

Passing the Torch By Genie Kincaid

You're paddling out in a six-man koa canoe about to start your first regatta race for the Outrigger Canoe Club ever. You're 12 years old, your nerves are shot, and your heart pounds so hard you think it'll bust clean through your chest. So how do you handle the challenge?

You huli, of course.

"I still remember my first race. The other crews were yelling and laughing at us as we righted and bailed the boat. But the next thing I remember is crossing the finish line two boats ahead of the pack and knew I found a life long sport." Challenge accepted.

And now, nearly 20 years later, Mark Sandvold extends his commitment to his life long sport as the 1997 Head Coach of the canoe racing season. His goals are pretty straightforward—to see Outrigger retain its position as Hawaii's premier paddling club with victories in the Oahu Championships, State Championships, and the two Molokai races for men and women.

Ideally, he'd like to see the Club sweep all the regattas. These goals are also ambitious, but to Sandvold, achievable.

"To do this, we first must increase participation among our members and encourage outstanding members who are racing for other clubs to come back out. We would like to invite those paddlers to come practice in sleek, newly refinished racing boats and to take warm showers after practice—all paid for, most appreciatively, with their own dues."

His overall philosophy is to have anyone who shows up at practice to have a chance at racing in a regular season regatta. Although winning Oahu's and State's are goals, Sandvold doesn't want to lose sight of everyone ultimately having fun and enjoying Hawaii's favorite sport. Paddling has been rewarding and fulfilling for Sandvold. He's a Catalina and Molokai Hoe champion many times over, and was the 1984 national kayak champion. In

recent years, he's pursued his career as a National Guard pilot, and now that he's somewhat settled down, he feels it's time for him to give back to the sport that has served him well.

"It's not so much change, as much as it is getting involved and getting new blood into the program here. I have to think of the 12 year olds on up, and I want to help bring them up from the bottom all the way to the top."

He's interested in anyone's input and encourages volunteers

and parents to participate as well. He will finalize his coaching staff by the end of March but for the time being, he has capable men's and women's coaches under wing. "Kala (Judd) and I are on the same wave length about the vision for the men's program. And I don't have to worry about Steve (Scott)—he's got great numbers for the women."

Assisting Sandvold on an as needed basis, will be senior women paddler and three-time Olympian, Traci Phillips. ☺

PADDLER REGISTRATION

Saturday, April 5th
Board Room from 3-6 p.m.

For all first-time paddlers, bring a copy of proof of age, i.e., driver's license or birth certificate. Also bring a small, passport size photo.

Paula Crabb



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Canoe Racing Committee – Preparing to Win By Genie Kincaid

Paula Crabb has served on the Canoe Racing Committee since 1981 in various capacities, but this year, she will take the helm as chairperson. Crabb has also served as Club Captain for two years. All this experience affords her a perspective of the organization of the Club, and knowing that it takes both a well-organized administration and personal responsibility on the part of the athlete to ensure a successful program.

Her goal for 1997 is to carry on Outrigger's successful canoe racing program, and to make canoe racing and its events accessible to the membership, whether they paddle or support the paddlers.

Crabb emphasizes that the Club belongs to the members.

"I'd like to see us pool all our talent from each member, paddler or not, and work together toward success."

To foster open communication among the Canoe Racing Committee, paddlers, and the members, she will post updated information of committee plans for all racing events. Anyone wishing to get involved or would like input may simply contact her via the Front Desk folio for the Committee. ☺

OCC 1997 Canoe Racing Committee

Chairperson:	Paula Crabb
Secretary:	Bonnie Judd
OHCRA Rep:	Kawika Grant
Equipment:	Bruce Black Jeff Zimmerman Tay Perry
Travel:	Paula Crabb
Registration:	Pam Zak Janna Arakaki
Awards:	Tiara Finney
Communications:	Genie Kincaid
July 4th Regatta:	Scrappy Lipton
Club Captain:	Kalani Schraeder
Head Coach:	Mark Sandvold
Men's Head Coach:	Kala Judd
Women's Head Coach:	Steve Scott