

Summer Paddleboard Race

By Joe Tiepel

Nature and God cooperated in sending forth the largest South swell in at least a year to make for one of the most exciting and spectacular paddleboard races ever held.

The Club once again hosted the annual Summer Paddleboard Surf Race and a genuine surf spectacular it was, through rather strong and consistent 5-8 foot waves, compliments of a low-pressure storm south of New Zealand.

Last year, this so-called surf race unfortunately fell victim to the smallest summer swell period of the past three decades. Contestants then had only the most minor assistance from a few ripples, as they were able to glean them from inside Old Man's coral head garden.

This year saw an event at the opposite end of the wave spectrum. In fact, the challenge was so great that three men were forced to drop out due to injuries and other causes. One of the highlights of this two-mile "gutsball" paddleboard sprint occurred on the way out Old Man's channel when it closed out on the main pack of contestants. Ooohs and aaahs from the cheering beach throng resounded as bodies and paddleboards, up to 14-feet long, crashed hither, thither. It paid off in more ways than one to be ahead of the pack, as winner Bret Goodfriend and a few others will attest—they barely scratched up and over that famous channel closeout to safe water on the other side.

Twenty-two men and women began this paddleboard race. When the white-water settled, 19 men, led once again by the seemingly invincible Bret Goodfriend, and both women, Colleen Kelly and Melissa Wheelless, had completed the event. Each division winner, Bret and Colleen, were awarded trophies and a Scott Bodyboard.

Meanwhile Outrigger members Steve Scott and Mike Fox and yours truly were out on Oahu's Southeast shore subjecting numerous other salty sea stalwarts to the bonecrushing menace of 5-8 foot Sandy Beach. The spills, thrills and punishment were for the 1982 Scott Bodyboard Championships, and more Bodyboards were awarded there thanks to Mr. Scott.

A special thanks goes to the Club for hosting this event, including ample refreshments, and to Cline Mann, race director, and his assistants, Wayne Faulkner, Aggie Quigg and Baby Cross.

A special acknowledgement is extended to a few standouts who haven't participated regularly in paddleboard racing recently and yet did very well—Fred Hemmings, Jr., avid runner and canoe-steersman extraordinaire; Dale Hope, usually the race director, and Donny Mailer, all-around waterman.

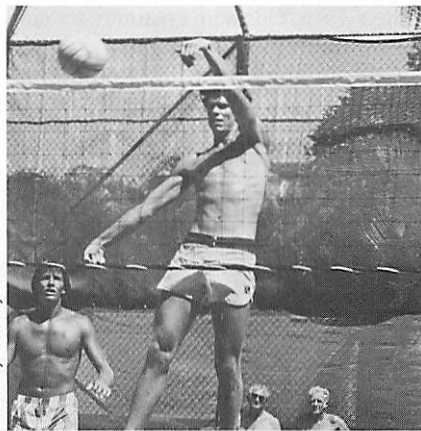
Here are complete race results:

1. Bret Goodfriend
2. Dawson Jones
3. Donny Mailer

4. Mark Cunningham
5. Dale Hope
6. Fred Hemmings, Jr.
7. Ricky Williams
8. Aaron Napoleon
9. Aka Hemmings
10. Bryan Toguchi
11. Fred Asmus
12. Mark Sanvold
13. Keoni Kino
14. Matt Kresser
15. Joey Napoleon
16. Darryn Napoleon
17. Pat Kelly
18. Robby Farrow
19. Dean Otagaki
20. Colleen Kelly
21. Melissa Wheelless

On the Cover

Wonder who all those people are on the cover and why they're dressed so outlandishly? Well, we haven't room to list their names (though many of you may recognize yourselves and your friends) but the occasion was a Paddlers' Ball, a whimsy dreamed up by paddlers Laura Sanburn and Tina McKeller and attended by some 250 of their peers. As the invitation specified that attire should be Formal Swimwear, guests complied, as seen on the cover. Tune in next month for all the full story and more pictures.



HIGH JUMPERS: Jay Anderson, left, and Jon Andersen were winners when the State open double volleyball championships were played at the Club.

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