



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



Personal Website (None known)

Rose Pitonof, who lived from 1895 to 1984, was a marathon swimmer of the early 20th century and is the namesake of the 17-mile Rose Pitonof Centennial Swim, her historic swim from Manhattan to Steeplechase Pier, Coney Island. In 1910 at the age of 15, she won the 8-mile Boston Light Swim in a record time of 6 hours and 50 minutes. Seven men started the competition with her, but none finished. She was the first woman to ever complete the event. After her Boston Light Swim, Rose became a Vaudeville performer. In 1911, she swam from East 26th Street to Steeplechase Pier, earning the woman's title of Long Distance Swimming Champion of the World. The distance is 17 miles which she swam mostly breaststroke. An estimated 50,000 people were reported to have cheered her on 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.

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

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