

the Outrigger



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New Champion at Annual Castle Swim Race

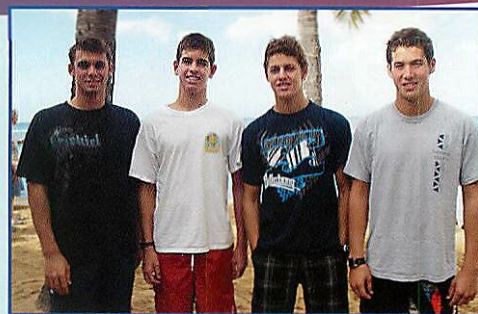
By Stefan Reinke



Winners of their divisions were Twain Newhart, David Stackhouse, Ryan Saunders and Ward Saunders.



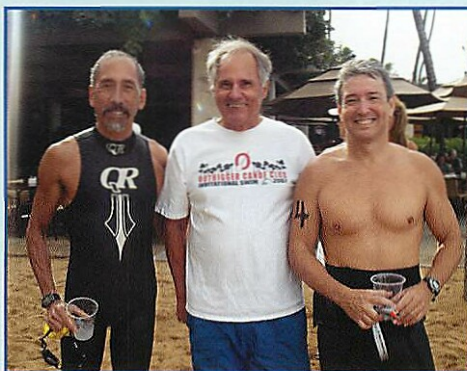
A very cold Diane Stowell got a warming hug from Kim Heyer Darling and Diana Allen.



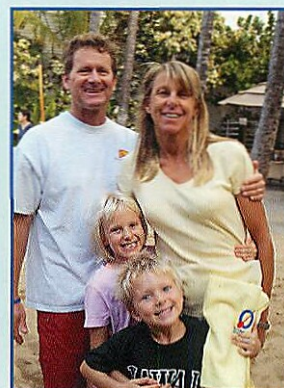
Junior 'Riggers competed: Ryan Saunders, Connor Grune, Aukai Gilliland and Sean Ginella.



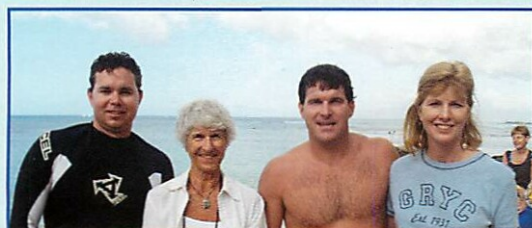
Ernie Leskovitz won his division and Laurie Foster was first woman to finish.



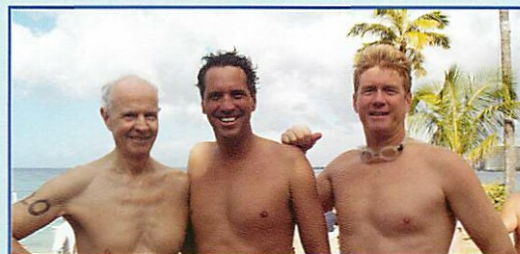
Swim Committee members: Arnold Lum, Dennis Blake and Stefan Reinke.



Sue Steinemann won her division and got love afterward from husband Jack Konen and keiki Elsa and Cable.



Grant Senner, third from left, was escorted in the race by Greg Wood. Cheering him were his mom Gerry DeBenedetti and wife Beth.



David James, Hugh Damon and Chris Worral competed.

Sunny skies and calm waters greeted this year's Castle swimmers and escorts on November 29. Unlike the OCC Invitational Swim held in May in high surf, the conditions for this year's event were exceptional.

Going into the race, the event was wide open. The winner for the last two years, Wil Yamamoto, was in Australia to compete in an Ironman triathlon. A mix of youth and experience all hoped for a chance to cross the line in first.

The 1.2 mile race began in front of the Old Club now the Outrigger Waikiki Hotel. More than 30 Club members toed the water's edge as Swim Committee Chair Emeritus Dennis Blake gave the count down and command to start.

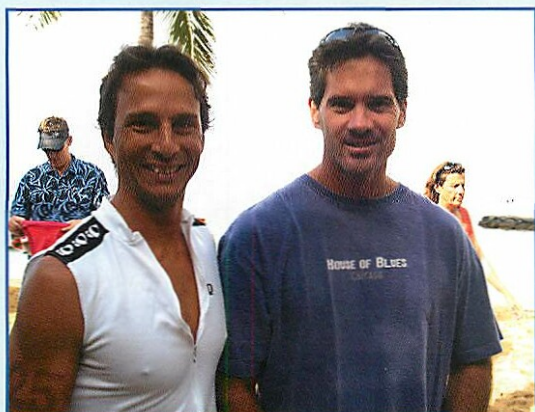
On the way out towards the surf line, the swimmers quickly discovered that the water was too shallow to swim, so many began to run through the thigh deep water. This caused a small split in the field as some of the younger swimmers were able to take advantage of

their strong running and aerobic skills.

