



Captain Mickey Pittman, Honor Pilot, United States of America, 2017



Videos: [Talk 1 from 0:36](#) [Talk 2 at 6:55](#)

Captain Mickey Pittman was the key pilot in the early days of the Catalina Channel swims. His first swimmer was in September 1972 (solo swimmer number 27) with the original “OUTRIDER”. IMSHOF Honoree Captain John Pittman, his son, at age 13 assisted on the swim.

The 1970s saw 25 solos and no relays with Pittman piloting many of these swimmers including IMSHOF honorees: Lynne Cox, John York, Penny Lee Dean and David Yudovin. He continued for 15 more years before retiring in the late 1990s.

The Pittmans were involved in many “first” solos and relay swims – helping to set the groundwork for the future Santa Barbara Channel Swimming Association: Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, Santa Barbara, San Clemente and Coronado Islands. 2016 marked the end of an era – Mickey passed away, and John retired as a pilot.

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