



By Ron Haworth

Outrigger Sailing Club

*Oh, where did all the sails and sailors go?
Oh, where did all the wild yarns whet by cold ones go?
Oh, where did all the Sunfish, Scorpions, Hobie and P-Cats
once moored off the Hau Terrace go?
And when did it all begin?*

Mike Holmes credits Cline Mann in the early sixties with nurturing the sailing enthusiasm at OCC. "In the beginning it was Sunfish. Cline was a masterful small boat sailor beginning with dories and going as large as the Star class in racing around the buoys in Pearl Harbor. He knew how to read the wind and its effect on the boat and was always conscious of the reef. His cunning earned him the title 'Reef Fox'."

"He was also a master of gamesmanship," Mike explained. "And like all young pups learning from a master I couldn't wait to learn the skills necessary to eventually beat my mentor in a race."

Holmes was to quickly learn it would not be an easy task.

The Reef Fox

"One day in a Sunfish race to Diamond Head buoy, I was trailing Cline by about ten yards and closing the gap with my



Sailboats line the beach in front of the Club

centerboard all the way down and attempted to pass him to windward by the wind sock reef. I noted Cline's centerboard was halfway down and he was side slipping to leeward so I thought I

could get by him on the outer edge of the reef," Holmes said. Not a wise strategy, Mike.

"Just as I was almost on top of him he hiked out and scooted away on a gust. Next I heard and felt a CRUNCHING that threw me toward the mast; then I was at a dead stop on top of a coral head I hadn't known existed."

Back on the Hau Terrace analyzing the race with a cold one as sailors are prone to do, Cline matter-of-factly asked, "Mike, did I see you perched on a coral head out there?"

It was a lesson never forgotten for Mike: know your surroundings. "Amongst the sailors the incident became known as 'perching' and provided all of us lots of laughs for years to come."

Mike was to later sail his Scorpion from Portlock to OCC in 10 foot swells proving the teachings of the master had not gone unheeded.

In 1967 the first annual home and home Sunfish regatta was held between OCC and Kauai Yacht Club in Nawiliwili Harbor. Our sailors paid to ship their boats and proceeded to sweep the harbor of all comers.

Then in '69 our Sunfish boats were swapped for Scorpions when Nick Czar, Honolulu Scorpion dealer, offered an even trade. Four OCC boats and 16 member boats were involved at no cost, and this enabled OCC to match sail with the Elks Club which was already sailing Scorpions.

"At this time the Scorpions were stored in the garage (a few also on beach) and Cline had a stainless steel dolly which inserted into the dagger board puka and we just rolled them across the sand to the water," Mike explained.

Flying Trapeze

However, the Outrigger sailing fleet was growing quickly; for many, Hobie 14 became the 'thrill seekers wind machine and surfing dune buggy', but where to put them? Beach space was severely limited, but necessity can breed innovation. So it was left mainly to Norm Dunmire, Tom Reiner, and Wally Young, who made up the Beach & Water Safety Committee, to solve the dilemma.

They devised a system of laying stainless steel cables on the ocean floor, anchored at each end and intermittently with eyes imbedded in concrete. But time and tides defeated this engineering as the cables chafed from constant movement, frayed in the eyes and broke. They reasoned eliminating the intermediate eyelets would solve this and it did.

As enthusiasm for sailing grew with the Hobie 16 arrival so did the need to qualify the novice and the first sailing class for increasingly motivated members was held in July 1975, and so intense did the sport become in the late seventies Bob



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Costa penned *Skipper's Log*, a column dedicated to OCC sailing.

In 1969 OCC was admitted to the Hawaii Yacht Racing Association by unanimous vote. But by 1985 the wind was spilling from OCC sails. The Sailing Committee, chaired by Dunmire, attempted a rebirth of interest but to no avail. The Club Scorpion fleet was down to only two boats, and one of those not seaworthy; Outrigger red sails in the sunset were as elusive as the green flash.

The Beginning

The transgression to envelop Outrigger Canoe Club's primary water culture of surfing and paddling to include sailing may have subliminally begun in March of 1949. That month's *Forecast* cover pictured beach cat *Manu Kai* on a small wave. The caption read: "*Manu Kai* catamaran sailings exclusively offered by OCC Beach Services many times daily-capable of 30 knots she rides the waves like a cork."

Our Club magazine from that date forward has featured sailboats on the cover a total of 28 times whether they were Transpac, the Hobie Championship, inter-club regattas, or sailing canoes.

One cover appeared twice in December 1976 and 1979; il-

lustrating four Hobie 16 crewed by Santa and his reindeer. This might have marked high water of Outrigger sailing. Ironically, one of the boats was mast down with two reindeer by its side. The rumor one of the reindeer crew was Vixen who jibed when she should have tacked, was found to be without merit after a board of inquiry.

Perhaps one of the most poignant memories in Outrigger sailing occurred in 1966 when a flotilla of Sunfish greeted and escorted the nuclear submarine *USS Kamehameha* as she surfaced off Diamond Head.

Dunmire estimates at one time 50 boats bobbed off our beach. But Hurricane Iwa arrived in 1982 with high water and strong winds and so began the end of Outrigger sailing. Lacking protected moorings, boats were swept away, some as far as China Wall at the foot of Kapahulu Avenue. A decade later Hurricane Iniki mopped up the few remaining boats at anchorage.

Koa Log Shavings

Next month: *The Henry Special* and racing with the moon.



The *Manu Kai* sails in Waikiki