

OCC Runners Enter Hana Relays, Run to the Sun

By Don Eovino

The focus of the running program culminates each year with the Hana Relays. Of all the running events that occur, the Hana Relays stands as a spectacular experience. The combinations of a Neighbor Island event racing over the most beautiful scenery in the world, mixed with participating on a team of six enthused runners of diverse personalities pushing their bodies to the edges of speed, results in an opportunity to have one's spirits soar. The race is not an endurance event, nor is it a sprint event. It is a race of 52 miles from Kahului to Hana divided by six runners over 18 laps.

Each runner races three legs. The terrain is usually dramatic and

challenging, covering 650 curves, and up and down elevation drops from sea level to mountain top over 1,350 feet several times.

Leg 13 is the notorious 3.5 mile segment that is given to the person you least like on the team. Just kidding. It is two miles straight uphill followed by a 1.3 mile rolling downhill portion that changes into a handoff at beautiful Puaakaa State Park with an easily accessible mountain fed spring water pond and Jacuzzi-like pounding waterfall where one can quickly refresh his/her labored muscles for a few minutes before the team van urgently races on to the next hand-off.

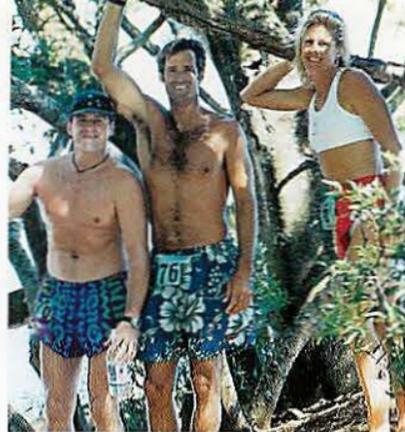
The Running Committee has developed a revolving perpetual trophy of a cut-off torso with name

plates of each runner who does the leg each year. In 1991, Twain Newhart and Don Eovino challenged each other which resulted in a rivalry that goes on each year. Twain has completed Leg 13 eight times in a row, this year beating Don by 20 seconds. It has been Twain's signature event.

Two teams competed this year and with some creative adjustments it ended up with each team having a matched couple racing together.

Uli Frowein raced with his wife Terry Needels on a mixed team that included Chris Dawson, Joe Teipel and Don Eovino.

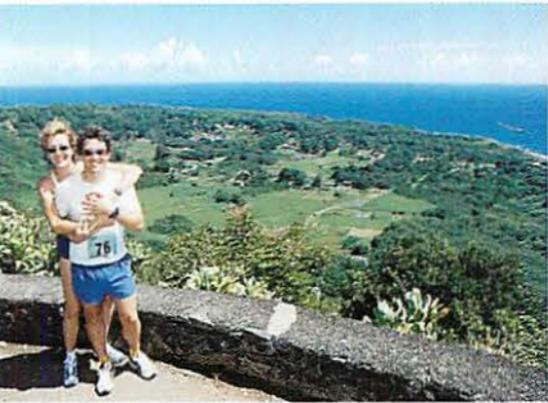
A faster team comprised of Stefan Reinke and his wife Lisa Reinke, raced with Tommy Damon, Katy Bourne and Matt Kresser. They



Matt Kresser, Tommy Damon and Katy Bourne wait for a handoff during the Hana Relays.



OCC's team in the Run to the Sun were Don Eovino, Bob Dewitz and Twain Newhart.



Lisa and Stefan Reinke pose in the middle of the Hana Relays with Keanae Peninsula in the background.

took fourth place out of 38 teams in their division.

The team met Friday for instructions and race packets at Sam Choy's for a filling meal before a wake-up call at 5 a.m. Saturday. Both teams finished at approximately noon at Hana Ranch. They were

greeted at the finish line by masseurs who would rub out their used muscles. Shelter from the sun came by way of a large tent provided by Grant and Beth Senner who live in Hana.

A grand party continued through-out the evening. We stayed at a home on a private lagoon facing Hana Beach. Dinner was prepared by Chef Don Eovino assisted by the support crew. A tired group of OCC runners quickly dropped off to sleep under a most picturesque starlight night.

Run to the Sun

Maui called again, one week after the Hana Relays, for the Run to the Sun. This is a 36.2 mile climb to the top of Haleakala which is 10,000 feet. The event has been going on for some time as an endurance event but added the relay portion last year. The relay allows one to compete in the event without having to race the entire course uphill.

However, as it was soon discovered, a relay team of three runners going 12 miles each isn't exactly a piece of cake either. The relay is broken into six legs of approximately six miles each. The task is equivalent of racing up to the top of Mt. Tantalus, resting two hours, and racing back up to the top again.

Because of the unpredictable weather conditions, the race starts at 4:30 a.m. This required a 2 a.m. wake-up call in order to attend a 3:45 a.m. race meeting.

Endurance runner Bob Dewitz had competed the Run to the Sun last year and had been training to do it again. However, a late call during the week from Don Eovino looking for one more runner to fill a relay team caused Bob to shift his priorities. Twain Newhart, running strongly at Hana the previous week, climbed on board and Don Eovino, also recently completing the Tantalus trek and Hana Relay back

to back, figured his legs were prepared to attempt the summit.

The first leg was 7.3 miles from the Maui Mall to the base of Haleakala. This leg ran through the cane roads where burning fires lit up the stunning starlit night. Acrid smoke and total darkness to the extent you couldn't even see your feet in front of you, let alone the race course, made for a tentative first leg.

The toughest legs were given to Twain Newhart, the 3rd and 6th leg, since he seemed the strongest. Bob Dewitz had equally strong legs since his training level was up. The day turned out to be spectacularly beautiful with few clouds and a sunny sky. Don Eovino had the thrill of leg number four starting above the tree line at the 4,500-foot elevation.

OCC's team came in second in a time of 6:34 in its men's open division which made our day seem worthwhile.