

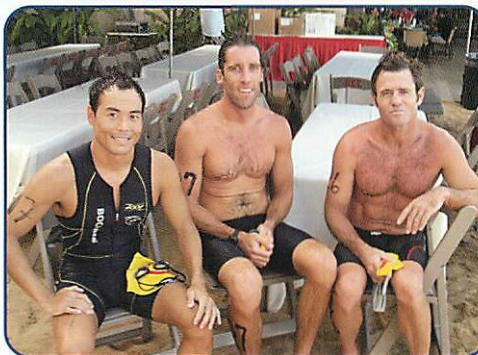
Wil Yamamoto Wins the Castle Swim

By Ray Robinson Photos by Marilyn Kali



ABOVE: Front: Jan Newhart, Jim Zachary, Arnold Lum, Vic Hemmy Jr., Don Eovino Marcia Duff, Chris Miller, LillyBelle Deer. Standing: Missy Mowat Maii, Rachel Ross, Sue Steinemann, Joey Nakaya, Barry Francis, Diane Corn, Kathleen Quinn, James Farrell, Diane Stowell, Katherine Nichols, Brad Coates, Chris Garwood, Malia Boyd, Suzie Neufeldt, John Wacker, William Feeback, Ernie Leskovitz.

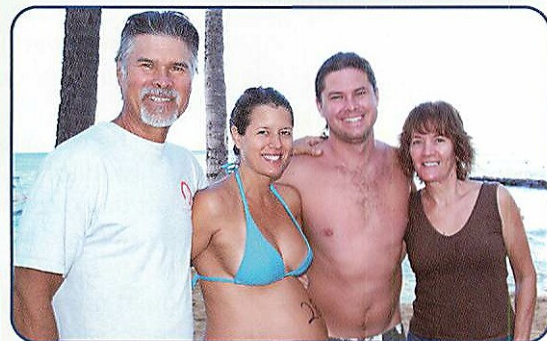
RIGHT: Top three finishers Wil Yamamoto, David Stackhouse and Chris Miller.



RIGHT: First woman finisher Rachel Ross.



BELOW: A very pregnant Missy Maii got support from her parents, Billy and Patty Mowat, and husband, Kai. She won her division.



Kari Vasey and Gerry DeBenedetti handled registration and scoring.

Well it had to open up sooner or later: Kristi Torkildson, the 17-year-old Punahou student who has walked away with the winner's trophy in the Castle Swim for the last four years, was in Texas this year reputedly scouting out Baylor University, thereby leaving the contest open to other competitors.

This year's weather conditions were ideal with a few scattered high clouds, bright sunshine, mild trades and a beautiful calm sea, largely flat.

This year 30 stalwarts competed, slightly fewer than usual. On schedule, Jim Wiencke accompanied the swimmers to the starting point in Waikiki and got them launched on time.

Wil Yamamoto won this year's Castle Swim in 39 minutes and 20 seconds, followed by Chris Miller and David Stackhouse who were so close to each other they collided at the finish gate a few scant seconds later.

The first woman to finish was Rachel Ross, who clocked in at 41 minutes, 10 seconds.

Three Junior 'Riggers competed: Akea Kahikina who finished in 45:27, William Feeback in 1:07:30, and Lilly Belle Deer who suffered stings from "no-see-ems" and came part of the way to shore on an escort's surfboard.

There were four swimmers in the 70 to 79 bracket: Diane Stowell, Ernie Leskovitz, Jim Zachary and Jan Newhart.

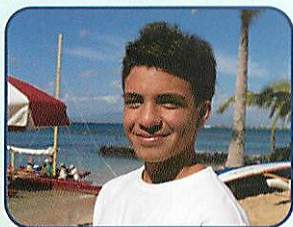
The youngest participant was the unborn baby of Missy Mowat Maii. Missy who was 8-3/4 months pregnant wore the competition number of 28. The baby who was due in 10 days sported the number 28A.

Long before the winning swimmer puffed his way up the stairs at the finish line, meet director Dennis Blake observed they all were being carried past the final turn buoy in a very strong Waikiki to Diamond Head current.

