

# Looong Rough Water Swim

By Jim Anderson

It's Saturday the day before Sunday December 19, race day. The weather is terrible, very windy. Many think Hurricane Iwa is still with us. Participants from all over the Island are calling the organizing committee to ask if the Swim is still on.

The skipper of one of the official boats called at midnight to announce that all people associated with this event were crazy. Small craft warnings had been up for several days, were escalated to gale warnings Saturday morning and further advanced to storm warning that night. He was positive that nobody, particularly someone driving a boat, could survive in these conditions.

The problem was that all these people questioning the wisdom of the organizing committee weren't looking at the water off Waikiki. The wind was such that it caused considerable damage on Oahu but the waters off Waikiki



were in the lee of the storm and remained calm.

The race started at 8 a.m. from Sans Souci Beach, with defending champion Kaili Chun leading a group of 59 swimmers. Kaili led all the way to the Ala Wai Harbor and back to the final turn buoy off Sans Souci Beach, when Jay Buckley passed her. With one last burst of speed near the finish line, Kaili passed Jay and finished 14 seconds ahead of him. Her winning time was 1 hour 40 minutes 15 seconds for the five-mile course!

As a safety measure, each swimmer was required to have an escort. The escorts worked as hard as the swimmers and deserve a big mahalo. Several OCC members were among this stalwart group, Tommy Iverson, Tommy Holmes (not bad for a guy who collapsed and required hospitalization while running the Marathon a week before), Eddie Lee, Neal McHenry, Mike Corboy, plus several others. Beach Captain Wayne Faulkner drove one of the official boats and helped keep everybody on course.

OCC's Diane Stowell repeated as a winner of her age group and Richard Sylva, a winner in 1981, had to settle for second in the 1982 swim. The National Distance Swimming Champion of Norway, Steiner Robarth, came 9,500 miles to discover that Hawaii's swimmers are faster at short distances. Give him a 20-mile or more race and he is right at home. Steiner finished 11th overall and first in his age group. He left

with a smile and an excellent tan, something very very few Norwegians have at this time of year.

Paul Manaut, Mary Quinn, Mike McFadden, Walter Shulits, Michael Spalding, Ron Carlson, Doug Kilpatrick and Jim Anderson finished with creditable times.

The winner of each age group received a swimsuit, courtesy of Speedo Swimsuits.

Everyone had a good time, the food at the awards banquet at the Aquarium immediately following the race was excellent and of course Budweiser's donation was eagerly consumed by all. It was so much fun that there are rumors there might be a Third Possibly Annual Event.

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## Mahalo from Bill Capp

I want to thank all the members who were so kind and caring during my hospitalization for a slight stroke. My thanks also to the Weight Room personnel for their contribution to my speedy recovery. Prior to my stroke, I had been working out for a solid 15 months! The doctors at Tripler told me they had never seen such a fast recovery; went into Tripler on the 5th and was out on the 15th and am back working out with half the weights as before. Again, Mahalo Nui Loa to all.