

March Kayak/One Man Canoe Madness

By Bill Danford

The last four one man canoe and kayak races have been staged from Kailua Beach to Kualoa (Chinaman's Hat), Hawaii Kai to the Halau at the Ala Wai, Heeia Pier to Kahana Beach, and Lanikai Beach down to the Shriner's Club around Flat Island-Kailua and back to Lanikai Beach.

The racing conditions have again tested all contestants deep resolve to compete in conditions ranging from severe high winds, seas, and torrential rains to calm oceans devoid of any cool winds, only the scorching glare of the sun reflecting off the one man canoe and kayak decks.

Intense as the conditions may

be at times, all who have started end up with a gain at the finish line.

The Poai Puni series ended on April 13th after the Oahu Championship race from Makai Pier at Makapuu to the Waikiki Yacht Club.

OCC member and past Olympian Wyatt Jones, appears to be leading all others in points in the kayak venue. Walter Guild is deadlocked with John Foti from Lanikai for first place honors in the one man canoe competition.

Other OCC members who have had standout performances during the series are Mark Rigg and Courtney Seto in the one man canoe. Jim Beaton, Kala Judd,

Kelly Fey, Nicole Wilcox, and Mary Smolenski have all accomplished a lot during the entire kayak season.

David Buck, Tim Twigg-Smith, Mark Buck, Todd Bradley, Marc Haine, Chris Kincaid, Karl Heyer IV have all competed with great success along with first year competitors Howard Word, Byron Ho and Ralph Gray under the OCC banner. Our congratulations.

We all look forward to the Kaiwi Challenge on May 4. This race is from Kaluakoi to Sans Souci for one-man canoe teams of two men or two to three women.

Donna Kahakui and her partner, Hadley Gaffney of Hui Nalu, will be doing their best to make a difference for the Hawaii Wildlife

Fund as they race the Kaiwi Challenge. Kahakui will use the 40-mile race to raise awareness about the non-profit wildlife conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of threatened and endangered species and their habitats.

The Kanaka Ikaika Molokai Championship is scheduled for May 18 from Kaluakoi to Koko Marina for single one-man canoe and kayak racers.

Many of our Club members will be participating in these events under the Club colors, so don't forget to check the dates and come out and support the OCC Racing Team. ☺