

# MEGALODON Spotted Off OCC Waters

By Gerry DeBenedetti



The ama started with chunks of old boogie boards and fish coolers.



Sam shows off Nalo Pride.



Beach regulars by now have spotted a green and white four person canoe anchored off our beach. The name of the canoe is *Waimanalo Pride*, owned by Sam Clemens, one of our beach attendants, and the fellow who usually does the Sunday canoe rides for our guests and friends.

However, *Nalo Pride* is not the news, the ama is. The ama has its own name, Megalodon, named for a prehistoric giant shark. In this case, Sam and *Nalo Pride* may be exaggerating a bit, because of course, the ama is smaller than the canoe, but if you get up close, you can see the teeth on that baby.

*Nalo Pride* is 22 feet, similar in size to the *Duke* or the *Cline* canoes. Sam bought the body, but constructed the ama from scratch parts and recycled you name it.

It all started when Sam started collecting broken foam boogie boards and foam fish coolers, cut them into 1x1 foot blocks, and glued them together until he had more than a 13-foot long block of foam to work with. Altogether he thinks there are at least 100 separate pieces glued together. He used Elmer's and spray foam to fill in the puka. After shaping, he fiberglassed and experienced two weeks of maximum itchiness. He says he almost gave up at this point, the conditions were difficult, but he managed to get in that last push, and got

it painted.

The risers are separate pieces with PVC pipe in the holes. That is attached to the 13 foot ama with more fiberglass. It features a surfing platform to stand on, and a grip pad to help keep you upright.

Sam used to work for the C & C in recreation programs, and learned to steer and handle himself in the water by years of surfing as a kid. He grew up in Waimanalo where his studio is located. His Mom still lives in the family home nearby where she designs jewelry.

In Sam's studio, where he essentially lives in the middle of all of his projects, he not only made his mega ama, but also designs T shirts (as in 4th of July and OCC Surf contests), and is the designer of our OCC dinner menu cover. He has been in art shows in Chinatown and other art type coffee house exhibitions.

He annually participates in the Hawaiian Sailing Canoe Association races, where sailing canoes begin island hopping, racing from the Big Island to Kauai over a summer series. OCC members and OCC staff have participated in these races.

Besides being a waterman and artist, Sam was once upon a time (the year 2000), the top amateur State Skate Board Champion. Those were his younger days,





Megalodon



but the kids still come around to ask questions of the Old Champ.

Sam wants to acknowledge the contributions of several people to his ama project. He received broken boogie board parts from the Bradley kids, foam mahi coolers from our Chef (the fish come into the kitchen in foam coolers), Mark Jackola who gave scraps from standup boards (and shaping ideas), the C4 Watermen who donated a grip pad and more ideas, George Norcross of West Systems epoxy, and others, who gave advice, parts, and their two cents worth.

Sam is especially grateful for the two cents worth, because he says all of the ideas that come from the OCC atmosphere are what make this Club so great. The enthusiasm and energy of all the members, and the support of management have given us all Megalodon to admire. Swim out and check out the teeth.

*Editor's note: Carcharodon megalodon or Carcharocles megalodon (from ancient Greek: big tooth) was a giant prehistoric shark that probably lived about 20 to 2 million years ago. It is the biggest carnivorous fish to have ever lived. It is often widely referred to as "The Megalodon" or "Megatooth Shark". The teeth are similar to great white shark teeth, but are much larger and can measure up to more than 18 cm (7") long. Source: Wikipedia*

## ATTENTION Spouses & Children of Members

If you want to paddle in 2008, you **MUST** have your own membership number.

Please get your membership application in **NOW** to ensure you have your own membership number in time to paddle during the upcoming regatta season!

## SURFBOARD LOCKER MEETING

Monday, February 11, 6 p.m. Koa Lanai

After consideration of member feedback from our first meeting on November 27, 2007, representatives of the Surfboard Locker Ad Hoc Committee will be presenting modifications made to the new surfboard locker system. All interested members should plan on attending.



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