

# WEATHER SLOWS MOLOKAI HOE CREWS

By Steve Scott, Men's Coach

After the Na Wahine O Ke Kai, it was hard to imagine the men's 59th Molokai Hoe crossing on October 7 would have conditions worse than the women. That, however, was exactly what happened.

Southerly winds turning to southwesterly by the middle of the day, along with an ebb tide, were the conditions the men faced the morning of the race. It was clear that there would be no records set today.

The Outrigger's first open crew, paddling in the *Manu Ula*, had a great start, reaching Laau in the top five, with Simeon Ke Paloma, Alfred Van Gieson, CJ Day, Deane Salter, Justin Banfield, and Billy Balding in the canoe. Following the first change with Alika Guillaume, Carlton Helm, and Justin Watts coming in, they were chased down by EDT and Shell #2 from Tahiti at the one-hour mark.

Both clubs would end up in second and third respectively behind Shell Vaa which finished the 41 mile course in five hours, 15 minutes, 49 seconds. Following a short battle with another Tahitian master's crew, Outrigger settled into battling the adverse conditions, along with the heat and humidity, to Diamond Head.

They were pretty much by themselves for the next three hours, with canoes to the north including Lanikai, and two Hawaii crews, Livestrong and Primo, far to the south. As we got to Oahu, approaching Black Point, CJ had to be helped into the escort boat with full body cramps, a testament to the conditions all clubs faced and the effort everyone gave that day. From there, we finished with eight paddlers, finishing in 10th place overall in 5 hours, 53 minutes and 55 seconds.

The second open crew, in the *Loli'i*, with starters Byron Ho, John Wacker, Kulani Jones, Jared Watumull, Alex Hossellman, and Billy Lawson, had a clear start and entered the channel with their course set for Diamond Head. Following the first change with Rich Butts, Nate Jenkins, and Sean Parsa coming in, they took the direct line to the buoy, which on that day seemed to be a northerly course.

As they got to Oahu they were in the better position to pass crews that were in front of them but to the South. They passed a few clubs and finished in 29th place overall in 6:14:34. For first time Molokai paddlers Alex and Sean, they experienced one of the worst crossings I've seen, but both are looking forward to doing it again with our preferred trade winds.

A total of 100 crews entered this year's Molokai Hoe from Hawaii, California, New York and Washington, and internationally from Tahiti, Australia, New Zealand, France, Canada, Japan and Italy.

It always goes without saying that the Molokai effort is only possible with the help of many, but I especially want to thank Mark Rigg, Ikaika Harbottle, Jimmy Kincaid, and of course Jen Lyons, the master chef and all around coordinator.

The Outrigger Canoe Club is fortunate to have a nucleus of good paddlers that can be built upon for next year, thanks in large part to the athletic members and the contributions from all paddlers that have been made to the paddling program throughout the year.

I look forward to next season, and the hard work everyone will put into training in the coming months to make Outrigger the top Hawaii crew in 2013. It starts now.

Outrigger paddlers gather around the koa canoe *Kakina* before the start of the 59th Molokai Hoe. OCC's Masters paddled the *Kakina* and took first in the Koa Division. Front: Carlton Helm, Kulani Jones, Ruben Cabaniero, Willy Gacutan, Mike Lum, Alfred Van Gieson, CJ Day, Alika Guillaume, Billy Balding. Back: Nate Jenkins, Jared Watumull, Steve Scott, Billy Lawson, Byron Ho, John Wacker, Rich Butts, Sean Parsa, Alex Hossellman, Todd Sandvold, Gunner Schull, Keahi Pelayo, Simeon Ke Paloma, Matt Esecson, Marc Haine, Justin Banfield, Al Darling, Justin Watts, Craig Neher, Deane Salter. Photo by Twain Newhart.



# MASTERS WIN KOA DIVISION IN THE KAKINA

By Matt Esecson

Outrigger's Masters Men were back on the podium this distance season.

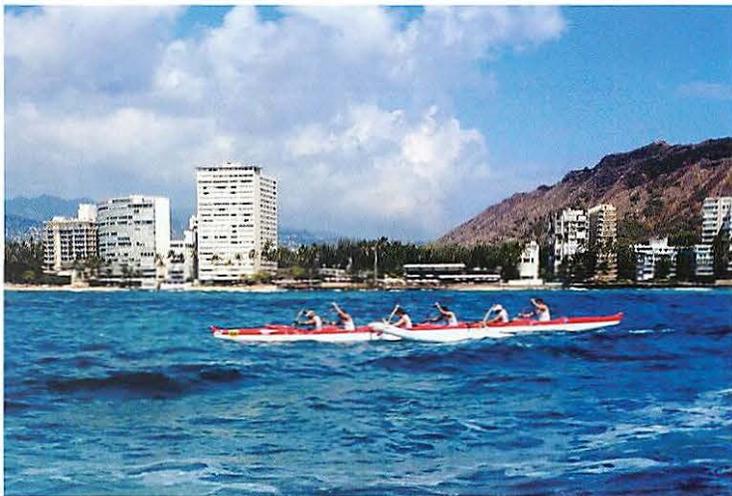
A dedicated group of 12 OCC Masters self-organized and coached themselves onto the top of the podium at the Duke Race (1st 40's) and then topped that by winning the Koa Division in this year's Molokai Hoe in 6:40:13.

In this year's challenging Molokai conditions the masters crew, led by steersmen Mike Lum and reserve steersman/paddler/coach Marc Haine, the mixed 40s and 50s crew brought another victory to the long tradition of the *Kakina* and her 80 years as Outrigger CC's *Champion of the Channel*.

The Masters crew included Willie Gacutan, Ruben Cabineiro, Al Darling, Matt Esecson, Todd Sandvold, Keahi Pelayo, Gunner Schull, Marc Haine, Mike Lum. They were escorted by Don Isaacs, Craig Neher, Ken Buckland and Ann Marie Mizuno.

The crew paddled through this year's challenging tide and headwinds with a determined smile and positive attitude to proudly represent the tradition of the *Kakina* and the Outrigger Canoe Club.

This year's champion masters have thrown down the challenge to all the past Club champions in the 40s, 50s and 55 age groups to join them next season in creating the first season of the Molokai Koa Cup Challenge. Each Masters age group (40, 50, 55) competes in the Molokai Hoe representing Outrigger CC and the winning masters Koa crew gets the OCC Koa Lanai bragging rights for the year.



On the victory stand were Mike Lum, Gunner Schull, Keahi Pelayo, Al Darling, Matt Esecson, Ruben Cabineiro, Willie Gacutan, Todd Sandvold and Marc Haine.

