

The Outrigger

OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB

HONOLULU, HAWAII

NOVEMBER, 1973

Outrigger Paddlers do well in 53-mile Molokai Grind

In what is believed to be the longest recognized Molokai-to-Oahu outrigger canoe race, a 53-mile grind from Kaunakakai to the Sans Souci beach near the Club, our crew finished a close fifth overall, only 11 minutes, 10 seconds behind first place Waikiki Surf Club; and fourth in the koa division. Twelve crews were entered in the race, six each in the two classes: koa and fiberglass.

The Honolulu Advertiser on Monday, October 15, reported that "the race was close all the way, with several clubs claiming the lead until the stretch after Diamond Head." Race Chairman Joe Ornalles was quoted by the paper as saying that "It was anybody's race."

The Race in detail

By Jerry Ober

This year's running of the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association sponsored Molokai-Oahu Canoe Race was paddled over a new course, which started at Kaunakakai, making the race approximately 53 miles as compared to 41 miles from the previous starting point near Kepuhi. The number of paddlers per team was also increased to twelve. Another change was the new finish line at the beach fronting the Kaimana Hotel.

The race started promptly at 6:30 a.m. off the end of the pier at Kaunakakai Harbor. Race morning brought light showers but calm seas in the lee of Molokai. The paddle up the south shore of Molokai was made in just under three hours. The leading canoes were Waikiki Surf Club, Healani, Kai Opua, Lanikai and Kailua. The passage to that point had produced

no surprises aside from a quick swamp and recovery by the Newport crew from California. At the time, California was paddling ahead of Outrigger, but the swamp put them behind and removed them from contention.

Once past Laau Point on Molokai, the crews fanned out, each seeking its own course. Outrigger took a northerly course as did Kailua and California. Waikiki Surf and Healani went south, while the rest opted for the middle of the road. The sea was quite active with a good easterly wind, and for much of the race a cooling, protective cloud cover, very welcome to the hot, tired paddlers. Waikiki Surf and Healani battled one another in their own south course race until Healani swamped, but were going again in three minutes. However, they were no longer a threat to the leading Surf Club team. Kai Opua in the middle and Kailua to the south were Surf Club's most continuous threat, earlier contenders Lanikai and Outrigger having dropped off the pace.

In mid channel it was still anyone's race among the front running four. Off Koko Head, the Kailua paddlers opted for an inside course past Hawaii Kai and it proved a fairly good bet for them. Surf Club and Kai Opua and Healani kept to their more or less straight line course, and when all came together at Diamond Head it was Surf Club, Kailua, Kai Opua, Outrigger, and Healani. For some reason, Outrigger stayed outside and were cut off by Healani at the entrance to the Channel, giving Healani 4th overall and Outrigger 5th. Kailua was paddling in the first class division and while 2nd overall was first in its division.

Our crew surely paddled well in this race. Brant Ackerman steered the entire race, 53 miles, 8½ hours with no relief. That is an impressive performance.

The Outrigger crew was made up of: Brant Ackerman, Henry Ayau, Milton Beamer, Doug Bechert, Tom Conner, Mike Clifford, Jody D'Enbeau, Tim Guard, Kimo Hugo, Bill Mowat, Marshall Rosa, and Tuck Siegfried. The crew paddled the *Kakina* and Bruce Ames and Donny Mailer were alternates.

Hobie Cat Nationals

By Jerry Ober

The 1973 National Hobie Cat Championships were held on the 5th, 6th, and 7th of October at Lake Havasu on the Colorado River on the California-Nevada border.

The Club's representative to the Regatta was Leith Anderson. Leith reports that there was absolutely no wind, the lake was like a mirror for all nine of the races, and a drifting match ensued which saw many of the pre-race favorites die with the wind. Hobie Cat creator Hobie Alter wasn't in the running, nor was Wayne Schaffer, two top contenders. World Hobie winner Richard Loufec packed up and went home.

Leith's fortunes went from 39th place in one race to 5th in another, all in the same day. A similar fate befell fellow Club member Harold Hutchings, who did not have much better drifting luck than the rest. Leith finally came up with 15th overall, which is the same position in which he finished in the 1972 Nationals in Texas, another light wind affair.