

How Rough Was It?

By Gerry DeBenedetti

Sept. 2, 1985, the Roughest Roughwater ever! No kidding. In the 16 years of the event, now grown to 1,348 swimmers, there has never been a year when 250 swimmers had to leave the water. There were so many tired bodies clinging to flag #4 that it fell over.

Ron Li and crew in an outrigger canoe said they had 30 people clinging to the ama and the yaku of the canoe when they brought them in.

Pathetic looking people came out of the water and just lay down for a long time. No euphoria, no rah-rah, just survival.

For those not familiar with this event, it is an annual Labor Day 2 1/4 mile mass attack on the ocean by young (8) and old (80) alike. Since the event is in our front yard, Outrigger has long participated in a variety of ways.

You may have noticed the wonderful lobby swim display put up by Kelly Hutchinson of the PR Committee and Swim Committee members Ian and Coco Emberson. Two of the trophies in the case are traditionally on display at OCC before the Roughwater and many non-members come by to "check it out," particularly if they are former winners of said trophies and like to see their name for old times sake.

Steve Bobko was chairman of this year's Roughwater, Jim Anderson was in charge of trophies and Gray Woolaway, water safety coordinator for the City and County, were working hard and seemed to be everywhere. Steve and Jim had entered (and finished) the swim, so they were everywhere.

As swimmers came in, muttering and swearing, the "survivor" stories began to be told. It appeared that only the faster swimmers who were able to do freestyle or crawl could make it past the 4th of 15 flags. Those who were doing freestyle, but slowly, got trapped in the current and were literally "re-swimming" parts of the course.

Bonnie Eyre said she swam by #4 twice. Grant Senner said he kept watching a rock on the bottom and the rock was moving forward and he wasn't.

For those that made it past that critical point, the current either changed course or decreased and they found the second half of the course not so difficult. Others said "it was the pits"

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Participating in the Roughwater were Bruce Plasch, Steven Knauer, Joe Teipel, Kai Mowat, Grant Senner, Bonnie Eyre and Fred Rohlfling.

all the way.

Richard Sylva finished first for Men 45 (1:18:39) and Fred Rohlfling came from Maui to place second in Men 55 (1:46:12).

Kai Mowat, son of Bill Mowat, sort of skimmed across the top and didn't let the current get him. He finished third for Boys under 10 (1:47:21) and left his father behind. Bill started out swimming with Kai and said he couldn't keep up. Since the current was so bad, Bill swam back to OCC to get his kayak to rescue Kai. By the time he paddled out and searched the entire course, Kai was around flag #13 and coming into the finish, so the one who was the most surprised was Bill who had no idea his son was such a speedo.

The Swim Committee provided an oasis at the finish. An OCC beach towel was tied up to mark the resting place and the ice chest, oranges and muffins disappeared after people began to recover.

Respecting the right of privacy for those who swam, this year we are not listing times or DNF's. As far as OCC is concerned, the members of our Club who entered and braved the current, deserve all of the praise and acknowledgement we can give. Therefore, the OCC Roughwater entrants, in alphabetical order: Jim Anderson, Steve Bobko, Roger Cundall, Ian Emberson, Bonnie Eyre, Kisi Haine, Harry Huffaker, Steven Knauer, James Krueger, Spencer Leineweber, Missy Mowat, Jan Newhart, Tracy Newhart, Nancy Peacock, Bruce Plasch, George Pudar, Jeanne Robertson, Fred Rohlfling, Grant

Senner, Richard Sylva, Leighton Taylor, Joe Teipel, Jake Updegrove and Pam Zack.

The Reception Committee included Dr. Clair Folsome, Gerry DeBenedetti and Coco Emberson.

Channel Swim

Five OCC members, led by Ian Emberson, competed in the Lanai to Maui Channel Swim on Aug. 31.

Emberson, swimming for the Waikiki Swim Club, was a member of the winning team that crossed the channel in 3:01:00, beating the 1984 finishing time by nearly one hour.

Other Outrigger swimmers participated in the race on WSC makule teams. They included Harry Huffaker, Richard Sylva, Roger Cundall and Jim Caldwell.

Thirty-seven six-person teams competed.

RULE OF THE MONTH

Children. Children under 10 years of age must be in the company of a responsible supervising adult member. Effective control of children by parents or other accompanying adult member is mandatory. Playpens or carriages may not be placed in beach and dining areas.
