

1978

# CUBA Swim authenticator's Account

Jim mims--i have been diving insrctor going on three yars. working in salt water has been my field of study. diving 10 years, scuba. when i met walter, we were both swimming offshore early this yar, off bahia mar. i take mystudents out there. i swim with masks and snorkle. was not familiar with his style. we started chatting. talked about his equipment. i swam with him for awhile, close to five miles, pretty long swim. i ws pretty beat, but he wasn't tired at all. it amazed me. he told me training for cuba to flrida swim. i said, man, did I wnt to get hold of you. i starting federation, internatinal federation of professional ocean swimmers and diviers. concept came in november of 1977. the ocean is virgin environment, need safer means, to be taught to swim in ocean. march, it is incorporated. to alert community to aquatic environment, to promote safety through life-saving, first aid cpr along with swimming. learn diver rescues, how to scuba and skin dive. compe-te aquatic awareness. i am instructor profesional diving schools, about 10 guys active with me. i am employed profesional diving schools of lflorida, three schools, deerfielkd, pompano and bahia mar. waltdr asked me would this kind of swim fit into our departmehtl i said by all means. would give me research, want to find out about exposure times, diet. start writing data research books. heartbeat and blood pressure for medical siee. have doctor on my team. he was intrigued by idea, thought it would be phenomenal breakthrough in medical technologi, especially at his age. i sed, yes, could use trip like this, he said i can't offer you any money, down to the bottom. i sed, well, i can swim my own weight. like to document swim. this would be our first sanction. want to use as an endorsement too. to authenticate any event, you have to h-ve a knowledge of it--it is unerstood. if someone ws going to doubt my word, what are his credentials. not just anybody can authenticate. we have requirements for anybody in our federation to authenticate aquatic evnts, must have aquatic, firs aid and lifesaving training. diving, ocean diving, around world, at least 2,000 hours. plus cpr, american heart association, pilot's license, lot of other training and taravel time. thye lead to credentials. person familiar with field and theprofession., not just somebody who knows how to swim but someobyd familiarx with currents, treatment of man of war; put wrong person in that job and you have problems.

Notes from Keeren Interview

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