

# Women's Canoe Racing



By Genie Kincaid

Outrigger Canoe Club's two women's crews finished 4th and 27th in the open division of the 22nd Annual Na Wahine O Ke Kai held September 24. The 41-mile event from Hale O Lono Harbor to Waikiki was unremarkable in terms of conditions --no wind, no surf, and intensely hot.

It was like paddling in Kona water for 41 miles. No wonder then that the race was won by Kai Opuu of the Big Island in 5:56:45, about 32 minutes outside the record time. It was the first time a crew from the Big Island won the Molokai race.

What was remarkable for Outrigger was how its women rallied as a team and a program when head coach Tom McTigue stepped

down in the middle of the racing season for medical reasons. Liz Perry took over all coaching duties, including every logistical headache from coordinating escort crews to drawing up crew lists. She was ably assisted by Michele St. John who was on the first women's crew to cross--and win-- the Kaiwi Channel. Sasha MacNaughton calmly handled the enormous task of moving, coordinating, and maintaining the heavy equipment. She was efficiently supported by all her crewmates.

Paula Crabb, Tricia Nagatani and Janna Arakaki followed through on the picayune details of entering the Club in races and sponsoring the Dad Center Race. All summer long, down to the last paddler in the fifth practice canoe, this was a program for the

women by the women.

In the end though, 20 women raced for the Club, but it was always understood that it took other paddlers who participated throughout the season, but did not make crew, to help push these two crews to be the best they could be.

The first crew included Mary Smolenski, Nicole Pederson, Malia Kamisugi, Lisa Livingston, Tricia Nagatani, Katy Bourne, Paula Crabb, Sara Ackerman, Sasha MacNaughton, and steered by Kisi Haine.

They were in a tight race with Wailua Kayak & Canoe for 3rd place, but the 1999 defending champions edged them out. They finished a respectable 4th with a time of 6:06:10.

The second crew included Tracy Selling, Nicole Bates,

Annmarie Mizuno, Missy Mowat, Kaili Chun, Genie Kincaid, Brooke Berrington, Jen Thayer, Janna Arakaki, and steered by Nau Kamalii. They went the furthest south of the pack in search of the spooky line, but found their sense of humor instead, finishing in a time of 6:43:41.

Behind these women stood a few people who patiently lent their knowledge and assistance to help the crews through the Molokai race. A heartfelt mahalo to Courtney Seto, Walter Guild, Kala Judd, and Greg Moss for their unflinching support. And to the rest of our Outrigger ohana, a sincere thank you for allowing our women to represent the Club.

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Gathering at the start of the race were, front, Mary Smolenski, Malia Kamisugi, Michele St. John, Janna Arakaki, Sasha MacNaughton; back, Tricia Nagatani, Katy Bourne, Pam Davis, Lisa Livingston, Nicole Pederson, Genie Kincaid, Sara Ackerman, Na'u Kamalii, Liz Perry, Annmarie Mizuno, Kaili Chun, Kisi Haine, Tracy Selling. Not pictured: Missy Mowat, Jen Thayer, Nicole Bates, Brooke Berrington.

Tiare Finney, Tracy Selling and Tom McTigue cheer on the crew.

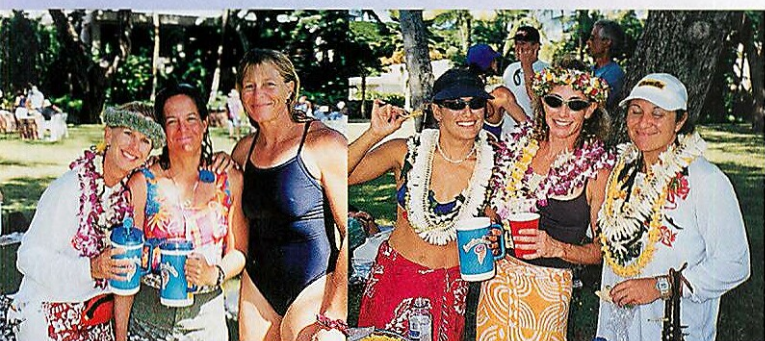


# 2000 MOLOKAI RACE

At the finish line was the crew of Malia Kamisugi, Coach Michele St. John, Sasha MacNaughton, Tricia Nagatani, Lisa Livingston, Kisi Haine, Sara Ackerman, Mary Smolenski, Paula Crabb and Coach Liz Perry. Not pictured: Nicole Pederson, Katy Bourne.



At the finish were Brooke Berrington, Kaili Chun, Janna Arakaki, Missy Mowat and Tiare Finney.



Michele St. John, Na'u Kamalii, Tricia Nagatani.

Malia Kamisugi, Mary Smolenski, Nicole Bates



OCC's second crew included front, Janna Arakaki, Missy Mowat, Na'u Kamalii. Back, Coaches Michele St. John and Liz Perry, Genie Kincaid, Annmarie Mizuno, Kaili Chun, Nicole Bates, Jen Thayer, Tracy Selling. Not pictured: Brooke Barrington.