

Mark Jackola Is Surfboard Designer

By Nora Meijide Gentry



Outrigger Canoe Club has many talented members who are active in building canoes, surfboards and decorative art. Mark Jackola is one of these members. He started building surfboards at the age of 14 in his father's garage and over the years has developed his skills.

He built a surfboard factory in Brazil in 1974 and mentored a new generation in the art and craft of building custom surfboards. Designing paddleboards and windsurfers and down wind racing stand up boards are some of the firsts that Mark has achieved over the years.

His real passion is working with wood. Balsa wood is one of the traditional mediums for surfboards from the 1950's that are still being made as

Mark Jackola
with one of his
balsa boards.

collectible art or even surfed on today. The surfboards of the early 1900's like those used by the first members of the Club 100 years ago. The Alalia style surfboards are now being built by Mark. He uses Red Ohia from the Volcano on the Big Island and Mango wood from Waimanalo. Both come from fallen trees and have been air dried. Each piece of wood is carefully hand selected to produce the Alalia surfboards.

Some of the boards are eight feet long and then there are scale model sizes that are used to decorate homes and apartments. These boards have a hand rubbed finish of Kona Bees Wax and Kukui Nut Oil. It is said that "No home in Hawaii is complete without a Hawaiian surfboard!"

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