

Mauna Kea 200

By Matt Kresser

Once again, OCC's own Team Mind Right ventured to Hilo to attack "the Mountain" and this year's Mauna Kea 200. Making this year's voyage were Keola Sheehan, Robbie Bright, John Beaumont, Steve Quinn, Brenton Block, Walter Guild, Brant Ackerman and Matt Kresser.

Of course, the riders were supported by the best pit crew in the business. Tiare Finney, Al Serafin and Di Guild took care of everything from bandaids and photos to champagne and caviar. They fed, massaged and encouraged the boys through 200 miles of the worst conditions anyone could imagine.

This year's race lasted two days with the riders covering 100 miles a day. Starting and finishing at the Naniloa Hotel in Hilo, the race progressed from sea level all the way to 13,000 feet on the first day.

The terrain was as diverse as it was



Members of Outrigger's Mauna Kea 200 team were, from left to right, front, Al Serafin, Di Guild, Keola Sheehan, Tiare Finney, Brant Ackerman and Robbie Bright. Rear, John Beaumont, Brenton Block, Steve Quinn, Matt Kresser and Walter Guild.

spectacular. Swampy tropical forests ran into fresh jagged lava flows and as the race ascended the mountain, the red volcanic dirt turned into black coal-like cinders with traces of snow patches on the mountain sides.

The ride around the mountain was like riding on another planet. The air was thin and cold and the fog as thick as cream. Very few forms of plant life exist at this altitude and the effect created was one of barren desolation with survival becoming the main objective.

The end of the first day carried the riders to the Pohakuloa Military Reservation where dinner and warm cabins were waiting. Repairs to bikes and bodies were made and talk about the next day's course was begun.

Enduro racing is a time keeping event with the course being outlined for the riders beforehand.

Day two's ride led down the mountain with a 30-mile excursion across to Mauna Loa via a wet and chilly power line road. Jeep trails led the riders into the land of a thousand lakes where they were to struggle with numerous puddles, the likes of the Ala Wai. Many bikes drowned in their attempts.

After lunch, the riders pressed on through the final leg of the race.

Each one of OCC's riders finished impressively and helped bring home a majority of the koa trophies awarded.

Brant Ackerman was fifth in the 250 class; Matt Kresser was 4th in the open class and Walter Guild was first in the open class and second overall.

The Outrigger finished third in the team standings and again asserted itself as one of the dominant forces in island racing. 🍷

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Back to School Fashion Show

Contemporary fashions for tots through teens will be featured at the Back to School luncheon Fashion Show at the Club on Friday, August 21, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Dining Room.

Informal modeling featuring our own mini 'Riggers will include fashions from many of Hawaii's leading boutiques.

Don't miss out. Make your reservations now with the Dining Room Hostess. The Club's regular luncheon menu will be featured. 🍷