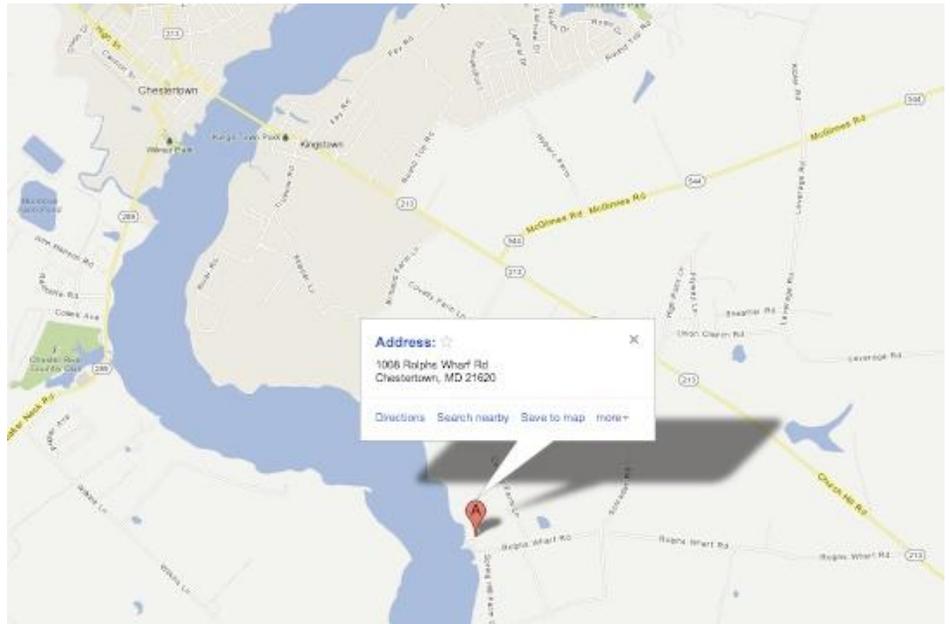
Rolph's Wharf Marina

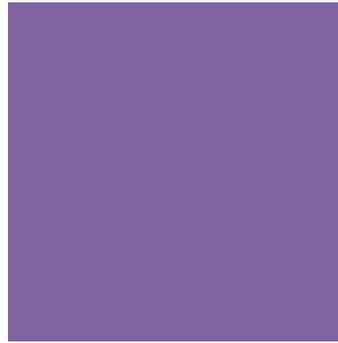
1008 Rolphs Wharf Rd.
Chestertown, MD 21620

Participants will start and finish at Rolph's Wharf, in six waves by distance (5 mile starts first). The swims are out (upriver) and back (downriver) and run parallel to shore. Course map and swimmer instructions attached. The course is marked by inflatable yellow buoys at 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, and 2.5 miles. The **2.4-Mile Triathlon Challenge** buoy, at 1.2 miles from the start, will be marked with a special orange buoy. Swimmers should always keep the buoys to their left, with the exception of the 2nd buoy at 1 mile on the return (see diagram). Water safety officials have the authority to determine when a swimmer needs to be removed from the water. Any swimmer removed from the water must report immediately to the DNF Official and recording station upon returning to shore. The swim ends promptly at 12:30 pm. Any swimmer still in the water at that time will be picked up by safety personnel and brought to the DNF pier.

A more-detailed interactive map of the course is available online at:

<http://g.co/maps/bxqxa>





Pledges

Making a difference across our community

Swim for Life's purpose is to raise funds for our community. **Each swimmer must contribute a minimum of \$100 in pledges;** many swimmers raise far more. Special prizes will be awarded to the top 10 fundraisers, based on pledges submitted by the start of the event. When you register online, you can submit your minimum pledge, and/or you can direct your sponsors to the online donation option. Pledge checks can be made payable to "DCAC Swim for Life." Donations are tax-deductible.

Awards:

The top finishers, male and female, in "Wise" (> 45 yrs old) and "Energetic" (up to and including 45 yrs old) categories for each distance will receive awards.



CHARITY PARTNERS:

Donations are distributed to various charity partners. Our 2015 charity partners will be announced soon!

Our 2014 partners were:

- Heart to Hand, Inc.
- Quality of Life Retreats
- Chester River Association

Find out more about our past charity partners on our website: <http://swimforlife.swimdca.org/>





See you soon!



Contact Information:

For additional information, please email swimforlife@swimdcac.org or call Ross Linderman – 206-419-6654.

Last minute updates and information will be posted on the Swim for Life website:

<http://swimforlife.swimdcac.org>



4/10/2015