

# 'BLUES BROTHERS'

## Orchestrate Six Regatta Wins, Play Distance Beat

By Elwood "Sneak a Peak" and Jake Blues

If you know anything about the Blues Brothers, you know we live for fun.

After 'ole Jake got out of Joliet, we decided it was time to put the band back together and get back into some competitive canoe racing in the 55 and over division.

While swimming outside of Waikiki Beach one day, we began tossing around names of potential band members who might want to go on tour with us. We decided that if we were to go on tour then it would be necessary to get the best talent available. To do this we needed to convince people that we were on a "mission from God."

Since the summer regatta season was quickly approaching we began our recruitment. One of the calls we made was to Kenny "Fast Fingers" Bailey to stroke us. Besides being a top one man paddler and paddle boarder, he plays a mean lick on his guitar.

Next, we called upon lead vocalist and raconteur, Jimmy "What Was I Thinking" Kincaid, to man the engine room. We then spoke to Chris "Partially My Fault" Crabb and asked him to jump back into six seat and to play rhythm guitar while we took the show on the road.

We then had to talk to Bill "Billy Blue" Mowat into leaving his World Champion Waimanalo Band to join us for a run at the State Championships. It was not an easy decision for him to make, but one that our band members greatly appreciated.

Douglas "Hoseman" Bechert was asked to leave the fire station for a stint as utility man both in the canoe and on stage. His versatility and even demeanor is a huge asset when doing gigs with this talented and spirited group of old men.

We were fortunate to pick up Raynard "Headband" Suganuma, who as a quiet but outstanding bass player lets his fingers and his blade do his talking. He doesn't say much, but boy can that man play. And last, but definitely not least, we needed Mark "The Legend" Buck to play the horns. As the number two seat, his knowledge of the ocean and paddling experience are greatly appreciated by the band.

To our delight and surprise the band was well received this regatta season as our tour stops recorded six victories in eight

races.

But the mission was not just the summer races but rather the long distance season. As we continued our tour, it was necessary to add more band members. We were extremely lucky in our search for talent.

It became quickly apparent that we needed a seasoned road manager/back-up steersman and who is better qualified for that position than Brant "Scrolling Chopsticks" Ackerman? Stories of his road trips are legendary so naturally we needed

to coax him out of retirement. That left us with four more slots to fill.

When it comes to long tours, we knew we had to have the services of John "Finsterwald" Finney. John is the calming influence of the crew as evidenced by his exclaiming. "Just do your job!" One thing about "Finsterwald", he will always be there when you need him. Truly one of the all-time greats.

Experience and longevity in our business are awesome assets. The Blues Brothers could not be more fortunate than to



The Blues Brothers: Bill Mowat, Ken Bailey, Mark Buck, Elwood Blues, Jimmy Kincaid, Chris Crabb.

have Glenn "Tin Man" Perry and his brother Tay "One Man" Perry. "One Man" and "Tin Man" can fill any seat with ease and elan. These gnarly old vets have been with many bands over the years and they got the beat.

Every band must include new players now and again. This year the Blues Brothers have added a tough-minded paddler named Jim "Shouldn't We Turn Back" Iams. Although he is relatively new to the sport he is not afraid to sit in any seat or to play any instrument. He blends in well with the crew, both in the boat and at the bar.

This all might seem silly to some, but hey, we're the Blues Brothers - on a mission to have fun!

P.S. Special thanks go out to the "Younger" 50 and over Blues Brothers for their camaraderie and competition during practice. You guys had an awesome season as well. We look forward to next year--till then.

Aloha,  
Jake & Elwood