

Na Wahine O Ke Kai a labor of love for Anderson

By Carol Hogan
Special to the Advertiser

What keeps a wahine paddling an outrigger canoe 40.8 miles across the Kaiwi Channel year after year? Simple, love of the sport.

What keeps race director Hattie Anderson going all year long? Simple, her love of Na Wahine O Ke Kai — the women's Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race.



Anderson

This year's event, the eighth in the history, will be held Sunday, Sept. 27.

"Right now we have between 19 to 21 crews entered," Anderson said. "There's a question about two teams coming from Hanalei and a crew coming from Honaunau." But rain or shine, Anderson will be there as she has been ever since the race began in 1979.

Anderson regales listeners with the kinds of stories that would make a lesser race director sit down and cry. In 1980, she survived the nightmare of



having to cancel a race because of huge surf and high winds.

Last year heavy rains washed out the dirt access road from Maunaloa Highway to Hale O Lono Harbor, where the race begins. That nearly forced everyone to walk the nine miles to the start.

Volunteer road crews poured cinders on a 30-foot stretch of road and bus drivers and passengers slipped and slid down the hill to their canoes. The race started an hour and 45 minutes late.

For several years the race suffered financially, so paddlers and officials sold Portuguese sausage as a fund-raising effort to sponsor the carbohydrate-loading dinner on Molokai the night before the race. It was Anderson and race official Huanani Olds who delivered the sausages.

"We used to fill my van with thousands of sausage, look at

each other and say, 'You fool, buy a case of beer and deliver the sausage,' Anderson said. "It took us all day because by the time we stopped and talked to everyone it was late in the evening."

"When Long Distance USA came in to sponsor the dinner we were the two happiest people in town," Anderson said.

The race requires permission from Molokai Ranch to use their access road and a permit from the Department of Land and Natural Resources to use the surrounding area at Hale O Lono Harbor.

It also needs a permit from the Department of Transportation on Maui to use the Kaunakakai pier, another permit from Oahu's Harbor Division to use the offshore waters and beach at the Fort DeRussy finish, another permit from the Hilton Hawaiian Village to use their pier, one from military officials to use areas at Fort DeRussy and still another from Honolulu City and County to use the showers and restrooms.

"I don't think people realize how many letters you have to write to get permits, OKs to use beaches and harbors," Anderson

said. "We also need to notify the U.S. Coast Guard that we're having a race. And to go to Lono we have to provide security or they won't let you on the land. You send a letter, they (officials) all send a letter and they all want a certificate of insurance."

"It takes a lot to put the race together and you've gotta enjoy it. If you don't you shouldn't be in it," she said. "But it's a satisfying feeling and when we all hold hands on the beach and sing Hawaii Aloha, I've had tears in my eyes each time."

Last year, Offshore of Newport Beach, Calif., won in 6 hours, 31 minutes, 4 seconds.

The course record of 6:12:11 was set by Outrigger Canoe Club in 1984. Twelve paddlers make up a team with six in the outrigger and the others in an escort boat, waiting to make open-ocean changes.

Float Plan

Tomorrow — Hawaii Yacht Club El Toro races in Ala Wai Harbor. Non-members welcome, must have own El Toro. Call Esther Vorfeld 259-7300.
Saturday — Waikiki Swim Club training swim at Magic Island, Ala Moana Park. Non-members welcome. Call Christine Andrews 595-8143.
Saturday — The Queen's Medical Center Blathon

