

FIVE CREWS REPRESENT OCC IN 2008 MOLOKAI

By Erika Eberhart



Red Crew: Ryan "Woody" Woodward, Jimmy Austin, Kapono Brown, Stew Kawakami, Mike Kane, Scott Gamble, Simeon Ke – Paloma, Craig Gamble, Billy Lawson. They finished sixth overall in 5:04:39 in the Bradley Lightning.

Blue Crew: David "Chuck" Fan, Tucker Siegfried, Shawn Woo, Ian MacNaughton, McKibbin Mist, Kekoa Beapre, Kealakai Hussey, Casey Kahikina, Andy Lautenbach. They finished 88th overall in 6:32:44.



White Crew: Front: Willy Gacutan, Kulani Jones. Back: Uluwehi Keaunui, Jim Beaton, Ruben Cabaniero, Alika Williams, Erik DeRyke, Jed Gushman, Noah Gibson. They finished 23rd overall in 5:31:54 in the Kekio.

On Sunday October 12, 48 incredible Outrigger Canoe Club men paddled in the 57th Molokai Hoe. Crossing the Kaiwi Channel, a 41-mile feat from Hale O Lono Harbor, Molokai, to Duke Kahanamoku Beach, Waikiki, these 48 athletes represented five crews competing in three categories: Open, Masters (40 years and older), and Golden Masters (55 years and older).

According to paddler Stew Kawakami, our 2009 Canoe Racing Subcommittee Chairman, the conditions this year were good, with 5–6 foot swells, 10-15 mph winds, and a rising tide. After a struggle near Portlock, the crews enjoyed some surfing on "little skaters", a term coined by paddler Paul Friese.

With Head Coach Johnny Puakea at the helm of the distance program, the men were well-prepared for the challenge this year. Not only had the paddlers put in a lot of time practicing in both one-man and six-man canoes, but they also cross trained as a group via core and strength training. Led by personal trainer Trevor Spring, the men participated in the vigorous land-based workouts as a team in Kapiolani Park twice a week.

A strong mix of enthusiastic veteran paddlers and eager novice paddlers enabled the OCC to enter a record five crews! Above are the crews with respective canoe names and paddlers. Congratulations to all, including coaches and support staff, for an impressive crossing!

GOLDEN MOLOKAI HOE

By Bill Johnson

Walter Guild gathered all five men's crews together at water's edge at Hale O Lono at 6:45 a.m. on October 12 and invited 55's steersman Ray Sukanuma to bless our upcoming crossing. Ray, a Hawaiian Studies teacher, delivered a melodious chant asking the Hawaiian gods for permission to enter the sea and to protect our paddlers. We all held hands and collectively felt the mana of this special place as we contemplated the challenges we would be facing that day.

After this inspiring rendition, we launched the *Kekio* into the harbor and joined the other 107 canoes jockeying for a good position for the start. As we all slowly pushed ahead to the buffer zone, the stroke rates increased and we were off. Auwe! The lead race boat called a false start due to timer issues and demanded all canoes reverse course and paddle back to the start. Then, about 10 minutes later, we finally blasted off with a good start.

We got off to our usual slow start and found ourselves in the rear pack. We made our first change near Laau Point and replaced Stroker Darryll Wong's crew with Stroker Cormac O'Carroll's gang. We picked up our speed and started to surge ahead of at least one younger crew. About an hour and a half after the start, we looked out from the escort boat and saw only the bottom of the *Kekio*-our first crisis

Three of us jumped off the escort boat and helped our brother's right the canoe, collect the paddles, and count heads-saw only five! Flash Dubiel stayed down a little too long thinking the canoe would be righted quickly and he wouldn't have to leave his seat. We got him and the rest of his crew reseated and off they went with maybe just a 10-15 minute delay-no pilikia.

Channel conditions were challenging with 6-8 foot seas crossing our course at 90 degree angles at mid-channel and our steersmen, Ray and Glenn Perry, kept us on a steady line towards Diamond Head. At Portlock we picked up steam and started to pass several crews with Waikiki in sight. At race's end we figured we passed about 20 crews since the start. Crossing the channel, we had Darryll Wong, Bill Johnson, Ron Hochuli, Stan Markle, Dave Larson and Glenn Perry in one crew and Cormac O'Carroll, Flash Dubiel, Juvie Coito, Bart Watson, Bill Meheula and Ray Sukanuma in the other crew and Alan Maddalena as our alternate.

Backing us up during the season and racing with us in other events were coach Tay Perry, Chuck Heitzman, Kent Giles, and John "the bailer" Finney. Murray Hixson assisted as a back-up steersman and Chris Crabb coached and counseled us on several occasions.

Mahalo to Jen Bossert and the Canoe Racing Committee for their unwavering financial support and encouragement. Team member Dave Larson served as our logistics leader and was our MVP for getting our equipment in top shape for all the races and helping out the other teams as well. As we reflect on our crossing, our team realizes that we will all be paddling brothers for life-a legacy well earned.



Masters 40 Crew: Todd Harrison, Chris Kincaid, Walter Guild, Evan Rhodes, Geoff Graff, Todd Bradley, Todd Sandvold, Byron Ho, Marc Haine. They finished 24th overall and 4th in Masters 40 in 5:34:09 in the *Kai LioLio*.



Masters 55 Crew: Front: Ray Sukanuma. Back: Flash Dubiel, Bart Watson, Stan Markle, Cormac O'Carroll, Glenn Perry, Dave Larson, Ron Hochuli, Bill Johnson, Darryll Wong, Juvie Coito, Bill Meheula, and Allan Maddalena. They finished 64th overall and 4th in the Masters 55 in 6:11:0 in the *Kainalu*.