

John Leitner

Grand Haven, MI



Hello, I'm John Leitner and I'm living in Grand Haven where I grew up on Lake Michigan. Swimming for me has been a sideline activity – I've always lived an active lifestyle – mostly skiing (50 years National Ski Patrol), peddling my bike (various trips home and abroad), boating (kayaking and sailing) – two out of three need water to make it happen! I learned to swim through the YMCA and competed as a kid in their programs, it never went further than that. In my twenties I crossed the English Channel in a boat and always thought about swimming it, but that's as far as it went. We have a small group of active swimmers here in town that like to go out in the lake and make a splash. Several of us did the Mac bridge swim in 2019 and I also swim a bunch in Traverse Bay with my friend John. When Jim Dreyer told me about this swim and what it was for I knew I had to be a part of it! It seemed like such a fitting way to pay tribute to the 29 men on the ship and to fund a great project like the Whitefish Lighthouse. I would appreciate any financial support for this cause!