

# Swimmers Compete in Red River Marathon Swim

Club members Mike Miller and Stefan Reinke completed America's longest single day marathon swim race on June 21. The Extreme North Dakota Water-sports Endurance Test (END-WET) is a 36 mile swim race on the Red River. The Red River flows northward through the Red River Valley, forming the border of Minnesota and North Dakota.

The race attracted competitors from around the country. Many were experienced marathon swimmers with swims such as the Kaiwi Channel, English Channel, Manhattan Island Marathon Swim, and the 24 Mile Tampa Bay Marathon Swim on their resumes.

The Race was held in flood conditions which had three major impacts: The water current ran fast, heavy rains lowered the water temperature (69 degrees F at race time), and there was heavy debris (such as tree limbs and branches). In order to secure the local authorities' permission to hold the event in the flood conditions, each participant was required to wear a personal floatation device.

Twenty-three swimmers started the race with 20 completing the entire course. Reinke finished third overall (second in the non-wetsuit category) in 8:46. Miller was ninth overall (6th non-wetsuit).

This was Reinke's longest swim event. Miller is an accomplished marathon swimmer having completed numerous swims including the English, Catalina and Molokai Channels.

Though the river appears muddy to the eye, the brown color is only suspended clay.



Photo courtesy Wes Peck

Stefan Reinke



Mike Miller