

19th Annual Open Ocean Invitational Swim A Huge Hit

By Chrissy Lambert Rhodes

Many thanks to Baby Dave Rochlen ... I personally would like to award him the "Dad of the Year" for signing up 13 of our "younger" swimmers who participated in our race. We had an outstanding record turnout of 70 swimmers, thanks to everyone's support.

We got real fortunate and were able to swim during a window of opportunity in the weather. The cloudy conditions which plagued us the earlier part of the week, keeping air temperatures below 80, gave way to mostly clear skies, accompanied by a rising south swell which very fortunately didn't start to break in the channel until later that afternoon.

Other than having to swim into the usual Diamond Head current on the way out to the turnaround buoy off the Kapahulu Groin, the sea state was close to optimal for an ocean swim, with

good visibility and moderate trade winds.

Our youngest competitor, Eva Rochlen, was the first female finisher in her age group from the Outrigger Canoe Club. (Third overall in her age group of 19 & Under.) She finished with a speedy time of 34:16, beating girls a couple of years older than herself.

Jennifer McTigue won the 30-39 age group even though she is pregnant. Diane Stowell, Bonnie Eyre, Jan Newhart, Jonathan Steiner, Ted Sheppard, Uli Klinke and Ernie Leskovitz all won in their respective age groups and distances. Congratulations to all.

Many thanks to our escorts and swim committee members who contributed their time and effort to make this year's swim yet another success. We look forward to seeing you all again in the winter for the 24th Annual Castle Swim.