

# the Outrigger

November 1988





# Outrigger Blazes to Molokai Victory

By Steve Scott

The Molokai to Oahu outrigger canoe race has seen many great crews in its 37 race history, but few will surpass the accomplishments of the 1988 Outrigger Canoe Club team.

Not only was it able to lead from start to finish in the October 9 race, it was able to establish a new record of 5:08:11, eclipsing the previous record set in 1984 by another Outrigger crew by more than 10 minutes.

In any sport, it is difficult for a champion to repeat. This was the task facing the OCC this year, having won the Bankoh Molokai Hoe in 1986 and 1987.

To win three years in a row was the motivating factor for eight of the nine paddlers from the 1987 crew to return in 1988, but there were questions in my mind whether they would have the discipline, time and intensity to commit to another winning effort.

I have learned not to question their motivation and the results speak for themselves.

This year's race went very smoothly, except for the start, where the first crew, paddling in the Iwalani, got caught in a log jam with the Outrigger's koa crew, which had been hit by the Royal Canoe Club racing in

a canoe borrowed from the Outrigger.

After freeing ourselves, we sprinted to the lead and within a few minutes were pulling away from the pack of 57 other canoes. By the time we reached Laau Point on Molokai, the Outrigger's lead was eight canoe lengths.

The starting combination of Kainoa Downing, Marc Haine, Bruce Black, Mark Rigg, Scott Rolles and Tom Conner had done their job well with Outrigger firmly in front. The first of many changes brought in Chris Kincaid, Walter Guild and Keone Downing.

Now, the Outrigger set its sights on Oahu.

With Outrigger paddling by itself from Laau to the finish line, this year's race lacked the drama of last year's. The goal for 1988 became time. How fast could we go?

The current leaving Molokai took us north, but we didn't fight it, knowing we would have a strong incoming tide as we neared Oahu. The Kaiwi Channel was relatively calm, and we would not get the push from the tradewinds and ocean swells that most Hawaii crews look forward to in the Molokai race. Forward progress would depend on how hard the crew paddled.



*Coach Steve Scott is the winningest coach in the Molokai race. He coached OCC to victories in 1979, 1984, 1986, 1987 and 1988.*

By Koko Head, I felt assured of a record time and even felt five hours was possible. Outrigger pushed from there to the finish and a new record of 5:08:11.

The contribution of the OCC koa crew in pushing the first crew all season long is one of the more important reasons behind the Outrigger's winning effort.

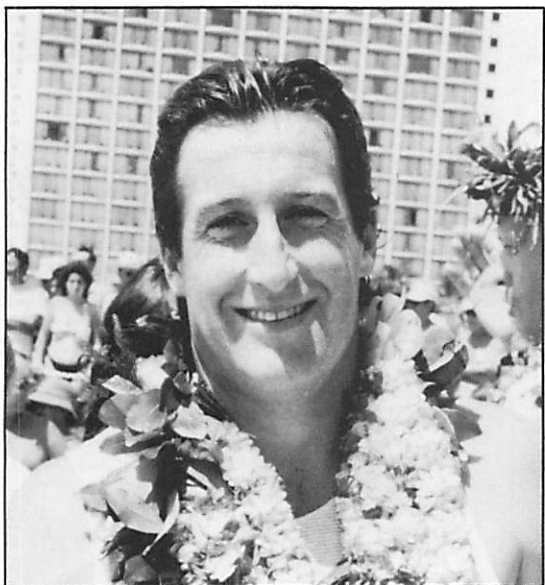
The Outrigger Canoe Club can take pride in this year's winning Molokai crew because they will be remembered as one of the greatest. Coming on the heels of the Olympic Games, their efforts and dedication are no less significant than that of the Olympic athlete. ☺



*Former OCC Molokai coach and paddler George Downing, center, greets his sons, Keone and Kainoa, after race. Keone and Kainoa have been on the winning crew the last three years.*



