

# Highlights of OC1/Kayak Season

By Rob Durkin, Billy Philpotts, and Genie Kincaid

The OC1/Kayak Committee has been doing its part to get OCC members young and old wet! Here are a few of the year's highlights.

In February, Tahitian canoe racing champions, Manutea Owen and Georges Cronsteadt, held a Va'a Clinic at the Club, and gave members tips on their training techniques and paddling the rudderless V-1. Juniors and adults alike were challenged by navigating a canoe with only their paddle and technique. Everyone had a chance to paddle the V-1s, then witnessed the Tahitians surf the V-1s right along the reef at Kapua Pass. The committee will schedule similar clinics each season, so check OCC's email blast for posts of upcoming events. We thank Stan Dickson of Keahiakahoe Canoe Club and Genie Kincaid for coordinating the V-1 clinic.

The Junior OC 1/Kayak Program completed its inaugural season in May. The Committee strongly believes our Club's competitive success is vested in our time, effort, and leadership with our kids. Through the generosity of OCC members donating canoes, equipment, and coaching time, the program became a wonderful reality. Billy Philpotts, Alan Dowsett, The Dowsett Foundation, Evan Rhodes, and Bobby Hastings III are commended for their efforts to get the program up and running.

The program met twice a week from February through May to keep our junior paddlers on the water. Canoe storage was solved by a new trailer donated by Jimmy Austin, and retrofitted by Matt Buckman. BIG MAHALO to Jimmy and Matt! Anyone interested in donating canoes and spare equipment, and receiving tax benefits, please contact Evan Rhodes. The program will again run from December 2009 through May 2010. Look for registration information next November in the magazine and on the website.

On April 19, 83 paddlers, including seven OCC members, started the 32-mile Steinlager Kaiwi Solo race from Molokai to Oahu under arguably the most tortuous conditions. After weeks of steady and even gusty trades, conditions switched to strong headwinds for what many consider the world championship of one-man canoe racing. But veterans Jaimie Kinnard (6:31:30) and Jimmy Austin distinguished themselves by finishing 3rd overall in the women's and men's divisions respectively. "I never thought I'd be top five in this race, and here I am top three, so I'm ecstatic," said Jimmy who finished in 5:14:59.

But for 20-year old Simeon Ke-Paloma, the experience was almost a battle of attrition. "I saw white caps coming at me when I was on the starting line. It was like that the WHOLE way across," said Simeon. "I kept thinking, 'Quit now', all the way to the finish. I just couldn't." And he didn't quit until he finished 10th overall in 5:34:35.

Besides Simeon, Evan Rhodes (21st), Billy Lawson (23rd), Kulani Jones (37th), and Anthony Hunt (53rd) conquered the exhausting conditions while many top paddlers either elected

not to race, or pulled out during the race. For all but Evan, this was their first solo crossing. But Evan had his own challenge during the race - he raced not knowing he had a ruptured appendix, and a week after the race, was in surgery. This is one tough paddler, and is no doubt back on the water.

Hoe wa'a mau kakou!

Go to  
[outriggercanoecub.com](http://outriggercanoecub.com)  
to see photos of  
OCC's finishers.

