

JANUARY
NEWSLETTER

1/22/2026

Aloha



What's Happening at Keauhou!

Potluck brunch — Friday January 30, 9:00 AM

Bill Armer, Vern Bieraugel, and Fern Gavelek will be telling us all about the Kailua Bay Regatta Course project going on right now in Kailua Bay.

New Member Orientation - Saturday, January 31, 9:30 AM

Join us and learn about paddling and KCC! Sign up on the website, under Events.

Whale Count - Saturday, January 31, 7:30-noon

Count whales for NOAA research at Keauhou scenic lookout. Signup by January 27 at halau or email ferng@hawaii.rr.com

Journal Club — Tuesday, February 3, 9:15 AM

The Journal club reads and discusses one article a month. Email Kris at krisishii@aol.com to get a copy of this month's article.

Volunteer to Paddle with Full Life — Thursday, February 5, 8:45 AM

This is our monthly visit of the Full Life paddlers. Volunteer to be one of the paddler-helpers!

Recreational Paddling

Recreational paddling times stay the same all year long.

- Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 6:30 AM
- Tuesday, Thursday: 6:30 AM and 7:30 AM
- Saturday: 7:30 AM

Competitive Paddling

Competitive 6-man season starts in February!

Pre-season practice continues for wahine and men. Check with coaches to get onto the WhatsApp lists.

Board News

on January 16, the Keauhou Board held their first full meeting:

- Elected Vern Bieraugel to be Athletic Director
- Selected Tom Forrest to fill the board seat left open by Vern's resignation
- Membership Secretary Stacey Wood reported healthy membership enrollment. She is starting to work with Race Secretary Ingrid Malone on HCRA memberships and World Sprint papers.
- Recording Secretary Cat Mikkelsen reported that we will be including more information in the website this year.
- **New Canoe:** In 2025, the board purchased a new Hydra Canoe for the club. Vern reports that the canoe is built and we expect it in February. Ramona is in charge of selecting a name.
- The board formed a committee to evaluate and improve the Guest Paddling Program.
- The Event Team hopes to facilitate the American Cancer Society recreational paddle benefit in February or March.
- Keauhou will be recruiting more paddlers and coaches this year.

The board is looking for a place to hold meetings. If you have suggestions, please email contactkeauhoucanooclub@gmail.com.

Race News:

Upcoming races include:

- Paddle Against Cancer (recreational paddle benefit) - February/March
- Ku'upio Race at Keauhou March 7
- IDF Sprint Qualifiers: March 7-8 in Oahu

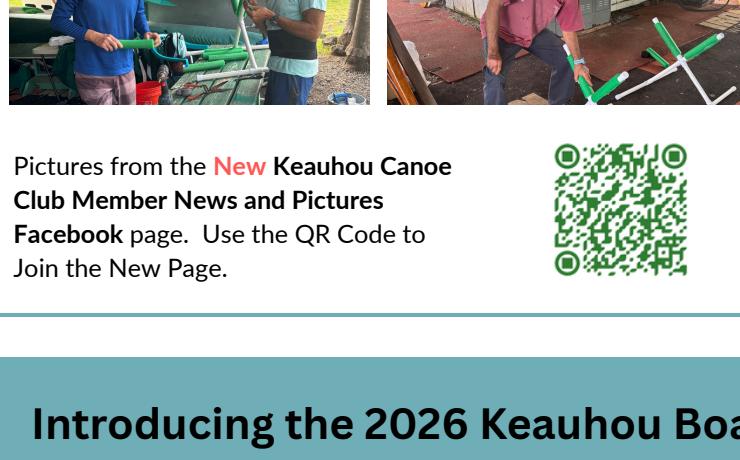
Volunteer Opportunities in January

- **Participate in Paddle Out ceremonies**, paddling the canoes that take guests out to celebrate lives of loved ones.
- **Volunteer as a beach coordinator**, whether full time or part-time while people are on vacation.
- **Join our coaching team.**
- **Paddle during First Thursday Full Life paddles** (sign up at Events)
- **Help Organize and Run Paddle for Cancer Benefit** in February/March

To volunteer, please email contactkeauhoucanooclub@gmail.com.

We Have New OC1 Boat Cradles!

On January 3, a Small Boat Cradle Building Project built Keauhou 12 beautiful, strongly-crafted OC1/2 cradles. Thanks to Herb Funk, Rich Milham, John Gavelek, Toni Mauri, Kirby Mauri, and Bob Darling.



Pictures from the [New Keauhou Canoe Club Member News and Pictures Facebook page](#). Use the QR Code to Join the New Page.



