

the **Outrigger**

MACFARLANE
REGATTA



TH

ANNUAL
ON THE BEACH AT WAIKIKI

JULY 2017

Published by the Outrigger Canoe Club for Members and Guests at Home and Abroad



THE OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB

invites you to attend a gigantic

Fourth of July

WATER CARNIVAL

at Waikiki Beach

featuring the

WALTER MACFARLANE MEMORIAL RACES



The Late
"Walter Mac"

It is fitting that the Outrigger Canoe Club's Water Carnival be held in memory of "Walter Mac" whose death in Oakland, California, a month ago plunged the entire Territory into deep sorrow. For it was due in large part to Walter's untiring efforts that the famous old Outrigger Canoe Club was rebuilt in 1941.

Businessman, legislator—civic-minded "Walter Mac" was an inspiration to all who knew him well and the things he accomplished in his short life-span will live as a perpetual memorial to one who always placed the interests of his native Hawaii ahead of personal desires or personal gain.



Former Olympic Star Duke Kahanamoku joins boys and girls in examining some of the handsome trophies which will be awarded the winners in Sunday's Water Carnival. Left to right: Ann Morris, enlisted man, Duke, Gene Smith, Wanda Grant. In sand: Kathleen Patterson.

EVENTS BEGIN 11:30 A. M. SHARP SUNDAY, JULY 4

No Admission Charge

Event 1: The Kaneohe Yacht Club will enter their Mid-Pacific sailing boats known as the "M. P."

Event 2: Mixed tandem surfing championship. At Canoe Surf.

Event 3: Open surfing championship. At Canoe Surf.

Event 4: Junior six canoe race—starting from shore (inside starting area) thence to outside flag buoy leaving it to Port, thence to flag buoy (Mauna Hotel) leaving it to Port, once more around, thence to finish line between Outrigger Canoe Club . . . Judges stand and flag buoy off shore.

Event 5: Service-six enlisted men canoe race—once around markers, thence to finish line . . . same as above. (Any of the enlisted men, either army, navy or marine is welcome to enter in this race.)

Event 6: Service-six officers canoe race—once around marker, thence to finish line . . . same as above.

Event 7: Girls' six canoe race—once around marker, thence to finish line . . . same as above.

Event 8: Kid's six canoe race—starting line at the Royal Hawaiian, thence to and around marker at Halekai leaving it to Port, thence

to finish line . . . same as above. (Parallel with the beach.)

Event 9: THE WALTER MACFARLANE PERPETUAL TROPHY—six men canoe race—three times around markers either paddling or surfing thence to finish line . . . same as above, event #4.

Event 10: Women's four canoe race—open. Course . . . same as above, event #8.

Event 11: Tug of war—two canoes—five men each.

Event 12: Two men canoe race—starting at Halekai, thence to finish line . . . same as above. (Parallel with the beach.)

Event 13: Four men canoe race. Course . . . same as above, event #8.

Event 14: Six men canoe race. Course . . . same as above, event #8.

Event 15: Fathers' six canoe race. Course . . . same as above, event #8.

Event 16: Relay canoe race—two crews to each canoe. Course . . . same as above, event #8. First crew, starts and changing at Halekai, rounding the marker first into position before second crew takes over, thence to finish line, Outrigger Canoe Club. . . Judges stand and flag buoy off shore.

This display is sponsored by a group of Honolulu firms in tribute to the memory of our friend Walter MacFarlane and in tribute, too, to the fine work being accomplished by the Outrigger Canoe Club in fostering water sports.

The Outrigger Canoe Club will be closed all day Tuesday, July 6th

Outrigger Tradition Becomes State Sport

By Marilyn Kali

One of the things that Outrigger Canoe Club members look forward to each year is the Walter J. Macfarlane Memorial Regatta held on the 4th of July at Waikiki Beach. It's an event that we hold just as dear as the fireworks and BBQs of Independence Day.

Walter Mac, for whom the race was named, was asked in a magazine article in 1939 to describe the Outrigger Canoe Club. After a few moments of thought, he responded "Tradition". He explained "tradition is summed up in all that the Outrigger Club means to Hawaii. More than 30 years ago, the tradition came into being when Alexander Hume Ford and his associates dedicated themselves to the perpetuation of the ancient sports of the royal Hawaiians."

Every year at the pre-regatta rally in the Ka Moi Lounge, you'll hear Walter Guild, grand nephew of Walter Mac, talk about what that tradition and what Independence Day mean to our Club today.

And this year, as the Club celebrates Walter Mac with the 75th Annual Macfarlane Regatta we find that tradition can lead to something even bigger.

The Macfarlane Regatta was first held on July 4, 1943 to celebrate the life of Walter Mac, the man who had brought the Club through some very trying times as it struggled to build a new Clubhouse after the old one had been condemned by the Board of Health. But first a little history.

Early Canoe Racing

The Outrigger's mission has always been to preserve the sports of old Hawaii. At our beginning in 1908, surfboards and outrigger canoes lined Waikiki Beach. The surfboards were used to catch waves and in surfboard races. The canoes were mainly used for canoe surfing and canoe sailing.

