



ONE-MAN & KAYAK

CANOE

Some Things Stay the Same

By Genie Kincaid

One-man canoe and kayak racing culminated in season finales during the month of May. The Island Snow Ka'iwi Channel Relay Team Championships, the Kanaka Ikaika State Championship Race, and the Solo Challenge were the scenes of all the action but with pretty much the same results.

On May 7, the skies were clear, the sun was shining, and the surf was rolling in the Ka'iwi Channel Relay. Karel Tresnak Jr. teamed with Kai Bartlett of Lanikai to set a new course record, finishing the 40.2-mile course from Molokai to Oahu in 4:36:07, and carving seven minutes off the previous record set in 1997.

Five minutes later, there was a tight race for second place. John and Jim Foti of Lanikai edged Mark Rigg and Marc Haine in 4:41:05, just 42 seconds ahead of the 1999 champions. Walter Guild and Andrew Penney of New Zealand were scant seconds behind them finishing fourth.

In the women's division, Donna Kahakui teamed with Maile Chong of Hui Nalu to set a new record in 5:55:17. Defending champions, Kelly Fey and Cheryl Villegas of Kona Athletic Club, were leading the race when their canoe cracked, forcing them to withdraw from the race a half mile from Koko Head.

The State Championships for one-man canoe, two-man canoes and kayaks was held May 14 over a 20 mile course from Hawaii Kai to Ewa Beach. In previous years, this race was run from Kailua to Waikiki. Conditions got tough on racers from Diamond Head to the finish as the seas flattened, winds let up, and the sun seared.

In the men's one-man canoes, Karel Tresnak Jr. finished the Kanaka Ikaika season just as he had started it -- winning. Tresnak finished in 2:18:56, 40 seconds ahead of John Foti of Lanikai. Mike Judd was 6th overall. Chris Kincaid was 7th overall to win the over 40s. Demonstrating they are no slouches, Tom Conner and Tay Perry won the over 50s and over 60s respectively.

In the women's one-man event, Kelly Fey, who has dominated women's kayaking throughout the 1990s, decided to paddle one-mans this year. And the champion keeps on winning. Fey won in 2:51:47. Susan Cordell was second in 2:53:26, Mary Smolenski third in 2:59:20, and Paula Crabb fourth in 2:59:48.

In the men's kayak, Nalu Kukea beat Billy Robello by 51 seconds to take first in 2:13:06. Jim Beaton was third at 2:15:20, and Kala Judd was fourth at 2:16:32. The women's division was won by Maile Chong, who finished in 2:35:06, 6 minutes ahead of the next female racer.

On May 27, the inaugural Starbucks OceanFest Challenge was open to kayakers, canoe paddlers, and paddleboarders to race a 12 mile course from Maunalua Bay to Aloha Tower. Starbucks created the event as an alternative race for those not participating in the Kanaka Ikaika Solo Challenge. With the paddling population swelling to record numbers, this fun event found its appeal among the more than 100 paddlers who entered.

Besides the great grinds and beer at the end of the race, winners received prize money. Those OCC members who fell into money

include: Chris Kincaid, 1st place men's canoe; Donna Kahakui and Paula Crabb, 1st and 2nd women's canoe; Mary Smolenski and Nicole Pedersen, 1st and 2nd women's kayak; Bill Pratt-Mike Pedersen, 2nd place two-man canoe; Jimmy Austin and Guy Pere, 2nd and 3rd men's paddleboard; and Sue Brown, 1st place women's paddleboard.

On May 28, at the Kanaka Ikaika Solo Challenge, Karel Tresnak Jr. lopped 18 minutes off the previous record, finishing the 32 mile course from Molokai to Oahu in 3:49:19. Race conditions were near optimum: cloud cover, favorable tide, good wind and 4-6 foot swells in the channel. In a hurry to prove last year's win over Mark Rigg was no fluke, the 19 year old Tresnak passed some elite kayakers en route to setting the new record.

In the women's division, Kelly Fey left her kayak at home and made her first solo crossing on a one-man canoe and still won. Kelly has won the solo on a kayak six times, and is now the first paddler, male or female, who has won the crossing on both crafts.

Seventy-nine canoe and kayak paddlers finished the Solo Challenge, considered the world championships of paddling because

of the extremely tough conditions imposed by one of the deepest ocean channels in the world. Other OCC members who took up the challenge and excelled are:

Men's Kayak

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| Nalu Kukea |
| 3rd overall |
| David Buck |
| 2nd 18-29 division |
| Wyatt Jones |
| 3rd 30-39 division |
| Kala Judd |
| 2nd 40-49 division |
| Bill Danford |
| 2nd 50-59 division |

Men's Canoe

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| Karel Tresnak Jr. |
| 1st, overall |
| Kelly Fey |
| 1st, overall women |
| Andrew Glatzel |
| 2nd 30-39 division |
| Tom Conner |
| 1st 50-59 division |
| Tay Perry |
| 1st 60-69 division |

(Top) Karel Tresnak Jr. won the Triple Crown of one-man races.

(Bottom) Helping Karel Jr. celebrate the victories were Rachel Kincaid, Karel Sr. and Marcela Tresnak.

