

# Adventure Hikes Continue

By Don Eovino

Twenty effervescent souls showed up on Sunday, February 19 for a hike through the Lanikai Pillboxes. Among those hiking were Katy Bourne, Rich and Rai Turbin, Gerri DeBenedetti, Jim Anderson and Don Eovino.

Amazing how many people have seen these prominent structures which were military gun posts for World War II looming over Kailua and Lanikai beach and never ventured up to inspect them. Even President Obama trekked here on his last visit at Christmas!

At the beginning we looked like Sleeping Beauty's dwarfs- Dopey, Grumpy, Sneezzy and Sleepy, as we sang *Hi Hippity Hop We Go* as we lumbered up the steep slope. At the top, most of us opted for the Katy Bourne extended tour. Katy mapped out a two hour hike that looped over the top and exited at the back of Lanikai down a steep path into the residential area.

We saw views of the entire Kailua Bay, the picturesque twin Mokuluas, the abandoned Bellows air strip, the beaches of Kailua, Lanikai and up to Waimanalo.

Standing atop the pillboxes, one could practically feel the adrenalin as your eyes scanned the horizon for invading ships while the wind broke the silence whistling violently over the precipice. At the end we all drove back to the cars then on to Kailua for the ubiquitous buffet pot luck breakfast that followed.

Another weekend, OCC hikers and other friends enjoyed an adventurous, breathtaking simple hike up the Makapuu trail on a paved road to the lighthouse, film site of famous WWII movie "From Here to Eternity".

There is a side trip along the way that isn't known to

most that goes down the rock face zigzag. It is marked with white arrows that you can't

see until you're on it, but takes you down to dramatic tidal pools, sometimes called "Queen's Baths." There you see the Dragon's Breath, a blow hole type of exhaust that spews steamy vapor.

People have filled in one hole so it is not likely to get swept in, but there is one about 4 feet across that is slippery and drops through rocks about 18 feet down that you would have a hard time getting out if you slipped down the slimy sides. The tidal pools were calm and cool, and inviting to go in.

It was a stimulating adventure, easy hike and many stayed afterward for the optional gourmet brunch fired up at Moanalua. Every month we do an adventure somewhere unique and quaint and all you have to do is get out of bed and meet us at 7:30 a.m. Itinerary is posted in the tunnel and calendar, or call Andrea, Katy, or Don.

These islands have so much beauty, and to enjoy them with a jovial group is a real thrill. Join us for these wonderful adventures. Read the E-news and watch the Club bulletin boards for the next hike.



Don Eovino braves the fumes from the "Dragons Breath".