

Summer Scratchfest Surf Relay

By Kalani Schrader

The 2017 Summer Scratchfest went off without a hitch on June 17. Held on the historic day of *Hokulea's* homecoming, the late Cline Mann would have again been delighted to see the heightened level of participation and enthusiasm among the competitors and fans.

Under sunny skies and backed by a nice 2-3-foot south swell at Old Man's Bowl, over 25 teams entered this unique surf relay event that had both local and international scratchers gathered to challenge themselves against the elements and their peers.

Every year the Scratchfest gets more competitive and gains momentum as young and old enthusiastic paddlers embrace the sport of prone paddle boarding as a way to cross train and improve their overall ocean skills.

This year organizers had five divisions which ran in two separate heats. In the first heat the under 16 Super Groms scrapped it out and after the ehukai had settled, it was Kawaihoa Loui and Keawe Pedersen who hit the beach in first and winning the coveted Glass Ball First Place trophy. Finishing a strong second was the team of Micah Pedersen and Merrick Hemmings followed closely by third place finishers Kobey Damon and Jack Kilpatrick.

Also in the first heat, the father/son combo Mike and Aka Pietsch took top honors in "All Title" division.

In the Same Last Name division age old rivalries and competitive juices were overflowing as the athletes lined on the beach for the start of this highly anticipated race. The formidable and reliable father/son team of Aaron and Riggs Napoleon scratched their way to the win followed closely by Billy/Trey Balding and Aukina Hunt and Jimmy Boy Austin for a respectable second and third place finish.

Heat number two featured the Combined Age of 75 and Under division and clawing their way to the top of the podium in first place (second overall) was the third year team of Pat Dolan and Heath "original scratcher" Hemmings. Not far behind was again the highly competitive team of Aaron and Riggs Napoleon in second and Hobey Moss and Aukina Hunt making their parents and fellow juniors paddlers proud by hitting the beach in third.

In the Combined Age over 75 division, late entries Dolan Eversole and Travis Grant frantically borrowed a board off the beach from Pat Wong and smoked through the course finishing first overall and ever so slightly edging out the team of Pat Dolan and Heath Hemmings at the finish flag.

After four laps of some serious racing, rivals Pat Dolan and Travis Grant were bumping boards and elbows as they passed Cline's stake. Hitting the beach dead even, Travis Grant won the foot race up the beach to the finish flag. This was one of the most exciting finishes in Scratchfest history and sure to be the talk of the Hau Terrace for years to come.

Finishing a strong second in the division was the always consistent team of Pat Wong and Johan Loo followed closely by the first year team of Evan and David Kalwick in third.

It was good to see all the familiar faces again and to recognize and acknowledge the famous names and bloodlines of the participants. With this we hope the sport of prone paddle boarding will thrive on while perpetuating the waterman and OCC lifestyle. Lucky we live Hawaii.

Big shout out and mahalo to all competitors, fans, parents, OCC beach services, management, Shannon Pelkey, Kelsey

Chuckovich, Angie Dolan, Keoni Watson, Maile and Charlotte Schrader for their time and efforts towards and support of this grass roots event. Top finishers in each division as follows:

Super Groms

1. Kawaihoa Loui/Keawe Pedersen
2. Micah Pedersen/Merrick Hemmings
3. Kobey Damon/Jack Kilpatrick

All Title

1. Mike/Aka Pietsch

Same Last Name

1. Aaron/Riggs Napoleon
2. Billy/Trey Balding
3. Aukina Hunt/Jimmy Austin
4. Chuck/Robby Kelley
5. Mark/Ali Rigg

Combined Age 75 & under

1. Pat Dolan/Heath Hemmings (2nd overall)
2. Aaron/Riggs Napoleon
3. Hobey Moss/Aukina Hunt
4. Trey Balding/Paul McDonnell

Combined Age over 75

1. Dolan Eversole/Travis Grant (1st overall)
2. Pat Wong/Johan Loo
3. David Kalwick/Evan
4. Brad Akeo/Ian MacDonald
5. Scott Shimada/Michael Cheape
6. Collen Tessler/John Hicks
7. Jason Ignacio/Kelly Tam Sing
8. Mark/Ali Rigg
9. Blair Thorndike/Greg Quinn
10. Marc Haine/Danny Louie
11. Toby Morris/Rodolfo Byrnes



Same Last Name: Ali and Mark Rigg, Aaron and Riggs Napoleon, Trey and Billy Balding, Jimmy Austin and Aukina Hunt, Chuck and Robbie Kelley, Aka and Mike Pietsch.



The Super Groms: Kawailoa Loui, Kobey Damon, Jack Kilpatrick, Keawe Pedersen, Micah Pedersen and Merrick Hemmings.



Combined Age over 75 winners:
Dolan Eversole and Travis Grant.



Combined Age under 75 winners:
Heath Hemmings and Pat Dolan.