

OCC Anticipates an "Awesome" Paddling Season

By Kehau Kali Berquist

Head Coach Guy Wilding anticipates that Outrigger Canoe Club will have a great summer competing in OHCRA's canoe racing regattas. "We've set a lot of challenges with our younger paddlers and we have good people and good coaches. We know what we need to do so we can continue to perform well," he said. Coach Wilding is also the men's open division coach this year.

Regatta season gets underway on Sunday, June 5 with the Pai`aina Regatta at Ke`ehi Lagoon. Races will follow on June 12 with the Kamehameha Day Regatta at Kailua Beach Park; June 19 with the Father's Day Regatta at Nanakuli Beach Park; and June 26 with the Waimanalo Regatta.

Our own Walter J. Macfarlane Regatta will be held on Monday, July 4 at Waikiki Beach.

Tracy Phillips, who is continuing as the women's coach, is also excited about the upcoming season. Last year Outrigger women's open crews performed better than expected and placed higher than the previous year.

During the off-season, Outrigger women's open and Novice A's crews practiced a few times a month with John Puakea, who agreed to support Tracy in training them, so by the time regatta season started, they would be ready. He also loaned Outrigger his own Unlimited canoe, which is lighter, easier to paddle and carry.

"The benefits of an Unlimited canoe, besides it being only around 160 pounds versus the normal 400+ pounds, are that because it's lighter, it's easier to carry and there is less likelihood of injuries," said Wilding. "You also use a slightly different stroke, because it's so light and speeds across the water. So not only is it fast, but it's also a lot of fun too!"

Unlimited canoes are a new class of canoe for the distance season and are not used during the regatta season. Outrigger now has two six-man Unlimited canoes, *Koa`e* and *A`o*, to train in and utilize during the season.

Mark Sandvold is continuing as the youth head coach, overseeing Outrigger's youth paddling program. He said, "We're looking awesome! We have more kids than ever, especially with the younger kids."

"Last year was our strongest year with the kids. Eleven out of 12 junior crews qualified for States with more of our crews winning Oahu Championships than the previous year." "It looks really promising for this year," said Sandvold.

Coach Phillips added, "I'm excited to welcome back our women who are returning to the program. Even though our vision is long-term with our focus on winning Na Wahine O Ke Kai, we definitely want to do well during the regatta season again."

"I'm very grateful that Johnny took the time to work with us during the interim. When you're a veteran paddler, it's nice to change the technique a bit. This year we're trying something different. I believe in it. When we're all paddling together, the canoe feels like they're running faster through the water. The women really like it."

As Coach Wilding said, "We're looking forward to a great season."

This year's coaches are:

Head Coach: Guy Wilding

Men's Open Coach: Guy Wilding

Women's Open Coach: Tracy Phillips

Youth Head Coach: Mark Sandvold

Women/Girls

12 Mark Sandvold, Dolan Eversole, Trevor Orr

13 Mark Sandvold, Billy Philpotts

14 Andrew Glatzel, Craig Neher

15 Mark Sandvold, Casey Kahikina

16 Mark Sandvold, Meleana Carr

18 Mark Sandvold, Meleana Carr

Novice B Cory Nakamura

Open/40/Novice A Tracy Phillips

50/55 Brant Ackerman

60/65 Kenny Bailey

Men/Boys

12 Billy Balding, Deke Kilpatrick, Jenn Rigg

13 Billy Balding, Marc Haine

14 Anthony Hunt, Serge Krivatsy, Tom Robinson

15 Leighton Miyachi

16 Chris Laird

18 Leighton Miyachi

Novice B Cory Nakamura

Open/40/Novice A Guy Wilding

50/55 Gunner Schull

60/65 Bill Mowat

2016 Canoe Racing Committee

Chair: Tom McTigue

Head Coach: Guy Wilding

Committee Members:

Paula Crabb

Natasha Haine

Bill Johnson

Jen Kilpatrick

Art Mallet

Leighton Miyachi

Billy Philpotts

Mark Sandvold

Gunner Shull

Summer Paddleboard Races

Saturday, June 25
Scratchfest

Saturday, July 9
Cline Mann Memorial Ko`olaupoko Race