

# OCC Finishes 8th in Bankoh Molokai Hoe

By Walter Guild

In the 1990s, finishing in the top 10 in the Bankoh Molokai Hoe Molokai to Oahu outrigger canoe race will be quite a feat. As the field of competitors continues to become more internationally diverse, the worldwide prestige of winning this famed race will continue to be elevated.

It seems having a local crew emerge as the victors will prove an enormous task. Is the OCC up to the challenge? We'll find out.

It has been nearly two decades since any local crew besides Outrigger has taken home the first overall trophy, with some very formidable dedicated attempts having been made.

So, you ask, what does it take? The answer is, MORE AND MORE!

Building a team from athletes with lives, wives, kids, and jobs, takes a great deal of dedication and believing in one another. The sacrifices made by family members, and employers, are a big factor in any top Molokai team.

1993 will be known as a year when everyone gave all that they had. It was a year when there were no known heroes, yet each paddler became one.

This was a year when all three men's crews, Open I, Open II and Masters, were a team and helped each other become the best they could be.

The first open crew, sent out to mix it up with the other top teams, was made up of three first crew veterans, four first crew rookies, and two OCC newcomers.

Team members were Todd Harrison, Todd Payes, Courtney Seto, Karl Heyer IV, Todd Bradley, Tommy Damon, Dean Maeva, David Potter and Clayton Chee.



OCC's Open I crew included, front, Coach Walter Guild, Todd Bradley, Karl Heyer IV, Todd Payes, Clayton Chee. Standing, Tommy Damon, Courtney Seto, David Potter, Todd Harrison and Dean Maeva.

A record 74 teams were at the starting line off of Hale O Lono Harbor on the southwest end of Molokai in the early morning sun of October 10. As usual, the energy level was undescrivable as close to 650 paddlers prepared for the start.

At that moment, all those sitting on the starting line were champions, and all knew anyone could become the eventual winners.

The start of the race was fast and furious with New Zealand taking an early lead, followed closely by Tahiti and Australia. OCC, Lanikai, Dana Point and Waikiki Surf Club were close behind.

As the pack entered the Kaiwi Channel, the race became a three way affair for the lead, with Tahiti (club member Tom Conner at the helm) out front.

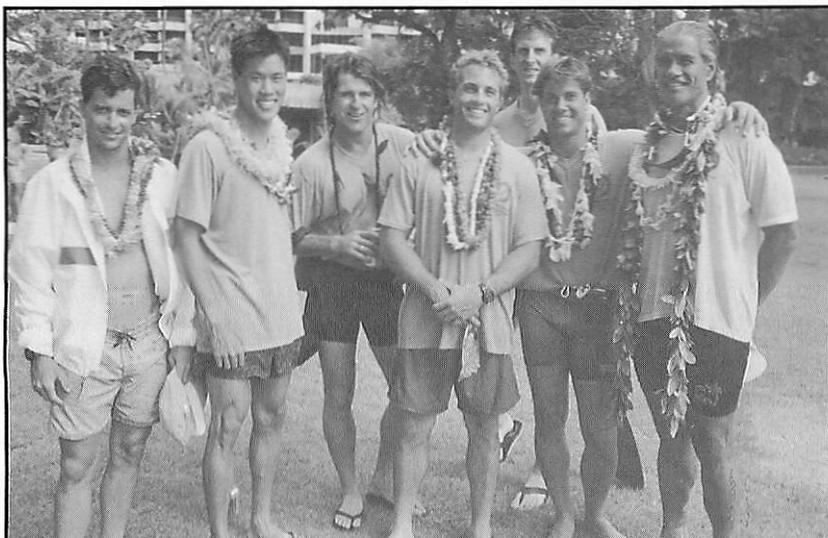
Knowing the level of competition, OCC's top team had realistically set its sights at finishing near the top, with hopes of being the first local crew to hit the far shore.

Local rival, Lanikai, and 1993 Catalina race winner Dana Point proved to be too strong and at about the half way point, started to pull away from the OCC boys.

As courses converged off of Kahala, Waikiki Surf Club and Hawaii Canoe and Kayak (all-stars) also slipped by.

OCC finished in respectable fashion with an eighth overall, and fourth Hawaiian team in 5:23:53 in the Iwalani.

As the first team met family and friends on the beach, team mates anticipated the arrival of the Club's other two crews. The masters crew came marching in proudly



Members of OCC's Open II crew were Billy Philpotts, John Akana, Matt Kresser, Kawika Fairbanks, Brad Wagenaar, Ethan Tweedy and Henry Ayau. Not pictured: John Cheever and Mike Fine.

carrying the banner for the club with a first place in their division and 10th overall. An outstanding performance with a time of 5:32:10.