Upon reaching shore most swimmers voiced their amazement at the current. Ernie Leskovitz who competes in swim meets all over the world declared, "It was a real fight getting in." Arnold Lum commented that "after the last turn buoy the current was horrible." Don Eovino opined "if they ran the Roughwater Swim in a current like today's, they'd be rescuing people all over the place!"

If there were a prize for the most rigorous workout of the day, it would have to go to Wil Yamamoto who missed the bus carrying swimmers to Waikiki, ran from the OCC to the starting point at the Outrigger hotel just as the race started, and still managed to come in first.

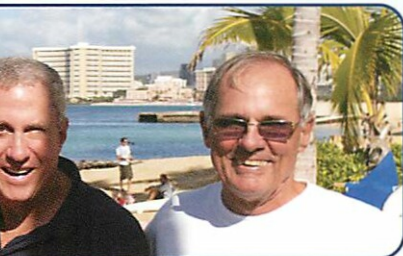
The escort prize should probably go to octogenarian Vic Hemmy Sr. who paddled all the way from the OCC to the starting point in Waikiki to escort his son, Vic Jr., who was competing.



ABOVE: Akea Kahikina won the Junior division.

LEFT: Vic Hemmy Jr. tells Ray Robinson all about the current in the OCC channel.

BELOW: Members of the Swimming Committee were on hand to help: Ginger Thornburg, Jim Wiencke, Blake Johnson, and Chair Dennis Blake.



Swimming in the 40-44 division were Sue Steinemann, Katherine Nichols, Chris Miller and John Wacker.

He encountered the same vicious current and had a really tough time getting back in.

The meet is a 35-year-old event named after Club member Harold Castle whose home used to be on the site where the Elks Club now stands. The course of the race originally was from Castle's home to the Outrigger Club's former location on the beach at Waikiki.

Mr. Castle is reputed to have passed out the winner's trophies himself. Several years ago the course was reversed from the site of our old club to the site of our current club to take advantage of the parallel current which most agree ran heavily from Waikiki to Diamond Head during this year's race.

After the last finisher came in, Dennis awarded prizes to the winners in each age group and all hands kibitzed, talked story and dug into the Outrigger's splendid Sunday Brunch.

Congrats were expressed to the Swim Committee members who made it happen: Dennis Blake, our intrepid chairman; Ginger Thornburg, Diane Stowell, Kari Vasey, Arnold Lum, Jim Wiencke, Kathleen Quinn, Gerry DeBenedetti and Blake Johnson for putting it all together. And kudos to our friendly and competent beach crew who set the buoys and monitored the course in a Club boat: Don Isaacs, Sam Clemens, Steve Chamberlain and Brian Speir.

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Castle Swim November 25, 2007 Results

Overall	Name	Time	Place/Division
1.	Wil Yamamoto	:39:20	1st, M30-34
2.	Chris Miller	:39:21	1st, M40-44
3.	Dave Stackhouse	:39:22	1st, M35-39
4.	Rachel Ross	:41:10	1st, W30-34
5.	Katherine Nichols	:42:40	1st, W40-44
6.	Ernie Leskovitz	:42:41	1st, M70-74
7.	Barry Francis	:44:37	1st, M50-54
8.	Akea Kahikina	:45:27	1st, Jr. Boys
9.	Twain Newhart	:45:30	1st, M45-49
10.	James Farrell	:46:00	2nd, M50-54
11.	Sue Steinemann	:46:54	2nd, W40-44
12.	Laurie Foster	:47:18	1st, W50-54
13.	Diane Corn	:47:23	1st, W45-49
14.	Diane Stowell	:50:55	1st, W70-74
15.	Joey Nakaya	:51:52	2nd, M35-39
16.	Marcia Duff	:51:58	1st, W55-59
17.	Brad Coates	:54:14	1st, M55-59
18.	Missy Mowat Maii	:56:26	1st, W35-39
19.	Malia Boyd	:56:47	2nd, W35-39
20.	Suzie Neufeldt	:56:48	3rd, W35-39
21.	John Wacker	:58:09	2nd, M40-44
22.	Arnold Lum	:59:32	1st, M60-64
23.	Kathleen Quinn	1:03:42	1st, W65-69
24.	Chris Garwood	1:03:55	3rd, M50-54
25.	Victor Hemmy Jr.	1:06:00	2nd, M60-64
26.	William Feedback	1:07:30	2nd, Jr. Boys
27.	Don Eovino	1:09:46	3rd, M60-64
28.	Jim Zachary	1:16:26	1st, M75-79
29.	Jan Newhart	1:39:40	1st, W75-79
	LillyBelle Deer	DNF	



