

# Club Captain's Report

By George Wessberg

## Annual Athletic Awards

The Athletic Committee is primarily responsible for perpetuating the Club's tradition of excellence in sports. The cornerstones of our successful athletic programs are respect, responsibility, results and recognition. Our athletes and coaches must *respect* one another and the members of the Club.

Our subcommittee chairs must demonstrate fiscal and administrative *responsibility* for their programs. The Club Captain must focus on *results* that include trophies as well as member participation, youth development, organization and leadership.

Finally, it is essential that *recognition* be accorded to those individuals within the athletic programs who exemplify our traditional values and inspire others to improve the unique athletic culture of our Club.

## Outstanding Chair

Our very own Terri Needels, aka "Dr. Surf" has taken many hours away from her private practice during the past few years to chair the Surfing Subcommittee, coach the growing membership of our successful surfing program, organize the Summer Surf Contest and conduct the popular summer "Learn to Surf" sessions for our members.

Terri helped to coordinate the viewing of the Rell Sunn documentary at the Club last October and at the end of the 2003 season she organized a fantastic awards party where every surfer was acknowledged for their

personal improvement. A few of Terri's young protégés are currently competing successfully on the professional circuit.

## Outstanding Coach

Charles "Kala" Judd III is one of those rare athletes who successfully transitioned from being an extraordinary individual competitor to becoming an outstanding head coach. Although he readily acknowledges Steve Scott, Walter Guild, Tom Conner and others for mentoring him as an athlete, tactician and coach, Kala emphasized that his most valuable attribute, "a passionate and selfless dedication to the cause," was instilled in him by his late father, Dr. Charles Judd Jr.

As an athlete during the 1990s, Kala was the top competitor in open-ocean kayaking in international events in Tahiti, Australia and Hawaii. Kala was the first or second USA finisher in the Molokai to Oahu Championship in 1993-95, 1997-99 and 2001.

Kala coached World Champion *Molokai Hoe* crews in 1993-94 (FAAA Tahiti Open Men), 1998-99 (OCC Open Men), and 2000 (OCC Masters Men). Kala, a member since 1979, returned as head coach of our Open Men in 2002 to perpetuate the Outrigger Canoe Club's tradition of excellence in international canoe racing.

The successful results of the 2004 long distance season merely validated Kala's distinguished legacy as a canoe racing coach.

## Outstanding Athlete

Seven years ago, Susan Heitzman sat in an outrigger canoe for the first time. By the end of the season, Susan earned a place on one of our *Na Wahine O Ke Kai* crews as a Novice. Susan made four consecutive Molokai to Oahu crews and was training for the International Va'a Federation World Sprints at Bora Bora in the spring of 2001 when she was diagnosed with breast cancer.

On September 28, 2003, Susan paddled in her fifth *Na Wahine O Ke Kai*, a year following cancer surgery and chemotherapy. On August 7, 2004 Susan was on the OCC Golden Masters crew that won a gold medal at States. A week later, Susan was on Hawaii's *Onipa'a* Golden Masters crew that won a gold medal in the 1,000 meter race at the World Sprints in Hilo.

Recently, the Hawaii chapter of the American Cancer Society selected Susan as the third recipient of their Patti Schuler Recognition Award because of her inspirational approach toward life.

## Leadership Development

Board Directors, subcommittee chairs, coaches and athletes attended a Positive Coaching Alliance Leadership Workshop on November 1, 2004 in the Duke Room. This workshop was part of a long range plan to improve the skills of current and future leaders of our athletic programs.

## Annual Athletic Committee Meeting

The annual meeting of subcommittee chairs will be held in the Duke Room on Tuesday, January 25, 2005 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.. Members may submit requests or proposals regarding our athletic programs to the respective subcommittee chairs for discussion at this meeting.



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