

the **Outrigger**

November 1989



Offshore Wins Molokai Race

Offshore Canoe Club from Newport Beach, California won the 38th annual Bankoh Molokai Hoe on October 8, breaking Outrigger's record for the crossing by two almost minutes.

They were timed in 5 hours, 6 minutes and 29 seconds. Outrigger's record, set in 1988, was 5:08:11.

Hui Nalu finished second in the 40.8 mile race in their new koa racing canoe in 5:11.38. Outrigger, the three-time defending champion, was seventh overall in 5:22:16.

Ihilani and Punaruu of Tahiti were third and fourth, Australian Outrigger was fifth and Lanikai was sixth.

Outrigger's second open crew finished 14th overall in 5:36:32.

In extremely calm seas, that would haunt local paddlers for the entire day, the race started six minutes early at 7:24 a.m. at Hale O Lono Harbor on Molokai with 53 koa and fiberglass canoes on the starting line.

The Tahitians took the early lead in the race and traded off with Lanikai. About three hours into the race, Offshore took the lead and never relinquished it.

Outrigger's veteran steersman Tom Conner, who has participated in 16 crossings for Outrigger and been on eight winning crews, says the team had a "bad race." Outrigger was in third place when they passed Laau Point, but steadily dropped behind as the race progressed.

"Having to paddle a calm channel didn't help matters," Conner said. "Channel conditions are beyond our control. Crews have to take what's there. Our day will come."

Competing for the Outrigger I crew in the Iwalani were veterans Walter Guild, Kainoa Downing, Tom Conner, Keone Downing, Chris Kincaid, Bruce Black, Bill Bright, Gib Bintliff and newcomer Geoff Graf.

Members of the Outrigger II crew which competed in the new Kapua were Tom McTigue, Grady Bintliff, Todd Bradley, Keahi Robins, Bruce Ayau, Dana Rupey, John Eveleth, Todd Payes and Greg Rudin. Coach of the two Outrigger open crews is Steve Scott. 🍹



Photos by Marilyn Kai

Finishing seventh overall in the Molokai race was the crew of Bruce Black, Kainoa Downing, Chris Kincaid, Tom Conner and Keone Downing. Not pictured: Walter Guild, Geoff Graf, Gib Bintliff and Coach Steve Scott.



Outrigger II included Tom McTigue, Dana Rupey, John Eveleth, Grady Bintliff, Todd Bradley, Keahi Robins, Todd Payes, Bruce Ayau, Coach Steve Scott and Greg Rudin.



The Iwalani crosses the finish line with Outrigger I crew Kainoa Downing, Chris Kincaid, Bruce Black, Bill Bright, Geoff Graf and Tom Conner.



Bruce Black gets a welcome home hug.



KHON reporter Nalani Blasidell interviews Chris Kincaid and Bill Bright after the race.



Members of the Masters Crew are, front, Henry Ayau, Mike Schwinn and Mark Buck; back, Fred Fong, John Finney, Mike Clifford, John Mounts, Bill Danford and Brant Ackerman.

Dinos Finish Third in Masters

By John Finney

Outrigger's Masters paddlers, who are also known as the "Dinosaurs" did not have their best day on October 8 when they participated in the annual 40.8 mile race from Hale O Lono Harbor on Molokai to Fort DeRussy Beach in Waikiki.

Flat water conditions hampered all of Outrigger's crews. The Dinosaurs were unable to use their experience in rough-water conditions to any advantage. There were no waves to be found and no advantage to be gained from traditional canoe surfing techniques.

Nevertheless, the Dinosaurs did manage a very respectable third place finish in the Masters Division in the Holomalie. Winning the division was

Kai Opua in 5:41:03 (19th overall), False Creek was second in 5:43:25 (20th overall) and Outrigger was third in 5:45:56 (23rd overall).

The crew consisted of Mike Clifford, Mark Buck, John Mounts, John Finney, Bill Danford, Henry Ayau, Mike Schwinn, Fred Fong and Brant Ackerman.

The Dinosaurs have won the Masters Division on three separate occasions in the past, including 1984 when they finished third overall and set the record of 5:26:49.75, but Sunday was not their day.

Veteran steersman Brant Ackerman was quoted as saying, "conditions were 'dog flat'. I was unable to gain any ad-

vantage until the very end of the race when we overcame the Illinois Brigade (last year's masters champs) for a dramatic and surprising finish."

Henry Ayau maintained that the conditions were flatter than he had ever seen except for the 1967 race. Other crew members generally agreed that it might have been one of the toughest days yet for the Dinosaurs.

In any event, the race is in the books and the season is over. The Dinosaurs look forward to the 1990 regatta and long distance season.

There will be new records and new divisions to challenge. Stand by for future news bulletins on this battle-weary but spirited crew. ☺

Senior Masters Place Second in Division

By Mike Town

Outrigger's Senior Masters mounted a spirited long-distance effort for the third straight year, culminating in the Bankoh Molokai Hoe on October 8.

As a result of Outrigger's competitive efforts and enthusiasm, the Oahu Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association recognized an official Senior Master's division for paddlers 45 years of age and older for the first time this year.

Race day in the Kilakila saw a "glass off" in which we battled our friends and long-time adversaries, the Kailua Senior Masters. The crews converged at Black Point having been roughly even the entire race but on different routes.

