

# the Outrigger



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# Outrigger Fields 4 Crews in Moloka'i Hoe

By Sean Monahan



The Masters 50 near the finish line of the Moloka'i Hoe. Photo by Jan Newhart.

Mahalo to everyone at the Club for all their support during my first season coaching the Open Men of the Outrigger Canoe Club. This was an exciting new challenge for me, having coached women for the last 18 years.

As in any endeavor, there are people who must be applauded for the time and energy they give to make a program successful:

- Tom McTigue has done an outstanding job as Canoe Racing Committee Chair.
- Guy Wilding has been a great Head Coach, keeping all schedules, canoe use, morale, and countless other responsibilities in top shape.
- Jenn Kilpatrick got us through the thankless job of registration, and so much more with commitment and class.
- Liz Perry, Paula Crabb, and Alice Lunt kept everything and everyone in place, doing what they do and loving it.
- Art Mallet has been a blessing. He does it all, with a smile, and deserves special recognition.
- Don Isaacs and his crew of beach attendants are an incredible asset to the Club and the paddling program.

Without these men and women, paddling at OCC would struggle to survive. They should never need to pay for a drink in the bar again!

When I was approached to coach the Outrigger men, I

admit to having some apprehensions. There were rumors of "entitled" individuals and recurring drama. What I found was an amazing group of young men, willing to listen, work hard, and eager to learn. There was not a single negative interaction or incident throughout the season. The men of Outrigger were professional in every sense of the word.

We started the regatta season with some decent results, placing in the Open races at each regatta and taking home some gold medals along the way. There were some anticipated learning pains, but moving into states the men qualified in all four of the Open races. OCC was represented at the HCRA State Championship Regatta with a solid performance from the men.

Distance season came quickly with the running of the Duke race shortly after states. We were able to enter three open men's crews, with the second crew racing *Leilani* in the Koa division. The men had an outstanding race, coming in first place followed closely by Lanikai. Building on that great start, we set our goals for a sound Molokai performance.

Once again we were able to enter three Open men's crews in addition to the 50's crew for excellent Club representation and participation in the 2015 Molokai Hoe.

The third Open men's crew had a solid race. There is so much potential and natural talent in this group of men. It is exciting to watch these young guys and I look forward to seeing them develop into world class paddlers and championship

competitors. Please recognize Jayson Whitman who steered the crew with only one short break, keeping a positive attitude throughout the race.

The second crew raced *Leilani* in the Molokai Hoe. There is something amazing about this canoe, the guys, and the mana. All of the men in this crew are motivated, exceptional paddlers. By all accounts these guys had a fantastic race, finishing first in the Koa division.

The reason we race is for the emotional highs. Athletes work hard to achieve that high, and the endorphin rush that competing and doing well produces. Without the lows, the highs don't have much significance.

The first crew ran the emotional gauntlet. Having been a little tangled up with other canoes at the start of the race, the crew was slightly off their game. Coming into the first change we were working to get into the top 20. For the next hour the guys paddled great, passing 10 plus crews putting themselves in contention with the lead group.

At some point (for about 45 minutes or so) our team discipline broke down and we paddled as individuals, letting our

emotions get the better of us. That time cost us dearly, losing ground and leaving some paddlers in a pretty low place emotionally.

The solution was to quit focusing on our position in the pack, relax and just have fun with racing together across the Ka'iwi Channel. Our guys started to have fun, and for the next two hours we were simply moving faster than any of the crews around us. We had an absolutely incredible run from Hawaii Kai, surfing past crews like they were standing still, finishing in fantastic form. The men in this crew experienced highs and lows, and came back and finished a solid 13th place.

Finally, in addition to the paddlers, coaches, and all who volunteer, train, and sacrifice time with their families to make the Outrigger Canoe Club such a prestigious paddling club and special place, I would like to acknowledge the all-inclusive support from my patient wife and children who make my coaching possible.

It has truly been my pleasure coaching each and every paddler this year. Thank you for the opportunity and experience.

#### Red Crew

Place: 13th Overall  
Time: 5:37:25  
Canoe: *Manu Ula*

Crew  
Victor Agostino  
Christian Bradley  
Bret Chuckovich  
Jake Hamstra  
Heneire Itchner  
Sean Kaawa  
Simeon Ke Paloma  
Cory Nakamura  
Ryan Woodward

#### White Crew

Place: 1st Koa, 27th Overall  
Time: 5:50:54  
Canoe: *Leilani*

Crew  
Mike Beyer  
Connor Grune  
Neal Hafner  
Uluwehi Keaunui  
Deke Kilpatrick  
Billy Philpotts  
Indar Lange  
Pat Shea  
Max Solmssen

#### Blue Crew

Place: 62nd Overall  
Time: 6:26:31  
Canoe: *Mamala*

Crew  
Kyle Chang  
Stephen Enos  
Kealaka'i Hussey  
Rob LaFontaine  
Wilson Lau  
Art Mallet  
Riggs Silva  
Jayson Whitman  
Roydon Yim

#### Masters 50 Crew

Place: 6th Masters 50,  
51st Overall  
Canoe: *Kapua*

Crew  
Al Darling  
Mark Eliashof  
Billy Foytich  
Marc Haime  
Rick Hobson  
Twain Newhart  
Keahi Pelayo  
Ken Silva  
Gunner Schull

Kneeling: Twain Newhart, Cory Nakamura, Billy Philpotts, Cory Nakamura, Gunner Schull, Billy Foytich, Ken Silva, Al Darling. Standing: Coach Sean Monahan, Jake Hamstra, Uluwehi Keaunui, Bret Chuckovich, Keahi Pelayo, Christian Bradley, Roydon Yim, Victor Agostino, Kyle Chang, Rob LaFontaine, Kealaka'i Hussey, Jayson Whitman, Ryan Woodward, Stephan Enos, Simeon Ke-Paloma, Indar Lange, Marc Haime, Max Solmssen, Pat Shea, Mike Beyer, Rick Hobson, Neal Hafner, Art Mallet, Connor Grune, Mark Eliashof, Riggs Silva, Deke Kilpatrick, Coach Liz Perry. Not pictured Sean Kaawa, Heneire Itchner, Wilson Lau.

