

OBSERVER REPORT

Counter-Clockwise Loop Around Angel Island from Aquatic Park (16.1 km/10.0 miles)

August 22nd, 2019 | Start Time: 04:13 am | End Time: 01:14 pm

Rules: Marathon Swimming Federation | Observer: Cornelia Bleul-Gohlke

SWIMMER

Name: Kim Hedges

Gender: F

Age on swim date: 41

Nationality: United States

Residency: San Rafael, CA

SUPPORT PERSONNEL

Pilot: Marino Cacciotti

Vessel: Tango Tango 27-ft Fletcher

Rigid-Hull Inflatable

Crew: Bill Wygant, Conny Bleul

4:13	<p>SERC/Dolphin Beach Kim begins her Round-Trip Angel Island Swim in the dark. Paddler Miguel Melendez kayaks with her from the beach. Water temperature (in the following referred to as Water) on observer's digital water thermometer: 61F. Air Temperature ((in the following referred to as Air) reading on observer's anemometer: 66 F.</p>
4:30	<p>Aquatic Park Opening: little wind 5.6 knots, air 63, Stroke count 60</p>
4:41	<p>South Shipping Channel: swimming smoothly halfway to Alcatraz</p>
4:46	<p>South Shipping Channel: Kim changes her blink light at Miguel's kayak. Water 60, Air 62, stroke count 60</p>
5:00	<p>South Shipping Channel: Kim reaches Alcatraz water 60.3 air 61.1 wind 0 to2.9</p>
5:12	<p>East Alcatraz: Kim passes Alcatraz. It is still flooding and foggy. Air 61. stroke count 60</p>
5:20	<p>North Shipping Channel: it is still dark with a little wind. First feeding Carbo pro and some water. Kim says she feels great</p>
5:37	<p>North Shipping Channel: fishing boat crosses in front of us and make some waves</p>
5:50	<p>North Shipping Channel: Point Blunt can be seen, it is ebbing. Communication with Kim saying that she has to stay right of the green light of Point Blunt. Water 60, Air 60.9 no wind, still dark</p>
5:52	<p>North Shipping Channel: Captain notices that Kim is swimming still too far to the right and she has to correct her direction.</p>

5:57	North Shipping Channel: second feeding carbo pro. Water 59.2 ,air 60 ,Wind about 3 knots.
6:05	Pt. Blunt : the sun starts to rise; we are passing Pt. Blunt
6:10	SE Angel Island: a ferry boat is passing to the right. Kim reports that she already peed twice.
6:15	SE Angel Island: a big cargo ship is passing us to the right sending foghorn every two minutes for visibility. We stay close to shore. Air 60.3. Kim notices mechanical turbulences from the island
6:25	SE Angel Island: 3rd feeding carbo pro, peeing. This break takes a little bit longer. Stroke count 60. The electrolyte bottle Kim is drinking out seems to leak she asks to fill it up again. Captain says we should stay closer to shore.
6:40	SE Angel Island: we are close to Quarry Point. Water 58.8, air 60.2, stroke count 60. Kim reports to pee. It is ebbing.
6:45	Quarry Point: reaching Quarry Point taking lots of photos.
6:50	NE Angel Island: passing Quarry Point, the strong current gives Kim a nice ride. We see some seals. Stroke count 54. Feeding. A big ferry is passing us on the right making waves.
7:10	Pt. Simpton: Kim reaches Pt. Simpton. The water is very calm. It is still foggy. The seal is accompanying Kim. Stroke count 60, air 60.9, water 59.3.
7:20	China Cove: Kim reaches China Cove. The water is super calm. It is still foggy. Kim reports peeing. She is feeding a chocolate drink .
7:35	NE Angel Island: we are between China Cove and Ayala Cove. Stroke count 60
7:45	Ayala Cove: Kim passes Ayala Cove. The sun is peeking through the clouds now. It looks very pretty. Stroke count 58, air 62.7, water and 59.5, wind 5 to 6 knots
7:50	Pt. Stuart: feeding chocolate drink. Stroke count 60
8:00	Pt. Stuart: Kim swims around Point Stuart pass the red buoy. We see seals. It is still ebbing
8:20	Pt. Knox. Battery Ledyard: next feeding. The captain gives directions to head straight to point Knox. Bill prepares another chocolate drink. Air 62.7, water at 59, stroke count 60
8:42	Leaving Angel Island North Shipping Channel: Kim reaches the last beach of Angel Island before heading into the north shipping channel, it is still ebbing. Air 69.1, stroke count 61. Captain decides that Kim should aim towards the Bay Bridge as a big cargo ship is coming out from Oakland.

