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Summer's the Time for Paddling

By Jack Wyatt
Special to the Star-Bulletin

Summer has arrived and you're wondering what to do? Consider canoe paddling. It's less expensive than summer camp or playing electronic games. And paddling is healthier than watching TV. Fortunately, most canoe clubs are still looking for good paddlers.

"We're still short of youngsters to fill out some of our crews," said Waikiki Beach Boys Canoe Club Coach Dukie Kuahulu. And like most clubs, the Beach Boys could use some talented adult paddlers as well.

What with Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association's 16 clubs and Hui Wa'a & Surfing Association's 14 active clubs, experienced or enthusiastic beginning paddlers are in demand. "Many clubs have trouble fielding crews, which means lost points in regattas," said Peter Apo, Hui Wa'a president.

BETWEEN THE TWO ASSOCIATIONS, canoe clubs can be found at most Oahu beaches and watering holes. These include Ala Wai Canal, Sans Souci Beach, Ft. De Russy, Ala Moana Park, Keehi Lagoon, Waianae, Makaha, Haleiwa, Kaneohe Bay, Kailua, Waimanalo and Hawaii Kai. Most clubs hold practice sessions weekdays, in the late afternoon. Persons interested in paddling should contact a club's coach.

A few long-distance races already have been held by both associations; however, the highly competitive regatta season, plus all of the important distance events, are yet to come.

OHCRA's regatta season begins May 30 at Nanakuli, while the Hui Wa'a regatta schedule kicks off at Makaha on June 13. Distance racing for both groups begins in August.

The 31-year-old OHCRA and the 10-year-old Hui Wa'a complement each other. "Hui Wa'a may be the young kid on the block but we're growing," said Apo, who expects this season to be the best ever. The association's emphasis will be placed on improving competition. "In most clubs, our young crews are strongest," the president added, "and if we have any weakness it may be in the adult crews."

By keeping youngsters busy and family paddlers together, Hui Wa'a serves a need. "With its



EXTRA EFFORT—Members of Waikiki Surf Club's men's masters (35 years and over) crew reach back for the winning edge in a regatta at Keehi Lagoon last year.—Star-Bulletin
Photo by John Titchen.

greater experience, OHCRA may hold a slight edge in racing," Apo conceded, "but Hui Wa'a can't be beaten for perpetuating Hawaiiana and fellowship." Apo said that the two associations work well with one another.

Hui Wa'a powers include Loa'a Outrigger Canoe Club, the defending state champion, plus the Waikiki Beach Boys Canoe Club and Kaneohe Outrigger Canoe Club.

Hui Wa'a season highlights include the July 4th regatta at Kailua Beach; a Waikiki Beach

surf contest on July 25 and the Hui Wa'a State Championships at Keehi Lagoon on July 31.

AMONG THE OHCRA POWERS, Waikiki's Outrigger Canoe Club and Hawaii Kai's Hui Nalu Canoe Club, plus upstart Healan Canoe Club of Ala Wai Canal, are rated the clubs to beat. "We have a good schedule and the clubs seem well balanced and stronger than ever," said race director Mel Kalahiki, Sr. "I look for a competitive racing season."

Regatta Schedules

OHCRA

May 30—Kukini—Regatta, Nanakuli Beach, June 4—King Kamehameha Regatta, Kailua Beach, June 13—John Kaulaiko Surf Regatta, Waikiki Beach, June 20—Leward Kai Regatta, Nanakuli Beach, June 27—Pop Waiiale Regatta, Waimanalo Beach, July 4—Walter Macfarlane Surf Regatta, Waikiki Beach, July 11—Healan Regatta, Keehi Lagoon, July 18—Hawaiian Warriors Regatta, Waimea Bay, July 25—Ohana o Ka Kai Regatta, Makaha Beach, Aug. 1—Oahu Championship, Keehi Lagoon, Aug. 7—State Championship, Hilo Bay, Hawaii

Long Distance Schedule
May 22—HANG CHANG, Hickam Beach, Aug. 22—Duke Kahana-moku Race, Magic Island to Lanikai, Aug. 29—Dad Center Women's Race, Lanikai to Honolulu, Sept. 5—Waikiki Surf Race, Lanikai to Ala Moana, Sept. 12—Kaula Challenge Race, Kaula Park to Hawaii Kai, Sept. 19—Kaula Challenge, Helewa to Pokai Bay, Oct. 18—Molokai Hoe, Molokai to Oahu

Hui Wa'a

June 13—Ka Mo'i, Makaha Beach, June 20—Lokahi, Keehi Lagoon, June 27—Lai Po Ha, Haleiwa, July 4—Kamehameha, Kailua Beach, July 11—Kaulaiko, Kailua Bay, July 18—Windward Kai, Waimanalo Beach, July 25—Waikiki Beach Boys, Waikiki Beach, July 31—Hui Wa'a Championships, Keehi Lagoon

Long Distance Schedule
Aug. 14—Kai Po Ha, Kahana Bay, Aug. 21—Hawaii Kai, Hawaii Kai, Aug. 28—Ka Mo'i, Pokai Bay, Sept. 5—To be announced

Other events, July 16—World Polynesian Canoe Race, Tahiti, Sept. 19—Na Wahine to Ka Kai, Molokai to Oahu

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MAUI NEWS
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West Siders are competitive bunch

Napili, Kahana, Lahaina set for '82

By MATTHEW THAYER
Sports Writer

LAHAINA — There's plenty of competition between the three outrigger canoe clubs based at the West Side's Hahakea Beach. They not only compete in the water but out of it — in the search for new paddlers.

