

Na Wahine O Ke Kai 2001

Photos by Tiare Finney

By Genie Kincaid

A record-tying 65 women's crews took on the Kaiwi Channel on September 23 in the 2001 Bank of Hawaii Na Wahine O Ke Kai. The Club fielded three solid crews—Outrigger Red, White and Blue - who finished 3rd, 17th, and 35th overall.

Conditions were marked by huge swells and favorable trades, but a strong outgoing tide caused the seas to stack up, making conditions very sloppy. The winning time of Kona's Kai Opua Canoe Club was more than an hour slower than the course record.

Given the conditions, all three steersmen did a phenomenal job controlling the ocean and maintaining their course. Given the distractions of the events surrounding September 11, all the paddlers did a tremendous job of controlling emotions and keeping things in perspective.

For Outrigger's second crew, they met their goal of finishing in the top 20. The crew made a tactical decision to go inside at Portlock, and the payoff was huge.

Outrigger's 3rd crew also had inspiring moments with some of the crew battling sloppy conditions and seasickness all at once. And for several of the women, it was their first experience racing across the Kaiwi Channel and they met the challenge head on.

A program of this size could not win a single race, let alone get a canoe off the beach, without the support and cooperation from numerous sectors within the Club's infrastructure. Heartfelt mahalo go:

- To the men paddlers for their assistance with rigging, loading, and breaking down canoes for the women after races.
- To Kala Judd, Tom McTigue and Mike Sheehan, for their assistance in escorting the crews under rough conditions.
- To Luke Estes and Bret Chuckovich, for all their hard work moving and setting up equipment, and for providing additional escort support for the women's crews. To the Canoe Racing Committee, for coordinating and allocating all human and monetary resources necessary to get the women to race.
- To John Rader, his managers, and beach staff, for their tireless work supplying the crews with liquids and arranging logistics.
- And finally to the Outrigger membership, for their constant support and encouragement.
- Paddling for the Outrigger Canoe Club is a matter of pride and privilege. Always.

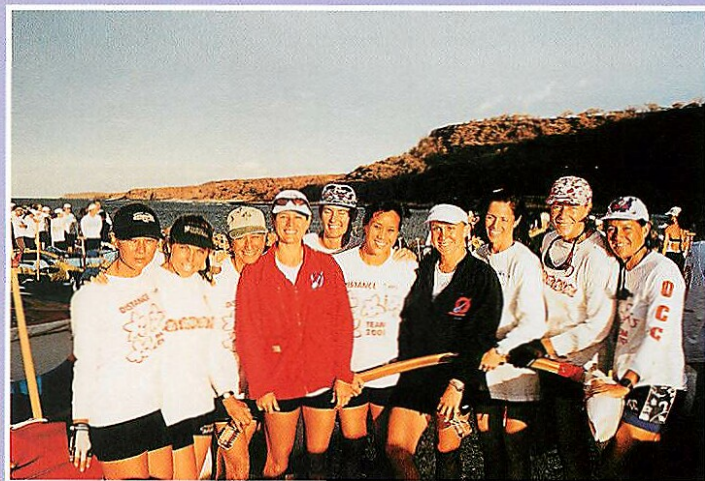
For the record, Outrigger-Red, finished in 6:32:41, 3rd overall. The crew included Kisi Haine, Mary Smolenski, Traci Phillips, Paula Crabb, Donna Kahakui, Lisa Livingston, Katy Bourne, Malia Kamisugi, Sara Ackerman, Karin Hansen.

Outrigger-White, finished the course in 7:14:16, 17th overall. The crew was Nau Kamalii, Jen Thayer, Diana Allen, Genie Kincaid, Tricia Nagatani, Sasha MacNaughton, Starr Dawson, Kaili Chun, Annmarie Mizuno, Missy Mowat.

Outrigger-Blue, finished in 7:33:20, 35th overall. The crew was Meleana Blaich, Jen Bossert, Susan Heitzman, Ann Cundall, Karen Delaney, Laurie Lawson, Brooke Berrington, Kristen Lee, Pam Davis, Janna Arakaki.



Red Team – Mary Smolenski, Paula Crabb, Traci Phillips, Kisi Haine, Sara Ackerman, Karin Hansen, Lisa Livingston, Katy Bourne. Not pictured: Donna Kahakui, Malia Kamisugi.



White Team – Jen Thayer, Starr Dawson, Kaili Chun, Missy Mowat, Diana Allen, Genie Kincaid, Sasha MacNaughton, Annmarie Mizuno, Trisha Nagatani, Nau Kamalii.



Blue Team – Janna Arakaki, Ann Cundall, Laurie Lawson, Brooke Berrington, Kristen Lee, Jen Bossert, Karen Delaney, Michele St. John. Not pictured: Meleana Blaich, Pam Davis, Susan Heitzman.