

Surfing Happy Days at the OCC

By Ricky Grigg



Photo by Joe Quigg

When the surf is up at the OCC, all the surfers are happy, especially the older set. The main break in front of the Club is of course named after them; Old Man's. The crowd out there is a bit older and perhaps wiser and definitely gentler, except of course for a few party crashers. On most days, the Aloha Spirit is alive and well at Old Man's.

For example, take Dale Hope and his lovely wife Annie; all smiles, dignity and Aloha. Or there is Cathy Porteus, who is equally gracious and grateful on the waves. As is Vic Watumull and his family clan. Or Stewart Wade, Mark Jackola and Bob Lundy who are all regulars and always willing to share the waves.

Stewart and I are even happy doing go-behinds when it gets a little bigger out at Castles.

One day at Old Man's, Bob Lundy took a particularly bad wipeout in the bowl and ended up with a lump on his head the size of a golf ball. Victor, the locker-room attendant, gave him a new name that day, Sakit Ulu, which means sore head in Filipino. Victor still calls him Sakit Ulu to this day.

Then there are the famous guys out there like Fred Hemmings and Pat Bowlen who together canoe surf Castles at 12 feet.

Or recall some even older old-timers, like Mike McCabe, Kimo Austin, George Downing, Evie Black, Joe and Aggie Quigg, Keanu Ruel, my sister Robin, and many, many more.

All told, it's been a crowd of great surfers and friends who have filled each other's lives with many happy days of surfing together at the OCC. It's just one more of the Club's many legacies. Mahalo nui to all the old timers at the OCC who have guarded that spirit of Aloha and preserved our very small piece of paradise.

In fact, maybe it is the memory of such good times and such good people that keeps it that way. Let's make sure no one forgets.

Surfing of course, is a totally unregulated sport; rules and regulations depend completely on sub-cultural manners. This is often simply a matter of respect among surfers. Actually, it seems to me that it is the mantra of all old-timers, and for sure the early Hawaiians.

All of this is part of the OCC legacy and to say again, it is entrusted to us for safekeeping. To help, I include one of Joe Quigg's famous shots of Waikiki, circa 1949. It is our corner of paradise