

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 3, 2023**

- **CONTACT:** Jena McClurken - [themissionathletics@gmail.com](mailto:themissionathletics@gmail.com)
  - **INTERVIEWS:** Jim Dreyer will be available for pre-swim interviews **ONLY on September 4, starting at 3:00 p.m. CDT at Bradford Beach.** The swim will begin at 4:00 pm CDT. Prior to that time, questions may be directed to the contact person above.
  - **PHOTOS & VIDEO:** <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GE2iMMgKzUrCYhhEEjFBNYQkk-pM0xN8?usp=sharing>
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## Dreyer to Swim Alone in 2nd Attempt to Cross Lake Michigan



**Jim Dreyer, with his support dinghy in tow, about to embark on his self-sufficient swim across Lake Superior on August 1, 2005. Photo: Jack McLain**

**(Milwaukee, Wisconsin) [Jim “The Shark” Dreyer](#)** announced that tomorrow, September 4th, he will make a second attempt to become the first to swim the width of Lake Michigan between Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and Grand Haven, Michigan. **In a surprising twist, Dreyer stated that he will attempt the 82.5-mile swim alone, without an escort boat.**

Dreyer, who turned 60 in August, is planning to start his Labor Day swim at 4:00 p.m. CDT, from Milwaukee’s *Bradford Beach*. Dreyer’s destination is *Grand Haven City Beach* in Michigan, which is expected to take more than 60 hours for him to reach.

The swim, entitled [Lake Michigan – The Silver Sequel](#), marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dreyer’s [first record-setting swim across the lake](#) between Two Rivers, Wisconsin, and Ludington, Michigan in 1998. In that swim, he became the first, and is still the only person, to make a mid-lake crossing between the two states. Twenty-five years later, in 2023, Dreyer hopes to swim 25 miles further in his second crossing of Lake Michigan.

Dreyer’s [first 2023 record attempt](#) was on August 1st and was aborted 10 miles east of Milwaukee due to worsening lake conditions that had already swept him and his escort boat 2.3 miles off course.

“I am not good at walking away from a goal before achieving it,” Dreyer said.

“While the safety net of having my professional support team with me on the water is definitely preferred, there are times, in certain conditions, where I stand a better chance on beating the elements alone without concerns related to the escort boat. There is only time for one more attempt this summer, and I do not want to risk the chance of what occurred last time happening again.”

Swimming alone across a Great Lake is not unprecedented for Dreyer.

“I’ve been in this position before,” Dreyer said. “Swimming self-sufficiently, pulling the weight of my supplies and doing my own navigating, is how I was finally successful in swimming nearly 60 miles across Lake Superior in 2005.”

“While it is hard to imagine facing worst conditions than I did on Superior, this Lake Michigan swim will be more than 20 or 30 miles further, depending on currents. I cannot minimize the fact that this will be my longest swim ever. It could easily be over 90 miles and could even take 72 hours.”

Dreyer will pull a 10-foot dinghy from his waist to carry his supplies, weighing approximately 225 pounds. He will use the latest GPS technology to find his way to Michigan.

“Swimming self-sufficiently is a different type of quest than an escorted swim,” Dreyer said.

“I have teamed up with [Vuzix Smart Swim](#) so I will be able to view my course and current location in a display right on my goggles. This cutting-edge technology is huge for navigating alone when shore is not visible in any direction for such a long period of time. I wish *Smart Swim* existed when I swam solo across Lake Superior.”

“Since I am alone, I will filter my own water and it is expected that I will lean over the side of the dinghy to feed myself, charge and change batteries, bail water, etc. However, I will not get in the

dinghy to sleep. Sleeping would make it a staged event. This event will be continuous as well as self-sufficient. If I were to camp out in the dinghy, it would be obvious on my tracking device.

“Due to pulling the weight of my supplies, I will wear hand paddles to increase the surface area of my hands and get more traction by pulling more water with each stroke. This takes more energy, but I believe it will be worth it, especially if I am pulling weight against the current. I will need to power through it, and I have trained to be strong enough to do it for a long time.”

Dreyer, who has controlled a lifelong fear of the open water from a childhood near drowning and went on to [swim across all five Great Lakes](#), emphasizes that he has taken all reasonable precautions.

“I am well trained for this and have calculated my risks,” Dreyer said. “I want to inspire others that one can control fear and achieve extraordinary goals through perseverance and fortitude. I do not want to encourage recklessness.”

“In an emergency I could get in the dinghy and end the swim. I can send messages via satellite through my tracking device to my support team on both shores. They will have rescue boats ready, and my dinghy is equipped to show up on radar. Even though I am alone, my team will still play an invaluable role when it comes to safety. I will not tie up U.S. Coast Guard assets to rescue me.”

I can also “self-rescue” by rowing the dinghy. I will have oars along that could be used in an emergency. The oars will be bound together with a seal, and inspected before and after the swim to prove whether or not they were used.”

The swim benefits the [Grand Haven Chapter](#) and [Western Lake Michigan \(Milwaukee\) Chapter](#) of the U.S. Coast Guard’s [Chief Petty Officers Association](#), supporting Lake Michigan Guardians, their families, and communities on both shores.

To track Jim “The Shark” Dreyer’s progress across Lake Michigan in real time and to make tax-deductible [donations](#) to the USCG *Chief Petty Officers Association*, go online to [www.JimTheSharkDreyer.com](http://www.JimTheSharkDreyer.com).

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