



A crew arrives on O'ahu at the Wahine O Ke Kai canoe race. In the background is Waikiki and rainy Manoa Valley.

Favorites win; some surprises at Na Wahine O Ke Kai canoe race

By TONI ROMP-FRIESEN
Special To WHT

KAIWI CHANNEL, Hawaii — Even though pre-race favorites **Outrigger Canoe Club** won the seventh annual Na Wahine O Ke Kai Moloka'i-to-O'ahu long distance race, there were still a few surprises.

There were eight to 10-foot swells in the Moloka'i Channel with winds of 20-25 knots making the water much choppier than in recent years. The times reflected the rough seas, with Outrigger covering the 40.8 miles from Hale O Lono Harbor to Fort DeRussy on O'ahu in six hours, 50 minutes and 31 seconds, compared to last year's course record of 6:12:11.

Offshore Canoe Club of Newport Beach, Calif., was second at 7:01:03 with Lahaina of Maui coming in at 7:03:22.

All three were in fiberglass canoes.

In the koa division, Hui Nalu took first place, coming in eighth overall at 7:24:06. Tahiti-FFPP was second at 7:32:22 and Hui Lanakila third.

The biggest surprise came from the Whistler's Canoe Club of Vancouver, B.C. The Canadian crew, made up of white-water kayakers and marathon canoeists, never paddled in an outrigger canoe before they arrived less than a week ago. They finished fifth at 7:14:22. Maire Nui, one of three Tahitian crews, followed them at 7:16:27.

Kai Opuia, the only crew from the Big Island, was 11th overall in a glass boat, at 7:34:10, narrowly edging Ka Mo'i of Hui Wa'a by six seconds at the finish.

Paddlers were treated to a pre-race carbo-loading party at the Sheraton Molokai, where race director Hannie

Anderson was honored by a special award of appreciation from Na Wahine O Ke Kai. Anderson, who said that "putting on the race is like another full-time job," has been race director since the first one was held in 1979.

She was also a race official when the women made the first crossing of the Kaiwi Channel 10 years ago. "It's worth every minute," Anderson said after receiving her award.

This year's race was dedicated to Lanikila Spencer, a woman from Hui Nalu who had paddled in every Moloka'i race. She died July 14. The local paddling community also mourned the loss of Kai Opuia paddling kupuna, Red Kanuha, who died Friday while en-route to the Na Wahine O Ke Kai on Moloka'i.

See For the Record for results of the Wahine O Ke Kai.



Laughlin

ocean sports journal

World canoe competition set for Tahiti next July

Compiled by Carol Hogan

In the past, the men's Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race marked the end of the canoe racing season. After that, paddlers took a break or switched to kayak racing until the following June when the regatta season began.

But a few years ago members of the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association, the Tahiti Canoe Racing Association and the California Canoe Racing Association formed the International Polynesian Canoe Federation, with Georges Estail, of Papeete, Tahiti, as president.

Then, in August, 1984, the federation held its first outrigger canoe world-sprint championships in Long Beach, Calif.

With the world championships scheduled for next July in Papeete, paddlers can no longer enjoy an off season. Now, if they hope to be competitive, they'll have to train year long.

One of the most enthusiastic proponents of canoe racing is Hugh Laughlin, president of Tahiti's To Oa O Tera Canoe Club. Laughlin has been involved in outrigger racing for 26 years.

"The championships will be sprint championships with one-man, six-man and double-hull events open to men and women in the senior, junior and masters division," Laughlin said. Accommodations will be set

up like an Olympic camp, with food, transportation and canoes provided.

Laughlin was in Hawaii last week with the Te Oa O Tera women's team, which competed in the women's Molokai-to-Oahu canoe race.

The team didn't fare well, it finished next to last. But, the women were paddling a brand new koa canoe built in Hawaii and blessed the day before the race. They also purchased a koa log in Kona and shipped it to Makaha, where Henry Chapman, a canoe builder from Tahiti, is shaping a second koa craft.

"The (first) koa canoe was a little big for the women," Laughlin said. "In the calm ocean it did well, but in the rougher ocean, it didn't."

Laughlin will remain in Hawaii and accompany the Tahitian men's team for their cross-channel race on Oct. 13.

The International Polynesian Canoe Federation will meet in Honolulu following the men's race. For more information about the meeting, call HCRA president Michael Tongg at 526-1969.

Waterlog

"No matter how many times you paddle it, it never gets any shorter," said **Katy Bourne**, after helping **Outrigger Canoe Club** win last Sunday's 40.8-mile, women's Molokai-to-Oahu race.

... **Kui Lim**, **Betty Campbell**, **Russ Hook**, **Mike Doyle**, **Sean Lennon**, **Brooke Nottage** and **John Myrdal** won their divisions in the annual El Toro Bullship Races at Kane-

ohe Yacht Club last Saturday and Sunday. **Tony Pickett** won a trophy for most capsizes. When he was 50 years old Doyle requested an over-60 division. He won it last week. "That age group got here faster than I expected," he said.

