

2003 Nationals

By Gene Higa

This years US National Spearfishing Championship was held at Fort Wetherill State Park, Jamestown, Rhode Island. This event was hosted by the Rhode Island Freediving Club, and they put on a great tournament.

rich with marine life, tiny shrimps and baitfish saturate these dark cool waters. The bottom in most places were encrusted with blue mussels, barnacles, and short kelp. Fish in the area include Tautog, Stripe Bass, Scup, Fluke, Black Sea Bass, Bluefish, and Trigger fish.

There were some surprise rule changes during the pre-competition meeting such as the limit on Scup, which was changed from 50 to 8 due to recent changes in State Fish and Game regulations. Also the 500ft no diving in any direction around the Newport Bridge due to concerns by Newport Bridge Homeland Security, this change remove a good portion of the dive area on the northern boundary. The dive time was extended from 5.5hours to 6 hours, which was very much appreciated by the competitors.

Meet day August 21, 2003, it was a sight to see, almost a hundred kayaks lined the beach at Forth Wetherill. "There hasn't been a tournament with this many people in a long time, people are saying this sport is dieing but its quite the contrary when you see this many divers from all over our nation", says USOA president Carol Rose.



There were 97 competitors in this event, 5 women teams and 29 men teams. There were teams from CenCal, Hawaii Council of Dive Clubs, Massachusetts Freedivers, Long Fins (Florida), GLACD, Palm Beach Freedivers, Rhode Island Freedive Club, Hawaiian Island Dive Council, Quincy Underwater Hockey, West Morris Central Freediving Club, and Miami Freedivers.

One thing that plagued the divers were the day in day out diving and the bacteria in the water that caused boils on their skin and ear infections. Some of the Hawaii divers fell victim to this condition; fortunately, they received medical treatment and were able to recover quickly before the tournament day.

The tournament started at 9:00 with a 30-minute travel time and diving/spearfishing started at 9:30 and finished at 3:30. Conditions were good with light southwesterly winds, light incoming tidal current, and clear sunny skies. Some outstanding catches were produced. Rhode Islands very own John Murphy racked up and incredible 97 points. His catch consisted of a lot of dif-

The tournament area was huge with approximately 10 linear miles circumferencing the dive area. Most of the shoreline was rocky cliffs running into small and large coves and most lined with lush green trees and shrubs and in various locations beautiful New England style Mansions.

The visibility was a poor 2 to 8 feet. Water temperature was a very hospitable 68 to 72 degrees. The dive area offered a diverse topography, rocky bottom, sand and mud. The New England waters are



More Stuff

ferent species including some large Black Sea Bass, but surprisingly his large point spread was done without Stripe Bass. Rene Rojas shot the largest fish of the tournament a 30 pound Stripe Bass. Dayne Fujiwara shot an impressive 11 pound Summer Fluke which was considered the largest ever taken during a spearfishing competition in that area. The top individual placing went as follows: 2nd Gerald Lim, 3rd Russ Karnap, 4th Wayde Hayashi, 5th Dayne Fujiwara, and 6th Lance Ostubo, all had outstanding catches. The 2003 US National Champions are the North Atlantic Champions John Murphy, Dave Hochman, and John Warnock. Second place place went to Hawaiian Island Council Ken Lee, Bill Ernst, and Gerald Lim. Third place went to Hawaii's Alii Holo Kai Jason Hijirida, Lance Ostubo, and Marshall Tulang. Other Alii Holo Kai divers competing were Keoni Kawelo, Jon Barretto, Calvin Lai, Keaka Ching, Shawn Fujimoto and Vernon Takata.

All Hawaii divers continue to show outstanding diving performance and good sportsmanship which makes Hawaii well respected and well liked at these national events.

The top five National divers from cumulative scores of 2002 and 2003 are as follows:

1. Bob Humphery
2. Alan Spehar
3. Jason Hijirida
4. Russ Karnap
5. Mike McGuire

With Alan Spehar declining his position on the USA World Team, the team representing our nation is Bob Humphery, Jason Hijirida, Russ Karnap, with alternate Mike McGuire. These outstanding divers will represent us well. The World Championships will be held in Chile in 2004 and condition and species are very similar to southern California.

Again great diving by all the Hawaiian divers and congratulations to Jason Hijirida for making the world team and on his consistent high performance in the US Nationals.

Xmas Party

The party will again be celebrated at Natsunoya Tea House.

Please refer to the enclosed form, fill, mail or call the information to either Terrence, Dennis or myself. Santa has gained more weight, still has a cheerful ho,ho,ho and is looking forward to his early Yuletide visit with AHK ohana.

Your exec board met and the Price for Current Members is still **FREE!** And it includes your spouse if your dues were for a family plan.

Youngsters 12 and under are also free, age 13 and above is \$11 and adult guest is still the same \$22. *—and that's less than our cost.*

Da menu includes:

- 3 types sushi
- somen salad
- Tonkatsu
- shrimp and vegetable tempura
- chicken, duck katsu w/mushroom sauce
- miso/teri salmon
- potato salad
- miso soup
- AHK will add steamed fish (we have to catch—so help!), pupus of sort, tako, small fish i.e. kole, aholehole, raw crab (hopefully) etc... and cold drinks.

