



1983 Looong-Distance Swim Age Group winners. Back row, from left: Marion Chadwick, Kaili Chun (women's course record), Richard Sylva, Diane Stowell, Harry Huffaker, Ray Taft, Paul Horn, Richard Wells, (new course record). Front row: Kent Davis, Pete Sakamoto, Rick Heitzel, Andrea Woods.



Diane Stowell



Escort Norman Dunmire

Photos by Jan Newhart

# Looong-Distance Roughwater Swim

By Jim Anderson, Race Director

Publicity is circulating around the world about Hawaii's looongest open-ocean rough-H<sub>2</sub>O swim. This five-mile event drew Steiner Robarth, the national long-distance swimming champion from Norway, who had so much fun last year that he came back; Mark Scully, an Australian Olympic hopeful, and Richard Wells, the national titleholder of the 50, 100, 200 and 400-meter freestyle in New Zealand and a top Olympic prospect. Wells swam in the Mount Maunganui, New Zealand 7.5-km roughwater event to win the right to come to Hawaii and participate in the Looong-Distance Swim. This was a very demanding contest under difficult conditions. The water temperature was 59°F with strong currents, and over 50% of the entrants were unable to finish the race.

Sixty well-conditioned athletes and their escorts started the Hawaii race. For safety reasons, each swimmer was required to have an escort. This year, unlike previous years, the field consisted primarily of quality swimmers, several of them from the Mainland, who worked hard at making it a real

race. The average time was very close to two hours, a very fast time for five miles.

Richard Wells started in front with a sprint and never relinquished the lead, finishing in a record 1 hour, 25 minutes, 19 seconds. He was very concerned about the competition, particularly two-time winner Kaili Chun. Prior to the race, Wells had hoped to be able to swim a pace that would result in a 1 hour, 30-minute finish. It was not until he was in the Outrigger Channel with the finish in sight that he felt he could relax.

Mark Scully, who has been swimming for the University of Hawaii, finished second—a minute behind Richard. Mark was able to seriously challenge the winner only once and then could not catch him. Mark didn't catch Richard at the finish, either, as he had to leave immediately to attend his graduation ceremony at UH.

Kaili bettered her course record by eight minutes and had to settle for third place overall. She still retains her claim as the number-one woman long-distance swimmer in Hawaii. The second-