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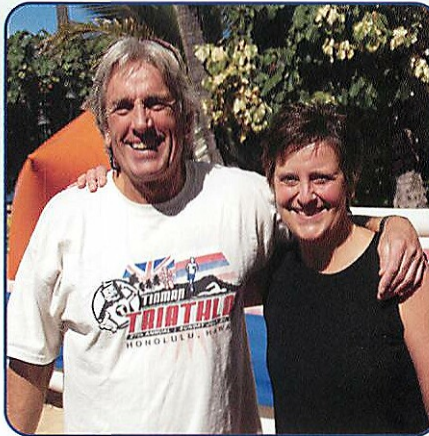
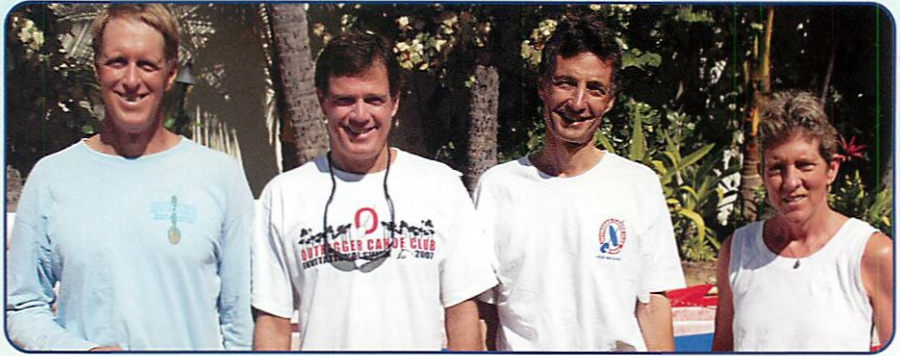
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RIGHT: Top swimmers in the 50-54 division were Barry Francis, James Farrell, Chris Garwood and Laurie Foster.

BELOW: In the master's divisions 60+ were: Vic Hemmy Jr., Don Eovino, Jim Zachary, Kathleen Quinn, Ernie Leskovitz, Diane Stowell and Arnold Lum.

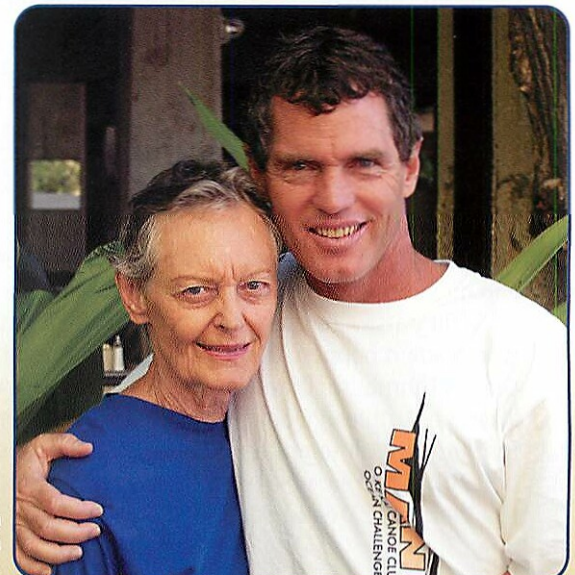


Brad Coates and Marcia Duff won the 55-59 division.



LEFT: Missy Maii with baby on board won her 35-39 division.

BELOW: The race for second was very close between David Stackhouse and Chris Miller.



Jan and Twain Newhart each won their divisions.

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