

2006 OUTEY Awards at Paddling Banquet

At the end of every regatta season, the Canoe Racing Committee organizes a post-season banquet for paddlers, parents, and coaches. This year the party was called "Red, White and Ribs", a summer picnic style banquet.

Highlights of the banquet included lots of great grinds, music by Innersense, and the OUTEY awards. These are Outrigger's Unnecessary Though Entertaining Yearly awards originally started by Anthony Hunt, and have become a source of entertainment as paddlers lampoon one another.

SNEAK A PEEK AWARD

Winner: Tommy Arnott. During each race, Tommy can't help but take several looks at the competition during his crew's half-mile sprint race. He never thinks anyone is watching, but is constantly caught by people watching from shore, including those from other canoe clubs.

DIAL-A-CREW AWARD

Winners: Liz Perry and Wendy Wichman. These two coaches were absolutely fabulous at "dialing crews" around in order to fill out as many of the 38 racing events as possible each week of the regatta season. Liz even got a Novice A paddler from 2005 to sign up in time to steer the women's Novice A crew for one race when the crew's regular steersman was off-island. She also managed to coax Donna Kahakui into paddling in the Open 4 event though Donna was suffering from food poisoning!

HULI DRILL AWARD

Winner: George Wessberg. It was an uncommonly sunny and flat day in Kailua, and the Mixed Masters had a good lead in their half mile race, when going into the turn, they decided it was a good time to practice a huli drill in Lane 1 in the *Kakina*. The drill went fine and *Kakina* got back to shore in one piece but it was a most inopportune time for a huli drill for our Club Captain George Wessberg who happened to be steering that day!

SHOP-TIL-YOUR-COACH DROPS AWARD

Winner: Kat Beck. A very sincere Novice B, Kat never missed a practice without an honest and very good excuse, and she always felt guilty for letting down her teammates, of which there were only six including Kat.

At the Kailua regatta, Coach Liz Perry had urged the crew to go all out if they were to qualify for the Macfarlane Regatta. As Coach Liz started gathering the Novice B's to prepare for their race, Kat was nowhere to be found!

Liz learned from Kat's husband, Bob, that Kat was shopping at Foodland—in Kaneohe, not Kailua! The Novice B's were about 15 minutes from race time. Liz got Kat via cell phone, and screamed at Kat to leave her cart with all the food in it exactly where it was, run to her car, drive fast to Kailua Beach, leave the car running in park, where Liz would be waiting for her.

Kat arrived, her hair on fire as the Novice B's were getting into their canoes. She began running wildly towards the beach, and being a novice, had no idea where she was going. Liz ran after her, shouting directions, as Kat made it to her crew in the nick of time. The B's made it to the starting line last but did complete the race and ultimately qualified for Macfarlane!

"BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY" BABY AWARD

Winner: Hilary Dennison. A student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, Hilary is only 19 years old and hails from the Big

Island. At the beginning of the season, she took taxis to practice because she was scared to drive in big city, over populated, too many lights Honolulu. Her older, nurturing teammates took care of her, ensuring she always had rides to regattas during the season. Per Coach Liz, her enthusiasm for life is fun to be around.

"SPEED BUMP" AWARD

Winner: Mike Kane. On his way to a lucrative fundraiser for OCC, Mike insisted on steering one of the two six-mans from the Club to the Royal Hawaiian Hotel. On the agenda for the fundraiser was a simple demonstration and a race with one executive in each boat.

During what was supposed to be a nice, leisurely paddle to the hotel, Mike eagerly jumped on a wave. The surfers were a dime a dozen that day and were desperately scattering when they saw the six-man barreling towards them!

One surfer didn't scatter fast enough, and soon became Mike's speed bump, wrapping his board and leash on one side of the canoe, his body on the other. After getting dragged a hundred feet or so, the surfer finally undid his leash and the six-man continued barreling along, eventually swamping. Needless to say, Mike was replaced as steersman.

BLIND FAITH AWARD

Winners: Robin Beck and Elise Anderson. These two girls were the only 18 years olds to sign up for Coach Katy Bourne's crew this year. But they had "Blind Faith" every week, wholeheartedly believing they could find enough extra girls from the crews of the Girls 12s, 13s, 15s, and 16s to compete in the 18s with them.

They never complained, they never missed practice, and they raced, demonstrating outstanding sportsmanship and dedication to the Outrigger. They are simply awesome examples for our youth.

"WHERE'S MY MEDAL?" AWARD

Winner: John Finney. Big John always goes out for the gold in every race. And his crew usually succeeds in getting some hardware at every regatta. He is classically relentless both during the race and after when he is frequently overheard spouting off the now infamous question, "Where's my medal?"

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SEATTLE

There are certain neighborhoods in and around Seattle that are being revitalized. Particular exciting is South Lake Union ("SLU"). Paul Allen (the other Microsoft Billionaire) is developing the 60 acres he recently purchased and is transforming SLU into an Urban Mecca. This is one of many exciting Seattle investment opportunities. Please call or email me for more information.

**Mahalo,
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