

# SPOTLIGHT ON Outrigger's 2008 Regatta Head Coach

By Erika Eberhart

Dedicated Outrigger member Michael Cochrane Mason selflessly stepped up to the plate in early-January to spearhead the Outrigger's Centennial Regatta Season!

It's not the first time Mike has been involved with the canoe racing program. He's served on the Canoe Racing Subcommittee in the past as the Regatta Head Coach one year, and both the Regatta Head Coach and Men's Open Coach another year.

Born in San Francisco, California, Mike moved with his family to Oahu when he was merely three months old (his father is from Colorado and his mom is from Hawaii). Mike was an active paddler for 26 years, during which he was routinely referred to as a "utility man" because he can paddle any seat in the canoe.

When it came down to crunch time, though, he was more apt to be found either stroking or steering, completing a total of eight Molokai Hoe races, the first of which he finished when he was only 15 years old! Outside of paddling, his other sports interests include surfing, body surfing and watching football.

"Leadership by action" is how Mike describes his view on coaching. He wants all of the 2008 paddling coaches to teach and explain their passion for the sport. Understanding that coaching is a volunteer effort that sometimes can become, as Mike puts it, "a full-time, part-time job", he encourages every one of the coaches to ultimately focus on having fun.

He's extremely optimistic about the Centennial paddling season. Not only is he looking forward to his two favorite regattas, Walter J. MacFarlane in Waikiki and Leeward Kai Father's Day at Nanakuli Beach Park, but he is also driven by his ultimate goal for the season - to win the State Championship.

Mike knows that winning the State Championship is a huge challenge, but encourages everyone to "pull together". As a testimonial to pulling together to achieve a common goal, Mike offered to share a story from his first year of paddling.

It was 1967, Mike was 14 years old, and he'd never made a crew during race day the entire regatta season. Even though he gave his heart and soul to each and every practice, he was unable to make the 14 year old boys' crew. His coach was Fred Hemmings and the Regatta Head Coach was Mark Buck. It was a year Mike will never forget.

Right before States, one of the paddlers who routinely made crew was stricken with appendicitis. Mike was "on deck" to paddle. As a result of his sick teammate, he was put in five-seat for the big day. The State Championships were held in Kaneohe that year, and the Outrigger Canoe Club Boys' 14's won the title!

Mahalo to Mike for volunteering to lead our awesome Club into another fun-filled year of paddling. Here's to leadership by action and striving to achieve common goals this season while having fun! Hoe Wa'a Mau!

**2008 REGATTA HEAD COACH: Michael Cochrane Mason**

**Born:** January 7, 1953, in San Francisco, California

**Family:** Proud father of three sons —  
Patrick, Spencer, and Charlie

**High School:** Punahou

**Colleges:** University of California at Santa Barbara Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and University of Phoenix Masters of Organizational Management

**Current Job:** Retired from University of Phoenix in February 2007 and now dabbling in koa canoe restoration

**Joined the OCC:** 1967

**Started Paddling:** 14 years old

**Years Paddling for OCC:** Off and on from 14 - 40 years old-paddled either for OCC or Hui Nalu

**Favorite Seat in an OC6:** Any seat!

**WANTED :**



**Empty 1-Gallon Plastic  
Bottles for bailers!**

**Can be Shoyu, detergent,  
bleach, etc.**

**Just as long as the bottle is  
a 1 Gallon plastic one, we can  
use it!**

**Please leave your empty bottles at the  
front desk for  
JARED WATAMULL.**

**Mahalo!**