



By Ron Haworth

Outrigger Sailing Club

"I must go down to the seas again for the call of the running tide.

*It is a wild call and a clear call that may not be denied;
And all I ask is a windy day with the white clouds flying and
the flung spray and blown spume...*

*When the wind's a like a whetted knife...and all I ask is a
merry yarn from a laughing fellow-rover."*

Sea Fever by John Mansfield

As John Mansfield was once British Poet Laureate, John Cline Mann would have been Outrigger Sailing Club Commodore if such an official title had existed. He was a factual Horatio Hornblower, not waving the Union Jack from the poop deck in the Napoleonic Wars, but commanding our sailing program from Corinthian Corner on the Hau Terrace.

With Cline at the helm Outrigger often hosted or co-sponsored yachts in the Fourth of July Transpac Yacht Race from San Pedro to Diamond Head buoy. As the race progressed members were kept up to date on the OCC yacht and fleet with a large map of the race course at the Lobby entrance. Cline charted their progress daily with pins and paper sails with morning updates from Waikiki Yacht Club which was in touch by ship-to-shore radio.

Cline's Transpac endeavor began in 1961 when still located at the Old Club with OCC's first 'hosted' yacht the 82-foot cutter *Pursuit*; notable members on hand to greet her were Duke Kahanamoku, Dad Center, and, of course, Cline Mann.

Tom Arnott crewed in 1965 on 75-foot *Kamalii*, a ketch owned by Club member Larry Doheny and we co-sponsored with Waikiki Yacht Club. A large flotilla of member P-Cats and Sunfish greeted *Kamalii* off Diamond Head. *Kamalii* also raced in 1969 and 1971 with OCC crew members.

After a lapse, Outrigger continued to host or co-sponsor Transpac yachts from 1975 through *Pandemonium* in 1985. The hugely successful Love Boat Cruise Party was then capped. The 2,225 mile downwind mono-hull Trans-Pac is run every



Cline Mann loved sailing.

odd year. Prior to World War II it was an even year event, dating back to 1906.

Large Boats on a Small Beach

Maybe figuring two hulls are better than

one in 1966, Outrigger was co-sponsor for the Transpac Catamaran Race. Subsequently, and because multi-hulls have no draft, boats after crossing the Diamond Head buoy finish line were towed into Outrigger Beach. Imagine wading ashore after many days sailing with a following sea alertly watching the telltale for any wind shift to be greeted with leis and Mai Tais concocted by Anzai! This outpouring of Outrigger aloha prompted one crewman to remark it was the greatest greeting he'd ever had.

Patty Cat II was first to finish but *Silver Slipper* close in her wake, won on corrected time and a photo of 50 foot *Silver Slipper* tethered to our beach sign appeared in the *Forecast*.

The catamaran races were run under the auspices of the Ocean Racing Catamaran Association (ORCA) and jointly sponsored by the Seal Beach Yacht Club, OCC, and Waikiki Yacht Club. Cline headed the executive committee at the Honolulu end.

But bigger kudos lay ahead. In August 1969 the Hobie Cat Hawaii Championships were held off Waikiki. The 18 Hobie 14 and their skippers were hosted by Outrig-



Leith Anderson was presented the Outstanding Sailor of the Year award by Tom Arnott.

ger with the qualifiers going to the Hobie Nationals to be held at San Diego that September. Outrigger sailors earning the trip were overall winner Keoni Warinner, Leith Anderson, and Dick Metz.

Anderson went on to participate in 12 Hobie International Regattas and earned the OCC Outstanding Sailor Perpetual Trophy (a sextant) on three occasions.

"We never used our own boats in these international regattas," Leith explained, "We also had to assemble them from shipping boxes before racing."

Jack Wyatt, sailing writer for the *Honolulu Star-Bulletin*, covered and crowned the event with praise.

"Outrigger Canoe Club is to be congratulated on its first major sailing regatta...and Cline Mann, who spearheads OCC's water sports, assured us it's a sample of things to come."

Actually, Outrigger's flurry into sailing had already been noticed by the media. In April of that year a Sunday edition of the *Star-Bulletin-Advertiser* had run a feature "They Like Competition" and wrote of the sailing aspirations of Cline, president Tommy Thomas, and Scorpion Hawaii dealer Nick Czar.

Savanna of Sails on Outrigger Beach

Cline's prediction was to be an understatement. Not resting on its laurels, Outrigger hosted the 1972 Inaugural Hobie Cat 14 World Championships. Qualifying regattas were held worldwide to send the very best Hobie sailors to descend on Waikiki and to enjoy Outrigger aloha.

Keith Wallace writing in the Hobie Cat Hot Line at the completion of the regatta was ecstatic: "The recent World Championships were a milestone for the Hobie Cat Class Association. It was our first World Championships and it was a regatta which has no match in yachting history."

He went on to credit Karl Heyer III who volunteered as liaison between Hobie and Outrigger Canoe Club, as well as other areas where Hobie Alter's Coast Catamaran needed assistance. Pan American World Airways and Primo Beer co-sponsored the regatta.



Sailing was a popular sport at the OCC in the 1960s and 1970s.

Hawaii was selected due to fairly reliable conditions and excellent facilities. The Kaimana Beach Hotel was headquar-

ters for contestants, press, and friends. Race day lunches and refreshments (Primo was in evidence) were taken on Outrigger's Hau Terrace. Competitors were given guest membership privileges.

Fifty-four boats were brought to Hawaii for the five-day event, all identically equipped including sails that were yellow, white, and blue striped with sponsor logo. Thirteen countries (including Hawaii, Guam, and Puerto Rico) were represented by 45 competitors. OCC finishers were: Cappy Shelley (5), Harold Hutchings (10), Leith Andersen (11), Mike Holmes (15), Bob Anderson (23), and Karl Heyer III (25).

Outrigger was now seen as "the host with the most" and the first Hobie 16 World Championships followed at OCC in December 1976. One hundred aspirants from 17 foreign countries as well as the U.S. and Hawaii vied for the gold. Hal Hutchings and Howard Lynn were the top OCC crew with a bronze.

Hobie spokesman, Bob Brown: "Nowhere else in the world have we ever held an international, national or regional Hobie regatta in a better location. This is beautiful." In gratitude Alter gave a new Hobie 16" to Outrigger.

Koa Log Shavings

Next month Koa Log continues Outrigger sailing with a look into intra-club competition and Cline Mann's mentorship for our younger sailors.