Cathy Beauford finished fifth in last weekend's \$30,000 Stubbies Pro/Michelob Cup International Surfing Tournament at Oceanside, Calif.

In the men's competition, **Michael Ho** finished ninth, while **Derek Ho** and **Hans Hedemann** tied for 17th. ... Bodyboard rider **Danny Kim** of Waianae scored a perfect 20 to win the United States Amateur Surfing Championships at Ventura, Calif., in late September.

Float Plan

Today-Oct. 8 — Fourth annual Big Island Pro-Am Surfing Trials at Dranpapas at Kalapana in Puna. Weekends only. Entry forms available at Pacific Vibrations and Hobe Sports in Kona, and Orchardland Surfboards in Hilo. For information, call Stan Lawrence at 935-1533.

Tomorrow-Oct. 13 — The \$30,000 Citizen-Mitsubishi Alpha Classic windsurfing event at Hoopoe Beach Park. For information, call Enman Productions on Maui at 579-9763.

Saturday — Junior Sailing Invitational Fall Regatta at Waikiki Yacht Club. For information, call WYC at 955-4405.

Saturday — Basic sailboarding classes. Eight hours of instruction taught at Keolu Lagoon. Sponsored by the University of Hawaii Campus Center Board. For information, call Brian Okamura at 948-7235.

Saturday — Hawaii Surfing Association contest at Banyan in Kailua-Kona. Surf permitting. For information, call Pacific Vibrations at 329-4140.

Saturday-Sunday — National Scholastic Surfing Association Open meet No. 2 at Halewa Beach. Sponsored by Hawaiian Ocean Sports Promoters. For information, call Red Inouye at 671-8255.

Saturday-Sunday — El Toro State Championships at Kaneohe Yacht Club. For information, call KYG at 247-4121.

Sunday — Waikiki Yacht Club Regatta and Commodore Carmichael Cup. For information, call Commodore Carmichael at 823-7633.

Sunday — Waikiki Yacht Club Fall Class Boat Regatta. For information, call WYC at 955-4405.

Sunday — Basic Sailing courses sponsored by the University of Hawaii Campus Center Board. Class runs from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. For information, call Brian Okamura at 948-7235.

Molokai Race: a Storied Past

By Cindy Luis
Star-Bulletin Writer

LIKE old sailors and fishermen, canoe paddlers, too, have their sea stories. Some of the best center around the annual Molokai-to-Oahu race. With the 34th crossing of the Kaiwi Channel scheduled for Sunday, the tales, perhaps, are recalled more vividly during pre-race week than any other time of the year.

Oldtimers and first-timers will have a chance to swap stories tonight when the first official event of this year's Molokai Ho'e is held at the Waikiki Aquarium. Officials expect members of each of the past 33 winning crews to be in attendance in addition to paddlers from the some 45 clubs entered in the 40.8-mile race.

While the size of the Channel's waves may grow through the years, no one dares to dispute that the roughest crossing came in 1966. The winner, Waikiki Surf Club, swamped three times before crossing the finish line in six hours, 37 minutes, 13 seconds.

Half of the 12-outrigger field didn't finish in seas with 15-to-20-foot swells and winds up to 35 miles an hour. Canoes from Lanikai, Maili Sons, Order of Kamehameha, even venerable **Outrigger**, had to be towed to shore.

THE UWILA, BELONGING to Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club (now Kailua Canoe Club), broke in half and her splintered pieces washed ashore at Sandy Beach a few days later. All that remains today is the ama (outrigger float), rescued by crew captain Gary Murakami.

Accounts of the **Uwila's** demise say that Murakami wanted to bring home part of the canoe and he dove over the side of the escort boat before any of his exhausted teammates could stop him. Murakami swam to the canoe, her "broken outrigger stick-

ing out of the water at an angle like the wing of a crippled bird. He cut loose the ama and swam back with it." Stew Kalama, the Kailua coach, was in tears as the boat sank. It had been a frustrating, hour-long battle to save a racing legend. The **Uwila** held the course record, then a 38-mile race, of 5 hours, 36 minutes set in 1964.

Outrigger's Leilani had a happier fate—she survived to race again on Sunday, two weeks shy of her 50th birthday.

OUTRIGGER WAS even with eventual winner **Waikiki Surf** when "we swamped in mid-channel," recalls Fred Hemmings, then OCC's steersman. "We couldn't right the canoe and had broken zippers (in the canvas covering) that kept letting the water in. I don't know how we did it but we cut the riggings and saved the canoe."

Hemmings now a state representative, said he and his teammates were exhausted after fighting the ocean for two hours. But somehow the OCC managed to get the **Leilani** over the transom of their escort boat Hula Kai.

"That caused thousands of dollars of damage but at least we saved the canoe," he said. She had to undergo extensive repairs then and has been streamlined even more since then; she's our (Outrigger's) premier racing boat.

