

One-Man Canoe and Kayak OCC Members Dominate OC-1 & Surfski Season

By Genie Kincaid

The 2001 OC-1 (i.e., One-Person Canoe) and surfski season ended with the State Championships, Kaiwi Relay, and Solo Challenge. And in the end, as expected, Kelly Fey and Karel Tresnak Jr. led all challengers in the OC-1 event.

Real interest was in surfskis where Nicole Wilcox Pederson and Kala Judd proved to be too strong and savvy to beat.

State Championships

The Kanaka Ikaika State Championships were held April 29 over a 23-mile course from Hawaii Kai to Ewa Beach. More than 200 racers participated on a perfect day of strong trades, favorable current and lots of surf. In the men's surfski, Judd, who has an uncanny ability to read and execute in the surf, overwhelmed much younger competitors, Wyatt Jones and Jim Beaton, who have been consistent top five finishers all season long.

Judd's time was 2:05:46. Jones and Beaton finished 2nd and 3rd in 2:07:25 and 2:08:03 respectively.

In the women's surfski division, Megan Harrington won in 2:27:09, six minutes ahead of Mary Smolenski who finished at 2:33:11. Smolenski edged out Maggie Twigg-Smith who was 3rd in 2:33:19.

Tresnak successfully defended his title in the OC-1 event, winning by a narrow 10 seconds over a tenacious Aaron Napoleon of Anuenue Canoe Club in a time of 2:10:49. Kai Bartlett was third at 2:13:17. Fey also defended her title but by a huge 10 minutes over Megan Clark. Fey's time was 2:38:58. Paula Crabb finished 3rd in 2:50:01.

Kaiwi Relay

On May 6, nearly 90 teams participated in the popular Kaiwi Relay from Kaluakoi Beach on Molokai to Magic Island on Oahu. The relay requires two paddlers to alternate racing an OC-1, or three paddlers on an OC-2, making open ocean changes along the way. An escort boat follows the racing canoes while the relief paddler waits on board for his/her turn on the canoe. After paddling hard for 5 hours, over 40 miles of open ocean, the team of Mike Judd and John Foti, who paddle for Lanikai Canoe Club, beat the team of Tresnak and Nate Hendricks of Kai Opuia Canoe Club by less than a miserable one second.

It was a photo finish as both teams actually posted the same time of 5:01:31, but the nose of the Judd/Foti canoe was a little longer.

Darcie Wilcox and Katy Curtis of Kauai surprised formidable competition in the women's division to win in a time of 6:43:44. Deciding on a northerly route, while other teams ventured south, Wilcox and Curtis surprised themselves as well when they learned they'd won.

Kanaka Ikaika Solo Challenge

Finally, on May 20, the granddaddy of solo racing, the Kanaka Ikaika Solo Challenge sponsored this year by Eyecatcher, was held. To no one's surprise, 20 year old Tresnak won his third consecutive OC-1 title.

Ever since winning in 1999 and 2000, Tresnak has had a prominent target on his back, but it seems the competition keeps missing him. Despite light trades and little surf, Tresnak covered the 32-mile course in 3:52:09, just three minutes off his record time last year.

From 1994 to 1999, Fey was the top female kayaker. Since then, the quiet girl from Hawaii Kai has been talking big with her canoe paddle. Winning her second consecutive OC-1 title in a time of 4:43:52, Fey shattered her own 2000 record by nine minutes. Unequivocally, Fey is simply the best—period.

In the surfski event, Dean Gardiner of Australia won his eighth title, while Nicole Wilcox Pederson captured her first surfski title in a time of 4:15:49.

Kala Judd was the first local male to finish the surfski event, capturing fifth place overall honors. This has been a good year for Judd who at 42 has overcome injury and the onslaught of up and coming kayakers. Considering there was no advantage from the day's conditions, Judd's performance was particularly outstanding.

