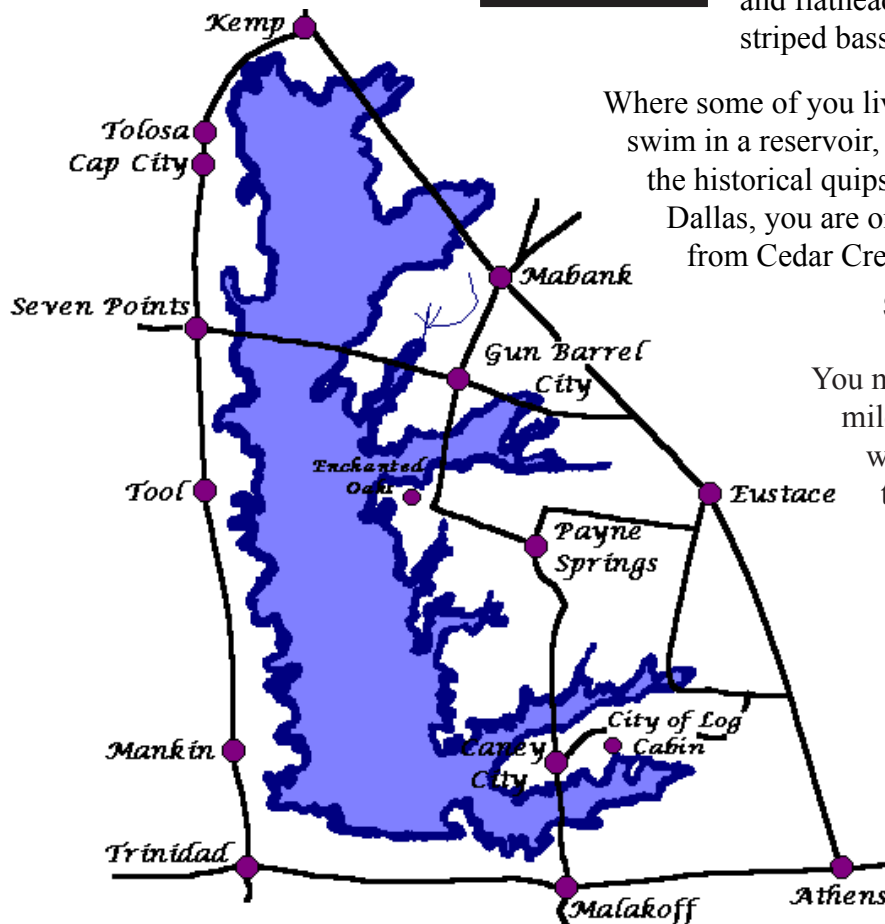


Virtual Swim through Cedar Creek Lake: A man-made reservoir, Texas style (BIG)



Location: 15 miles west of Athens, Texas, in the area between US 175 and Texas 274.
Size: 34,300 acres **Maximum Depth:** 53 feet **Date Impounded:** 1965 **Normal Water Clarity:** Moderately clear at lower end to muddy in the upper end. **Water Level Fluctuation:** 4 feet. **Conservation Pool Elevation:** 322 ft. **Aquatic Vegetation:** Native emergent, submergent and floating, light in coves and creek arms in lower end of the lake. **Predominant Fish Species:** Largemouth bass, channel, blue and flathead catfishes, white bass, hybrid striped bass, white and black crappie.



Where some of you live, you may not be allowed to swim in a reservoir, but, here Texas, you are! Enjoy the historical quips, and, if you do make it to Dallas, you are only a short hour plus drive away from Cedar Creek Lake.

SWIM Sessions:

You may make your daily total mileage as short or as long as you wish. The actual numbers pertain to miles (it's a big lake!), but as this is for swimming, we've taken Virtual liberty to call them lengths. For each segment you complete, fill in the day(s) mileage, and session # in your Log Book along with the date. All of your swimming mileage counts toward your goal. A mile is equivalent to 1760 yards (approximately 70 lengths of a 25 yard pool),

or 1600 meters (64 lengths of a 25 meter pool, or 32 lengths of a 50 meter pool). The lengths below pertain to a 25 Yard or Meter pool. If swimming in a 50 meter pool, cut the distances in half.