*Bruce Black hugs Bitsy Naish after completing his first Molokai race.*



*Chris Kincaid*

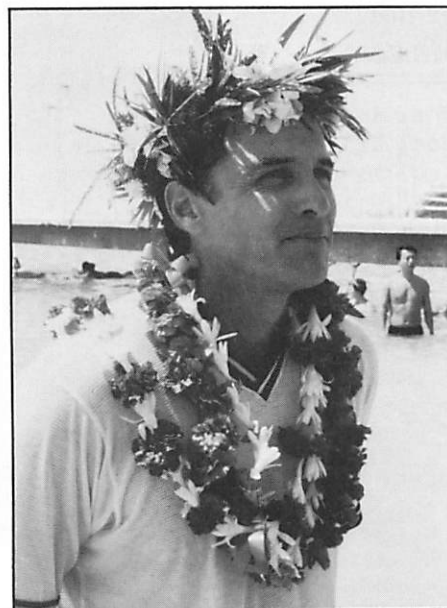


*Scott Rolles*

Photos by Marilyn Kail



*Walter Guild is greeted by mom, Alice Guild, and sis, Di Guild.*



*Steersman Tom Conner won his eighth Molokai race in 15 starts. He told reporters after the race that he plans to retire.*



*The Rigg family, Mark, Sherry, Hank and Lei, watch the masters crew finish.*





## Koa Crew

John Zabriskie,  
Kimo Brown, Greg  
Rudin, Randy  
Shibuya, Gib  
Bintliff, Remy  
Moranha, Todd  
Bradley, Kala Judd,  
Tom McTigue and  
Dana Rupey.

## Senior Masters

Bruce Ames,  
Chris McKenzie,  
Ken Stehouwer,  
Jim Peterson,  
Flash Dubiel,  
Hank Lass, Tom  
Merrill, Mike  
Town, Scott May.



Photos by Marilyn Kali



## Masters

Standing, Bill  
Bright, Ed  
Pickering, John  
Finney, Tim Guard,  
Mike Clifford, Bill  
Danford, Donny  
Mailer. Front,  
Brant Ackerman,  
Mark Buck.



# Leilani Crew Second in Koa

By Tom McTigue

We're not the first crew, but we're happy.

So goes the motto of this year's OCC Koa Crew in the 1988 Molokai race. One might ask why a crew which came in 14th overall is so happy. Well, we didn't come in 15th for one thing and we managed to win second place in the Koa Division in the Leilani in 5:31:54. We were beaten by a seasoned Hanalei crew which won the state championship this year. Let's face it, we're not ecstatic, but we are happy!

Making their Molokai debut were John Zabriskie, Randy Shibuya and Remy Moranha. Also on the team were veterans Todd Bradley, Dana Rupey, Greg Rudin, Kala Judd, Gib Bintliff and Tom McTigue.

The excitement began to build Saturday morning after everyone arrived on Molokai. Saturday afternoon was spent rigging boats and getting all the last minute details finished. You could feel the tension building throughout the day. After dinner we met to go over race strategy and last minute rules and regulations. The mood was quiet and reflective.

Coach Steve Scott picked two-time Molokai champion Steve Van Lier Ribbink and the EST trainer to coach us over the 40.8 mile stretch. We decided that we'd take a northerly course and head for Makapuu. Both Steve and Kala had plenty of experience and

great luck with that course in canoe and kayak races. Little did we know that by the end of the race that was to be the ideal course for the day.

Sunday morning, everyone was up at 4 a.m. and down to Hale O Lono Harbor by 6:30 a.m. To everyone's surprise, the race started right at 7:30 (a record in itself).

Steersman Todd Bradley chose to line up inside and follow the coastline until we got to Laau Point where the first change was to be made. Our strategy worked fine except we were pinched into Outrigger #1 by the Royal Canoe Club in the Onipaa and both crews got stuck in the blocks. The first crew was kind of like Flo Jo with no place to go. At this point, the Koa crew wound off to allow the potentially record-breaking first crew to get

loose. Two bumps later, they were gone, never to be seen again.

The Leilani ran like the record holder she recently was, waiting for a push or a swell to help us along. We knew Hanalei was our competition for the Koa Division. They had taken a more southerly route and although we could not see them, we felt we were ahead.

Around the four-hour mark, we started to turn down towards Koko Head. On the outside were the Dinos. They managed to stay right in there, but it was at Portlock that we made our only mental mistake of the day and the boat hulled. Due to the quick thinking of Kala Judd and Greg Rudin, the boat was back up and moving within 60 seconds and a fresh crew was taking over. But now, we had three other crews bearing down on us.

It was at this time that the words of Gib Bintliff came to mind. He had said the night before, "Remember, throughout the day to ask yourself, am I doing the best I can?" Now the race was on. We needed to stay ahead of those behind us and the Dinos were only 50 yards ahead of us. But the Dinos were able to hold us off and finished 38 seconds ahead of us.

