

the Outrigger



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OCC Men Have Stellar Distance Season, *Leilani* Shines

By Mark Cluney



The *Leilani* crew of Kevin Allen, Kealakai Hussey, Erik DeRyke, Indar Lange, Steve Haugse, and Billy Balding races to the finish line.

Ahhh... Moloka'i Hoe... the culmination of all things we'd worked so hard to compete in through this distance season.

We hoped for surf and she left us at the doorstep. Probably, the worst conditions for a surfing crew ever.

Outrigger Canoe Club's two open men's crews attacked the Ka'iwi channel and did not disappoint the membership, or themselves. Both crews battled dehydration and cramping as well as their own demons that danced within their minds.

We trained hard, made adjustments, and were determined to put together the best product our Outrigger Canoe Club had to offer. This was not a day for the faint of heart.

"Oh, how *Leilani* wanted to find something to surf," said steersman and former Moloka'i Hoe champion, Billy Balding.

The *Leilani* crew won the Koa division in 5:46:14 as well as placed 27th overall. Balding squeezed all that he could out of himself, staying in the whole way while showing fearless leadership.

Coach Jim Beaton and his co-coach Casey Kahikina ran a flawless race with support in course, hydration, strategy, and crew management. Crew members included Kevin Allen, Tom Allen, Erik DeRyke, Kealaka'i Hussey, Steve Haugse, Cory Nakamura, Indar Lange, Jed Gushman, and Balding.

Outrigger Canoe Club's other men's crew, racing in the four-year old *Manu Ula*, worked very hard throughout the day with many challenges, finishing in 7th place overall, and was the first Oahu crew to complete the race in 5:21:50.

All managed to recover and left it all in the channel. No man exited Ka'iwi unscathed. Crew members included Simeon Ke Paloma, Bill Pratt, Victor Bovino Agostini, Makena Fernandez, Justin Watts, Heinere Itchner, Travis Grant, Billy Lawson, and Jimmy Austin.

Duke Kahanamoku Race

We started the distance canoe racing season with good momentum and jumped to a great start with a victory in this year's Duke Race. Having to fight its way through the pack after a log jam at the start, our OCC crew, racing in the *Manu Ula* included Scott Gamble, Bill Pratt, Simeon Ke Paloma, Justin Watts, Victor Bovino Agostini, Makena Fernandez, Billy Balding, Heinere Itch-



The Open crew was first Oahu club to finish the race, and was 7th overall: Travis Grant, Cory Nakamura, Steve Haugse, Justin Watts, Jimmy Austin, Kealakai Hussey, Billy Lawson, and Erik DeRyke.

ner, and Alfred Van Giesen. They found their "groove" to surf past such strong competitive clubs as Lanikai, Hui Nalu, and Kailua in a time of 2 hours and 54 minutes.

All members of our distance program competed well with the strategy of working upward for placement within crews. Our OCC crew racing in the *Loli'i* finished in a very strong 9th position with crew members: Erik DeRyke, Kealaka'i Hussey, Steve Haugse, Cory Nakamura, Indar Lange, Jimmy Austin, Byron Ho, Jed Gushman, and Christian Bradley.

We also entered a third crew, comprised of many of our novice paddlers, and coached by Liz Perry. These paddlers used this race to gain experience in the hopes of representing our Club in the near future.

Members of this crew racing in the *Henry Keawe Ayau* included Ken Silva, Stephen Valentin, Jeff Newton, Brandon Hament, Art Mallet, Matt McDonald and Cassidy Tepper. Mahalo to Keahi Pelayo, Vik Watumull and Coach Liz for sharing your valuable leadership and experience!

Kailua Ironman Challenge

The Kailua Ironman Challenge, an approximately 14 mile race, was next on the schedule and our *Manu Ula* crew did not disappoint. As in the past, our crew managed to work its way up from 4th position to take the lead and exemplify outstanding surfing skills, winning once again.

