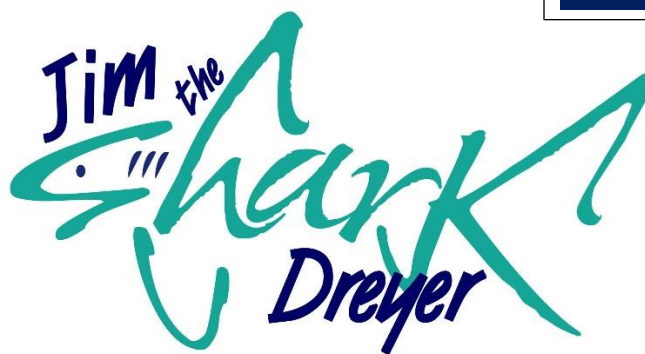




CONTACT



**Ultra-Marathon Strength Athlete
and Event Organizer**

Jim Dreyer, perhaps best known as “The Shark,” has gained international acclaim for his [groundbreaking achievements](#) as a world record ultra-marathon strength athlete and as the founder of monumental life-changing events and programs. Through these endeavors he has raised over a million dollars for charity.

Also known as “The Human Tugboat,” Dreyer earned the designation of “[Superhuman](#)” when he was featured on the *History Channel*’s popular TV series, *Stan Lee’s Superhumans*, and swam across Newport Beach Harbor towing a 27-ton car ferry in an astounding feat of strength. The invitation to appear on the show followed the publicity surrounding the first “strength swim” of his [Cornerstone Strength Campaign](#), where Jim pulled a ton of bricks in a 22-mile swim across Lake St. Clair to Detroit as a *Habitat for Humanity* fundraiser to “ReBuild Michigan.” Jim is the first and only to incorporate marathon-distance swimming in record-setting feats of strength.

Before receiving “Superhuman” status for his physical strength, Dreyer had already been labeled a “sports psychology strongman” for the mental toughness he exhibited in swimming across all five Great Lakes, while controlling a lifelong fear of water from a near-drowning as a child. “Quitting is not an option” was his mantra as he triumphed over seemingly insurmountable obstacles in these ever-challenging waters. As the second of only three to swim across all five Great Lakes, Jim is the only athlete to set records in each lake crossing.

Amazingly, Dreyer began his ultra-marathon career with a record-setting 65-mile swim across Lake Michigan just two years after facing his life’s greatest fear and learning to swim. This initiated Jim’s “Drive for Five” to cross all of North America’s freshwater seas in support of the *Big Brothers Big Sisters Program*.

Highlights of the ensuing [Great Lakes Ultra-Marathon Series](#) included lake crossings where Dreyer first broke new ground as a true pioneer, stretching the limits of known human capabilities by combining distance swimming with multi-sport disciplines and performing self-sufficiently. As the first and only to combine Ironman-distance running and biking with swimming record distances in a continuous event,

Jim ran 26.2 miles through the beach sand, biked 130 miles, and swam 56 miles across Lake Ontario in his most notable multi-sport event. Jim set the gold standard in self-sufficient challenges when he crossed his fifth Great Lake, swimming alone for 60 hours while towing 325 pounds of supplies and finding his way from Michigan's upper peninsula to Canada 60 miles away across the raging waters of Lake Superior.

Dreyer was an accomplished semi-professional baseball player, Tae kwon do black belt on the *Michigan Karate Circuit*, competitive cross-country skier, and just missed making the U.S. Olympic snowshoe team. Jim lists kayaking as his favorite hobby and paddled 1,430 miles across the U.S. from Lake Michigan to the Gulf of Mexico and helped build a *Habitat for Humanity* home in a hurricane-stricken area of New Orleans.

When not performing as an athlete, Jim Dreyer has found other ways to make a positive impact.

As an appointee under Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm to the *Mentor Michigan Leadership Council*, Dreyer founded and led the *Adventures in Mentoring (AIM)* program from 2006 - 2010. AIM matched court-involved youth with mentors and trained them in wilderness survival and adventure racing to teach "life lessons for healthy and productive lives."

Dreyer founded and directed the *Mighty Mac Swim*, a popular internationally sanctioned race across the Straits of Mackinac from 2007 - 2019. The swim was first held for the 50th anniversary celebration of Michigan's Mackinac Bridge in 2007, and in 2015 raised over \$427,000, ranking as the 12th highest grossing charity swim in world history according to the *World Open Water Swimming Association*.

In 2025, Dreyer founded, organized, and participated in the *Edmund Fitzgerald Memorial Swim* to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the shipwreck made famous in Gordon Lightfoot's Grammy-nominated *Wreck of the Edmund Fitzgerald*. The 411-mile relay swim featured 70 participants swimming from the Lake Superior wreck site to Detroit, delivering iron ore pellets to symbolically finish the *Edmund Fitzgerald's* tragic journey. The event memorialized the 29 souls lost in the wreck and funds were raised to help preserve the Whitefish Point Light Station. The swim will be the subject of a [documentary film](#) planned to be released in late 2026.

After transforming the open water from a place of paralyzing fear to the playing field where he excelled for unprecedented athletic success, Jim "The Shark" Dreyer shares his compelling stories and secrets for achieving extraordinary goals in an entertaining and highly inspirational presentation aptly titled, "[Cornerstone Strength in the Face of Burden.](#)"

www.JimTheSharkDreyer.com