

OCC Competes in Hamilton Cup

By Bill Danford

Two days before departing to Australia, rumors circulated around the Club that there was a bad weather front around the Whitsunday Islands. The forecast for Hamilton Island was cold, overcast days with heavy winds and rain.

Now that's a real dogs day for 21 men and women traveling Down Under expecting clear blue skies with tropical temperatures and moderate to light winds.

So how do you pack for such a trip? Do you pull out foul weather gear and heavy winter wear because it is the beginning of winter in Australia? No, you pack a couple of beefy, heavy duty long sleeve tees and shorts. You have to be positive.

When we arrived in Sydney, the weather was gorgeous. By the time we landed on Hamilton Island, the sky was clear and the sun was doing its thing. So much for weather forecasts.

Upon arrival, the management and staff of the resort and the Cup organizers were again there to meet us and transport all of us to the hotel and our great accommodations overlooking Cats Eye Bay.

The organizers of the four day event had made available two brand new Hawaii Class racers and covers for the masters men and OCC women.

All we had to do was slap on seat pads and rig the canoes. We were ready for competition. All our escort boats and equipment had been pre-assigned and would be ready upon our request. Now, all we had to do was relax and enjoy the island. With this group, that wasn't a hard assignment.

Friday, June 18

First day of competition with a Kayak Marathon around Hamilton--9 miles for men. The results:

Open

1. Dean Gardner (winner of the 1993 Molokai Kanaka Ikaika)
2. Grant Kenny
3. Gary Leach
4. Geoff Graf (OCC)

Masters

1. Kala Judd (OCC)
2. Bob Rocheleau

Women do not compete on Friday so another day of leisure and light training session.

For the Crabb family, it was their normal vacation--kids zoo, kangaroos, watch the porpoises in the pool, etc. I think Chris Crabb enjoyed the zoo more than the kids.

Friday night is the Karaoke Cruise for all the crews, organizers, sponsors and business people living on the island. After the cruise, for those who like to dance, there's Dirty Nelly's till the wee hours.

Saturday, June 19

All competition is held at Cat's Eye Bay fronting the hotel. The 2,000-meter course was bone dry but in a matter of a few hours the tide would rise 30 to 40-feet and competition would begin.

The Hawaii masters had been defeated by the Australians for two consecutive years but came back to walk away with the event and a new record.

The crew was Bill Bright, Kala Judd, Bill Danford of OCC, plus Bob Rocheleau, Steve Cole and Kamoia Kalama.

The OCC women were not so fortunate with teams one and two making it to the finals only to come in third and sixth out of eight finalists.

OCC's crew included Nicole Wilcox, Donna Kahakui, Sara Ackerman, Cathy Ho, Malia Kamisugi, Team 1; and Diana Clifford, Mary Smolenski, Kaili Chun, Jackie Muller, Paula Crabb and Katie McCrary, Team 2.

Later in the day, the Hawaii Masters worked hard to cover the 9-mile 6-man Marathon Course around Hamilton Island. Setting a new record and continuing a five-year winning streak were Bill Bright, Kala Judd, Tom Conner, Bob Rocheleau, Steve Cole and Kamoia Kalama.

Tom and Kala would later sit down with Kisi Haine and Paula Crabb and review the currents and conditions which they found around the course. The girls would



Outrigger's women's team included Malia Kamisugi, Mary Smolenski, unidentified sponsor, Kisi Haine, Donna Kahakui, front. Jackie Muller, Diana Clifford, Sara Ackerman, Cathy Ho, Katie McCrary, Nicole Wilcox, Kaili Chun and Paula Crabb.

race later the next day after the men's 2000-meter sprint finals.

The OCC women regained a bit of respect in the beauty department competition with Sara Ackerman walking away with the title, Miss Hamilton Cup 1993, with the approval of the entire audience.

Sunday, June 20

Forty 6-women's teams competed in the around the island marathon, with Surfers Paradise again finishing first. OCC took second place honors with Sydney right behind.

The Hawaii Masters had this day off.

Monday, June 21

Thirty men's teams, and for the first time, four women's teams, lined up across the channel in front of Hamilton Harbor for a 26.2 mile marathon in ideal conditions.

Maloolooba of Australia, of which Geoff Graf was a member, sprinted out at the beginning and never looked back. New Zealand followed closely for second place, with Outrigger of Australia third.

The Hawaii Masters finally settled down and worked up from ninth spot to finish a close sixth place almost catching another young Australian crew.

Both Maloolooba and the Hawaii Masters set new records by cutting off more than 20 minutes. The OCC women put it all together by staying positive and combining their 12 women to walk away from Surfers Paradise and Sydney. They ended up breaking the four-hour