

SEA BIRD WINS MULTIHULL TRANSPAC RACE

The seven yachts in the 1970 fourth biennial Multihull Transpacific Yacht race got underway on July 4th, starting from San Pedro, California to race a distance of 2,225 nautical miles across the Pacific Ocean to the finish line at the Diamond Head buoy. Only five boats out of seven entries managed to cross the finish line. **AURIGA**, owned and skippered by Dr. Robert C. Cameron, a veteran of the 1968 race, dropped out of the race the second day out due to structural problems. **INVICTUS** owned and skippered by Larry Christensen demasted on July 6th forcing her to turn back.

The overall winner and first to finish was the streamlined and speedy **SEA-BIRD**, a 44' catamaran designed by Hugo Myers. Owner, builder, and skipper of **SEABIRD** is Bob Hanel of the Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club. **SEA-BIRD** set a new elapsed time record of 10 days 47 minutes beating **SEASMOKE'S** record set in 1968 by just under 9 hours. Close second on corrected time was 3rd-to-finish **GLASS SLIPPER**, a 50' catamaran sloop, owned and skippered by Jay Johnson who 24 hours from the time of her

finish appeared to be the certain winner on corrected time. However, the last nite out, winds dropped, precluding her victory. When she reached the Molokai channel, she again picked up heavy winds which pushed her across the Diamond Head finish line only 1 hour and 20 minutes after her dead line. On the lighter side, **GLASS SLIPPER'S** elapsed time was a full day better than she had ever done before. **SEASMOKE**, a 58' catamaran cutter was second boat to finish and third boat on corrected time. **SEASMOKE** was presented to the Boy Scouts of America as a gift from its former owner James Arness, TV's star of "Gunsmoke." A beautiful sight to see was the colorful spinnaker of **SEASMOKE** bearing a 20 foot Boy Scouts of America emblem, with six young hardworking scouts and remaining crew waving hello as they rounded the tip of Diamond Head. **SEASMOKE** was skippered by the friendly and talented Warren Seaman, who together with Rudy Choy and Alfred Kumalae designed this and two other yachts in the 1970 race: **GLASS SLIPPER** and **IMI LOA**. The latter, a 43-foot catamaran sloop owned and skippered by Dr. Victor Stern, was fourth to finish and fourth boat on corrected time in this

year's race. This is the fourth consecutive time **IMI LOA** has participated in the Multihull Transpacific Yacht race. Fifth to finish and on corrected time was the 40-foot trimaran sloop **HURRY-KANE**, the only trimaran to finish in this year's race, but bettering by one day the record for trimarans set in 1968 by **AURIGA**.

The fine winds at the start pushed all the boats around Catalina Island in three and one-half hours, and continued for another two days. Unfortunately, the winds dropped in the mid-third of the race and didn't pick up again until the last third causing the cats to abandon hope of breaking the records they have long been seeking, namely, the unofficial Monohull record by **WINDWARD PASSAGE** of 9 days 24 minutes and the Multihull record by Pen Duick IV of 8 days, 13 hours, 9 minutes; both set in 1969.

This is the fourth biennial Multihull Transpacific Yacht Race, the first race having been inaugurated in 1964 by the Ocean Racing Catamaran Association and co-sponsored by Outrigger Canoe Club. Other sponsors of this race are the Waikiki Yacht Club and the Seal Beach Club.