Of course we are accepting donations for the steamed fish, 3 to 5 lbs size and please clean..

You can drop off at Franks house anytime or call Terrence. There will be games, prizes for the kids and don't forget the grab bag gift (\$5--\$10), plus wrap a gift for each youngster you are bringing and be sure their name is present so Santa can deliver at the party. Call if you have any suggestions, questions, donations.

Beach Clean Up

For many years AHK members have traditionally cleaned the beach area of Alan Davis-Sandy beach and Saturday 20th September we will participate again in this National effort.

The work is getting easier, because over the years we have removed "tons" of unwanted items and rubbish from abandoned cars to cigarette butts, but there still is debris in the area since our last cleanup.

Come and join your other club members—who will be erecting the flag and tent about 7:30 – 8 AM ...

The cleanup shouldn't take long and we will have Hot Dogs, Chicken, Salad, Cold Drinks, etc... and maybe fish if somebody catches a few. Hope to see you there and any family or friends!

On the Horizon

Kumu Hunt —23rd November—You can call Terrence for early registration and the details will be out in the next Newsletter...

Word was received that the Nationals for 2004 will be July 24 at Haleiwa area and hosted by recently formed council HIFC. Also, at the last Competitors meeting held at Rhode Island, Mixed Team participation was favorably (narrowly) voted on for future Nationals.



Dive Safe

More Stuff

Wall of Fame

By *Sonny Tanabe*

Congratulation to the Alii Holo Kai Dive Club (the oldest and most active Dive Club in the State of Hawaii) on having in their membership four of the five people that were inducted into the 2002 Hawaii Freediving and Spearfishing Wall of Fame. Alii Holo Kai Dive Club members Frank Farm, Dennis Okada, Terrence Takahata, and Terry Lentz were honored last month at the 10th Annual Richard "Sonny" Tanabe Freediving Tournament.

These esteemed Divers were the first to be inducted into the newly formed Hawaii Freediving and Spearfishing Wall of Fame. The purpose of the HFSWoF is to honor and recognize Hawaii's Freediving and Spearfishing Athletes, those who have made a distinguished contribution to the highest value of the sport -- such as the conservation and protection of the ocean reserves, health and safety, education and sportsmanship.

According to the newly formed Wall of Fame Selection committee Frank Farm, Dennis Okada, Terrence Takahata, and Terry Lentz more that met the established criteria. These esteemed Divers deserved their long overdue recognition. It was a sincere privilege to honor them and have them as the first inductees into the Hawaii Freediving and Spearfishing Wall of Fame.

Following is a list of accomplishments for each of the 2003 inductees:

Frank Farm— President of Alii Holo Kai Dive Club for 31 years

President of Hawaii Council of Diving Clubs

Vice President of Hawaii Council of Diving Clubs

Hawaii Council Freediving Chairman

Dennis Okada—Tournament Chairman, Alii Holo Kai Dive Club for 29 years

1979 Diver of the Year, Hawaii Council of Diving Clubs

Terry Lentz—Former member of Alii Holo Kai Dive Club

1959 World Spearfishing Individual Champion

1961 Helm's Athletic Foundation recipient

1961 1st Place Individual and Team Champion, U.S. National Spearfishing Championship

1965 1st Place Individual Champion, U.S. National Spearfishing Championship

1982 2nd Place Team Champion, U.S.

National Spearfishing Championship



Jack Ackerman - No Dive Club -- Discovered the Hawaiian Black Coral and Pioneer former owner of Maui Divers, Inc.

1953 Held the World Record for spearfishing a 127 lb. Ulua with an Hawaiian Sling

The Hawaii Freediving and Spearfishing Wall of Fame is sponsored by the Island of Hawaii YMCA Aquatic Leadership and

1982 Runner-up Team Champion, U.S. National Spearfishing Championship

1985 1st Place Team Champion, U.S. National Spearfishing Championship

Terrence Takahata—Treasurer, Alii Holo Kai Dive Club

1989 1st Place Team Champion, U.S. National Spearfishing Championship

1989 Amateur Underwater Spearfishing Athlete of the Year

1990 Runner-up Team Champion, U.S. National Spearfishing Championship

1992 Member of the U.S. National Spearfishing Team to Spain for the World Spearfishing Championship

Ocean Resources Committee. Presently, the Island of Hawaii YMCA is holding a campaign to fund the building of their new facilities which include a new home for the Kona Family YMCA. The location for the new Kona YMCA is a 10.5 acre site located near the Magic Sand Beach. The higher elevation of the new site presents a lovely view of the Kona Coast. The building project is estimated to be completed in the next two to three years. While inductees will be honored at the Richard "Sonny" Tanabe Freediving Tournament, the HFSWoF pictures and memorabilia will be housed in the new Kona Family YMCA.

Once again, congratulations to the Alii Holo Kai Dive Club and its four very distinguished members.