

the Outrigger



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One-Man and Surfski Rough Weather Marks

Kanaka Ikaika

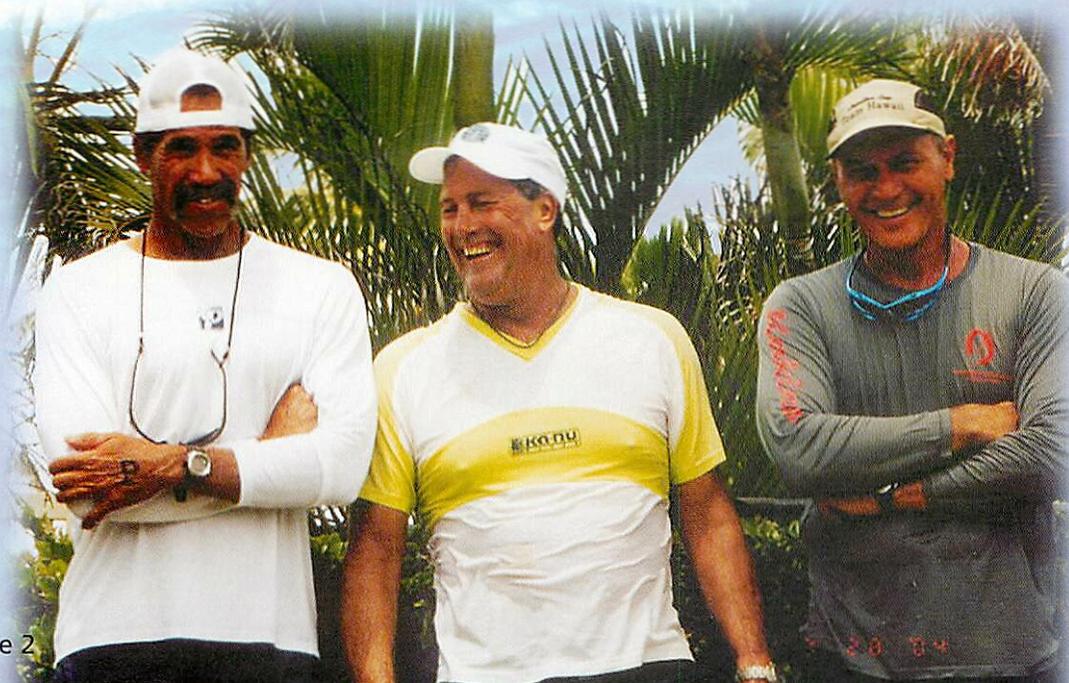
Season



The back of Karel Tresnak Jr. is a familiar sight on the horizon to many one-man canoe racers.



Peter Van Lier Ribbink charges around Makapuu Point.



Why is Brant Ackerman, center, laughing? Because unlike Marshall Rosa, left, and Jimmy Kincaid, right, Brant didn't race 12 hot, flat windless miles from Makai Pier to Pinky's in Kailua. However, there was some good with all the bad that day. Marshall won the open surfski division, and Jimmy won his 50 and over division. Photo by Genie Kincaid.



By Genie Kincaid

As the solo season began in earnest in January, it was anyone's race in the one-man division. Combination of wind patterns and ocean conditions made race day unpredictable, some times necessitating changing the race course.

From December through February, first place was claimed by someone different each race. By March, Karel Tresnak Jr. began to emerge as the man to beat, but then Mike Judd won the Oahu and State championships in April.

This sets the stage for a very interesting season finale on May 16 for the Molokai World Championship Race, the 32 mile race from Kaluakoi to Koko Marina. The "solo Molo" will be sponsored this year by the Kona Brewing Co.

Although Judd has made a strong challenge to Tresnak's dominance, "Junior" is still considered the race favorite, having won the title in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2003.

In the surfski division, Mark Sandvold and Marshall Rosa have been trading first place honors with Sandvold winning the Oahu championship and Rosa winning the States. But the Molokai crossing has always been an attractive challenge for international competitors, and both local champions will be tested by the visitors.

On the women's side, Mary Smolenski and Paula Crabb have been appearing consistently in the top three places in the surfski and one-man divisions respectively. Smolenski won the Oahu championships but got nipped in the State championships by Maggie Twigg-Smith.

On the Cover: Mike Judd powers his way to first place in the Kanaka Ikaika State Championships. See story on page 2. Photo by Joss4.com.