

season of 2006-2007.

The next boat south from the Balclutha is the Eppleton Hall, a 1914 steam-powered, paddle-wheel tugboat. It is moored end-on to Hyde Street Pier, so it's possible to swim behind it. It's not so easy to swim behind the Balclutha or the Thayer as they have numerous pipes and cables snaking through the water to the pier. Also, debris tends to collect in the back eddies on the east side of these boats. Certain SouthEnders and Dolphins refer to this corridor with affection as "Rat Alley." Directly behind the Eppleton Hall, however, the swimming is relatively unencumbered and adds a modicum of distance to help round out a full mile around the cove. Tidal flows are funneled through this area occasionally creating incredibly strong currents, especially on a flood tide. The rudder at the stern of the Eppleton Hall is a thin, scimitar-like metal protrusion that invokes the appellation, "Blade of Death."



George Kebbe



Eppleton Hall and "The Moon" Buoy

Just south of the bow of the Eppleton Hall is a buoy mooring the stern of the Thayer. Mr. Drino named this buoy the "Moon" in honor of a long-time Dolphin who devoted extraordinary hours to painting and maintaining the club. For the Keller crew, this is the "South S'more."

That brings us back to the Duke/Oprah/Duke-rah/Okra. All of these landmarks encompass about one mile. It takes a different amount of time to swim this course depending on the current. At the end of an ebb, there can be a "spin cycle" effect where the current is moving west at the shore and east at the Opening, helping a clockwise swimmer along. Other times, there is nothing but resistance the entire way.

There are other transient landmarks in the cove, but this describes the more permanent ones. Taken together, they populate one of the best swimming holes in the world.

Posted by [Larry Scroggins](#) at 11:17 AM



3 comments:



[Louisa Pickering](#) May 30, 2013 at 9:55 AM

Very well done! Thank you for all your information!

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[ryan](#) March 18, 2023 at 11:38 PM

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[ryan](#) March 18, 2023 at 11:39 PM

Someone told me the backstory of the Oprah buoy this morning and I was searching google to find the video and stumbled upon your site. I'm loving the history. Your website should be required reading for New members (and old ones, too) . You rock Larry!

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