87.7 a.m. Ala Moana Beach Park, 2.5-mile run and 800-meter swim. Call John Clark 254-2988 or Margaret Cheng 547-4776.
Saturday — Moku O Hawaii/Kamehameha Canoe Club Dan Nathaniel canoe races in Hilo. Bayfront/Honolulu, Bayfront/Onoema. Call Mike Atwood 329-2547.
Saturday-Sunday — Waikiki Yacht Club State Sailing Championships. Call WYC 953-4405.
Saturday-Sunday — Hawaiian Surfing Federation Oahu Open Series at Diamond Head Cliff. Call 671-6255.
Saturday-Sunday — Captain Hook's Baffish Tournament. Call 235-3066.
Sunday — Lahaina Yacht Club Kahului Harbor single handed race No. 7 and picnic. Call LYC 681-0191 or Dick Woodward 677-1995.
Sunday — Na Ohaia O Na Hui Wa'a/Kahala Hilton Hotel Danny Kalekani Classic. Maunaloa-Diamond Head race. Call Carol Torgerson 923-7229.
Sunday — Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association/Shippy Kamakawwoole Classic. Waikiki-to-Pokai Bay. Call Mary Seneca 899-8796.
Wednesday-Thursday — Chuck Machado's Iwani O Ke Kai Wahine Jackpot Tournament. Kailua-Kona. Call Machado 836-0249 or Ray Bak 329-2134.

The Sporting Life

Hawaiian women want their revenge

By Jack Wyatt
Special to The Star-Bulletin

Offshore Canoe Club of Newport Beach, Calif. and Chicago's Illinois Brigade finished 1-2 in last year's Na Wahine O Ke Kai—the women's canoe race from Molokai to Oahu. And some island paddlers are still smarting over this upset visitor sweep.

"Our crew thinks about beating Offshore each time they pick up a paddle to practice. I've never seen our girls so high and train so hard," said Mary Franco-Lemes, who's slated to steer four-time race winner Outrigger Canoe Club in Sunday's ninth annual crossing. Unbeaten this season in Island racing, Outrigger is expected to give defending champ Offshore its best competition.

Nineteen all-women teams have entered the 40.8-mile race, which begins from Molokai's Hale O Lono Harbor at 7 a.m. and ends at Waikiki's Ft. DeRussy Beach near the Hilton Hawaiian Village Hotel approximately 1 p.m. The public is encouraged to welcome the crews as they finish.

Last year the seas were flat making paddling tough. "The bigger waves the better, as far as I am concerned," Franco-Lemes said.

Most local paddlers prefer steep surfing seas for added speed. "Catching waves not only makes a faster race but gives the paddlers a break," she said. Franco-Lemes

Previous winners

Year	Winner	Home	Time
1986	Offshore Canoe Club	California	6:31:04
1985	Outrigger Canoe Club	Honolulu	6:50:31
1984	Outrigger Canoe Club	Honolulu	*6:12:11
1983	Hui Nalu Canoe Club	Hawaii Kai	6:33:07
1982	Hui Nalu Canoe Club	Hawaii Kai	6:43:3
1981	Outrigger Canoe Club	Honolulu	6:47:11
1980	Race cancelled because of rough channel seas		
1979	Outrigger Canoe Club	Honolulu	6:35:14

* — course record

has competed in all seven Na Wahine O Ke Kai events (The 1980 race was cancelled because of rough seas).

In addition to defending champ Offshore and Outrigger, crews to watch include Hawaii Kai's Hui Nalu, race winner in 1982 and '83, Honolulu's Healani, plus Waikiki Surf Club's crew of enthusiastic 18-and-under paddlers.

