

# Na Wahine O Ala Wai '83

By Joan Ka'aua

The 2nd annual "Na Wahine O Ala Wai" regatta was held last August 14th at the Ala Wai Canal with 40 Masters women paddlers from 8 OHCRA clubs showing up to compete in this "classic" event. Instead of paddling against each other as they had done the day before at the state regatta at the dusty, dirty Keehi Lagoon State Park, they drew for crews comprised of paddlers from clubs to paddle with each other. Fun, laughter, amazement at the times these women hit for their quarter-mile races. Put a paddle in a Masters woman's hands, give her a seat in a canoe, and it becomes quite serious!

Each club provided "officials" to help out. Hui Lanakila's official showed up looking for his escort boat and official's T-shirt and found himself in charge of holding the canoes! At the end of the day's festivities he was still telling anyone who'd listen just how great this *Outrigger* regatta was.

And it is. Masters women will do their best against other clubs during regattas, but when Na Wahine O Ala Wai is held each year, they are *together*, paddling against their own crew members to win . . . "eh, you going paddle or what?"

When crews are drawn, if 6 strokes are chosen, never mind, get in the boat and go for it.

Aunty Eva Pomroy was the grand marshal, Mike Clifford head timer with Di Guild, Beth and Robin Cooper of Lanikai assisting. Bob Cooper, former

OCC paddler now with Lanikai, was our starter and his wife Jo was our race recorder.

Marilyn Haines' crew had the second fastest time of the day, Paddy Dunn steered some beautiful quarter-mile sprints, Kathy Clifford's crew was given the runners-up trophy and Gerri Pedesky's crew won the "We Tried But Died" award.

Caryl Tagawa of Healani was given the novel "Second Chance" to read because of her attempts to protest paddling in a borrowed Lokahi Canoe Club black barge. Betty June Yap of Lanikai won the "Is She For Real"

trophy, and Alan Wooddell of Lanikai won the "Mr. Master Buns" contest. Bruce Ames, our steersman of the state champions Masters crew, rushed all the way back from Opaiula to represent OCC in this contest. Thanks, Bruce. OCC's Kathy Clifford was named Ms. Na Wahine O Ala Wai '83.

Our thanks to Kehau Kea for assistance with trophies, Ralph Martinson of Punahou School, and to Ray Ludwig for his assistance once again.

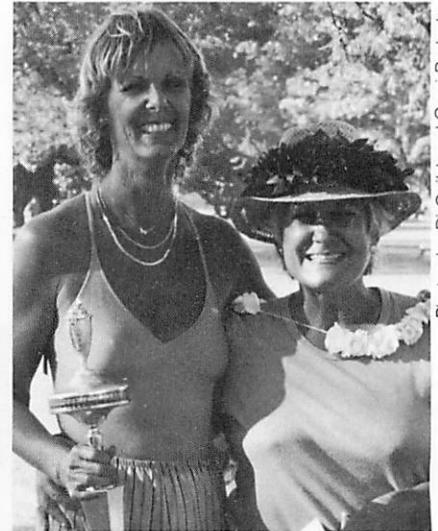
To Fred Hemmings, Jr. We understand and love you, Fred. Next year, OK?

Hui O Kaukau, Imua!

10



Joan Kaaua shows the spectators the Winners Trophy.



"Miss Na Wahine O Ala Wai" Kathy Clifford is presented her winning trophy by Joan Kaaua.

Photos by Di Guild and Gerri Pedesky



Honorary Race Chairman Aunty Eva Pomroy, Race Starter Bob Cooper of Lanikai, Race Originator and organizer Joan Kaaua and Official Score Keeper Jean Cooper at the official timers table.



Marilyn Haine offers her paddle to the next participant.