

1992 Bankoh Kayak Challenge

By Mark Buck

On May 17, 10 Outrigger Canoe Club members lined up on the starting line to compete in the 32-line Molokai to Oahu Kayak Race.

All of the participants had been watching the weather closely for the week preceding, hoping for favorable tradewinds. However, this was not to be the case. As in almost all of the races this season, the paddlers wound up paddling into the wind.

The conditions were so unfavorable, that the winning time was 1 1/2 hours slower than the record. Of more than 70 signed-up participants, only 53 finished the race. A few paddlers decided not to even start the race and over 10 dropped out during the race.

This year, Hawaii turned the tide on Australia, with seven of the top 10 finishers being from here. The lead changed hands a number of times. Nalu Kukea led for about half of the race and ended up second overall, first Hawaiian and first OCC member.

As the race progressed, the field spread out and many races within the big race developed. Before long, the first of "Team Pull Out 1992" began to load their kayaks on their escort boats to become spectators.

This crew of non-finishers grew steadily during the day. More than a few of us had the thought more than once of saying "No Mas" and joining this group.

Almost all that did finish encountered some type of problem during the race. The most common were cramping in the legs, upset stomachs, or course errors.

The Club had five finishers in the top 20, which is quite an achievement considering the international level of competition. Geoff Graf, who was our most consistent member during the regular season, finished 8th overall and was 1st in his age group.

Courtney Seto, 13th; Chris Kincaid, 17th, and David Buck, 20th and first in his age group, rounded out the top 20.

Other Club award winners were Mark Buck, 27th overall and 3rd in his age group, and Lesline Conner, 33rd overall, and 2nd in her age group.

The Kayak Committee and all of the paddlers in the Club appreciate the support from the members and the Board of Directors. ☺

OCC Finishers

Nalu Kukea, 2nd overall
Geoff Graf, 8th overall, 1st, 30-39
Courtney Seto, 13th overall
Chris Kincaid, 17th overall
David Buck, 20th overall, 1st, 18&U
Mark Buck, 27th overall, 3rd, 40-49
Jimmy Kincaid, 31st overall
Lesline Conner, 33rd overall, 2nd, women
Randy Grune, 39th overall



David and Mark Buck celebrate at the finish line.

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