



Diane Stowell and Jim Anderson won their respective 70s divisions.



Jr. 'Riggers competing in the swim were Kailee Seto, Chris Webb, Kristi Torkildson, Kip Hustace and Chris Nichols.

Swimmers and their escorts gathered on the OCC beach for instructions before being chauffeured to the start in Waikiki.

CASTLE SWIM

Held in Beautiful Conditions

By Ray Robinson

Swim Committee members breathed a sigh of relief upon arriving at the OCC Sunday morning, November 26 for the running of the Club's annual Castle Swim, hoping the perfect weather of the last few days would hold.

Meet Director Dennis Blake, who returned from a five-week trip around Africa to be on hand for the event, observed the clear skies, bright sun, light winds, very light chop, smooth sea surface, and the current apparently running slowly in the usual direction, i.e., Waikiki to Diamond Head (giving swimmers a bit of a boost), and declared conditions to be perfect.

Any swim meeting morning one can expect a modicum of mayhem as swimmers and escorts check in, exchange "howzits", stretch, loosen up, get numbers marked on arm and thigh, and investigate the water conditions. Not only were swim conditions perfect, Gerry DeBenedetti, long-time swim meet stalwart, judged that even the sign in might have gone more smoothly than usual.

Much attention centered on Kristi Torkildson, the amazing jet-propelled 16-year-old Punahou student who monopolized the winner's spot for the last three years in a row, and who was out to make it four. Her time last year was 34 minutes and 21 seconds, one minute and 14 seconds ahead of John Akana who finished second and was close behind her all the way.

This year a couple of swimmers actually finished slightly ahead of Kristi, but as this swim is an event for OCC regular resident members only and each must have his or her own membership number, neither could qualify as a winner. One was the spouse of a member, and the other a member of a reciprocal club.

Therefore Kristi retained her number one winner's position!

This makes her the winner four years in a row! She came in just 10 seconds ahead of, guess who, John Akana, in 36 minutes and 10 seconds.

Thirty-six swimmers competed in the Castle Swim last year. This year 41 showed up, ages 14 to 75. The Castle course, named after Harold Castle whose home used to stand where the Elks Club now is, runs 1.2 miles from the old OCC site in Waikiki (between the Royal Hawaiian and Moana Hotels) to our own OCC beach. Originally the course was the reverse, from Castle's home site to the old OCC site in Waikiki.

The course was reversed a number of years ago so the swim meet would finish at our own OCC beach, and allow competitors to enjoy the prevailing current as well as brunch at the Club afterward.

The 41 swimmers constituted the largest group ever for the Castle Swim. And it was the first time that reciprocal members competed. Although reciprocal member Chris Webb of Arizona had the fastest swim time of 34 minutes and 40 seconds, he was not eligible to win because the Castle Swim is a members-only event. It was the first ocean swim for the 14-year-old, and one he will likely remember for a long time. The three other reciprocals were from the Multnomah Athletic Club.

Jr. 'Riggers who competed in the swim were Chris Nichols, 14; Kailee Seto, 16; and Kristi, 16. A just-turned 18 Kip Hustace, came from the Big Island to compete for the second year and won his division.

Ron Haworth was the most senior swimmer at 75.

Several finished in spite of handicaps: Chris Miller appeared to come up the steps limping, while Uli Klinke finished despite a leg that seems to be giving him trouble.



The Swim Committee was hard at work. Front: Gerry DeBenedetti and Jim Wiencke. Back: Dennis Blake, Ginger Thornburg, Blake Johnson, and Ray Robinson. Swimming the race were members Diane Stowell, Arnold Lum and Kari Vasey.



Finishing first in their divisions were Ernie Leskovitz, Men 65; Kathleen Quinn, Women 60, and Uli Klinke, Men 60.



Happy with their wins were Bob Momsen, Men 55; Laurie Foster, Women 50; Barry Francis, Men 50; and Marcia Duff, Women 55. Laurie also received a Mileage Award for swimming 2,000 miles.



The winners were Bob Momsen, 3rd; John Akana, 2nd, and Kristi Torkildson, 1st.

Jim Shipman and Chris Nichols finished within a second of each other. Marcia Duff, a Nonresident member from Ketchum, Idaho, entered her first Castle Swim. Although she enjoys swimming in a masters program in Sun Valley, she was thrilled "to be in the ocean again".

Dawn McNaughton, was excited to see two turtles during the swim, "one of them HUGE", her hands describing about a three-foot diameter, but she got "stalled by a bit of a current in the windsock area."

Ernie Leskovitz tried to draft off Bruce Sloan, but "it didn't work" because of no assisting current, and therefore he "had to swim hard all the way."

Ron Haworth who swam by himself most of the way counted his strokes (for lack of any other diversion) and reports it took him 3,815 of them to complete the course.

It was the first Castle Swim for Don Eovino in six years (the last one he swam with a broken arm). He's now in training for the New Zealand Ironman coming up in March, and to "tune up", He's run three half ironmans in the last six months in Kona, Lubbock, Texas and Monaco.

The meet was declared a resounding success. All swimmers and escorts enjoyed the famous, fabulous OCC Brunch under the tent on the beach, as Dennis passed out trophies to all winners.

Mahalo to swim committee members Gerry DeBenedetti, Ginger Thornburg, Arnold Lum, Dennis Blake, Diane Stowell, Kari Vasey, Blake Johnson, and Jim Wiencke for putting it all together, and to Don Isaacs and his beach crew for helping make it all happen.

Castle Swim November 26, 2006 Results

Overall	Name	Time	Place/Division
1.	Kristi Torkildson	:36:10	1st, Girls
2.	John Akana	:36:20	1st, M35
3.	Bob Momsen	:36:30	1st, M55
4.	Kip Hustace	:36:50	1st, M18
5.	Chris Miller	:37:50	1st, M40
6.	Sean Monahan	:39:43	2nd, M35
7.	Dave Stackhouse	:39:44	3rd, M35
8.	Bruce Sloan	:40:02	2nd, M55
9.	Ernie Leskovitz	:40:20	1st, M65
10.	Barry Francis	:41:23	1st, M50
11.	Jim Shipman	:43:19	2nd, M40
12.	Chris Nichols	:43:21	1st, Boys
13.	Katherine Nichols	:43:34	1st, W40
14.	Laurie Foster	:45:05	1st, W50
15.	Jim Farrell	:45:20	2nd, M50
16.	Sue Steinmann	:45:55	2nd, W40
17.	Uli Klinke	:47:00	1st, M60
18.	Dawn McNaughton	:48:15	1st, W45
19.	Diane Stowell	:49:25	1st, W70
20.	William Bryant	:49:37	3rd, M40
21.	Courtney Seto	:50:05	1st, M45
22.	Kailee Seto	:51:45	2nd, Girls
23.	Kendra Epstein	:52:02	1st, W35
24.	Marcia Duff	:52:30	1st, W55
25.	Kimmy Everett	:53:50	2nd, W35
26.	Jim Anderson	:56:00	1st, M70
27.	Kari Vasey	:56:13	2nd, W50
28.	Brad Coates	:57:05	3rd, M55
29.	Arnold Lum	:57:32	4th, M55
30.	Anne Perry	:58:10	3rd, W50
31.	Vic Hemmy Jr.	:59:59	2nd, M60
32.	David James	1:00:20	2nd, M70
33.	Kathleen Quinn	1:02:00	1st, W60
34.	Don Eovino	1:03:52	3rd, M60
35.	Jim Zachary	1:09:35	3rd, M70
36.	Ron Haworth	1:45:02	1st, M75