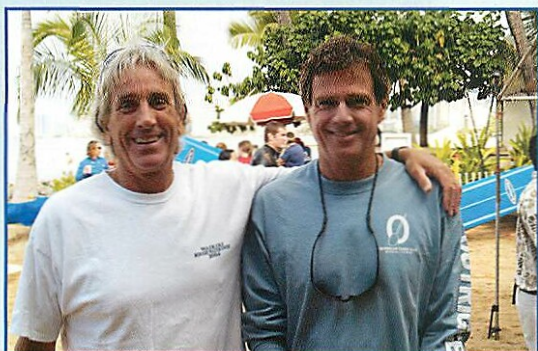
Shortly after the first buoy a small pack developed at the front of the race. Two of the Junior members, Ryan Saunders and Aukai Gilliland took the lead. They were closely followed by veteran waterman John Akana. The rest of the field began to separate itself on the long journey to the turn buoy.

Though the course is a simple "V" the in water navigation is tricky. Many a competitor is tempted to aim towards Diamond Head—a path that can add minutes to the swim. With the assistance of Club staff and Kenny Rust of Aloha Surf Lifesaving and friends and family who acted as escorts, everyone stayed mostly on course.

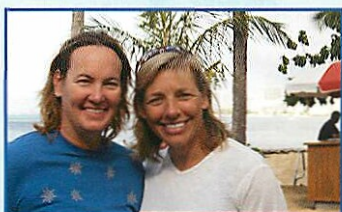
Shortly before the final turn buoy, the race was well defined. Ryan Saunders had taken a strong lead followed by Gilliland and Akana. Saunders crossed the finish line more than 100 meters ahead. John maintained a strong pace but was unable to close the narrow five second gap to second place finisher Gilliland.



John Akana and Kevin Allen swam in the event.



Brad Coates and James Farrell.



Diana Allen and Carol Jaxon went 1-2 in the women's 40 division.

On the women's side, Laurie Foster took an early lead and maintained a strong pace to finish first among the women. She was followed less than a minute later by Sue Steinemann. Rounding out the top three women was Kim Heyer Darling.

The Annual Castle Swim is held on the Sunday following Thanksgiving. It is open to Club members only. The course remains the same each year and participants are encouraged to have personal escorts.

While there is a race element to the event, it is also an opportunity to simply enjoy a swim with friends, see the sights off of Waikiki, and enjoy the fabulous OCC brunch on the beach afterward. Winners in each division receive an OCC beach towel.

The OCC Invitational Swim will be moving back to May this year. In addition, at least one other race event will be put on by the Swim Committee in 2010.

Castle Swim November 29, 2009 Results

Overall	Name	Time	Place
1.	Ryan Saunders	:33:11	1st, Overall
2.	Aukai Gilliland	:34:55	1st, Boys
3.	John Akana	:35:00	1st, M40-44
4.	Stefan Reinke	:35:26	1st, M50-54
5.	Conner Grune	:37:51	2nd, Boys
6.	David Stackhouse	:40:04	2nd, M40-44
7.	Chris Nichols	:40:18	3rd, Boys
8.	Ernie Leskovitz	:41:14	1st, M70-74
9.	Laurie Foster	:41:25	1st, Women 50-54
10.	Ward Saunders	:41:39	1st, M55-47
11.	Twain Newhart	:41:48	1st, M45-49
12.	Sue Steinemann	:42:22	1st W45-49
13.	Jeff Harris	:42:33	2nd, M50-54
14.	Uli Klink	:43:13	1st, M65-69
15.	Greg Wunderlich	:44:10	2nd, M45-49
16.	Sean Ginella	:44:48	4th, Boys
17.	Kim Heyer Darling	:46:16	3rd, W50-54
18.	James Farrell	:46:27	2nd, M55-59
19.	Hugh Damon	:47:19	3rd, M45-49
20.	Chris Worrall	:47:46	4th, M45-49
21.	Kevin Allen	:49:53	3rd, M40-44
22.	Brad Coates	:50:34	3rd, M55-59
23.	Diana Allen	:51:16	1st, W40-44
24.	Grant Senner	:51:22	1st, M35-39
25.	Diane Stowell	:52:54	1st, W70-74
26.	Tom Fee	:54:49	4th, M55-59
27.	Arnold Lum	:56:47	1st, M60-64
28.	Carol Jaxon	:58:22	2nd, W50-54
29.	David James	:59:20	1st, M75-79
30.	Don Eovino	1:04:59	2nd, M60-64
31.	Jim Zachary	1:08:44	2nd, M75-79
32.	Angel Yanagihara	1:11:20	3rd, W50-54
33.	Blake Johnson	1:11:20	2nd, M70-74

On the Cover: Junior 'Rigger Ryan Saunders was the winner of the 2009 Castle Swim. See story and more photos on pages 2-3. Photo by Marilyn Kali.