

SWIM ACROSS AMERICA

Cancer invaded Jeff Keith's right leg when he was 12 years old, and it was amputated six inches above the knee. Since then, he has spent his life raising money and awareness in the fight against cancer by running, swimming and biking "across America."

Twenty years ago, he and his college roommate, Matt Vossler, started an open water event to raise money for cancer research. Now called Swim Across America, it is playing host to 11 events this summer in five major metro areas.

Be sure to pick up a copy of the August issue of *Swimming World Magazine* and read about Jeff Keith and his amazing story.

This summer's Swim Across America's schedule has already included a Nassau/Suffolk Garden City Pool Swim, Boston Harbor Island Swim, Boston Nantasket Beach Swim, Long Island NYAC Pool Swim, Long Island Orienta Pool Swim, Chicago Swim, Nassau Aquatic Pool Swim and a Long Island Sound Swim.

Rounding out the summer's schedule are the Nassau/Suffolk Sound to the Cove Swim (Aug. 19), New York Hudson River Swim (Sept. 22) and San Francisco Relay Swim (Sept. 23). For more information, go to www.swimacrossamerica.org.

One of the 11 swims this summer took place in Boston, with the money raised going to the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute. Following is a story of that event:

MAKING WAVES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER

By Elizabeth Chernack

Swim Across America made a splash in Boston this summer. A record number of swimmers raised more than \$250,000 to support survivor programs at Boston's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

This year's swims attracted competitive, college and casual swimmers alike. Together they braved the chilly ocean waters with Olympic swimmers Janel Jorgensen (who is also the executive director of Swim Across America), Eric Wunderlich, Tim McKee, Carlton Brunner and Craig Beardsley.

On Friday, July 14, 58 swimmers jumped into Boston Harbor for a 22-mile relay swim. The next day, July 15, more than 130 swimmers competed in half- and one-mile swims from Nantasket Beach, just south of Boston, in Hull, Mass., for the same cause.

Swim Across America is a non-profit corporation that runs events from Boston to San Francisco to support cancer research at the country's finest hospitals and institutions.

Proceeds from the Boston area swims and kickoff party benefit the David B. Perini, Jr. Quality of Life Program at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute.

This innovative program helps survivors of childhood and adolescent cancers address long-term consequences of their treatments such as heart problems, fertility issues and learning challenges through medical care, education and support.

In addition, Perini Clinic staff members conduct research to determine ways to improve the health of newly diagnosed patients and reduce or eliminate the harmful side effects of cancer treatments.

Due to its success, Swim Across America will be back for a 12th year in Boston and ninth year at Nantasket Beach in the summer of 2007.

For more information, go to www.swimacrossamerica.org or www.jimmyfund.org (click on Swim Across America under "Choose an Event").



PHOTO: Olympians who participated in Boston's Swim Across America in July included (from left) Craig Beardsley, Tim McKee, Eric Wunderlich, Janel Jorgensen (executive director of SAA), Kitty Tetreault (SAA event director and non-Olympian) and Carlton Brunner. (Photo by John Deputy)