The number two open crew also helped carry the flag with a third place in koa in the Kaoloa, with a crew made up primarily of novice paddlers being guided by the experience and knowledge of Henry Ayau and Billy Philpotts. They finished 32nd overall in 6:01:58.

As is the case on an ongoing basis, the 1993 winners have taken the sport of Hawaii to a new level.

Tahiti, through their hard work and dedication, not only won the race overall and set a new course record of 4:55:27, but became the first team to paddle the famed course in under five hours.

As athletes ourselves, we must offer our heart felt congratulations to the new world champions. We must also thank these fine paddlers for elevating our sport to a new level, and defining the goals of our own efforts for the future.

As an honest effort, the 1993 Men's Molokai crews did all that was asked of them and did so as a team. Though not many will do so, I thank all of them for their outstanding efforts.

From all of the men paddlers to the OCC membership, thank you for the opportunity to represent the finest paddling club in the world.

Now is the OCC up to the challenge? We will find out! 🍀

# Masters Win their Division in Molokai

By Bill Danford

We've been called the "Over the Hill Gang," "Dinos" and now "The Crustees." Call us what you will, but make sure you have passed the finish line and the "Fat Lady Has Sung" before you count us out.

The OCC Masters celebrated John Finney's 50th birthday, the Club's fifth Bankoh Molokai Hoe Masters title, and the 10th anniversary of the Masters division on October 10th by finishing 10th overall and first in the masters division with a time of 5:32:10.

The Masters Division started in 1984 when OCC's Mark Buck, John Finney, Tom Conner, Mike Muller, Steve Quinn, Tim Guard, Mike Clifford, Fred Hemmings Jr. and Marshall Rosa not only placed third overall in the Molokai event, but set the Masters division record of 5:26:14.

Ten years later, that record still stands and the masters division has grown to a record number 11 teams.

This year under the tutelage of head coach Walter Guild, the masters matured as the long distance program progressed. Not only did we have successive wins during the season, but our overall standings in the entire field of competition gradually improved.

This helped emphasize the importance of being a part of the open canoe program. Under Walter's realigned plan, the years of experience from within the masters team, along with their maturity, was utilized as a positive input into the overall scheme.

As a tradeoff, by training with younger men, our team was pushed to concentrate on better physical conditioning and overall paddling technique. This was definitely a change in the making.

Our crew included Mike Batungbacal, Tom McTigue, Keahi Robins, Mark Buck, John Finney, Bill Bright, Bill Mowat, Brant Ackerman and Bill Danford.

Brant was able to see Diamond Head right off of Laau Point and steered a course that would take us on a straight line towards Diamond Head.



OCC's winning Masters crew was, front, Brant Ackerman, Mark Buck, Bill Mowat, Bill Danford. Standing, Tom McTigue, Coach Walter Guild, Bill Bright, John Finney and Keahi Robins. Not pictured: Mike Batungbacal.

We saw our competition up ahead going north and we knew that we were again in for a day which was going to take our fullest concentration.

We picked up Marina Del Rey's open team to the south and set our sights on reeling them in slowly but surely. They were lucky because someone on their escort boat let them know that we weren't the OCC first team, but the "Crustees." By three quarters of the race, we had pulled up to them or they had converged on to our line. Each time that we got in striking mode they would get a surge and hold us off.

At this point, Brant became concerned about Imua. Howard Word finally tracked them up north and off of Hanauma Bay about eight-tenths of a mile behind. Brant continued to hold our line while other teams were diving into Koko Head and eventually Portlock.

We gained on several boats that were off the inside and we were able to position ourselves in 10th place overall. Off of Kahala, seven other canoes were converging on us so Brant told us not to hold back. The realization that a masters team is ahead of you can cause the most seasoned team to shut down. Now we were having fun.

We were the winners because we had a program, a steersman who chose the right course, and eight good men in the engine room all day.

Mahalo to everyone who cheered us on and supported the club effort this year. ☺

## New Members

**Regular:** Barry Edwards, Paula Faulkner, Thomas Griffin, James Massey, Earl Yonemura.

**Intermediate:** Nola Donahue, Lorna Loui.

**Junior:** Kimberly Cundall, Stephanie Dullum, Ahia Dye, Hililei Dye, Brooke Nasser, Noel Pietsch, Jonathan Plechaty, Tasha Wong.

**Nonresident:** Joan Manning, Nicholas Susner. ☺

## Rule of the Month

The annual Christmas party traditionally is closed to Reciprocal members and Guest members and all guests other than escorts of authorized single members. ☺

# Senior Masters in Molokai



*Outrigger's Senior Masters completed the Bankoh Molokai Hoe in seventh place in their division in 7:15:57. Members of the crew were, front, Mike Town, Norm Ho and Kawika Grant. Standing, Pokii Vaughan, Buddy McGuire, George Pray, Kent Giles, Norm Dunmire and Bruce Ames. They were 73rd overall.*