Phil White, Honor Administrator, United States of America, 2027

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Phil White, starting in 2009, has played a central role in creating a series of swims in a remote area of Vermont, known as the Northeast Kingdom. They include Kingdom Swim (2009), Willoughby Swim (2010), In Search of Memphre (2011), NEK Swim Week (2013), and the Memphremagog Winter Swimming Festival (2015) These swims have drawn thousands of swimmers from all over the USA, Canada, Mexico and the world. The Northeast Kingdom has emerged as “an unlikely mecca” of open water swimming.

Phil built these swims with a skeletal crew, over 125 volunteers, and the support of Newport City and local businesses. He co-founded the Northeast Kingdom Open Water Swimming Association (2010), the Triple Crown of Lake Monster Swims (2015), the Vermont Open Water Swimming Hall of Fame (2017), the Vampire Swim (2017) and Project Welcome (2024).

He was named to Vermont Sports 30: People and Organizations who have significantly impacted Outdoor Recreation in Vermont during the past 30 years (2020). Phil received the 2019-2020 Marathon Swimmers Federation Service to Marathon Swimming Award and the Jim Doty (IMSHOF Honoree) Award for his devotion to swimmers (2022). In 2023, he was inducted into the New England Local Masters Swimming Hall of Fame: Honoree Contributor.

Expanded Biography (Openwaterpedia)