



THE CATAMARAN

MANU KAI

(SEA BIRD)

By TOM REINER

Once again it is a Trans-Pacific Yacht Race year and we are looking forward to the excitement and color of many visiting yachts; and yachtsmen in and about the club. One of the objects that may attract their attention is the Catamaran Manu Kai.

The Manu Kai is a familiar object at Waikiki to all beach enthusiasts. Its grace, beauty, color and action create much favorable comment by Kamaainas and Malihinis.

The Manu Kai was designed and built by "Woody" Brown and Alfred Kumalae in 1947. It is owned by "Woody" Brown, Tom Reiner and Wally Young; the latter two are members of the Outrigger Canoe Club. Much research in the Library of Hawaii and the Bishop Museum helped in creating the design. Illustrations by Capt. Cook and other explorers, of ancient Polynesian designs were used as the basis of its modern planning.

It is fitting and proper that Hawaii should be the home of this outstanding and most successful modern version of a type of craft which was directly responsible for the immigration to and the history of these islands by early Polynesian explorers. Double hulled sailing canoes made possible the long voyages of our ancestors. King Kamehameha had a 120-foot double-hulled sailing canoe.

The Manu Kai has been sailing since 1947 and has been a continuous success.

Early this spring Manu Kai was given its first major overhaul at Bob Stuebenberg's Keehi Dry Dock. The boat is completely covered with fiber glass. There are four layers of cloth over the keels, two layers above the water line and one over all. The under area forward where the boat beaches has a stainless steel moulding over the glass. All this was sanded and smoothed to a degree hard to believe. The color scheme has been continued with sails of red and yellow, a blue deck, white hull with a yellow striped water line, and a red bottom. The bottom paint is a hard finish racing bottom paint and is waxed each month.

The Manu Kai sails from the beach regularly on a commercial basis. Tickets may be obtained through the Beach Services. The boat is insured against property damage and public liability, though she is the safest of seagoing craft. A trip on her is a never to be forgotten delight as she is rightly named the "Sea Bird."

I quote from Rudy Choy in his article in February, 1953 Motorboating.

"The all important qualities which give Manu Kai her speed are lightness, shallow draft, great stability, extremely fine water lines and narrow hull taper ratio—the net effect being: no bow-wave to fight, minimum of drag, minimum of skin friction and constant maximum utilization of wind force. She is an unusual first creation having few bugs. Like most masterpieces, she is also a rare blend of harmony, proportion, line and grace, gifted with a 'magic' appeal which can captivate a sailor's eye."