

the Outrigger



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Wahines Win Dad Center and Queen Liliuokalani Races

By Genie Kincaid



Drinking champagne after winning the Dad Center Race was the crew of Angie Dolan, Giancaterino, Anella Borges, Julie Aio, Mary Smolenski, Kahala Schneider, Jennifer Fratzke, Tracy Phillips, Amy Lawson, Shannon O'Neill, and Hoku Keala. Winning time: 3:24:25. Place: 1st Overall. Canoe: *Manu Ula*.

Good things come to those who wait. And there was a lot of good for veteran paddlers Tracy Phillips and Mary Smolenski, who waited 14 years to reclaim first place honors in the annual Dad Center long distance race held August 27. They were in the 2003 crew that last won the title for the Outrigger Canoe Club.

Now 14 years later with fellow crewmates Julie Aio, Anella Borges, Angie Dolan, Jennifer Fratzke, Hoku Keala, Shannon O'Neill, Kahala Schneider, and Amy Woodward, the OCC women covered the 24-mile course from Kailua to Waikiki in 3 hours, 24 minutes, and 25 seconds. Team Bradley was second (3:26:49), and Lanikai (3:30:44) took third.

Forty-eight crews entered in the first long-distance race of the season, which is sponsored by the Outrigger to honor the memory of George David "Dad" Center. (For a look back into Dad's contribution to OCC's storied history and excellence in ocean sports, please visit OCCSports at <http://www.outriggercanoeclubsports.com/canoe-racing/dad-center-race/who-was-george-dad-center/>)

Coach John Puakea took note of the crew's improvement over last year, but was quick to point out that the competition is much stronger as well. "We're still an inexperienced crew. We made mistakes so there's still room to improve. And we've just got to work on the intensity."

As if the competition wasn't tough enough, the conditions were challenging for all paddlers with an outgoing tide and strong currents making the ocean sloppy around the coastline.

The OCC women's program was well represented in this year's race, not only winning first overall, but also first in the



The Koa Division was won by Hilary Denison, Lindsay Shinall, Britta Lau, Malia Boyd, Liat Portner, Colleen Hall and Paula Crabb. Not pictured: Karin Del Rey, Jennifer Raams, Maggie Parks. Winning time: 3:49:03. Finish: 1st Koa, 8th Overall. Canoe: *Leilani*.

Koa Division (8th overall), and second in the Senior Masters Division (10th overall). Much aloha to our senior wahine, they've been racing for years. They LOVE the Dad Center Race and haven't gone home without a medal, ever!

An OCC Novice crew did themselves proud placing 22nd out of the 48 crews. Coached by Liz Perry and Cory Nakamura during regatta season, the Novice women have a strong, promising core of young athletes.

These ladies started canoe racing by training for a quarter-mile sprint just a few months ago, but took the challenge of 24 miles of open ocean chop head on, and finished in a respectable time of 4:03.58.

Said Coach Perry after the race, "For me, it's been fun because they really do paddle as a team ... in this case, 'the whole is more than the sum of its parts.' As a team, they hammer and love each other."

For complete results of the Dad Center Race go to <http://www.outriggercanoeclubsports.com/canoe-racing/dad-center-race/results-by-year/2017-dad-center-results/>

One week later on September 2, the Outrigger wahine smoked everyone in the Queen Liliuokalani Long Distance Race in Kona, winning the 18-mile race from Kona to Honau-nau in 3:16:22.

In the E Lau Hoe race on September 10, the OCC finished second to Hawaiian - Team Bradley in 4:40:13. A second crew won the koa division (sixth overall) in the *Leilani* in 5:04:20. The OCC Masters 50s won their division in 5:10:02 (eighth overall), and the third crew was 32nd overall in 5:45:21.

The Outrigger women wound up their season with the Na Wahine O Ke Kai race on September 24.



For the Novice women the Dad Center was their first distance race: Ayako Ancheta, AnnMarie Mizuno, Christen Kam, Keely Carey, Malia Hirschmann, Kelsey Barden, Kaitlin Allen, Ashley Kruse, Karen Kramer. Not pictured: Jenn Lee, Leela Goldstein and Mary Margret Peterson. Time: 4:03:58. Place: 22nd Overall. Canoe: *Henry Keawe Ayau*.



The Masters 55 show off their second place medals. Front, Marcie Nowack, Genie Kincaid. Back: Tana Feeley, Joan Bennet, Debbie Deschais, Kim Heyer, Anne Perry, Lisa Livingston, Mary Quinn, Laurie Lawson, Debi Ing. Not pictured: Katy Bourne. Time: 3:49:03. Place: 2nd 55s, 10th Overall. Canoe: *Kapua*.