

Wahine Third at Catalina

Outrigger's women were among 59 crews that competed in the Catalina Race on September 10. The women finished third overall in tough, stormy conditions. The race was delayed an hour and a half as a thunderstorm rolled through the coast.

Racing for Outrigger were Mary Smolenski, Traci Phillips, Angie Giancaterino, Jane Stevens, Donna Kahakui, Monica Salter, Karin Del Rey, Paula Crabb, and Junior 'Rigger Rachel Kincaid.

"I got excited that I would be able to go to California for this race, and paddle with the first crew. But with the excitement came the nerves. These women were experienced open ocean paddlers, and I was the kid. I didn't want to be the burden of the crew, so this became my motivation and focus for Catalina.

"Also my dad has done this race many times so I was happy to carry on his legacy," Rachel said.

Asked what advice she'd give to anyone who gets to race Catalina, "I made sure I listened to my crewmates and tried to follow all the advice they gave to me as well as learn as much as I can."

All in all, the experience of competing against non-local competition for a change was worthwhile. "Even though I was tired, cold, and sore, I had to be strong for my crew and push for the end."