

BIAC Paddling Spring 2008 Update

We are celebrating our **30 year anniversary**. **Hui Wa'a** was started in 1978, as was the Northern California Outrigger Canoe Association (NCOCA)

This year we have plan to actively recruit new adult members along with a **Jr's program**. Due to past existing conditions, we have had difficulty trying to bring kids out to paddle because of the BIAC's limited launching access at. After the Rebuilding Day project in April 2007, we now have water access without trailering the canoes to Docktown.

We will be offering Learn To Paddle Days every 2 weeks on Saturdays at 10:00AM. The new paddling recruitment program is similar to BIAC's Learn To Row Program. We had 12 people attend this year's first event. The majority were from Cal Berkeley, so we are unsure about their level of commitment.

Currently we have an **Open Men's & Open Women's programs**, and both have Master and Sr. Master divisions within them. We'll have a Novice program starting in April 2008.

Our season is pretty much year round, depending on a paddler's own goals. The OC6 Season starts in May and ends in October. Our local race calendar starts with an Ironman Season in May, 3 local races that are distance races that can range from 10-16 miles, depending on the hosting club. Generally there is a Novice course of 4-6 miles and an Open Course of 10-16 miles. Novices and Women usually race in the morning, while the men's races will start after lunch, to take advantage of hopefully "bigger" conditions.

Hui Wa'a kicks off the **Ironman season** with the Berkeley Pier Classic. Our new sponsor is allowing us to stage our race from their site - the OCSC Sailing Club out of the Berkeley Marina. We usually raise about \$2500 from this event, but with a new sponsor we hope for more.

After this event, we will participate in 2 more races in May held by local clubs. We later plan on participating in two races down in SoCal. One of the key races held down there is the Ironman Championships held towards the end of June. Our goal is a top 5 placing in the men's class or winning the Master Men's Class, (As a rule, the top Masters Crews will place in the top 5 overall.) We also hope to send an Open women's crew and a Sr. Master Women's Crew June starts the NCOCA Sprint Races, there are 6 races held from June through July. We attend most of them. We are hosting a Sprint Race in July in Fremont at Quarry Lakes.

The NCOCA is hosting the World **Sprints at Lake Natoma** this year in August. Held every two years, this will be the 2nd time we have hosted this event. Past hosts have included, Hawaii, SoCal, Tahiti, Bora Bora, New Zealand, Australia. We expect over 2000 paddlers at the event.

August kicks off our **2nd Long Distance Season**. The local races are again Ironman Races, while the races in SoCal offer 9 man racing. This is an OC-6 crew of 9, with an escort boat carrying three relief paddlers). Every 10-15 minutes, paddlers are changed out for "breaks". The canoe never stops - the escort boat will go ahead of the canoe and drop off relief paddlers about 200

meters ahead of the canoe. As the canoe comes by, the paddlers in the water will pull themselves into the canoe, while the 3 paddlers in the canoe then jump out. The canoe continues, never stopping. It's a pretty fast change and hopefully done in less than 4 strokes. This continues throughout the race. The distances for these races range from 20-40 miles.

One of the largest races for us is the US **National Championships** held at Newport Beach. This race is called the **Catalina Crossing**. Saturday the Women and Coed crews race over to Catalina - about 26 miles - and the Men race back on Sunday, back into "Back Bay in Newport" near NAC. Their race is 31 miles. Last Year we were First Overall in the Coed Class, even though we raced in the Master's Class. We finished ahead of 26 Open Coed Class crews. We did not race in the men's class last year, but usually finish within the top 10 year after year. In the Coed Class, we have won the event twice now, and generally place in the top 4 every year.

If our crews are running well, we'll race the **World Championships** in Sept and October (Sept for Women, October for Men). This race is held in Hawaii from the Island of Molokai, back to Oahu (40 miles).

Along with the OC6 races, the paddling program here at BIAC has created one of the top Paddling Series here on the US mainland. It's called the **Wavechaser Paddle Series**. We just completed the Winter Series that started in October and finished this month with the Winter Championships held out of Fort Baker this month. There are total of 6 races for the Winter Series.

Wavechaser will be hosting a relay race in April, from Berkeley back to BIAC- about 36 miles. Wavechaser also hosts a **Summer Downwind Series**, this consists of 3 races. The June race starts at Coyote Point and finishes here at BIAC. We start these races in the afternoon, to take advantage of the greater winds and hopefully waves. The July race starts from Crissy Field and finishes at Berkeley Pier. The August race starts at Oyster Point and finishes at BIAC.

Wavechaser again is hosting the **US Surfski Championships** at Crissy Field in September. This has become the premier Surfski Race in the US. It's also recongnized as a World Rankings race, one of 7 held throughout the world. This past year, we had the top Surfski paddlers in the world at our event. Paddlers from Tahiti, Japan, Australia, South Africa, Europe, South America and throughout the US. We gave out over \$15,000 in cash prizes and hope to build on the prize fund through more sponsors. This event was created from the Paddling Program here at BIAC.

2008 Goals-

- Recruit 25 new adult paddlers.
- Start a Jr's Program
- Purchase a new Canoe
- Purchase new spray cover
- Repair Hawaiiin Classic Racer

Wavechaser is also trying to find funding to start the new Jr's Paddling Program at BIAC. We will be working with Newport Aquatic Center to raise \$200,000 to purchase 50 OC2's, two trailers and 100 paddles.

Funding-

Paddler's dues all go to BIAC for general operations. The programs are funded primarily by two events. First our Long Distance race usually brings in about \$2500. Our annual Sprint race brings in about \$2000.

We were hoping to have a **Corporate Team Races** at our Sprint race, but instead will be gearing up for the following year. We may host an event this year for Petersen Dean Roof Systems, the day before our Sprint Race in Fremont. We have done this in the past through an event company. We bring out canoes to a site and offer 1 hr of "coaching" and then get the attendees out on the water for a series of races. The last company we did this for paid us 2500.00 for a 4 hr event.

The event for **Petersen Dean** would be similar, but we would be providing a catered lunch along with "race photos", t-shirts and signage on the canoes. I'm working with PD to also sponsor our Sprint Race. We're hoping to raise \$10k from this event.

We are planning on **selling** one of our racers to offset the cost of the purchase of a new canoe. The canoe we are selling is a bit light and not very stiff. We are trying to sell the hull to a club in Texas. We expect to sell the hull for \$5,500. Cost of a new canoe should be about \$8K. Our other funding venues are providing escort boats to other clubs for their races. We charge \$200-400 per day for an escort boat.

for all the NCOCA sprint races. This collects \$3k per year and goes to keep the whalers up and running and updating engines as we collect enough money for replacements. We currently have three 17' Whalers running and are in the process of repairing two 22' Whalers for use this summer.

Mike also sets up lanes for the CDBA. They host 4 events: 1 youth race in April, 1 event at Redwood Shores, 1 event at Quarry Lakes (Co-hosted with the Outrigger Program), and their large 2 day event at Treasure Island in October. The fees for their lane setting, has allowed **Hui Wa'a** to purchase a newer Whaler from NorCal's Jr. program this past year.

Hui Wa'a Officers and Coaches

Mike Martinez	President
Dave Jensen	Vice President
Claire Biron	Treasurer
Cindy Lee	Secretary
Head Coach	Mike Martinez
Men's Coach	Mike Ng
Women's Coach	Billy Bates

Current Practice Schedule:

Tuesday, Thursday Evening Practices: 6:30-9:00 PM

Saturday: Novice Practice = 10 am Downwind Practices = 2 - 4 pm

Sunday Practice: 9 am - 1 pm Downwind Practices = 2 - 4 pm