In fact, you could probably count on your fingers the number of canoe races that were held from the Club's founding until 1933. A canoe race might be added to a barge regatta in Honolulu Harbor, or as an event of a water carnival to celebrate Kamehameha Day, or a birthday celebration of the OCC or entertainment for guests at the Moana Hotel. Canoe racing was incidental, an after thought.

Then in 1933, E. E. Black had just finished building the Hawaii Belt Road on the Big Island and asked his friend OCC President Lorrin Thurston if he had any idea of how they could celebrate the opening of the road and thank all the workers. Thurston asked Club Captain George "Dad" Center, and Dad, always ready with a good idea, proposed a canoe race.

Dad worked with folks in Kona and they organized the canoe races which were part of a huge two-day celebration. They hoped to revive the Hawaiian sport of canoe racing which had nearly died out. Three crews from Honolulu, Outrigger, Hui Nalu and Queen's Surf, competed against crews from the Kona Coast. Outrigger won that first regatta. The event was so well received that the race was continued in 1934 and 1935 with the Kona crews winning.

In 1934, a regatta was held on the 4th of July at Ala Moana Beach Park featuring seven canoe races, two barge races and eight outboard motor races.

The year 1936 brought the bi-centennial of King Kamehameha's birth, and a huge jubilee was being planned in Honolulu. Part of that celebration was to include a day of

canoe racing at Pier 2 in Honolulu Harbor on a three-quarter mile course. This was seen as a continuation of the Kona races only this time in Honolulu. It was the first all-outrigger canoe regatta to be held on Oahu in modern times.

All islands were represented in that canoe race, with crews and canoes converging on the harbor weeks ahead of time. Thatched buildings were constructed on the piers to house the large neighbor island contingent that came and provide shade for the canoes. Grandstands were built. The races were the talk of the town.

Most Thrilling Aquatic Spectacle

The event was later billed as "the most thrilling aquatic spectacle Honolulu has ever witnessed." As thousands watched from the bleachers, the paddlers from Honaunau won every event they entered, repeating the title they had won in Kona the previous year.

Everyone expected that canoe racing had been revived and would now thrive. But that didn't happen. The 1936 race incurred a debt of \$1,200 and the Kamehameha Day celebration committee wouldn't sponsor another race, no matter how popular.

In 1937, the Kama`aina Beachcombers' Hui decided to sponsor a water carnival on Kamehameha Day that would include canoe and surfboard races at the Ala Wai Canal. Events included a men's Junior 4 and 6, Senior 4 and 6, Boys 6, and a Women's 6, in addition to the surfboard races. Outrigger won in 1937 and again in 1938 against its only competitor Hui Nalu.

In 1939, a Pacific Aquatic Carnival was held in Waikiki for visiting Australians, complete with swimming, surfing, barge races, outboard motor race and five canoe races: Senior Men 4 and 6, Junior 6, Boys under 16, and Boys under 18. Hui Nalu won all but the Junior 6 where they tied with OCC.

The Hilo Outrigger Club tried to revive racing by announcing a regatta on Kamehameha Day in 1940 but wasn't able to raise the funds necessary to hold a race. There were no other canoe races for a while.

New Outrigger Club

From 1939-1941 Walter Mac and his OCC Board of Directors were busy raising funds, designing the buildings and constructing the new Outrigger Canoe Club on Waikiki Beach to replace the old termite-eaten buildings. The dedication and opening of the new Club coincided with Kamehameha Day in 1941 so the Club sponsored a highly successful program of aquatic activities that included a few canoe races.

Walter Mac got married on December 1, 1941 in Las Vegas, and was on his honeymoon on the Mainland when Pearl Harbor was bombed. He left his bride with her parents in Mexico City, and returned to Hawaii.

With Hawaii at war, there were no ocean sports in 1942, and with the Club operating well and the war going well for the Allies, Walter Mac, still our president, went to visit his wife in early 1943. He came down with typhoid fever while he was on the trip and died on June 4, 1943 in California at age 36.

Memorial services were held at the Club on June 6. The Rev. Henry P. Judd delivered the eulogy, saying "This young man, who always had a smile for everyone, will never leave us.

The ad on page 2 originally appeared as a full page in the Honolulu Star Bulletin on July 2, 1943 announcing the first Macfarlane Regatta.

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Outrigger Tradition Becomes State Sport

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Every bit of bamboo, every surfboard, every canoe and every person here will be living memorials of his sportsmanship and good fellowship."

Macfarlane Regatta

At the time of his death, the Club was planning to celebrate the second anniversary of its new Clubhouse on Kamehameha Day, June 11, 1943, with an aquatic carnival. In respect for Macfarlane, Club manager Henry deGorog, suggested the Kamehameha Day celebration be postponed several weeks until the 4th of July and be renamed to honor our late president.