Kailua Bay Regatta Course Project

Almost three years ago, the regatta course at Kailua was shut down, limiting Big Island's West Side canoe club races to long-distance racing at Kailua Pier, or traveling to Hilo for regattas. The absence of a regatta course in Kailua Bay limits club and community events, especially for our youth and high school paddlers. This year, the three canoe clubs on the West Side (Keauhou, Kai'Opua, and Kai 'Ehiti) have come together to raise money and reconstruct the Kailua Bay Regatta Course.

In January, we started constructing a new regatta course that will protect coral in the Kailua Bay. This project will cost \$85K. It's already received \$30K from an anonymous donor, and the three clubs are raising the rest of the money together. As Keauhou Members, **we ask you to please donate what you can to help us rebuild our course.**

You can donate through the Keauhou Website. Login, and then go to Member's Center/Make a Payment. Scroll down to the Donation popup menu, select "Kailua Bay Regatta Course" and donate. The club will send your donation to the shared fund.

Alternately, you can donate through the project's GoFundMe page.

Thank you for helping us build something that will benefit the entire community.

Introducing the 2026 Keauhou Board

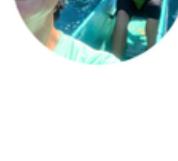
This year we thought we'd tell you a little more about the board. Come and say hi!

Bill Armer, President:

Member for 25 years, in all roles but recording secretary and treasurer. Favorite thing about the club? Keauhou's giving, caring nature. Goal this year: use more actual computer skills (besides swearing.)

**Andy Branch, Vice President:**

Member for 9 years. 30 years in the Navy. Started as dentist, ended as Pain Management Specialist. Member of the Kona Choral Society. Goal is to keep Keauhou safe and fun for all.

**Sandy Branch, Treasurer:**

Member for 9 years, and now race. I have an MBA and have bookkept 25 years. I make lauhala hats. Favorite thing about the club is the camaraderie. Goal: Learn the books, streamline them, and make them accessible."

**Vern Bieraugel, Athletic Director:**

Pilot and sailor. Flew the Goodyear Blimp & raced longest freshwater race in the world. Served on 30+ boards; Keauhou's Treasurer for 8 years. Goal: more teams, more coaches, more involvement.

**Stacey Wood, Membership Secretary:**

Over 1,000 hours of yoga training since 2015 and have taught yoga since 2017, in many places, including prisons. I've worked in hospitality and in hospices and play the harmonium. Goals: make programs easier & more clear; bring racers & rec paddlers together.

**Cat Mikkelsen, Recording Secretary:**

Started paddling 9 years ago on Oahu while my son was in high school there. Stayed to learn. 30 years in the Silicon Valley, used to work for Steve Jobs. Author & startup consultant. Goal: friendliness, fun, transparency, support, and great communication!

**Dave Yamagata, Board Member:**

LONG time member! Started paddling in 1975. Coaching since the 80's. Favorite: my team winning. Dream Goal: Every crew wins the Big Island Championship: Novice B's to 70's.

**Ramona Crivello, Board Member:**

With Keauhou since 2017. Former AD, board member, and assistant coach. Most proud of winning the World Sprints 2024 50's 6-man Gold. Goal: Make sure members have a voice.

**Tom Forrest, Board Member:**

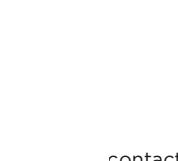
Grew up in Ewa Beach, Oahu, Windsurfed for 30 years, expert surfer at 18. First big surf was Ka'ene point at 5 years old — on an innertube! Goal: Good working relationships with everyone, and bringing club members together

**Ingrid Malone, Board Member:**

An athlete my entire life. Grew up in Philly. Played competitive tennis internationally. Played in a tennis tournament in Honolulu when I was 13 and said "this is where I want to live." My role this year is to watch, listen, and solve issues.

**Connie Sizemore, Board Member:**

Paddling is a passion since the 1990s. Ran a nonprofit for high-risk children for 8 years in Oahu. Water, therapy, surfing, and paddling. Walking the 175-mile Ala Kahakai trail this year. Goal: build a strong youth and family base for Keauhou.

**Kelly Loggian, Board Member:**

Boat captain for 20 years, sailed from Tahiti to Hawaii last year, and across the Atlantic in 2007. Love to scuba dive. Goal: grow the racing program, keiki and youth, recruit new members, and do outreach. (Mom of 9-year-old racers Charlie & Grace, in the Keauhou keiki program!)