



By Ron Haworth

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A Mild Case of Transpac Fever

Maybe it was a mild case of Transpac fever, a fortnight ailment which inflicts the mind with Horatio Hornblower tales and raises the salt content in the blood, which prompted me to become part owner of a boat. Or maybe it was old age and a loose head stay.

In either case, *Windward Passage* and *Blackfin* had barely locked spinnakers in their downwind duel when I casually mentioned to George Downing that I was half-contemplating crashing the yachting scene. At the moment it seemed a tame remark that would get me in no trouble.

Who would have dreamed Downing would have a 13-foot Dart class sailboat for sale? But on such mental lapses is history spun.

Two days later Downing's Dart was reposing on the sand... unrigged, unnamed and unfriendly. There were no instructions. What to do with a hull and miscellaneous poles and fittings? Obviously, it was time to call upon Bob Wilson, my partner in maritime adventure.

Wilson, not a man to mince words, immediately, (well, almost immediately – after he'd put a foot through the sail), poured a bottle of Hawaiian beer over the bow and said, "BOTTOMS UP!"

Later...*BOTTOMS UP* turned bottoms up within seconds of our maiden voyage, losing her tiller and rudder in the mishap. A court of inquiry found Downing had failed to supply a 40c screw and wing nut.

Center of Attention

When one owns a boat everyone has suggestions. Ron Sorrell offered to paint the bottom international orange and the deck with a barnacle-resistant lead paint. Cline Mann, for once speechless, ran for high ground.

It was painfully obvious that all thought *Bottoms Up* a pigeon...a mud hen...a clipped flying fish. However, after a shakedown sail under a 20 knot wind, the odds have shortened. Now it could very well be the Scorpions which have 'stingless' sails.

One unknown advantage at purchase was the Dart has a flexible mast; when surfing her at Canoes this proved invaluable when bottom up in shallow water.

Does *Bottoms Up* really have to wait until '71 to become the first Hawaiian boat to bring the glory of Transpac victory to Hawaii since Manuiwa's 1934 triumph?

Phil Edwards' Boat

Surfing Around The World once had a cover story "What Ever Happened to Phil Edwards? Thankfully, what it didn't ask was what ever happened to his boat moored off the Hau Terrace?

Well...*Bottom's Up* and I rammed it while tacking in tight quarters, putting a very well shaped hole in the side of Phil's boat. I was mortified! And will never forget the phone call I placed to Phil from the locker room informing him of the mishap and my intentions to have the puka patched immediately. As I recall he was not at all indigent.

Then there was the race to Diamond Head Buoy I entered on a Cline dare. I remember Cline telling me, "Ron, you need some refreshment as I don't see you returning before dinner." With that he gave me two cold cans of unopened Bud with a sympathetic expression a headmaster might give a dull student.

Well...all went well until a brisk northerly came up on the return leg (and it was very brisk) and I was unable to tack toward the beach. After several bottom's up and mast down outside Old Mans, all witnessed from Corinthian Corner by Cline and cheering spectators whose boats were already on the beach with sails furled, the Club whaler was dispatched to tow me, empty cans, and *Bottom's Up* to shore.

How humiliating! How degrading! All ambitions of Transpac were scuttled.

Cline, always the gentleman, bought me another Bud.

ON THE COVER: Outrigger's new Board of Directors includes, front: Fred Noa Jr., President; Art Tokin, William Meheula and Michelle Luxton. Middle row: Serge Krivatsy, Alice Lunt and Jenifer Bossert. Back row: Ricky Humphreys Jr., Bret Chuckovich and Anthony Hunt. Not pictured: Rob Durkin, Dustin Sellers, and Jon Steiner. Read more about Annual Meeting on pages 2-5. Photo by Marilyn Kali.

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