

Challenging Conditions and Large Turnout Highlight the OCC Invitational Swim

By Stefan Reinke

The 2013 edition of Annual OCC Invitational swim featured the largest field in recent memory. The event was a virtual sell out weeks before the race. Large surf conditions the week before the race seemed ominous, but the waves died down by race morning and the conditions for this year's event appeared (from the beach) to be favorable.

However, during registration the swimmers noticed that the race course was changing. The swimmers were a buzz as the turn buoys shifted from Diamond Head towards Ewa. The swimmers learned shortly into the pre-race, meeting that the current running towards Diamond Head was so strong that the course had to be changed.

As with all ocean events, safety is the prime consideration. Despite the course change, the swimmers found the race to be a fair test of swimming skills-speed, navigation and tactics all came into play.

Unlike past years, all participants started in a single wave. The race was lead out by Sam Sutherland a 16-year-old swimmer/water polo player. He took an early lead and was able to hold off a strong charging Lectie Altman, the second overall finisher and first female. The first male/female OCC finishers were Kekoa Viera, 15, and Leia Deer, 13.

For most the biggest challenge was turning on the first buoy on the Diamond Head side. The current was so strong

that many were pushed backward despite swimming their hardest. Lifeguards on jet skis brought a number of swimmers to shore after they tired themselves out attempting to round the buoy.

"No matter how hard I worked, the current kept dragging me backwards," reported Don Eovino. Ward Saunders said it took him so long to make the turn that he watched the fish grow a couple of inches in length.

Arnold Lum said there are currents and then there are currents. This year's current ranked in the latter category. "I've never struggled so much to get around a turn," he said.

Of special note was the swim of Diane Stowell. She completed the course with her son Dean in slightly over an hour. Diane has been a fixture in Hawaii's swimming community. Her role in the OCC Swim Committee cannot be overstated.

As with almost any event held at the Club, the real highlight of the day was the Sunday Brunch. The post-race air was filled with a sense of accomplishment and camaraderie. It was plain to the Swim Committee volunteers that the race was a success.

OCC swim committee members helping out included Gerry Debenedetti (and her daughter Cassie), Rachel Ross, Kathryn Nichols, Maggie Parks, Arnold Lum, Kathleen Quinn, Blake Johnson, and Hina Torres.

Outrigger Invitational Swim

May 26, 2013
1.1 miles

Overall	Name	Time	Place
1.	Sam Sutherland	24:47.4	1st, M16-19
2.	Lectie Altman	24:57.8	1st, W 25-29
3.	Ben Williams	25:04.4	1st, M25-29
4.	Mykah Fujiwara	25:51.5	2nd, W16-19
5.	Kekoa Viera*	25:51.8	1st, BU15
6.	Lia Foster	25:52.5	1st, GU15
7.	Ryan Leong	26:00.8	1st, M40-44
8.	Miki David	26:05.4	1st, W40-44
9.	Victoria West	26:14.0	1st, W30-34
10.	Brian King	28:38.6	1st, M30-34
11.	Jake Gaughan*	29:05.3	2nd, M15-19
18.	Leia Deer*	30:19.9	2nd, GU15
20.	Lilly Belle Deer*	30:25.5	1st, W16-19
24.	Ward Saunders*	30:53.8	3rd, M55-59
26.	Katherine Nichols*	31:45.4	1st, W45-49
28.	Laurie Foster*	33:05.3	1st, W55-59
33.	Wilder Worrall*	34:35.7	4th, BU15
35.	Uli Klinke*	34:41.5	1st, M65-69
36.	Jeff Harris*	34:43.9	5th, M55-59
40.	Victoria Gacutan*	35:05.2	4th, GU15
41.	Maggie Parks*	34:268	1st, W35-39
44.	Diane Corn*	36:06.3	1st, W50-54
49.	Mary Quinn*	37:29.6	3rd, W55-59
50.	Candes Gentry*	37:39.5	2nd, W35-39
56.	Corin Gentry-Balding*	38:51.7	3rd, W35-39
59.	Chris Worrall*	39:21.3	4th, M50-54
61.	Anne Perry*	39:26.9	4th, W55-59
65.	Aaron Wallen*	40:07.0	7th, M40-44
67.	Peter Biggs*	40:32.7	5th, M60-64
71.	Eric Crispin*	43:14.7	7th, M50-54
76.	Brad Coates*	44:12.0	6th, M60-64
86.	Brooke Perry*	49:28.9	3rd, W25-29
88.	Laura Miller*	50:40.8	5th, W50-54
96.	Jeff Dinsmore*	52:02.6	7th, M55-59
104.	Kevin Greenwell*	58:21.8	11th, M40-44
105.	Victor Hemmy Jr.*	59:12.4	2nd, M65-69
110.	Richard Wheeler*	1:03:03.8	4th, M45-49
112.	Arnold Lum*	1:04:32.6	3rd, M65-69
117.	Dean Stowell*	1:06:21.1	5th, M45-49
118.	Diane Stowell*	1:06:21.5	2nd, W70+
123.	Glenn Perry*	1:12:12.9	5th, M65-69

*OCC members



Kekoa Viera, Jake Gaughan, Leia Deer, Lilly Belle Deer.



Maggie Parks, Katherine Nichols, Corin Gentry-Balding, Laurie Foster, Diane Stowell.

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