8:50	North Shipping Channel: Kim is not making much progress due to the never-ending ebb. She's feeding carbo pro and switches goggles to dark. Pee break. Air 65.8, wind 3.3 knots.
9:05	North Shipping Channel: Kim reports she has the feeling as if she's not making any progress rather swimming in place. We try to cheer her on. The wind is picking up to 10 knots, air 65.5, stroke count 58. Small waves start to occur
9:10	North Shipping Channel: Miguel reports seeing a big fish leaping out of the water a few hundred yards ahead of us. The captain says it might be a leopard shark. We do not tell Kim. The fish jumps a couple more time.
9:25	North Shipping Channel: Feeding carbo pro. Kim becomes a bit discouraged because of the little to no progress she is making at this time. We receive a text message from her friend Lisa cheering her on. Communication is hard due to the wind.
9:35	North Shipping Channel: Air 68.5, wind 8.4 knots, stroke count 60. The fog is coming back.
9:55	North Shipping Channel: next feeding. Kim asked for some Coca-Cola. The fog is covering Alcatraz and San Francisco. Stroke count 60, water 62, air 72, wind 5 knots.
10:15	Buoy at West Alcatraz: the wind is picking up to 10.5 knots. Air is still very warm 72. Waves are getting bigger. Very slow progress, we cheer her on. The fog is gone again, and visibility is better. Kim is passing the red buoy north west of Alcatraz.
10:26	North Alcatraz: another Coca-Cola feeding. Kim asked to eat some nut-butter. She repeats saying " <i>it takes forever, it takes forever!</i> " Waves are getting bigger showing whitecaps. Wind 14.1, air 68, stroke count to 56.
10:55	North Alcatraz: big waves. Kim feeds nut-butter and Coca-Cola. We are all still waiting for the flood to kick in. Suddenly the boat gets very close to Kim which scares her, but the motor is off. Miguel cheers her on. Strong wind.
11:25	North Alcatraz: strong wind with high waves but sunny. The feeding gets harder because of the waves. Air 73, boat traffic is picking up. Still waiting for the helping flood to come. Stroke count 60.
11:35	West Alcatraz: Kim reaches Alcatraz finally. Stroke count 54. Bill suggests now Cabo pro feeding every 20 minutes instead of Coca-Cola. Miguel suggests heading straight towards Fort Mason. Water 62.8.
12:00	South West Alcatraz: Kim is passing Alcatraz. Stroke count 54.

12:05	South Shipping Channel: feeding carbo pro which is difficult because of the strong winds and big waves. Bill and Miguel are discussing the best direction to the opening. The flood is now kicking in pretty strong.
12:25	South Shipping Channel: we are about a quarter mile from the opening to aquatic Park. Kim does not want to feed anymore. She's heading straight for the opening. Wind 14 knots, air 63, stroke count 56
12:35	About 80 yards from opening: the strong flood is pushing Kim past the opening towards the Creakers. She has a hard time swimming against the flood.
12:40	Creakers: the now very strong flood is pushing Kim backwards. She stays very close to the wall but does not make any progress. She starts swimming breaststroke. Bill suggests swimming with the flood to the end of the creakers and then swim inside to the club but Kim denies, saying it would make her swim illegal and not count. She fights against the waves. She seems to be very determined and super strong. We cheer her on and little by little she gets closer to the opening. Miguel also has a hard time kayaking against the flood.
1:02	Buoy at Aquatic Park: Kim reaches the opening and swims towards the club into calmer water.
1:14	SERC/Dolphin Beach: Kim reaches the south end rowing club beach. Elapsed time on observers watch: 9:01 hours