

Regatta Season Gets Under Way

Outrigger is geared up to defend its Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association championship as regatta season gets underway this month.

Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing season gets under way with the Clem Paiaina Regatta at Keehi Lagoon on June 4, the King Kamehameha Regatta on June 11 at Kailua Beach Park, the Leeward Kai Regatta at Nanakuli on June 18 and the Waimanalo Regatta on June 25 at Waimanalo Beach Park.

"We've had a really good turnout of paddlers," said Canoe Racing Chairman Todd Bradley. "However, we always want more so if anybody hasn't signed up and still wants to paddle, let someone from the Canoe Racing Committee know."

More than 200 paddlers had signed up by early May, with a good turnout of kids.

"We expect to be able to fill every event on the schedule," he added.

Paddlers will be wearing a new paddling shirt this year that was designed by Mike Stirling.

One of the Club's new Force 5 fiberglass canoes will be used for the first time at the Walter J. Macfarlane Regatta on the 4th of July. The new design is better for surfing, Bradley said. "All crews will be able to use the new boat."

"The Force 5 was conceived during a hurricane warning for Hurricane Emilio," Bradley explained. "Emilio was a Force 5 hurricane, which is the strongest type of hurricane. So the canoes were named Force 5."

All Outrigger members and families are invited to join us at regattas throughout the summer. The day starts at 8:30 a.m. with children's races, followed by novice events, and then upper division and masters races.

Bring your lunch and some sun screen and be prepared to cheer our Club to victory. ☺