

# Nautical Notes



By Jack Wyatt

## Cats blow cool

Some howled, others purred, but many cats in face of the storm lost their cool and ran for shelter. In blustery wind and piercing spray six catamarans and one trimaran out of 17 multihull starters were forced to withdraw from Hawaii Yacht Club's Catamaran Invitational held Sunday off Waikiki.

"The spray was like someone turned on a firehose full blast so thick you couldn't see . . . it was a matter of survival," said Waikiki Yacht Club's Dan Feltham. Feltham topped the nine boat Pacific catamaran fleet which saw four boats drop out due to equipment failure.

The other fleet included four Transpac contestants, a beach cat, two small 12-footers, and a racing machine skippered by Outrigger Canoe Club's Phil Edwards. Edwards won that division while Auriga and the two small cats found the going too tough and returned to the harbor.

"Winds were blowing in the high twenties with gusts over thirty miles an hour" explained race chairman Al Graps. "The big cats had more gear failure in this 15-mile race between Diamond Head and Honolulu harbor than they did in the entire 2,200 mile transpac."

"What really surprised me was the performance of Lance Reventlow's *Manu Iwa* skippered in this race by Al Reid" said Edwards. "Reid was leading much of the race until I caught him at the final mark, then he really came on strong. I guess what *Manu Iwa* needed in Transpac was our blustery Hawaiian trades."

Feltham credits teamwork for his 10-second victory over three-time National P-Cat champion Bob Baker of Los Angeles. "My crew, John Grymes and Sandy Granger really came through." W.Y.C.'s Cappy Sheeley placed third. Only 19 seconds separated the first three P-Cats after an hour and 37 minutes of racing under the most severe conditions. That's sailboat racing at its best.

Big boat division results: 1. Phil Edward's *U.S. 19*, 2. Al Reid's *Manu Iwa*, 3. John Conser's *Sea Bird*, 4. Herb Bessa's *Manu Kai*, 5. Vic Stern's *Imi Loa*.