With the Ironman format, crew members do not make personnel changes through the race so, endurance and hydration management are key factors. *Manu Ula* members included Craig Gamble, Bill Pratt, Victor Bovino-Agostini, Makena Fernandez, Heinere Itchner and Travis Grant.

OCC's *Loli'i* crew finished 18th overall and members were Byron Ho, Jed Gushman, Nate Jenkins, Brandon Hament, Stephan Enos, and Cory Nakamura.

OCC's Novice men performed well in the short course. Members included Art Mallet, Stephan Valentin, Jeff Newton, Matt McDonald, Darren Tsuchiya, and Sean Parsa.

Henry Ayau Memorial Race

This was our last opportunity to work on crew selection and

strategy before The Moloka'i Hoe. We were on track as all crews were training hard and with such great intensity that the "second crew" would give the "first crew" a run for their money. This race would give our crews a great showing.

With our newly refurbished koa canoe, *Leilani*, the boys were "firing" to get her onto the ocean and let her play. OCC's own master craftsman, Domie Gose worked tirelessly to bring her new form to life. She did exactly as we all knew she could, taking first in the koa division and an impressive 6th place overall finish!

Leilani shined on that day with crew members Tom and Kevin Allen, Erik DeRyke, Kealaka'i Hussey, Steve Haugse, Indar Lange, Cory Nakamura, Byron Ho and Alfred Van Giesen.

OCC's *Manu Ula* crew battled well with Team Primo, leading for a good portion of the race. Although finishing in second, our crew demonstrated once again its excellence in surfing.

No mention was made in the news that OCC's *Manu Ula* crew finished just 2 minutes behind Team Primo and also had broken the previous record. Our crews were getting closer to what has been Hawaii's fastest crew. Our ability to surf well could take us to a place we haven't seen in quite some time.

OCC's *Kai Li'oli'o* crew, made up of experienced as well as novice members, finished well and put on a great effort. Crew members were Roydon Yim, Alex Hosselman, Sean Parsa, Art Mallet, Stephan Valentin, Stephan Enos, Christian Bradley, led by Jed Gushman and paddler/coach Guy Wilding.

Mahalo to our Coaches

There is no way that all this could have been accomplished without the coaching assistance of coaches Guy Wilding and Jim "Firing" Beaton, who assisted greatly throughout the season.

Without either of these coaches, none of these results would have been possible. Coach Guy also had the task of equipment manager and kept us up to date on our needs for equipment: the best equipment in the world.

OCC's crews were very fortunate to also have Uluwehi Keaunui and Stephan Enos along for training runs. They also assisted the *Manu Ula* crew during the Moloka'i Hoe. We also want to thank Tom McTigue and Liz Perry for their assistance in coaching and escorting.

Lastly, our sincere gratitude to Club Captain Al Darling, Canoe Racing Co-chairs Michele St. John and Alice Lunt, and Coordinating Director Keahi Pelayo for your talks, discussions, strategizing and philosophical opinions. It all helped to identify who we are and who we want to become: Community/Culture-> Sport-> Club-> Program-> Crew-> Self.

We had a very successful Moloka'i Hoe crossing and season results we can all be proud of. Our men's long distance canoe racing program is building with great result and all members have a hand in our crews' successes!

Aloha, a hui hou, Imua Outrigger, Hoe Wa'a Mau.

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OCC Wins Inaugural Boys 18 Division in Moloka'i Hoe

By Oliver Lewis



Paddling their way to victory in the Boys 18 Division were Ke'ea Lum (steering), Alika Philpotts, Hopena Pokipala, Noah Deer, Kyle Chang, and Walker Bolan (seated one seat).



Wearing their gold medals were: Coach Mike Lum, Hopena Pokipala, Ke'ea Lum, Kyle Chang, Walker Bolan, Noah Deer, Pono Fujitani, Oliver Lewis, Mason Awong, Alika Philpotts, Kaiko Manson.

When my grip on my paddle weakened, it was the "keep fighting!" from my teammates that helped me to keep going. When my shoulders began to cramp up, it was the trust that my teammates were behind me, cranking as hard as they could that helped me keep pushing.