A look at the size of the community and population which the three clubs, Napili, Kahana and Lahaina, have to draw from makes one wonder how they can each field teams. The key so far has been for clubs to draw from different areas of the population and for one club, Lahaina, to alter its priorities.

Kahana has traditionally been a family-oriented club while Lahaina as of late is predominately hotel and restaurant workers. Napili, the newest club of the three, has combined a mixture of both to build a team that was strong enough last season to capture the Maui County Canoe Association's team championship.

It takes over 130 paddlers per club to fill every crew in a regatta competition. This season Napili and Kahana appear to be in good shape to fill all or most of its crews. Lahaina, however, has lost in the battle for junior paddlers and only has a team of around 50 members. To make the most of its situation the Lahaina team has turned its objectives toward distance racing — which requires less people.

Napili, which rose from the ranks of the also-rans last year to claim its first MCHCA title, is adding new training techniques in an attempt to secure a second year as the top team. According to head coach Chad Baybayan if a paddler "is stronger physically he will be stronger in the canoe." The club has added a mirage of chin-up bars around its training site and enlisted a program developed by world-champion shot putter Terry Albritton for Oahu's Outrigger Canoe Club.

"We're going to approach this season with the same intensity as last year," Baybayan said Sunday during the Kahana Invitational. "We've been using a training schedule Terry Albritton developed and throwing in a few things of our own. On shore we've been doing chin-

ups, push-ups, dips (on the even bars) and a lot of running."

The head coach said he thought it would be a close season this year. Baybayan declined to speculate on which clubs might be among the strongest, exhibiting a likeness of another West Side coach — Lahainaluna football's Lanny Tihada. The unwillingness to single out individuals turned out to be more than a coincidence. Two of Tihada's brothers are coaches for Napili and a large part of the football team paddles for the club. Baybayan, who coaches weight training with Tihada, says he treats paddling as conditioning for the boys' football.

"All my kids play football for Lanny Tihada," Baybayan said. "I treat this as kind of a preparatory for football at this time. His (Tihada's) presence is here. I respect him. You can see the results he gets."

Baybayan said Napili's performance last year took his club by surprise.

"We're just a new club," the head coach said. "Winning last year took us more by surprise than anyone else. We're learning more about this sport every day."

John Kuia, vice president of the Kahana Canoe Club, says his team is looking for balance. Last season the club started every regatta out strong but as the competition went into the older divisions it would surrender its lead. Kuia says his club hopes to extend its domination throughout the age divisions.

"Right now we're in a building stage for some of our crews," Kuia said. "We're trying to build up our senior crews. Our youth has been improved but all in all a balance is important."

Kuia said his club is family oriented. "Right now we're a good family get together club," the vice president said. "We get together every Sunday for potlucks. You get to know the people."

Kahana MCHCA delegate representative David Hauley says his club may be the most family oriented on the island.

"I feel paddling is mostly for the kids," Hauley said. "We are probably the most family oriented club on Maui. It's a family sport. You look at the Nueca's (Ann and Jerry etc...) and they have seven people



A Kahana 18-under crew member took a dive after Sunday's invitational win

Maui News photo by Matthew Thayer

from their family paddling."

The strength of Kahana last year was its youth but so far this year the club looks to be strong from top to bottom. Some of the key crews will be the stretch of paddlers from 16-under boys to freshman boys. At the end of the season last year the 16-under and 18-under units were two of the association's most dominate crews. This season they have moved up to 18-under and freshman respectively and look as strong as ever.

According to Rick DeMille, coach of Lahaina Canoe Club, the team's goals this year are vastly different than Napili and Kahana's. The club has set its sights on distance racing, especially the summer's international distance races in Tahiti.

"We're going to participate and do what we can (in the regattas) but we're concentrating on Tahiti, it's

such a big race," DeMille said. "We've got 40 people going to Tahiti. It's going to be a great race. They expect over 200 canoes in the men's race."

The concentration on distance and away from regattas has also been dictated by a lack of junior paddlers. As of last Sunday Lahaina had none. DeMille said Lahaina C.C. consists of 50 people — 30 men and 20 women. DeMille said the loss of Lahaina's junior coaches combined with the youthfulness of its membership and the strong junior divisions in the neighboring clubs spelled the loss of its lower crews.

"We're really hurting for kids," he said. "The people who coach the kids left the club and its been tough to generate interest. We'll need one crew to be sanctioned. We're going to have to try hard to get kids down here. What we really need is a kids coach."