"Looking back on it now, it's questionable whether the race should have been held. (Small craft warnings were posted). From a historical point, I'm glad it was; it was an epic experience." Hemmings says talking about '66 is "probably a bore now but I will always remember being in the middle of that rolling ocean, with 20-foot ground swells. It was massive," he said. "We were fortunate to get all the paddler back alive. It was a race of survival."

Isle dreamboat that tugs at the heart

Maria Hustace, a 66-year-old widow, has completed a once-in-lifetime fantasy voyage in a Dillingham tugboat from Honolulu to Kahului, Maui, and is still raving about the "incredible experience."

Mind you, Maria is not your cheapie tour traveler for whom a weekend in Las Vegas is a big deal.

Last year she spent three days and four nights on the Trans-Siberian Railway going from Siberia to Leningrad. She speaks German, French and Spanish and has been in Australia, Fiji, South America and all over Europe.

She even attended the balls at President Ronald Reagan's last inauguration and received a nice



our honolulu bob krauss

thank you note for the lei she gave him.

But the barge trip under a full-moon across the Molokai Channel was, she sighed, the ultimate travel experience, a journey into another world as far removed from her neighbors in Makiki as Mars.

"The tug is a throbbing heart-beat," she said as if she were

reciting poetry. "It is sheer power."

She said her dream voyage began in Our Honolulu when she attended the seventh annual Hawaii Epilepsy Auction last Feb. 3. One of the items for sale was a ride with an interisland barge.

"I like to go to auctions," Maria explained. "A little item in the newspaper about the barge trip caught my eye."

"The bidding was furious. It went up to \$200 and \$300, enough to fly to the Mainland; but I had made up my mind to go on the barge."

After Maria bought her tugboat, voyage, she had to postpone it.

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our honolulu bob krauss

because of another trip to Russia in the spring so she could visit Yalta.

She and Dillingham Tug & Barge Co. finally settled on mid-September because that's the anniversary of her marriage to Harold Hustace, a lifetime member of the **Outrigger Canoe Club**, whose ashes she scattered beyond the reef in 1983.

"When the tug went by the Outrigger at sunset I waved to him swimming down there," she said. "He was a swimmer, you know, with Duke Kahana-moku."

"The tug doesn't go very fast, between five and eight knots. Going past Waikiki at twilight, a storm made the seas more interesting. The tug pitched a little."

"It's a totally other world. The crew was absolutely wonderful, seven men, two to a room. They were worried about me at first because of my white hair. After I got into my bunk, a man came in and said he would sleep in the top bunk so I didn't have to worry about falling out or getting seasick."

"It was like a family. Some of them are short and muscular, others tall and skinny. There are haoles and other races. But they all worked together like a multi-racial team."

"The barge carried autos, bikes, pleasure boats, housing materials, a cement mixer and a lot of other things."

"We drew away from the dock at about 5:30 p.m., then pulled up to the barge and attached the cable which unreels from a drum and costs \$25,000.

"I watched them reel out 1,800 feet of cable. It's very dangerous work. The crew has to place a lot of trust in each other. After they pull away from the barge, the cable sinks in the ocean with the barge about 600 feet from the tug."

"The weight of the cable and the barge stabilizes the tug. I learned a lot."

"For a while, I could see the harvest moon. Then it disappeared but it was never totally dark because you could see lights on Oahu and at Lahaina."

"The crew had a large television set. They watched Monday night football on Thursday. I'd sleep a little while in my clothes, then get up and go on deck. Of course, the engine is very noisy."

"In the morning at Kahului I really had to admire how the captain and crew gently nudged that barge to the dock. A moment of inattention and somebody could have been crushed."

"I wrote in my notebook, 'They handled the barge with the tenderness of a mother putting her baby into a cradle.'"



Advertiser photo by Charles Okamura

Maria Hustace stands by the craft — figuratively and literally. She bought the trip at a benefit auction. "The bidding was furious. It went up to \$200 and \$300, enough to fly to the Mainland, but I had made up my mind to go on the barge."

IN ONE EAR: Guido Salmaggi, vice consul of Italy, ran into **Jose Ferrer** at **Outrigger Canoe Club**. It

was the first time they'd seen each other since 1960 when Guido, then gen. dir. of the Brooklyn Opera Company, presented **Jose** in the title role of **Puccini's** opera "Gianni Schicci." Jose directed as well as starred and it drew front-page raves from the New York Times.

Their OCC meeting was too brief, so they'll be getting together for pasta at Andrew's... Then there is longtime Chicago Cubs, Bears and White Sox broadcaster **Jack Brickhouse**, who after attending the QB Club luncheon got together for a drink with old pal **Les Keiter**... **Jerry Weintraub**, producer for "Karate Kid II," celebrated a birthday the other day. **Richard Field** at the Still found out about the birthday because he got two calls from the Mainland and another from Hawaii, all from friends ordering bottles of Dom Perignon to be sent to Weintraub □ □



Salmaggi