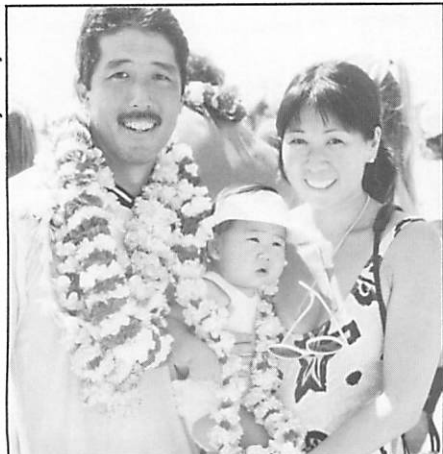
The experience of being in a Molokai race is winning in and of itself. Yes, we weren't first crew, but still we were happy. ☺



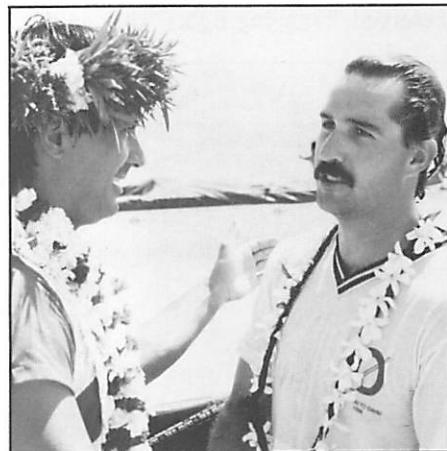
*Kristen Bradley had a lei for husband Todd at the end of the race.*



*John and Debra Zabriskie both paddled their first Molokai race this year.*



*Randy Shibuya is greeted by wife, Joanie.*



*Keone Downing welcomes Dana Rupey to Ft. DeRussy beach.*

# 'Dinos' Roar to Second in Masters

By John Finney

The 'Dinosaurs', also known as Outrigger Canoe Club #3, roared to a 13th place finish in 5:31:16 in the Bankoh Molokai Hoe, 40.8 mile outrigger canoe race, finishing second in the Masters Division but sixth among all Hawaii canoe clubs.

The aptly named Dinos were last year's defending champions but advancing age, travel commitments, lack of training and other miserable excuses kept them out of the title spot this year.

The Illinois Brigade, who actually won the overall title in 1985, moved into the Masters Division this year and fielded a strong crew named Great Lakes Outrigger (Illinois).

Nevertheless, the Dinos in the fiberglass canoe, the Kilakila, would certainly have won their division were it not for a course change at Koko Head that proved disadvantageous. The normal inside route with attendant surfing proved to actually add course length and time over the "rhumb-line" course pursued by Illinois and other more successful clubs.

This so-called "sling-shot" move was followed almost identically by OCC #2.

Once both the Dinos and OCC #2 committed to the inside route, a serious race between the two crews proved inevitable. Fortunately, the Dinos preserved "bragging rights" for one

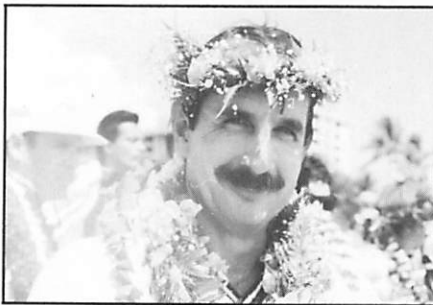
more year.

OCC #2, being the less experienced of the two crews, attempted a number of maneuvers to overtake the veteran Dinos crew including a brief up-side down move to cool down their crew members. Their efforts were in vain as they crossed the finish line 14th, directly after the 13th place Dinos.

The Dinosaurs include Mike Clifford, Mark Buck, Ed Pickering, John Finney, Tim Guard, Henry Ayau, Bill Danford, Bill Bright, Donny Mailer and steersman/coach Brant Ackerman.

Members of this crew have won the open division of the Molokai race over 30 times in the aggregate. They have won the Masters Division three times as a crew.

