



Tim Twigg-Smith, Byron Ho, Will Estes, Jed Gushman, Jimmy Austin, Karel Tresnak Jr., Evan Rhodes, Jim Beaton, Rob Harrison, Mike Kane.

Molokai Relay and Solo Race

By Billy Philpotts
OC-1/Kayak Committee

The big story this year was not so much about the Starbucks Ka Iwi Channel Relay race, but the brutal conditions of the Epic Kayaks Molokai World Championship solo crossing that followed.

We congratulate the team of Andrew Penny and Karel Tresnak Jr., who won the relay, completing the 40.2-mile course from Kaluakoi to Magic Island in 4 hours, 34 minutes, 39 seconds.

This year's Epic Kayaks Molokai World Championship race was the most difficult thing most paddlers have ever done. Physically and mentally, no greater challenge has been put forth to the competitors.

With an extended race course, flat seas, no favorable surf to ride, an out going tide (which strengthens the current against the paddlers), and an eventual head wind to fight, it is no wonder that many chose not to finish or simply could not. Forty-four out of 136 paddlers did not finish the race; that's roughly a third of the field.

Character building and the opportunity to get closer to a higher power, as well as to get to know oneself on a deeply painful level, were grist for some interesting internal conversations in the minds of the paddlers. Just to finish the race was to win the battle between the demons of pain and the angels of determination and persistence.

At some point it was no longer a race for many, just a challenge to get there. It makes me think of the importance of HCRA's President Michael Tongg's philosophy of "paddling from the heart". Those who finished can testify to the power of the heart as a source of strength. Congratulations to all who took the challenge and especially those who finished.

Another heart warming aspect to these international races are those who join us from afar to compete and those of us who open our homes to help. It is these moments that foster life long relationships and help us to appreciate how special our canoe club, our islands, and our oceans really are.

With life's hectic pace we often forget how lucky we are to have a canoe club like the Outrigger to enjoy our water sports together and the value of our relationships as members and as a community.

Mike Town shared his aloha by hosting four Kiwis for the races and had this to say:

"After several trips to Gisborne and Hicks Bay, New Zealand, my wife and I were able to host four New Zealanders (Peter Boyd, Kingi Gilbert, Nic Johnson and Eldon Park) for the Molokai Starbucks Relay race in May.

"We hosted a barbeque at our home and an evening at OCC. These wonderful watermen told me that 'every day at the Outrigger is like Christmas.'" Bill Pratt ended up assisting Kingi as well, who paddled and completed the one man race. These are very special people (some Maori and all watermen) who performed a "haka" at our home for a group of paddlers with a standing ovation. We are lucky to live in Polynesia!"

The most powerful symbol of one of the most important Polynesian cultural values is the waa. The waa brings us and keeps us together. It sustains us, entertains us and provides us the discipline to maintain our identity and our community. Where would we be without our canoes, and our paddlers?

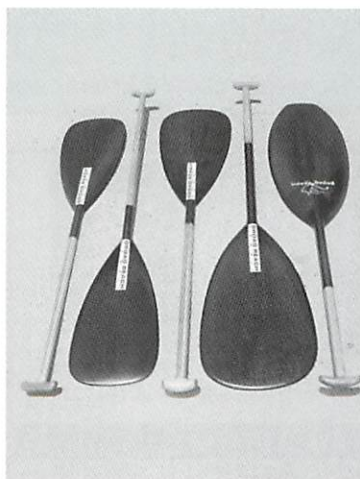
Congratulations to all of those who competed and supported these important races and special thanks to those of you who helped our guest competitors.

Epic Kayaks Molokai World Championships

Karel Tresnak Jr., 6th, OC-1, 6:25:03
Mike Kane, 8th, OC-1, 6:35:58
Tim Twigg-Smith, 1st Masters 40-49, OC-1, 6:45:42
Tapa Worthington, 25th, OC-1, 7:07:09
Kala Judd, 37th, SS, 7:10:28
Maggie Twigg-Smith, 2nd, Women, 6:45:41

Starbuck's Kaiwi Channel Relay

Andrew Penny/Karel Tresnak Jr., 1st, Overall, 4:34:39.3
Mike Kane/Jimmy Austin, 9th, 4:52:05.5
Kai Mowat/Nalu Kukea/Purdy/Ball, 10th, 4:52:23.4
Danny Loui/Hunter Eggers/Wyatt Jones/Heath Hemmings, 17th, 4:58:55.8
Patrick Ayau/Nuu, 19th, 5:04:14.8
Ian Forester/Pat Von, 22nd, 5:08:33.4
Byron Ho/Rob Harrison, 26th, 5:12:12.6
Jim Beaton/Tim Twigg-Smith, 27th, 5:12:18.5
Billy Balding/Andrew Glatzel, 28th, 5:12:46.2
Brown/Evan Rhodes, 29th, 5:13:04.4
Will Estes/Jed Gushman, 32nd, 5:14:10.2
Scott Gamble/Gamble, 65th, 5:36:58.4
Dowsett/Dowsett, 72nd, 5:39:32.2
Tom Conner/Jeff Metzger, 79th, 5:43:33.2
Jamie Kinard/McKee, 86th, 5:52:56.5
Donna Kahakui/Gage, 1st, Women, 5:59:47.4
Arnett/Chris Crabb, 98th, 6:00:49.5



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