

# The Road to HEAVENLY HANA

By Gerry DeBenedetti & Katy Bourne

The 33rd annual Hana Relays were held on September 11, and as always, the 52 mile run was a treat for all.

For those not knowledgeable, this run is put on by the Valley Isle Road Runners, and they pride themselves on dedication and organization, and manage to have 100 teams of runners all end up after 52 miles, in the same place, within partying distance of each other.

The run starts at the Kahului Maui Airport, and follows the Hana Highway, ending in Hana Town at the ball park. Teams may be of five or six runners, male or female or mixed, and they start at seeded times in 15 minute intervals. Runners hand off at specific points, with a baton to the fresh runner, whereupon the tired sweaty runner gets in the team van, and they drive on ahead, hooting and cheering as they pass their runner, park at the next hand off, and eat, drink, and wait.

It is a LOT HARDER than it sounds. OCC entered two teams, and both were a credit to our Club. Of course, no one mentions the guava fights and stealing the Maui Tacos Team's pinata, and returning it in a severely altered state.

HOWLIES IN HANA OCC came in second in mixed with a final time of 5:50:05, at a pace of 6:44. Imagine that! After 52 miles, the Howlies came in great form: Katy Bourne, Tom Damon, Billy Balding, Dave Stackhouse and Bob Egbert. All of this despite jumping into waterfalls, and eating roadside coconut candy and fish jerky.

RAIN RUNNERS OCC came in thirty-second in Mixed with a time of 7:48:18, pace 9:01. Team members were Don Eovino, Thea VonAppen, Ed Wheeler, and Terri Needels. They were unfortunately pelted with guavas by those rude HOWLIES, who stood on a shed roof at the finish line and hooted and jeered at them.

Not running, but designated driver for the ASPHALT HEROES, was Mike Judd and some of his friends from the Big Island. The back of their T shirts said "See You in Hana".

The runners especially want to thank Beth and Grant Senner, who live in Hana, and come with ice and cool ones, chairs, an OCC towel and friendly faces. Not to mention Gerry D, who brings the best chicken and bread, real food for real runners.

Next year we plan to enter the costume contest; we need designer ideas and people to PLAN AHEAD for the second weekend in September (probably Sept 10-go, write it down).

Our next OCC running endeavor is the Honolulu Marathon on December 12. Sign up now at the Front Desk for a ride to the start and celebration afterward in Kapiolani Park.