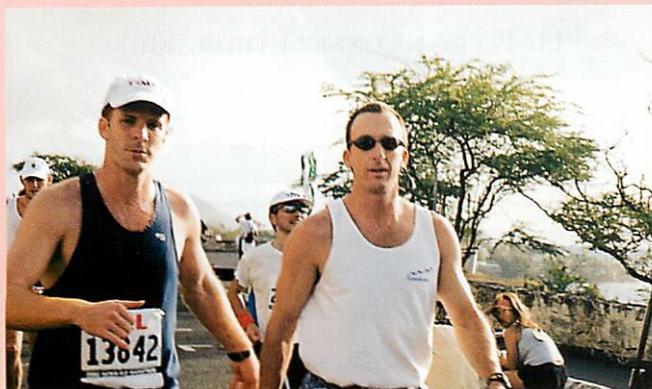


Marathon “Best Experience of My Life”

Photos by Nora Meijide



Gathering for the annual pre-race photo at the Club were, front, Anthony Hunt. Back, unknown, Gino Merez, Unknown, Don Eovino, Candes Meijide Gentry, Barbie Crandlemire, Shree Ames, Bruce Ames, Arnold Lum.



Anthony Hunt gets support from Peter Balding along the course.



Candes Meijide Gentry is still smiling at mile 24.

By Anthony Hunt

There are not many things that test human endurance and resolve like a marathon. In the experience you find a range of feelings beginning with nervous excitement, before the starting gun, to gratifying fatigue at the end. Of course it's the 26 miles in between that we all REALLY care about!

The Honolulu Marathon on December 8 was a first for me. I have never been much of a runner, let alone a marathon participant. For you perennial marathoners it's a “been there; done that.” For all of you thinking about trying a marathon, let me tell you why you should “go there and do that.”

For starters, all of the practice and discipline leading up to the event not only gets you in great physical shape, but also teaches you a lot about the power of the mind. For many people the thought of running eight miles seems daunting, but you get to the point where you feel as though you haven't had a good workout unless you've gone at least 10. Now if that isn't behavior modification I don't know what is.

Another fantastic aspect of training and participating is the camaraderie that develops among runners. During my workouts I had the chance to better know Danny Fairbanks and Candes Meijide Gentry. I knew both of them before the marathon, but when it was done, I knew them far better. They were a great source of advice and encouragement for me and I did my best to return the favor.

The resources and concern of the Outrigger is another reason why we members have such an advantage over many other runners. On the morning of the race, all participating members met in the lobby for the traditional photo in front of the Christmas tree. Then, at 4:15 a.m. we all piled into the OCC van and members of the Running Committee drove us to the starting line so that we wouldn't have to worry about parking.

A number of fellow runners had

extra supplies if anyone needed them. We had a tent in the finish area, and I saw many Outrigger faces along the course cheering us on and helping out.

Speaking of encouragement. Few sights in my life were more inspirational than one I witnessed the morning of the Marathon. I started the race next to a couple in their late sixties. He was paralyzed on his left side from a stroke and she was holding him up on that side. They had matching shirts and were in every sense a team.

It seemed amazing to me what they were undertaking, but once the gun sounded I never gave them another thought. It wasn't until I was done, showered and leaving the Outrigger that their struggle came clearly into view. There they were coming down the arduous, final few hundred meters to the finish line. Heroic. They were the essence of companionship, commitment and inspiration. It is a sight I will never forget and one that puts the struggles in my life firmly in perspective.

All of this is to say that the marathon was one of the best experiences of my life. For all of you considering running – charge ‘em. For you experienced runners – take the time to inspire someone around you to a greatness they didn't know that had within them.

Outrigger finishers in the Marathon were:

- John Akana 3:20
- Brandon Severson 3:36:17
- Gino Merez 3:39:26
- JoAnne Klinke 3:45:58
- Anthony Hunt 3:51:20
- Candes Meijide Gentry 3:55:18
- Katy Bourne 3:57:11
- Barbie Crandlemire 4:28:00
- Laurie Sloan 4:29:06
- Karen Torkildson 4:36:55
- Arnold Lum 4:38:21
- Don Eovino 4:44:48
- Henry Richmond 4:48:48
- James Richmond 4:48:48
- Bruce Ames 6:27:58
- Donna Reisert 6:45
- John Butler 6:58
- Shree Ames 10:14:33