

Gearing Up for Canoe Racing

By George Wessberg, Club Captain

Volunteers

Members who are interested in supporting the paddling program should contact George Wessberg via email at clubcapt@outriggercanoeclub.com. Enthusiastic volunteers are needed for a variety of technical and administrative functions. Paddling experience is not essential for all positions. Parents of youth paddlers are welcome.

Philosophy

The *OCC Roadmap to Excellence* has been created to increase participation and retention in our youth paddling program. PCA Workshops will be conducted for youth coaches and parents of junior athletes. The primary goal this season is to make the canoe racing program a *positive place to play* for all kids. In the process, we will encourage our kids to learn important life skills, such as teamwork and resilience, through paddling.

Events

A series of meetings and events have been planned to support our philosophy and implement the components of the *Roadmap to Excellence*. We encourage the families of all junior paddlers and all youth coaches to participate in the special events and regattas.

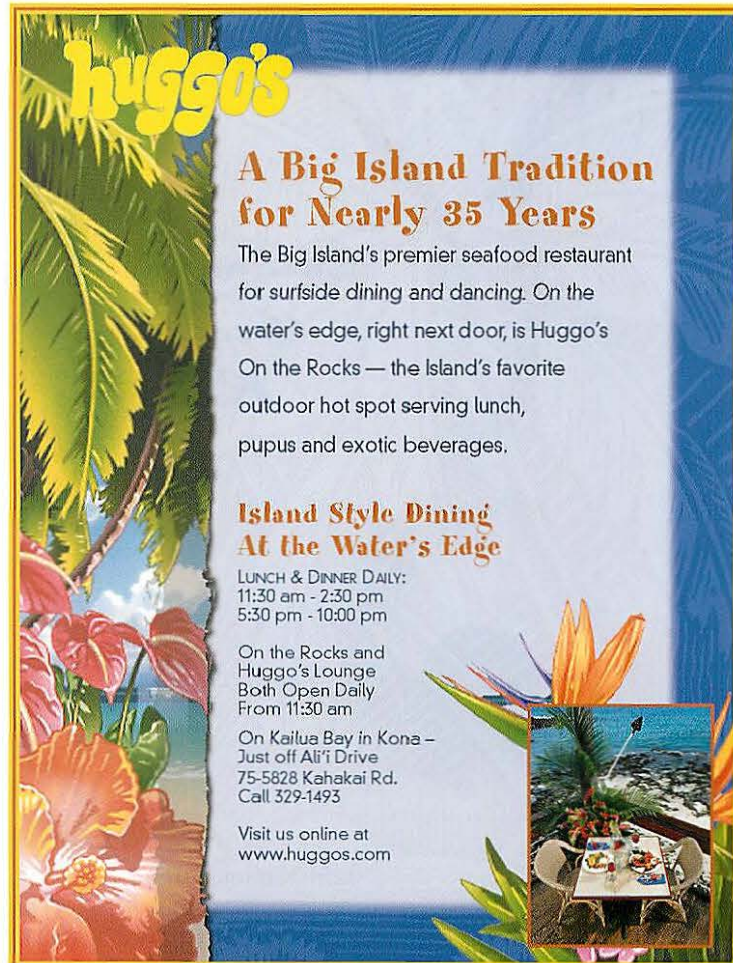
- **Monday, January 10:** General Meeting to assign volunteers to various work groups, entertain questions about the paddling program and review priorities for the season.
- **Monday, February 7:** Business Meeting of executive committee members and team leaders of various subcommittee work groups to plan events and conduct routine business.
- **Saturday, March 5:** Registration Event for all paddlers and members of immediate family, youth coaches and subcommittee members. Activities will include registration (10 a.m.-2 p.m.), an informational meeting for parents (11:30 a.m.-12 Noon) and a "mini-Club day" with lunch and prizes for all participants (11 a.m.-3 p.m.). New paddlers must have their own member number and copy of birth certificate to register.
- **Saturday, April 9:** Canoe Rigging Clinic for youth paddlers conducted by Tay Perry and the Masters Men at the Ala Wai practice site (9 a.m.-12 Noon). All youth coaches will be attending a PCA Coaching Workshop in the Board Room (10 a.m.-12 Noon). Everyone will meet at the Club for a barbeque lunch at noon. Coaches will announce the practice schedules.
- **Sunday, June 5:** First Regatta at Keehi Lagoon. Special activities will be planned for junior members. Families are encouraged to arrive early and stay at the regatta until noon to cheer for all of our junior crews.

- **Saturday, August 6:** HCRA State Championships on Maui. Travel information will be provided to crew members and their families in late July by the coaches.

Acknowledgement

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to the dedicated members of the 2004 Canoe Racing Subcommittee: Chair Courtney Seto, Head Coaches Kala Judd (Men), John Puakea (Women), Anthony Hunt (Regatta) and Keoni Kino (Youth), Siana Hunt (Secretary/Registration/Events), Kawika Grant (OHCRA Rep), Genie Kincaid (Public Information), Jimmy Austin (Equipment), Lindsey Styan (Travel), Scrappy Lipton (Fundraising/Macfarlane Regatta), Paula Crabb (Dad Center Race) and many others, for their hard work and extraordinary performance last year.

We especially appreciate the willingness of these members to support our efforts this season as mentors and volunteers as we address the formidable task of implementing the *Roadmap to Excellence* for our junior members and preserving the *Tradition of Excellence* established by our elite crews and their coaches.



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