

# Paddlers Open the 1991 OHCRA Regatta Season at Nanakuli

By Carol Wilcox

If it's Sunday and it's June, then it must be time for the 1991 Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association Regatta season.

Outrigger will begin defense of its seven straight state championships on Sunday, June 2 at the Clem Paiaina Regatta at Nanakuli Beach at 8:30 a.m.

Other races for June are the Kamehameha Day Regatta at Kailua Beach on June 9, the Leeward Regatta at Nanakuli Beach on June 16 and the Waimanalo Regatta on June 23.

"We expect to field crews in all 30 events," said Head Coach Tom McTigue.

Theme of the '91 regatta season for OCC is "Don't Give Up an Inch."

"Last year, our goal was to get people involved in paddling, especially kids, and to have fun. The priorities for this year are the same--to continue broad participation, have fun and to win the state championship, the Macfarlane Regatta on the 4th of July and the Molokai races," McTigue added.

"The turnout this year has been very enthusiastic. We have lots of returnees from last year, as well as novices and faces we haven't seen for a few years.



OCC Head Coach Tom McTigue hopes to win Macfarlane Regatta again this year, along with the State Championships and Molokai races. Here, he's shown receiving trophy from Alice Guild after last year's Macfarlane Regatta.



Outrigger's 'Winning Tradition' goes on the line June 2 as regatta season opens.

We expect to be very competitive with the other clubs."

It takes a lot of planning and support to run a successful canoe racing program and that support comes from the Canoe Racing Committee, chaired by Chris Kincaid.

The committee meets every week from April through October to assure that equipment, crews, coaches and support staff take care of the myriad of details.

Assisting Kincaid are Steve Brown, assistant Canoe Racing Chairman; Terri Pynchon and Kisi Haine, events coordinators; Katy McCrary and Genie Kincaid, travel; Paula Crabb, registration; Matt Kresser, entertainment; Geoff Graf, equipment; Walter Guild and Kawika Grant, advisors.

Other members of the committee are the coaches:

Girls 12--Liz Perry Dugan

Boys 12--Mahi Riley

Girls 13--Cathy Ho

Boys 13--Norm Ho

Girls 14--Missy Mowat

Boys 14--TBA

Girls 16--Sara Ackerman

Boys 16--Mark Sandvold

Girls 18--Matt Kresser

Boys 18--Grady Binliff

Novice Women--Liz Perry Dugan

Novice Men--Geoff Graf, Kala Judd

Open Women--Tom McTigue

Open Men--Steve Scott

Masters Women--Di Guild

Masters Men--Bruce Ames

Outrigger's OHCRA representative is Joan Kaaua. Bonnie Judd is the OHCRA secretary.

To help get the equipment ready for the racing season, Courtney Seto refinished the iako and training paddles and Cline Mann put the trainer in top shape.

"We'd like to see everyone at Outrigger involved in regatta season," McTigue said. "If they don't want to paddle, they can help by showing up at the race, cheering for our crews.

"We'd especially like to see the parents of the Jr. 'Riggers involved. Show up early for set up and clean up duties. Help keep the beach clean. See where you can be helpful. Cheer."

"One other thing. We have a new Club van to take paddlers to the Ala Wai to practice and to use on Sundays for regattas. Please help us keep it clean and in good condition," McTigue said.

Surely, outrigger canoe racing is the last amateur sport. What other sport is there where people gather to watch moms, kids, dads and gramps compete along with the mighty?

Where the officials and organizers are all volunteers? Where there is no prize money, no corporate sponsors, no ESPN coverage? Where winners are lucky if their names are spelled correctly in 7 point type on page D3?

And where 5,000 people fly to another island to watch the state championships? Lucky you come Hawaii. ☺