

OCC Surf Jam Night

By James Stone

The OCC Surf Committee continued the stoke from the OCC Surf Jam event in June with the OCC Surf Jam Night on July 24, 2017. This annual summer event, formerly known as the Surf Movie Night still features a surf film showing, but also a talk story from notable surfers and watermen, raffle prize giveaways, awarding of the John McMahon Junior Surfer of the Year award and a buffet dinner. This revamped event drew a surf-enthused family crowd on a calm summer evening on the Koa Lanai.

The featured speaker for the evening was renowned waterman, shaper and Quicksilver in Memory of Eddie Aikau Invitational 1990 Champion, Keone Downing. Keone turned what could have been a click through power point presentation into an open talk-story dialogue with the audience that felt more like a living room hangout with friends than a presentation.

Eager groms and inquisitive adults chimed in between Keone's wealth of stories ranging from shaping wooden boards in the "early days" to his most memorable surfing experience, which ironically was a wipeout in the 2009 Eddie, go figure. Just goes to show that, even waves you don't make can still be memorable.

In between the talk-story with Keone, prizes were raffled off from swag bags with all kinds of surf gear to three brand new surfboards.

Before the feature film of the evening the Surf Committee awarded the John McMahon Junior Surfer of the Year, to Zac Hedemann. The trophy was presented by Kelly McMahon in place of Jimmy McMahon who unfortunately was out of town.

Zac is a student at Mid Pac who not only is an accomplished junior surfer but carries himself well and exemplifies good character in and out of the water. The award was created to shine the light on junior surfers that fit that bill.

The feature film and culminating portion of the evening this year was *Distance Between Dreams* from Red Bull Media House that chronicles Maui pro surfer Ian Walsh's historic El Niño winter season with his brothers DK, Shaun and Luke along with Shane Dorian, John John Florence and Greg Long.

A big mahalo goes out to everyone who attended the annual OCC Surf Jam Night and to our featured speaker Keone Downing for sharing his wealth of knowledge. Congratulations to the John

McMahon Junior Surfer of the Year 2017, Zac Hedemann.

Keep up with all things surf at the Club and don't hesitate to contact the Surf Committee at occsurfinfo@gmail.com.



Zac Hedemann