



Aii Holo Kai Newsletter

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April 2004

2004 US National Qualifiers---

Aii Holo Kai dive club qualification tournament to select divers for the US Nationals was held on Sunday, March 14th. The primary area (Waimanalo to Makapuu pt.) was exposed to unfavorable weather conditions and the alternate site, Black Point to Wailupe channel was substituted. There were 29 registered divers, including 4 women. Conditions at the start of the meet included some wind and showers but with favorable minimal surf. The moderate winds continued to slacken and more sunshine appeared as clouds drifted. As the meet got closer to ending, water conditions continued to improve. The competitors met at the designated staging area at Kahala Park and after the briefing launched their kayaks. The support crew at the beach then relaxed and enjoyed breakfast - *mahalo* Chef Jr Afalla.

When the individual divers completed their expedition and brought their kayaks to shore, they were greeted by well wishers, some taking pictures. Club officials assisted in checking the count of fish and was verified by the competitor. The fish was rinsed and immediately placed in individual coolers with ice. The coolers were marked to identify the competitor, sealed and transported to Frank's house for the weigh in.

Everyone met for the Weigh In at Frank's and enjoyed lots of good food - thanks Marshall Tulang we really mean **Mrs. Marshall Tulang** - for her efforts to deliver and to *others* that brought food.

Aii Holo Kai membership in the Underwater Society of America will exceed 40 members and that will allow 4 men's teams to be entered. The following are the men's team qualifiers:

- Team #1 Gene Higa, Wayde Hayashi, Kalei Fernandez
- Team #2 Vernon Takata, Shawn Fujimoto, Chrix Palinawan
- Team #3 Dayne Fujiwara, Keaka Ching, Joey Martos
- Team #4 Marshall Tulang, Bryan Chang, Gavin Sato

Four women were entered and they all caught fish to qualify entry at the Nationals. They are Tanya Bierne, Jennifer Holani, Kimi Mokaiao, and Andria Kawabata.

We **congratulate** all the above competitors and also the others that participated - some who are standing by as alternates.

Coming attractions With the standings determined, AHK usually will have a “Warm Up” dive. The intent is to support those selected in different ways and also to keep a little pressure on them. Since the Nationals are being held in Hawaii, we have the timely opportunity to for 2 meets with this objective. In addition to the “Warm Up – Fundz dive” we will be able to have the traditional “Chop-Suey” meet that will add to keeping the qualifiers on the cutting edge of their skills.

The “**Warm Up**” meet is scheduled for **Sunday April 25th**. Anyone can participate, go where you want but be at Frank’s to check in and for the weigh in by 2PM. There is a 15 fish limit and the sizes and species are the same as used in the eliminations. At the weigh in we plan to break into 2 groups Uku and Uhu for 1st 2nd and 3rd place aggregate. Entry fee is \$15 and that includes food and awards.

Additionally, another fun twist is included. Instead of having a mystery fish, **Hawaii Five O** is the label given and you can catch one (1) each of the following to be weighed. *Aholehole, Uu (Meinpachi), Aweoweo, Manini and Kole.* Award for 1st 2nd and 3rd.

Also we will award for the largest tako over 2 pounds.

Now, there you have it. We expect those in the four men’s teams will exhibit their skills or be subject to the “banana” award. All that plan to enter, please call Dennis 6779010, Terrence 8365009, or Frank7321756 as soon as possible. Let us know, again it is good planning if we know who is out there on that day and who we should expect. Your call will allow us to plan reasonably for the food, etc. and if possible please send your entry fee and signed waiver.

Coming events: *Chop Suey Meet – Nay 23rd Haleiwa Beach Park, and later Diving with Dad on Father’s Day. More in next Newsletter!*

Aloha and dive safely!


Frank

