

Canoe Racing Getting Positive For 2003

By Genie Kincaid

When it comes to outrigger canoe racing, Courtney Seto knows how to make a difference. A champion of numerous State senior men's, Macfarlane senior men's, and Molokai Hoe crews for Outrigger Canoe Club, he has the dedication and instinct to win big.

Keen on ensuring that the success he enjoyed as a member of the senior men's crew would be obtainable for Outrigger's junior paddlers, he parlayed his experience into the chairmanship of the Canoe Racing Committee in 1999 and 2000. And now he's back, buoyed by the positive energy of a dependable crew.

One of the key members on board is Anthony Hunt, a confessed novice, who will take on the duties of Head Coach for the 2003 regatta season. What qualifies this newlywed, young father, just two years in the racing program, for this high profile job?

It started last year when he partnered with his wife, Siana, on registration and to coach one of the girls crews. Then he partnered with brother-in-law, Jimmy Austin, on the endless equipment duties.

When he showed up to help Seto's Committee with planning for the 2003 season, the job was still open. Seto asked if he would consider taking on the job, and having bought into the whole partnering thing, he decided, "The team guy works."

"This year's committee really is into sharing responsibilities to cover the bases and to partner up as team players. So we're trying to pull things together," says Hunt. He projects a regatta season where coaches will be handling more than one crew, but the quality of the coaching is more experienced.

A letter to parents is also planned for distribution by the end of April to all registered junior paddlers. The

letter is intended to facilitate communication between the coaches, the youth crews, and their parents by conveying the coaches expectations, outlining how parents can handle any concerns they may have about the program, and by answering many commonly raised questions. The letter will also discuss the Club's philosophy regarding the canoe racing program.

Also serving on the Committee is Keoni Kino, who has coached his sons' (Austin and Thurston) crews over the years, and will serve as Youth Program Coordinator, essentially overseeing all the needs and demands of the age group crews from the 18s on down.

Kala Judd returns as head coach of the men's division. He had coached the upper division men from 1997-1999, enjoyed a well-earned two year sabbatical, then returned last year to the men's program.

Also returning to serve on the Committee is Paula Crabb who, along with Scrappy Lipton, will coordinate special events for the Committee this year, including the Macfarlane Regatta on July 4 and the Dad Center Race in August. She will assist Siana Hunt who returns to handle paddler registration.

Jimmy Austin, who had been in charge of equipment last year, has been very helpful assisting the Committee in an unofficial capacity. Kawika Grant will put his ambassadorial skills to Outrigger's advantage as he reprises his role as OHCRA representative.

Make a positive difference this summer at Outrigger. Step up the cross-training, refinish your paddle, and register for the 2003 season.

Registration will be held, Saturday, April 5, from 2-4 p.m. in the Board Room.

any longer. Keep your eyes on the next race. All levels and ages are welcome. No experience necessary.

The swamp romp is coming in May and utter chaos sound fun, this one