When I was sitting on the escort boat, too tired to function, it was the kind words from Auntie Rosie Lum that gave me the motivation to jump back in the water and paddle some more.

Paddling the Kaiwi Channel has always been on my mind, but never something I actually saw myself doing, especially at such a young age. With the training from Coach Mike Lum and the dedication of our crew, we prepared the best we could for this prestigious race.

Throughout regatta season we trained for mile sprints, but we were always reminded that our ultimate goal was to compete in the Moloka'i Hoe. The key word in that sentence is "compete." Coach Mike told us many times that we were doing the race to compete and win. We weren't just participating.

Crossing the channel was not enough. That being said, it was not about winning either. It was about becoming as physically and mentally prepared as possible in order to do our best. After months of focused training, we gained the skills and endurance to compete in the Moloka'i Hoe.

We got up at 3:30 on the morning of the race (October 13) and drove down to the boats in the dark. There was a heavy cloud of anxiety and anticipation floating over our crew. We conversed briefly and tried to lighten the mood, but people were too focused to have any real conversations. With some final adjustments to the *Loli'i*, we were ready to get out on the water.

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You may give them your love but not your thoughts. For they have their own thoughts. You may house their bodies but not their souls. For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams. You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you. For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.

You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth. The archer sees the mark upon the path of the fletching, and He bends you with His might that His arrows may go swift and far. Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness; For even as He loves the arrow that flies, so He loves also the bow that is stable.

-The Prophet, Khalil Gibran

Mele Kalikimaka, Hau'oli Makahiki Hou!
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As we lined up with 100 other crews, I knew this race was going to be like nothing I've ever experienced before. The crossing was both beautiful and terrifying, gratifying and miserable, spiritual and exhausting.

After a little over six hours of grinding through the flat water, we finished the race in 6:08:28. As we crossed the finish line 50th of 99 crews from all over the world entered in the Moloka'i Hoe, we let out cries of relief and pain, and joy filled our boat.

I looked back from seat one and watched my teammates fist pumping and high-fiving each other. We cheered because we went head to head with Mother Nature and came out victorious. We cheered because we remembered all of the training that went into it. We cheered because we did this together, not only as teammates, but as friends.

Standing on the beach it hit me. These are times I'm going to remember when I'm an old man. Not the exact details of my first crossing, but the times I've shared with my crew. I'm going to remember playing beach volleyball at OCC. I'm going to remember yelling at Ke'ea to charge every bomb set at Old Mans at the end of practice.

I'm going to remember surfing with all of the boys the night before the race. I'm going to remember Pono laughing at me when I spilled poi all over my shirt in the middle of the race. I'm going to remember the love and support that Coach Mike gave us every single day.

I'm going to remember trying to chase down the *Black Pearl* outside of Kewalo Basin. I'm going to remember our

reenactments of the Gatorade commercial. And I swear the word "Backside!" has been permanently engrained into my mind.

My crew has my back when I bring up the stroke rate to get down bumps and my crew has my back whenever I need them in life. They are lifelong friends and people I will forever love and respect. Thank you Aunty Rosie for all of your help and support. You brought invaluable experience that we needed to be successful during the race.

Thank you Coach Mike for being an incredible motivational and spiritual leader. You have changed my life in a positive way and I have learned so much from you. It has been an honor to paddle under you for these past two to three years. We owe all our success to you and we know that this wouldn't be possible if it weren't for your huge heart.

Thank you so much Outrigger Canoe Club for believing in us and supporting us. And last but not least, thank you to my teammates for the great times. I'm excited for the years ahead. "One more!!!"

Our crew members that competed in the 2013 Moloka'i Hoe were Ke'ea Lum, Oliver Lewis, Walker Bolan, Noah Deer, Pono Fujitani, Kyle Chang, Alika Philpotts, Kaiko Manson, and Hopena Pokipala and our coach, Mike Lum. This was the first year that a Junior Division was added to the Molokai Hoe, which gave us the opportunity to make history by competing and ultimately meeting the crew goal of winning the 18 and under division.

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