



Rose Pitonof, Honor Swimmer, United States of America, 2013



Videos: [Documentary 1](#) [Show 1 1911 water views](#) [Re-enactment 1](#)

Rose Pitonof was the first woman, at age 15, to complete the Boston Light Swim in 1910. The swim was 18.1 km (at that time) and she set the speed record time of 6 hours and 50 minutes. 7 men started the race, but none finished. The record held until 1912.

She swam 27.3 km from East 26th Street in Manhattan to Steeplechase Pier, Coney Island mostly breaststroke – and was declared to be the woman Long Distance Swimming Champion of the World. An estimated 50,000 people were reported to have cheered her arrival at Coney Island. In 1912, she planned to attempt to swim across the English Channel, but she never got her chance and swam the Thames instead. In 1913 she made attempts to swim from the Manhattan Battery to Sandy Hook, New Jersey. Based on her fame, Rose became a Vaudeville performer.

She is the namesake of the Rose Pitonof Centennial Swim in Manhattan.

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

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