Kailua crossed the finish line in 5:58:37, with our boat right behind in 6:04:23. Kailua finished 34th, and we were 40th, out of 53 canoes making the crossing.

Outrigger's Senior Masters crew consisted of 13 committed paddlers, including Bruce Ames, Tom Merrill, Chris McKenzie, Ken Stehouwer, Scott

May, Hank Lass, Mike Town, Gaylord Wilcox, Joe Dubiel, Kawika Grant, Norman Ho, Norman Dunmire and Kent Giles.

The nine paddlers competing in the Molokai race represented 450 years of total life experience with Hank Lass leading the crew at an inspirational and fiercely competitive age of 63.

The crew brought to bear a great deal of positive spirit, good humor and fellowship as well as athletic achievement.

The disciplined group, characterized by a fellow paddler as the "lemmings", pushed into the sea each morning at 5:45 a.m., paddles clutched in gloved hands, to train under the direction of steersman Bruce Ames (code named Lemming Bruce) and Jody D'Enbeau.

The crew participated in the three distance events immediately preceeding the Molokai race and successfully competed in the Spring Hui Wa'a ironman distance races and the summer regatta season.

During the Molokai race, the crew consumed great quantities of red and green seedless grapes (lemming food?) and were graced with the presence of our honorary coach, cheerleader and quick change-chart artist, Darcy Ames, who designed individualized lemming T-shirts for the crew.

Special thanks go to Mike Holmes and Jim McMahon who operated the Molokai chase boat in an enthusiastic and efficient manner.

The entire crew is especially appreciative of the Outrigger Board of Directors and the Canoe Racing Committee for making the realization of a competitive and official senior master's division possible. It will hopefully serve as an opportunity for veteran paddlers and their families in years to come. 🙏

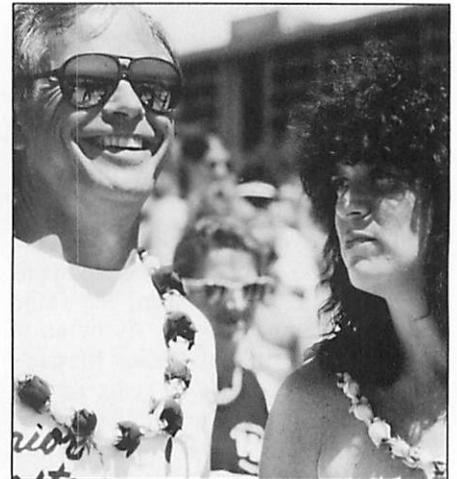
Below: The Senior Masters crew included Bruce Ames, Coach Jody D'Enbeau, Scott May, Hank Lass, Ken Stehouwer, Tom Merrill, Gaylord Wilcox, Chris McKenzie, Mike Town and Joe Dubiel.



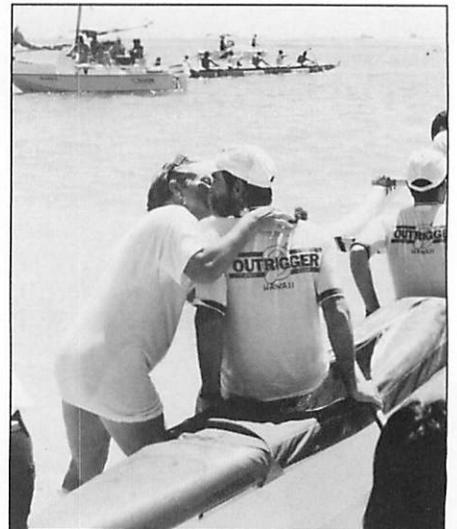
More Photos from Molokai Race



Carolyn Lass and son, Canon, have leis for the Senior Masters crew.

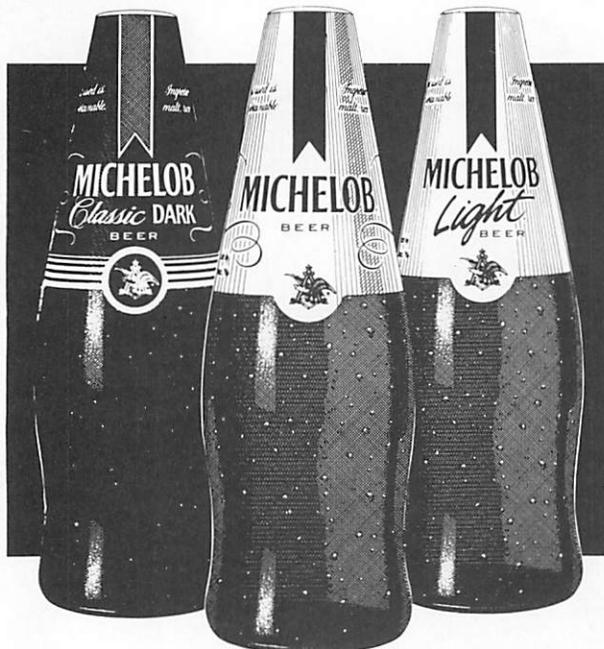


Kawika Grant and Kris Smith cheered crews on at the finish line.



Head cheerleader Darcy Ames has a kiss for husband Bruce at end of race.

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Keone Downing and son, Kaohi, and Tom Conner.