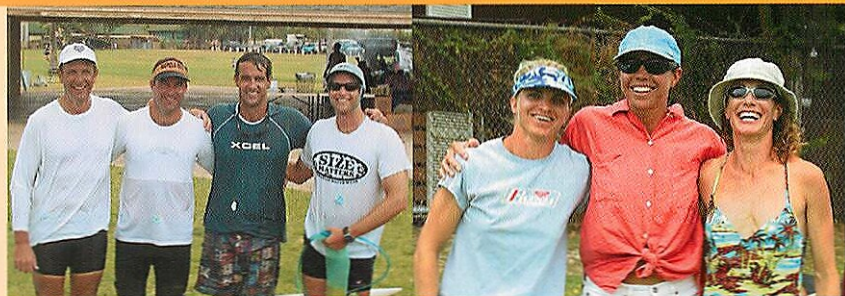


Photo by Rick Leton

Kala Judd, Wyatt Jones, Jim Beaton, Maggie Twigg-Smith, Megan Harrington, David Buck

Photo by Rick Leton

Maggie Twigg-Smith, Megan Harrington, Mary Smolenski

Results from other OCC members:

State Championships

David Buck, 2:08:58, 2nd, Men 18-29, Surfski
Tim Twigg-Smith, 2:15:59, 2nd, Men 30-39, Surfski
Mike Judd, 2:13:36, 3rd, Men 18-29, OC-1
Bill Pratt/Andrew Glatzel, 2:18:07, 2nd Men, OC-2
Tom Conner, 2:29:30, 1st, Men Over 50, OC-1
Chris Crabb, 2:33:10, 2nd Men Over 50, OC-1

Kaiwi Relay

Chris Kincaid/Steve Cole, 5:33:37, 2nd Men Over 40, OC-1
Jeff Metzger/Dennis Yap, 6:15:44, 2nd Men Over 50, OC-1
Chris Crabb/Hank Leandro, 6:16:18, 3rd Men Over 50, OC-1
Marc Haine/Mark Rigg/Greg Poole, 5:25:52, 1st Men, OC-2
Mike Beyer/Pat Von/Greg Edwards, 5:34:53, 2nd Men, OC-2

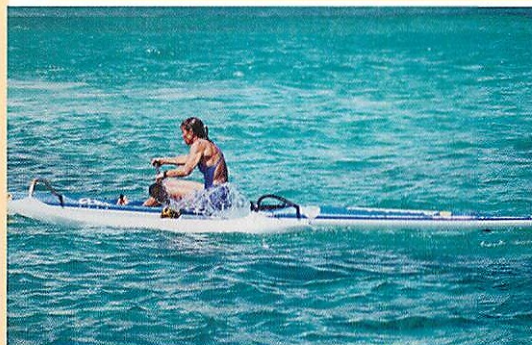
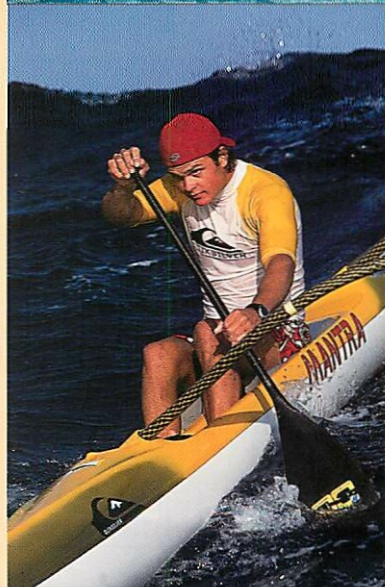


Photo by Robin Nonaka.
Paula Crabb



Solo Challenge

David Buck, 3:52:18, 2nd Men 18-29, Surfski
Wyatt Jones, 4:00:04, 2nd Men 30-39, Surfski
Tim Twigg-Smith, 4:06:07, 3rd Men 30-39, Surfski
Tom Conner, 4:23:06, 1st Men 50-59, OC-1
Billy Balding, 4:09:34, 5th Men 30-39, OC-1
Byron Ho, 4:36:17, 8th Men 30-39, OC-1
Rick Hobson, 5:01:02, 11th Men 30-39, OC-1

Photo by Joss. Karel Tresnak Jr. won the Molokai to Oahu OC 1 race for the third straight year.