

Weather and Waves Cannot Stop Castle Swim

By Stefan Reinke



TOP LEFT: The top four finishers in the Castle Swim were Ethan Bosworth, Stefan Reinke, Bruce Sloan and David Stackhouse.



TOP RIGHT: Finishing in the next tier were Uli Klinke, Laurie Foster, Diane Corn and Ward Saunders.



BOTTOM LEFT: George Puder gives Anne Perry a kiss while Todd Iacovelli gets in a hug.



BOTTOM RIGHT: Curtis Wheeler, Blake Johnson and Jim Zachary.

The 2013 edition of the Club's annual Castle Swim required the ability to adapt to change. As the participants and volunteers arrived at the Club early on December 1, the big question on everyone's mind would the race go forward?

Oahu was under a flash flood watch. Strong south west winds were exacerbating the storm surge with waves breaking in the channel. Add a dropping tide, sheets of rain and jelly fish to the mix.

The dilemma: how do you craft a safe and fun event when the circumstances are all lining up against you. The answer: adapt.

Rather than use the traditional course which would have required swimming through several breaks and strong current, a new course was created within the friendly confines of the OCC and Kaimana Beach.

A multi-loop course was developed that shaved about 200 meters off the normal swim distance. The new course created by the weather and surf made the shorter course every bit as challenging as the traditional race.

A decidedly experienced group all hoped for a chance to cross the line in first. On the men's side, past race champions were absent leaving the door wide open. Past top finishers, Dave Stackhouse, Bruce Sloan and Ward Saunders all came primed to swim fast. The top women from previous races Laurie Foster, Sue Steinemann, and Diane Corn all returned to challenge one another for the honor of being first across the line.

The race which began at Kaimana Beach started to shape

up almost immediately with swimmers working hard to get to the first buoy in the channel. After touching the buoy (a change from most races that require you to swim around the marker) the swimmers returned to the beach, did two more loops to the buoy and finished at the Club.

Unseen from the beach but clearly impacting the swim was a strong current running against the swimmers coming into the channel. This "endless pool" section exponentially increased the difficulty factor for the race.

Open ocean events require not only strong swimming skills and a good sense of direction, but also a little bit of luck. Ultimately, Stefan Reinke pulled to the front of the group and exited the water first. He was followed by junior member, Ethan Bosworth and Bruce Sloan. On the women's side, Laurie Foster proved strongest this day. She finished ahead of Elsa Kronen and Sue Steinemann.

Following the race, everyone enjoyed the Sunday Brunch. The weather continued to be a challenge even for the buffet. The very well secured event tent actually blew off the ground during the swim forcing a move first to the Snack Shop and ultimately the Duke Room for the brunch and awards.

The Annual Castle Swim is held on the Sunday following Thanksgiving. It is open to Club members only. The swim is put on through the efforts of your Swim Committee.

Special thanks to co-race director Todd Iacovelli for pre-race organizing and swimmer registration, Gerry DeBenedetti, Carol Jaxon, Lisa Reinke, Joanne Klinke, Ben Komer and Kathleen Quinn for all their kokua.



Sue Steinemann and daughter Elsa Kronen finished together.



Brad Coates



While the sun shined brightly on the watercraft, the sky turned black in the background as the storm moved in at the end of the race.

Castle Swim Results December 1, 2013

| Overall Name | Place/Division | Time |
|----------------------|----------------|--------|
| 1. Stefan Reinke | 1st, M55-59 | :22:30 |
| 2. Ethan Bosworth | 1st, MU18 | :24:46 |
| 3. Bruce Sloan | 1st, M65-69 | :24:57 |
| 4. David Stackhouse | 1st, M40-44 | :25:39 |
| 5. Uli Klinke | 2nd, M65-69 | :26:20 |
| 6. Ward Saunders | 1st, M60-64 | :26:31 |
| 7. Laurie Foster | 1st, W55-59 | :27:41 |
| 8. Diane Corn | 1st, W50-54 | :28:04 |
| 9. Elsa Kronen | 1st, WU18 | :28:06 |
| 10. Sue Steinemann | 2nd, W50-54 | :28:07 |
| 11. Billy Balding | 1st, M45-49 | :28:22 |
| 12. George Puder | 2nd, M40-44 | :28:35 |
| 13. Todd Iacovelli | 1st, M30-34 | :29:25 |
| 14. Rachel Ross | 1st, W35-39 | :29:39 |
| 15. Anne Perry | 2nd, W55-59 | :30:08 |
| 16. Jim Farrell | 2nd, M55-59 | :31:19 |
| 17. Chris Worrall | 1st, M50-54 | :32:06 |
| 18. Valisa Saunders | 2nd, W55-59 | :33:27 |
| 19. Brad Coates | 2nd, M60-64 | :33:35 |
| 20. Miki Anzai | 2nd, W35-39 | :36:31 |
| 21. Ikaika Harbottle | 3rd, M40-44 | :38:03 |
| 22. Stuart Feeley | 2nd, M50-54 | :38:04 |
| 23. Curtis Wheeler* | 1st, M70-74 | :42:47 |
| 24. Blake Johnson* | 1st, M75-79 | :42:47 |
| 25. Don Eovino | 3rd, M65-69 | N.T. |
| 26. Jim Zachary | M80-84 | DNF |

*short course