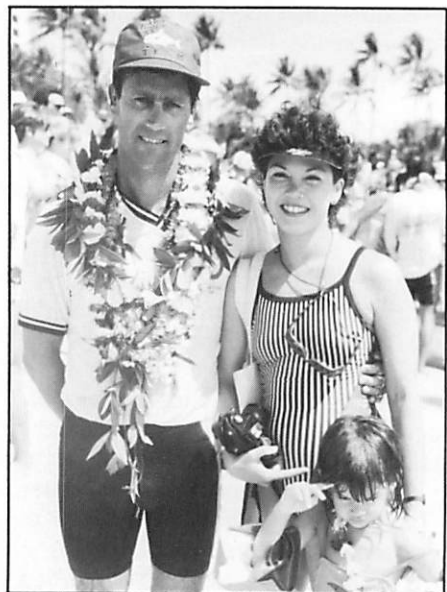
Special thanks are due to Cline Mann who ran the change chart and Tiare Finney, Kimo Dowsett and Keoni Kino who acted as race support crew. ☺



Ed Pickering is decked with leis.



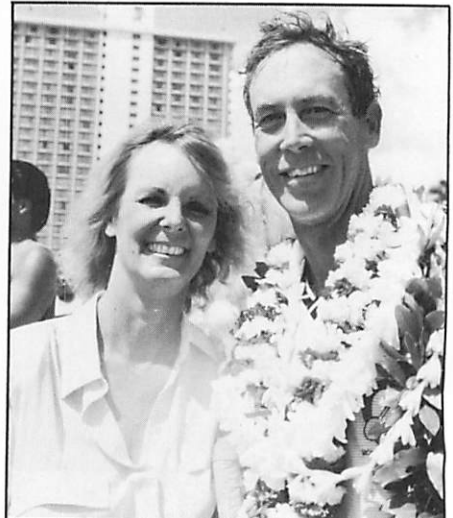
John Finney and Tim Guard compare notes after the race.



Steersman Brant Ackerman, making his 12th OCC crossing, is welcomed by wife, Stephanie, and daughter, Briana.



On hand to greet Bill Danford were wife, Peggy, and daughter, Shandy.



Kathy Clifford greets husband Mike.



Tom Merrill and Bruce Ames pose for photographer.



Ken Stehouwer is greeted by daughter, Sondra.

# Senior Masters Enjoy Camaraderie

By Bruce Ames

It is known worldwide that the Outrigger Canoe Club has perhaps the best outrigger canoe racing team in the world. This is evidenced by our back-to-back victories in the Bankoh Molokai Hoe at record setting speeds.

Besides having the the top team in the world, we also have a number of other top teams in the various divisions. Outrigger's second crew in koa, of course, is always in the one or two spot along with Outrigger's masters which also usually finish in the one or two spot in their division.

Demonstrating the depth and experience the Club has to offer to canoe racing, for the last two years the OCC has entered a senior masters crew in the Molokai to Oahu canoe race. The senior masters consist of paddlers who have passed their 45th birthday.

This year's senior masters crew consisted of Chris McKenzie, Tommy Merrill, OCC Director Jim Peterson, Flash Dubiel, Ken Stehouwer, Scott May, Hank Lass, Mike Town and OCC Director Bruce Ames.

Outrigger senior masters are the reigning OHCR regatta canoe racing champions for 1988. The senior masters also put in respectable performances in the Lanikai, Kona and Pokai Bay long distance races besides the Molokai to Oahu Canoe Race.

Paddling in the fiberglass canoe, the Holomalie, the crew finished 44th out of 58 crews in 6:01:03.

The senior masters have a great camaraderie and are made up of more than just the nine paddlers who made the Molokai crossing. Other senior masters paddlers who contributed to the distance effort are John Beaumont, Norman Dunmire and Norman Ho.

At the last minute, Norman Ho paddled for the Lokahi Masters Canoe Club in the Molokai race, while Norm Dunmire was our alternate.

The masters wish to thank the OCC for permitting them to represent the Club and would also like to thank Mike Holmes and Jimmy McMahon for escorting them across the channel in their escort boat and for the coaching assistance of Doug Kilpatrick.

In previous years, the masters have referred to themselves as the "Dinosaurs", and of course, have distinguished themselves by winning a number of races. The senior masters previously referred to themselves as the "Fossils" (Fossils, I suppose being older than Dinosaurs). This year, however, the senior masters adopted a new name, "Stealth-Gurkhas" after the fierce Napalese warriors, knowing that sometimes if you truly believe, you can do it, and they did. Congratulations. 🍹



Hank Lass squirts himself with water after finishing race.



Jim Peterson gets a well-earned massage.