

Castle Swim Team set for November 25

The 28th annual Castle Swim will be held the Sunday after Thanksgiving at 8 am. Registration is on the Hau Terrace.

This year there will be the usual U-shaped swim for masters, and an out and back shorter course for the juniors, if they preregister at the Front Desk. We want to get our young swimmers accustomed to open ocean swimming.

The swim is named for an old swim, also called the Castle Swim, which was open to the public and began in the 1920s. 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-eight 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 (first overall), Dale Hope, Roger Cundall, Gerry DeBenedetti, Karl Heyer III, Cline Mann and Fred Hemmings.

Please keep practicing, and save the date. Awards are given for every five years in age groups, with new awards this year for the Junior Castle. Brunch is complimentary for you and your escort.

Your escort 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.