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#1 Kemp – Tolosa/Cap City (58 lengths) -- The community of Kemp was named for Malvina Kemp Watkins, wife of John Marr Watkins, the first postmaster, and was officially established when the post office opened in 1851. It grew slowly during its first thirty years. A Presbyterian congregation was organized in 1854, and the Kemp Academy of Learning began operation in 1867. After the Civil War^{qv} an increasing number of settlers moved to the community. In 1870 Dr. A. J. Still, hoping to profit from this growth and the possible construction of a railroad through the area, bought land just north of the community and, after surveying, dividing the tract into lots, platted it, and persuaded the directors of the Southern Pacific Railroad to lay tracks across his property by offering the company a number of lots. Another early settler, Sam Parmalee, followed suit and offered the rail company right-of-way through his property. The mid-1880s witnessed the completion of the rail line through the community, the construction of a depot there, and the



The "BIG ONE" that didn't get away- circa 1930

designation of Kemp as a terminus on the line. The railroad attracted settlers to Kemp. Prospering with the surrounding cattle ranches and cotton farms, the community developed as a trade center for the lower part of the county.

#2: Tolosa - Seven Points (50 lengths)

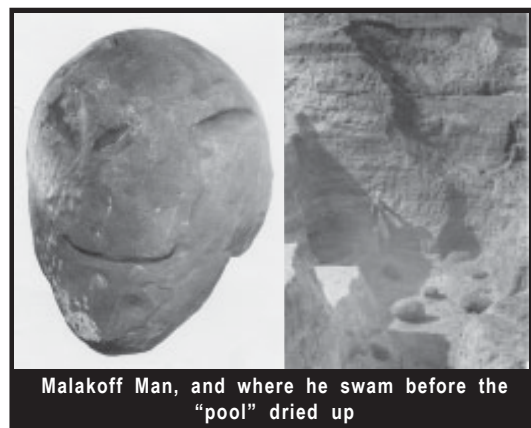
#3: Seven Points - Tool (50 lengths) -- Tradition has it that Tool was once named Hog Fork but that it was later renamed for George Tool, who in 1905 had the first store there.

#4: Tool —Mankin (60 lengths)

#5: Mankin – Trinidad (52 lengths) -- Settlement of the area began before 1840, when O. M. Airhart ran the local ferry across the Trinity River, which was originally called the Trinidad River, and Zach Smith operated a ferry four miles north of the present townsite. Keep up with the ferry for this portion of its journey.

#6: Trinidad – Malakoff (72 lengths) -- Make this a creative session(or two). After your warm-up, Swim any stroke but freestyle, incorporating a variety of kick drills. Then warm-down. Malakoff was incorporated by election in July 1948. During the 1930s it gained prominence for the discovery of a large prehistoric carved head, known as the "Malakoff Man,"^{qv} found in the excavation of a gravel pit in 1929.

#7: Malakoff - Caney City (80 lengths)



Malakoff Man, and where he swam before the "pool" dried up

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#8: Caney City - Payne Springs (84 lengths)

#9: Payne Springs – Enchanted Oaks –(72 lengths)

#10: Enchanted Oaks – Gun Barrel City (80 lengths)

-- Gun Barrel City’s name was derived from its motto, “We shoot straight with you,” and its symbol, a rifle. Long before the lake was built, Gun Barrel Lane (now State Highway 198) traversed the area. This mud road was a shortcut across Cedar Creek from Mabank to Trinidad and Seven Points.



#11: Gun Barrel City – Mabank (88 lengths) -- G. W. Mason and Thomas Eubank, the owners of the nearby Mason-Eubank Ranch, across which the rail line was constructed, realized the potential that the railroad represented and quickly set aside a one-square-mile tract which they called Mabank, a combination of the name Mason and Eubank. They platted the site on February 23, 1900. A post office began operations at Mabank in the same year.

#12: Mabank – Kemp (100 lengths)

You have completed the Cedar Creek Lake Virtual Swim! Congratulations!! You deserve a night out in Gun Barrel City, for a true taste of Texan rootin’ tootin’ fun. Go ahead and fill out the “Virtual Swim Consolidated Entry Form” (separate page) to send in your results.

SWIM LOG								
Session#	Date	# Lengths	Session#	Date	# Lengths	Session#	Date	# Lengths
EX: #1	6/1/03	15	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

The Virtual Swim around Cedar Creek Lake is brought to you courtesy of the North Texas Masters Swim Club and the USMS Fitness Committee. Virtual swim compiled by Sandy Lovejoy.