

The Road to Hana

By Chris Haines

What's the best means to get from Maui's Airport to Hana, 52 miles away! Why, running, of course! So say the 24 fleet-footed OCC Runners who participated in the 25th Annual Hana Relay on September 21. Proceeds from the Non-Run Fun Festival sent Outrigger's finest runners to compete in the event.

Don Eovino, OCC's Running Committee Chair, compiled or perhaps coaxed, cajoled and coerced four six-member teams to represent OCC in this year's relays. With his usual meticulous scrutiny to every detail, Don coordinated the event from the applications, to the post race celebrations (complete with libations, food and two masseuses).

If that wasn't enough, Don anchored the Men's Masters Team and won the first ever PAC MAN AWARD for his unmerciful gobbling up of poor unfortunate competing runners.

As always, the red and white colors of the Outrigger were worn with pride and race honors were brought home to Oahu from the Valley Isle.

Despite the incredible pressure of five previous consecutive first place finishes for the Men's Masters team, this year's battled the odds and old bones to bring home the Gold for a sixth year in a row. An incredible performance from those wily old buggers who were heard to say they'd be back for number seven next year. Their time of 6:11 was the fastest ever, bettering two years ago of 6:15. The team included Don, Capt. Mike Schwinn, Joe Teipel, Chris Haines, Jon Hunter and Bill Manfredi.

Another gutsy performance was displayed by OCC's Mixed Open team, led by Katy Bourne, Billy Balding, Vik Watumull, Paula Jenkins, David Stackhouse and Keoni Kino. This division has the fastest men and women on the road who



OCC's Hana Relays team was, front, Mike Schwinn, Don Eovino, Fred Hemmings Jr., Keoni Kino and Vien Schwinn. Second row, Joe Teipel, Bill Manfredi, Shanna Brizzolara, Eleni Pflueger, Sasha MacNaughton, Bob Egbert, Paula Jenkins, Billy Balding. Row three, Chris Haines, Jon Hunter, Jon Whittington, Twain Newhart, Hina Schramel, Brigitte Egbert, Uli Frowein, Terri Needels. Not pictured: Katy Bourne, David Stackhouse, Vik Watumull.

push the envelope to the extremes, risking life and limb for the sweet taste of victory.

Katy and the team waged a fierce battle with a Maui mixed team and only at the last legs of the race were they eliminated from first place. It wasn't meant to be this year and they proudly accepted Silver. Watch out next year, however, they'll be back. They finished second in 5:55.

The other OCC teams weren't in the medal chase this time around, but gained valuable experience for next year's competition.

Special recognition to Fred Hemmings who gamely ran, fresh off of knee surgery, and to Vien Schwinn who competed with both her babies and husband in tow on the Mixed Open I team. Other runners were Uli Frowein, Shawna Brizzolara, Terri Needels and Jon Whittington. Their time wasn't reported.

A special acknowledgment to Brigitte Egbert's team comprised of Brigitte, coming off of a recent Maui Marathon and sister Sasha

MacNaughton, newly entering the running field, and Brigitte's husband Bob, Navy Seal and Ironman competitor, Hina Schramel and Eleni Pflueger, BOCA training triathletes and marathon runners, and Twain Newhart who has consecutively run the notoriously nasty leg 13 three years in a row, faster each time.

Their combined time was 6:05, only 10 minutes slower than our fastest team whose time was 5:55. This team was neck and neck with the Masters until Bob Egbert took the baton on leg 15 and opened up a five minute gap which they never relinquished.

The most important thing, medal or not, was that everyone who participated enjoyed themselves and shared the joy of sport with another OCC member.

Get your running shoes out and get in shape for next year. Don will be calling! ☺

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