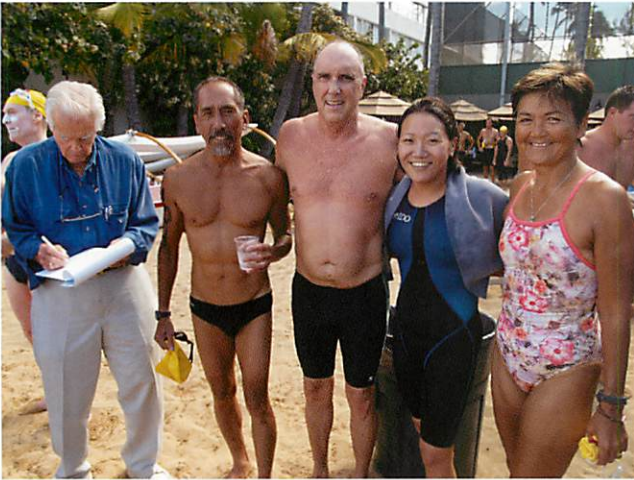


# Yellow Buoy Cursed at OCC Invitational Swim

By Ray Robinson



Ray Robinson jots down notes after interviewing Arnold Lum, Bruce Sloan, Kaya Terem and Laurie Sloan after the race.



Diane Stowell and Laurie Foster.

Vic Hemmy Jr. and Don Eovino.



Wil Yamamoto, Brad Coates, David Stackhouse and Steve Torkildson.



Kathleen Quinn, Ernie Leskovitz, Anne Perry.

The day of the OCC's annual Invitational Swim dawned bright and clear, temperature in the 80s, light trades, plenty of sunshine—a great day for a surf meet, according to Meet Director Stefan Reinke, except for one unusual element—eight to 10-foot surf breaking all along the south shore in the middle of the one-mile and two-mile courses normally laid for out the swimmers. Guy Hagi, KGMB's weather guesser avowed it might be the biggest south shore surf in four years.

With more than 80 restless swimmers milling about ready to go, it would have been a shame to scratch the meet, but far better than having a swimmer in trouble outside the break. After consulting with Dennis Blake, former chair of the Swim Committee, the water safety crew (which provides jet ski and lifeguards on rescue boards along the course), and our own beach attendants, Reinke made the decision to chart new swim courses on the spot and continue with the meet. It was a very creative and admirable decision.

The one-mile course was shortened to a spot inside the break where the now infamous yellow buoy was placed. Short course swimmers were to round this buoy, then return to our beach. Two-mile swimmers had to go around this buoy twice.

The unexpected problem was a vicious current running seaward and ewa right past that buoy and also on occasional larger than average waves breaking right on the buoy.

Of the early swimmers to reach the buoy, two couldn't get around the buoy and had to be brought in by the rescue jet ski sled.

Before the meet was over, two others had to be brought in by jet ski. And every swimmer who came huffing and puffing across the finish line, as soon as he or she could speak, had harsh words for the Yellow Buoy.

Bruce Sloan said "it was very challenging". Victor Hemmy said "I just had to lie there and swim as hard as I could for about 10 minutes to get past that buoy!" Arnold Lum said "It was very hard." Diane Stowell, Kari Vasey, Don Eovino, it was universal, all had the same song to sing—that cursed Yellow Buoy.

All had a very memorable experience, all got back to the beach safely, all enjoyed the famous OCC breakfast buffet and a jolly time was had by all.

Complete results are available on the OCC website. Log on to the member's section.



## OCC Invitational Swim • June 14, 2009

### 2 Mile Course

Overall	Name	Place/Division	Time
1.	Ryan Leong	1st, Overall Men	:22:19.3
2.	Hudson Slay	2nd, Overall Men	:22:22.6
3.	Kate Costello	1st, Woman Overall	:23:08.6
4.	Jenna Sheeley	2nd, Woman Overall	:23:30.0
5.	David Stackhouse*	3rd, Overall Men	:23:33.1
8.	Kaya Terem*	1st, M0-19	:24:38.7
9.	Bruce Sloan*	1st, M60-64	:24:47.2
10.	Wil Yamamoto*	1st, M35-39	:24:57.2
15.	Ernie Leskovitz*	1st, M70+	:26:58.3
20.	Laurie Foster*	1st, W50-54	:28:00.8
22.	John Balfour Jr*	2nd, M215-29	:28:21.5
27.	Hugh Damon*	3rd, M45-49	:30:01.6
29.	Chris Worrall*	5th, M45-49	:31:03.4

### 1 Mile Course

Overall	Name	Place/Division	Time
1.	Colin Chinn	1st, Overall Men	:11:34.7
2.	Betty Ann Barnett	1st, Overall Woman	:11:38.7
3.	David Rietow*	2nd, Overall Men	:12:20.1
4.	Curtis Chinn	3rd, Overall Men	:12:21.3
6.	Steve Torkildson*	2nd, M50-54	13:03.4
9.	Anne Perry*	2nd, Overall Woman	:14:29.2
10.	Brad Coates*	1st, M50-54	:14:29.2
15.	Diane Stowell*	1st, W70+	:16:32.7
16.	Kari Vasey*	1st, W50-54	:17:10.4
24.	Don Eovino*	2nd, M60-64	:20:59.7
25.	Kathleen Quinn*	1st, W65-69	:21:00.2
26.	John Balfour Sr*	2nd, M70+	:21:03.6
28.	Victor Hemmy Jr*	2nd, M65-69	:21:44.1
30.	Arnold Lum*	3rd, M760-64	:24:56.0
32.	Jim Zachary*	3rd, M70+	:29:15.2

\*OCC member