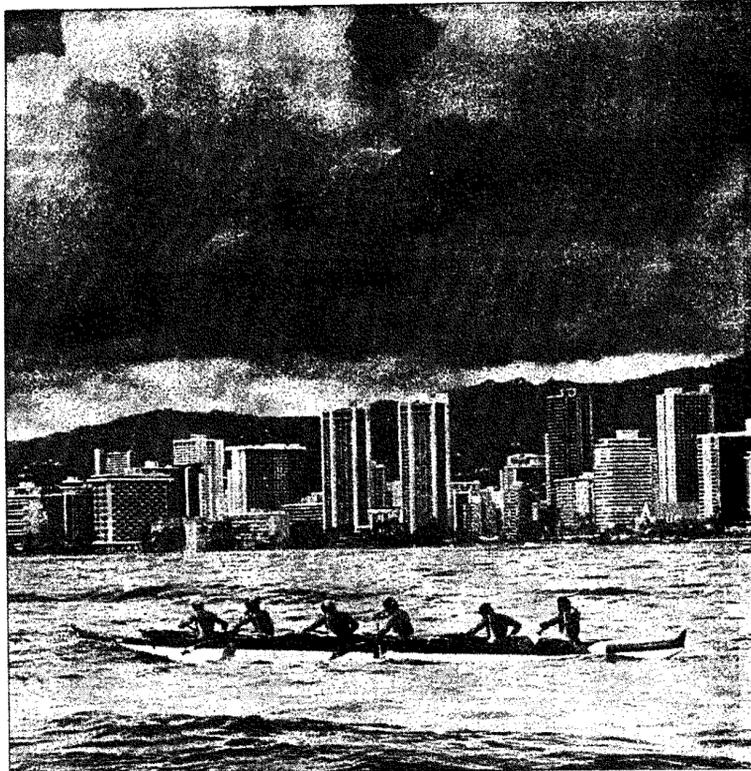
"Offshore is always tough because they use Olympic-class kayak and canoe paddlers in their crew," Outrigger paddler Traci Phillips noted.

And Phillips knows talent. As a member of the U.S. National Women's Kayak team and an

Olympic hopeful for next year, Phillips trains and races against the best.

"If the channel is rough we'll have an advantage (over Offshore). Mary can handle waves better than anyone," Phillips said. The fleet consists of 12 crews from Oahu, two each from Hawaii and Maui, and one each from Kauai, Molokai and California.

Outrigger won the first official Na Wahine O Ke Kai in 1979. "It hasn't been an easy race to stage but I think we're now over the hump," Anderson said. In the past, Na Wahine has attracted entries from Tahiti, Canada and the Main-



THE FINISH—The 40.8-mile Na Wahine O Ke Kai race finishes along the beach at Waikiki.

By Mike Tsukamoto, Star-Bulletin

Men's Moloka'i relaxed, content

By Jack Wyatt
Special to The Star-Bulletin

While the Na Wahine O Ke Kai women continue their struggle to lure more visiting crews and to attract more free spending sponsors, the people behind the 36th annual Bankoh Moloka'i Hoe men's race, scheduled for Oct. 11 over the same Moloka'i-Oahu course, are relaxed and content.

"We had a record 53 entries last year and I look for more crews this race," long time Outrigger Canoe Club paddler Fred Hemmings said. With crews from California, Canada, Illinois, Tahiti, and possibly Australia and Europe, the men's race is truly international in scope.

"Locally we'll be represented by all Islands but Niuhau. Hawaii can be very proud of the way our men have performed against the strong Mainland and foreign crews," Hemmings added.

In recent years, Outrigger has dominated the men's competition winning six of the past 10 races. The Illinois Brigade finished first two years ago, while Southern California crews topped the men's field in 1978, '81 and '82.

In addition to defending champ Outrigger, this year's favorites include Hui Nalu and Healani from Oahu, plus California's Offshore Canoe Club. "I expect a very competitive race. The way Olympic kayak and canoe paddlers surface for this event you can't count out any crew," Hemmings said.

Moloka'i Hoe men's race

When
Sunday, Oct. 11

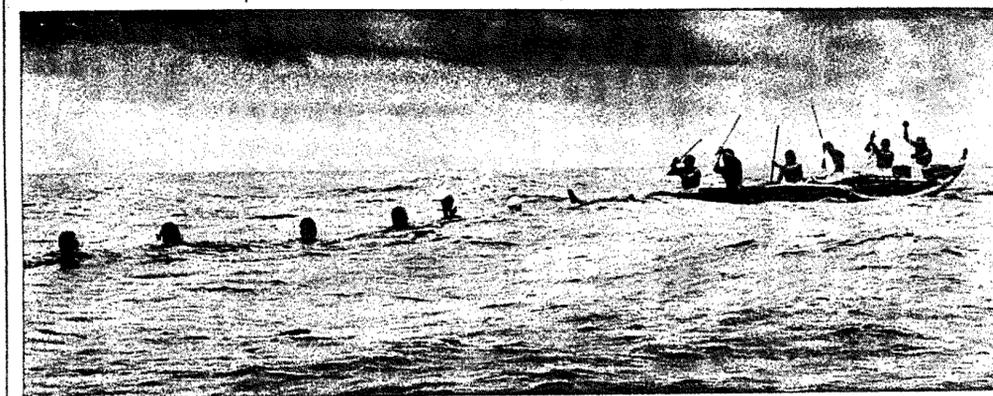
Course
It is 40.8 miles, from Molokai to Waikiki's Ft. DeRussy Beach.