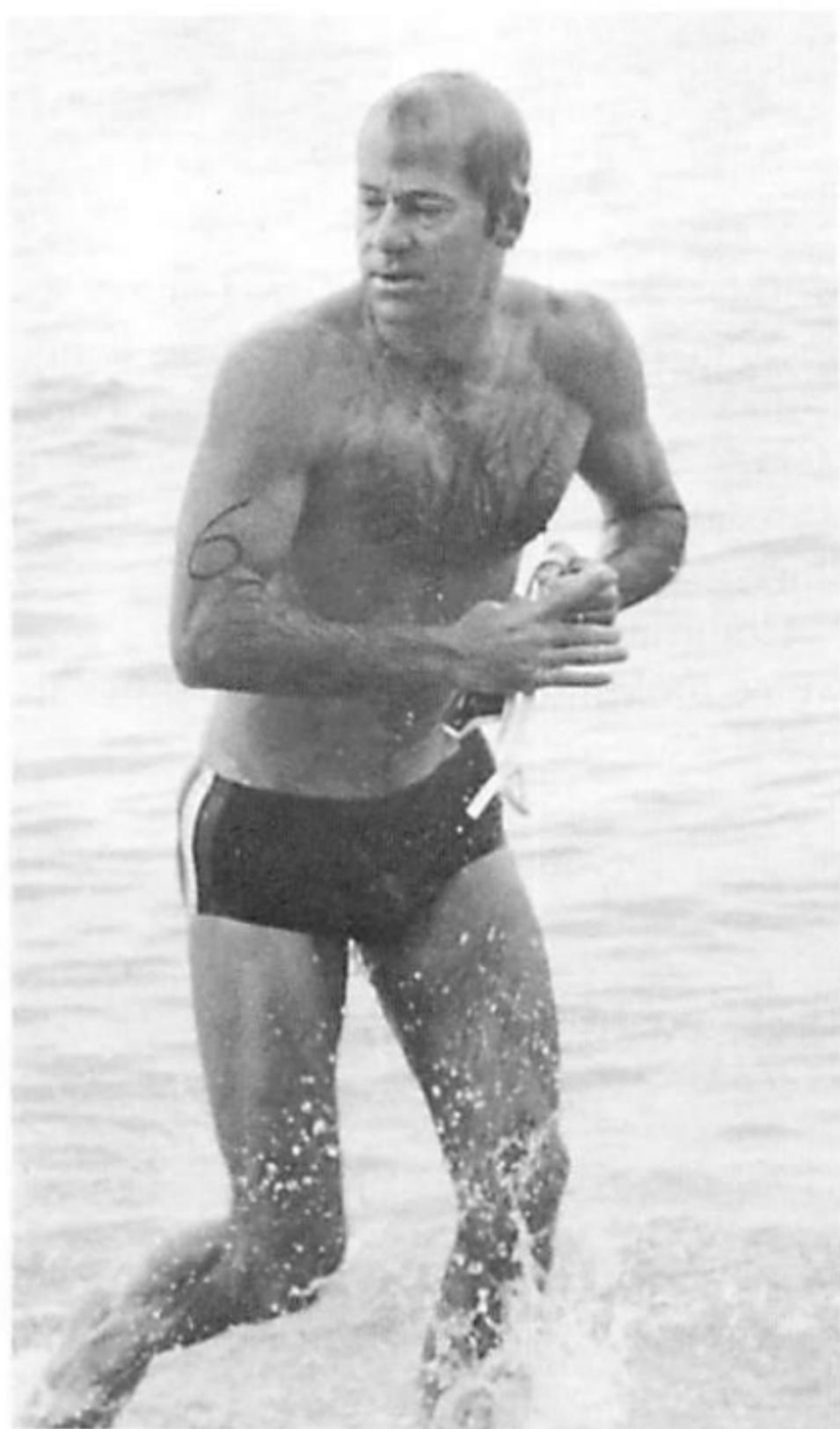
place woman was Andrea Woods, who was 16 minutes behind Kaili.

Race conditions were ideal; overcast skies, no wind and calm water. The cloud cover prevented the sun from sapping the swimmers' energy and causing the escorts discomfort and glare. The lack of wind kept the surface chop down, making it an easier swim and paddle for the escorts.

Outrigger members Richard Sylva, Diane Stowell, Ian Emberson and Harry Huffaker won their respective age groups, Diane for the third year in a row. Steve Bobko, a new addition to OCC, Walter Shulits, Leslie Crow, Mike Spaulding and Jim Krueger all had creditable performances.

All 60 people who started the event finished, including Marion Chadwick, 61, who came from Washington state, and 72-year-old Paul Horn.

One of the most underrated parts of this event is that of the escort. The swimmers would be at a serious disadvantage without escorts to guide them. To navigate long distances in the water while swimming is very difficult. A slight misjudgement in course can re-



Harry Huffaker

quire a very time-consuming and discouraging correction to reach the turning buoys that bob in and out of the swimmer's line of vision. This year, with the ideal conditions, the escorts' task was relatively easy. In past years, with rougher waters, their job was as hard, if not more taxing, as that of the swimmers. Among the many OCC members who guided the fastest swimmers in Hawaii were Robin Smith, Jimmy Dean, Tom Merrill, Norm Dunmire and Nick Detor.

The awards banquet at the Aquarium immediately following the event was a success. There was even some talk about having a fourth Possibly Annual Swim. Several of the escorts were so enthused that they were seriously considering swimming next year.

#### Club Members and Their Times

Name	Time	Age Group	Place	Overall
Stephen Bobko	1:44:45	25-29	2	6
Ian Emberson	1:51:45	30-34	1	11
Harry Huffaker	1:56:24	40-44	1	22
Jim Krueger	2:15:09	45-49	2	39
Richard Sylva	1:55:36	45-49	1	19
Michael Spaulding	2:02:17	35-39	5	30
Women:				
Leslie Crow	1:55:43	20-24	3	20
Diane Stowell	2:05:46	45-49	1	