

Plan Now for Castle Swim

By Gerry DeBenedetti

Make your plans now for the Castle Swim, to be held on Sunday, November 28, starting at 8 a.m. at the Club. A lengthy article concerning the swim appeared in last month's issue of *The Outrigger*. We know the "regular" swimmers know about this event, but the Swim Committee wants to get out this last reminder to swimmers and escorts to sign up now to participate. We need a count to know how many are coming to brunch. A sign-up sheet will be either on the swim bulletin board in the tunnel, or in the swim folder at the front desk.

Swimmers are encouraged to provide a friend or relative as a personal escort, either on a paddleboard or in an outrigger canoe. It is difficult to guarantee "personal" attention to all swimmers, and anyone who is interested in escorting is welcome. Escorts need not be OCC members, however only OCC members can enter the swim.

The course is 1½ miles, from a starting point near the Moana and Surfrider Hotels to the finish at the Club. The Club will set out two turning flags, one near the beach at Waikiki and one off the Outrigger wind sock. Both must be on the swimmers' left hand as they turn the flags. Honor system please.

Named for Alfred Castle, the swim revives a tradition of an open-ocean swim begun as far back as 1926, when Castle sponsored a swim which today probably would be more like the Waikiki Roughwater Swim. The Club has upheld the tradition by using Castle's name and has added a few special OCC touches to the swim: going the wrong way, having it in November, etc.

The Swim Committee wishes to emphasize to all swimmers that the official start is at 8 a.m. at the Hau Terrace, where you must register, receive a finisher's number, and sign in and be counted. Even though the Club provides escort service to the water start, you are not officially entered in the swim unless you have appeared at the Hau Terrace at 8 a.m.

There have been unfortunate incidents in the past where swimmers decided to "show up" at the beach and couldn't find the group, or arrived after the swimmers had entered the water and the late arrivals swam at a disadvantage because they hadn't started on time. Therefore, no exceptions. If you want to enter, be at the Hau Terrace at 8 a.m., enjoy your swim, your brunch and the usual good camaraderie that swimmers share upon finding that they survive in good form with good time and have a nice day!

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