Bob Fischer who was planning the June 11 race, quickly got to work gathering trophies, and reworking the schedule to commemorate Walter Mac. Without the work that Walter Mac had done, it's entirely possible that the Outrigger Canoe Club would have disbanded, so Club members were eager to honor him.

The first Macfarlane Regatta was a water carnival that included 16 events: a sailing race, a mixed tandem surfing championship, an open surfing championship, and then the Walter Macfarlane Memorial canoe races including a Junior 6, Service 6 Enlisted Men, Service 6 Officers, Girls 6, Kids 6, Men's and Women's 4, 6-man, Father's 6, 2-Man Canoe race, a relay race and a canoe tug of war.

The featured event of the day was the Senior Men's 6 race for the Walter Macfarlane Perpetual Trophy. Matson Navigation donated the trophy and 75 years later it is still the most coveted trophy of the day, and one of only two that bear the names of all the winners going back to 1943.

The trophy was awarded by Walter Mac's mother, Kamokila Campbell, to an Outrigger crew steered by Duke Kahanamoku. She insisted that the men drink champagne from the trophy as a fitting tribute to her son. She also donated bottles of perfume to the winners of the girl's race.

Drinking champagne and sharing it with the second place crew has become another tradition of the OCC. In 1984, Muriel Macfarlane Flanders, Walter Mac's sister, discovered that the women didn't have a perpetual trophy. She donated one and the women have been drinking champagne out of their own cup ever since.

By 1944, the deft touch of Bob Fischer, Dad Center, Duke Kahanamoku, Bill Capp and others could be felt. Of 14 events scheduled for the regatta, 13 were canoe races and only one was a surfboard race.

And in 1945, the Walter J. Macfarlane Memorial Regatta became an all-canoe regatta with 12 events, as it has been ever since.

The Macfarlane Regatta was the catalyst to get canoe racing going in the Territory of Hawaii, and through the efforts of many Outrigger members, it has continued unabated since 1943. There was one glitch in 1958 when the Club Captain recommended that it would be cheaper to hold a surfing contest instead of the Macfarlane Regatta. He was quickly overruled and the regatta continued.

The Macfarlane is the longest running canoe race in Hawaii. The Trans-Pacific Yacht Race, founded by Macfarlane's great uncle, Clarence W. Macfarlane is the only older ocean race started in 1906, but held every other year.

Canoe Races Added

Once the Macfarlane Regatta was established, Fischer, Kahanamoku, Capp and others wanted to continue to build interest in canoe racing so they added water carnivals at the Club with canoe races on Kamehameha Day, and Regatta Day in September.

Slowly other clubs began forming and sponsoring races. In 1948, Aloha Week sponsored the Aloha Regatta which was won by the newly formed Waikiki Surf Club. The next year, the Koolaupoko Lion's Club held canoe and surfing races on Labor Day. Each race had different rules and organization.

On February 24, 1950, Bob Fischer appeared before the OCC Board of Directors and recommended the formation of a Hawaiian surfing and canoe racing association to standardize the rules for all water sports events. The committee was to be composed of members chosen from existing canoe clubs and any new clubs that were thinking of forming.

"Before we actually had the meeting we got some bylaws from various clubs, like the Speed Boat Racing Association, and started fitting them together, trying to write some bylaws that would be applicable or appropriate for canoe racing," Capp said.

"We started out with four clubs (Outrigger, Hui Nalu, Waikiki Surf Club and Ko'olaupoko). What I tried to do was get the thing rolling because I realized it was a necessity to keep participation and outrigger canoe races alive," said Capp.

The first president of the HCRSA was Sam Fuller of the Outrigger. Although the Hawaiian Canoe Racing and Surfing Association started in 1950, it wasn't formally incorporated until 1963. Outrigger members helped new canoe clubs organize, helped them find koa racing canoes, and unselfishly offered support in any way they could.

The Tradition Continues

The result today is that canoe racing is thriving, not only in Hawaii, but throughout the world. The umbrella group for all canoe racing in Hawaii is the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association. There are six island associations, 82 canoe clubs and thousands of registered paddlers.

More than 2,000 paddlers and their families will be at Waikiki Beach on July 4th to enjoy Independence Day and continue the tradition started by the Outrigger 75 years ago. Instead of 14 races, there will be 46, and the canoes will race perpendicular to the beach instead of parallel to the beach.

We like to think that Walter Mac would be proud to have his name associated with a sport that has grown from the humble grass shacks of the Outrigger Canoe Club into the State Sport of Hawaii, that involves men, women, boys and girls from ages 12 up to ages 70+.

On July 4th, we'll give thanks to Walter Mac for keeping our Club going when the going got tough; and Dad, Duke, Bob, Bill and all those members who have worked so hard to keep canoe racing alive for the past 109 years.

We might even ask for some heavenly intervention for a beautiful day, strong competition, good waves for surfing, good sportsmanship, and a safe and fun day for all as we continue to live Outrigger's mission to promote the sports of old Hawaii.

It's a tradition we can all be proud of.
See you at the races!