

Castle Swim Set for December 1

2007

The 29th annual Castle Swim will be held the Sunday after Thanksgiving, December 1. Registration is on the Hau Terrace at 8 a.m.

The swim is named for an old swim, also called the Castle Swim, which was open to the public and began in the 1920's. Harold Castle's home was on the site of the present Elks Club, and he provided the trophies for the swim which started at his home and finished on Waikiki Beach, where the Outrigger Canoe Club was formerly located.

Twenty nine years ago Fred Hemmings proposed that we revive the Castle Swim, make it an OCC members only event, and race from the former finish to the former start. There were seven people entered in 1973, and after the race they all sat on the Hau Terrace for refreshments and decided how to arrange the age groups so they could each get a trophy out of the deal.

Those pioneers were Bruce Ames (1st, overall), Dale Hope, Roger Cundall, Gerry DeBenedetti, Karl Heyer III, Cline Mann, and Fred Hemmings.

The next year we discovered a problem: we didn't have a Swim Committee. Can you imagine? So Gerry DeBenedetti became the chair of the first Swim Committee, and subsequent chairs have been Ian Emberson, Pam Zak, Arnold Lum, Chrissy Lambert Rhodes, Chris Worrall and Peggy Danford. (If we forgot someone, speak up so we can correct our historial record)

Awards are given for every five years in age groups, from junior to as old as our competitors. Swimmers are advised to have an escort, who may be on a paddleboard, one person canoe or kayak, or even swimming beside you. A tip for you first time swimmers: your escort should set the course for you, and you follow their heel, or back, or bubbles.

There is no entry fee. So, making it as free and easy as possible, you do your part and save the date, and start practicing. You have 60 days to shape up.

Sign up at the Front Desk to join us for the swim and brunch to follow. Brunch is complimentary for you and your escort. Maybe you'd like to escort a fellow member, also sign up and show up that day. Look for more details on the tunnel bulletin board.

New and Junior Members, for your information:

Eligibility

You must have your own membership number to enter, associate spouses without their own number are not eligible.

Course

1 1/4 mile from Old Club site in Waikiki to OCC entrance wall at the beach.