

Castle Swim set for November 26

The 27th annual Castle Swim will be held the Sunday after Thanksgiving at 8 a.m.. Registration is on the Hau Terrace.

This year there will be the usual U shaped swim for masters (see map-A-B-C-D), and an out & back course for the Juniors (D-C-D). 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 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 located.

Twenty seven 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. Unfortunately their finish times were lost in antiquity.

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. Let them bring you to the Club and the Brunch.

