

# Beach Girls Win Na Wahine O Ke Kai

By Genie Kincaid



50s crew: Liz Perry, Debi Ing, Debbie Deshais, Alice Lunt, Genie Kincaid, Wendy Wichman, Lisa Livingston, Anna Grune, Kim Darling, Linda Fernandez, Lisa Stringer, Laurie Lawson. They finished second in their division in 6:17:47.



Open crew: Karin Del Rey, Donna Kahakui, Mary Smolenski, Jane Stevens, Traci Phillips, Monica Salter, Anella Borges, Paula Crabb. Not pictured: Diana Allen, Angie Giancaterino. They finished fifth in their division in 5:48:32.

Koa crew: Amy Lawson, Marisa Wriston, Maggie Parks, Nanci Gandy, Shawn Moynahan, Kiki Fordham, Hillary Denison, Tracy Bradley, Jennifer Lyons, Rachel Ross. They finished third in koa in 6:25:25.

Finally! Waikiki Beach Girls won the 33rd annual Na Wahine O Ke Kai on September 25. After finishing second for the past two years, the Beach Girls broke away from the lead pack and won in a time of 5:25:02, just missing the course record by three minutes.

Coached for many years by Outrigger members Sean Monahan and Sue Brown, Beach Girls' sweet victory stops Team Bradley's impressive win streak at six. They were tied with Offshore Canoe Club of California for the longest winning streak in the race's history.

Seventy-two crews from California, Australia, Japan, Canada, and across the Pacific competed in the 41 mile race across the Kaiwi Channel from Hale O Lono Harbor to Waikiki.

Outrigger entered three crews: Open Glass, Koa and Masters 50. Under the sagacious coaching of Traci Phillips, the crews finished fifth, third and second in their respective divisions. Since 1979, when the Na Wahine officially started, Outrigger has maintained a presence among the leaders every year. And every year, the competition just gets tougher and faster.

This was Anella Borges' rookie year with the first crew and midway through the race OCC was among the top three crews. "All I could think about was, we gotta keep hammah-ing!"

"I was stoked to finish the race in five seat with Mary Smolenski, Donna Kahakui and Paula Crabb in the boat. It was a great feeling! Just being able to paddle on the same crew with ladies I've looked up to since I was a young kid was an awesome feeling, and I am truly humbled."

This year the Club had a number of first year novices -

Molokai virgins - racing, including Alice Lunt, Maggie Parks, Nanci Gandy, and Amy Lawson, who did an awesome job of deftly steering the *Kakina*.

Alice Lunt thanked her veteran crewmates "for making my first - don't know yet if it's my last! - Moloka'i crossing so memorable. Every single one of (them) helped me to progress, and have the courage to take on that challenge, something that I thought I would NEVER do!!!"

Maggie Parks' first thought when her crew crossed the finish line was, "Thank God!"

"When we were paddling toward the orange finish buoy, giving it everything we had in us, (we) reached the buoy and realized that it was only the first of two buoys, and we still had MORE all-out paddling ahead of us," said Parks. But all-out paddle she and fellow novice, Nanci Gandy, did taking third in the Koa division.

Outrigger's na wahine o ke kai know how much effort and planning goes into every race season, and for this, every woman in every crew sincerely appreciates Coach Traci Phillips, her staff of invaluable assistants, Liz Perry, Paula Crabb, Donna Kahakui, Shelley Oates-Wilding, Pat Dolan, and John Puakea; our skilled escort boat drivers, Annmarie Mizuno, Bobby Hastings, Casey Kahikina, Chris Kincaid, Marc Haine, Geoff Graf, Billy Balding, and Mark Rigg; the members of our Canoe Racing Committee; our fellow crew mates in the men's program and Coach Steve Scott; all of the Club's management and employees from Beach Services to the Executive Office; and last but not never least, our fellow Club members. It is said that it takes a village. Well this fine Club is our village, and a wonderful one it is. Thanks for a great season!