Course record
Five hours, 18 minutes, and 19.6 seconds, set in 1985 by Outrigger Canoe Club.

Outrigger set the current course record three years ago when it covered the 40.8 miles, from Molokai to Waikiki's Ft. DeRussy Beach, in five hours, 18 minutes and 19.6 seconds.

"Fast crossings depend on channel winds and sea," Hemmings noted. The former world champion surfer explained that paddlers look for waves steep enough to ride but not so big that the seas become dangerous.

The men's race enjoys the Bank of Hawaii as its major corporate sponsor. In addition, the race is supported by many small firms. "Corporate help for a race of this size is a must if quality is to be maintained. We're delighted that so many island firms have given their support," Hemmings said.



By Mike Tsukamoto, Star-Bulletin

CHANGING CREWS

Teams change crews during the race. In last year's race, Outrigger Canoe Club's crews line up, top, then switch, right — the exiting crew leaping into the ocean as the new crew pulls itself in the other side.



Chapman

OUT THE OTHER: Nice shot for Leesa, who will replace Emme broadcasting the Aloha Week



Clark

Parade with Brickwood Galuteria on Sat. . . . Out at Stromboli's-Hawaii Kai: Paul Sikora was astounded when a tourist gentleman bought all of the live Maine lobsters in the tank — \$400 worth. A

veggie-tarian, he then announced his plan to save el lobsters by setting them free in the ocean — and refused to listen when told they were doomed in the warm waters of Hawaii. . . . Awwwwww dept: Outrigger Canoe Club is losing one of its top volleyball players to romance. Ralph Smith, a bartender at Chuck's-Outrigger Waikiki and sometimes referee at UH volleyball games, met a girl in Portland while touring with the U.S. National v-ball team two years ago. But he hadn't seen or talked with her since. She happened to call while here on vacation. Two glorious days later, they set a wedding date next month and Ralph will be moving to Portland □ □ □

Wahines to cross Kaiwi

The Big Island will be represented this weekend by three crews in the ninth annual Na Wahine O Ke Kai, the wahine version of the Molokai-to-Oahu outrigger canoe race across the Kaiwi Channel.

The 40.8-mile race will be held Saturday beginning at 7 a.m. at Hale O Lono Harbor on the southwestern tip of Molokai, with the first finishers coming across the finish line between 1 and 1:30 p.m. near Fort DeRussy Beach in Waikiki.

There will be three divisions, koa, non-koa and masters for crews 35 and older.

The only Moku O Hawaii Outrigger Canoe Racing Association club with a all-Big Island crew is Keaukaha of Hilo. The other two teams are mixed, one made up of members from Kai O Pua and Kai e Hitu, both of Kailua, and Puna of Kalapana, and another composed of Keoua teamed with Molokai club Mana'e.

A total of 19 crews will be entered in the tournament, with one from California. The California club, Off Shore of Newport Beach, is the defending champion, winning the 1986 race in six hours, 30 minutes and four seconds. Outrigger of Honolulu hold the best time, 6:12:11 in 1984.

Outrigger and Off Shore have met once before in August, when the California club defeated Outrigger in the Catalina Island to Newport Beach race.

KCCN Radio of Honolulu will broadcast hourly reports of the race beginning at 6:30 a.m. Leinaala Heine will chant the first five canoe across the finish line.