



Tom Hetzel, PhD, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 1980



Videos: [Documentary 1 at 7:40](#) [Swim 1 at 4:50](#)

Tom Hetzel, PhD swam the English Channel 8 times as a solo swimmer from 1967 to 1977 in times ranging from 13 hours and 45 minutes to 18 hours and 54 minutes. He swam 34 km Lac St-Jean; 32 km Aswan High Dam; 48.2 km Baja California; 48.2 km from Point Lookout in New York; and 7 Manhattan Island Marathon Swims.

He captained six relay crossings that set three new records and coached IMSHOF Honoree Dr. James "Doc" Counsilman on his English Channel swim.

He is credited with restarting the Manhattan Island Marathon Swim with Honoree Drury Gallagher in the early 1980s.

[Expanded Biography \(Openwaterpedia\)](#)

[Long Swims Database \(Marathon Swimmers Federation\)](#)