

Camp Pendleton's new club



Kupa'a Mau Outrigger Canoe Club (KMOCC) was approved by and welcomed into the Southern California Outrigger Racing Association (SCORA) on March 3, 2007. On July 12, 2007, KMOCC received official approval to be aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton in Oceanside, California. Now we have an awesome new canoe site, and the club founders are very thankful for the chance to support our troops and our military community (we also love launching our canoes while avoiding the tanks and amphibious assault vessels).

We thought it only fitting to translate the Marine Corps motto of *Semper Fidelis* (Always Faithful) into Hawaiian for our club name; Kupa'a Mau. We have also adopted their scarlet and gold as our club colors.

Our new Bradley Lightning canoe, Makua Kane (made by our head coach Charlie White) was blessed at the Ironman Championship race site in San Diego on June 23, 2007. We were very fortunate to have Thomas Kalama perform a beautiful sunrise blessing on

the shoreline at Mariners Point prior to the day's races. Makua Kane was made with lots of little extras like: a foam core, dry compartments in the front and back manu's, wiring for a sound system and a nice set of racing flames (I think the flames will make us go faster. Hmm?). Of course we did have to add almost 40 pounds to meet the official race specs. But we can live with that.

We will have our first opportunity (of many, we hope!) to introduce the sport of outrigger canoeing to approximately 200 single Marines on September 23, 2007.

Newport Aquatic Center's (NAC) Billy Whitford has offered to trailer six of NAC's OC6's to the base and help us with this event, which is sponsored by the Single Marine Program and will be held at Del Mar Beach. We'll set up a sprint style course in the boat basin and



everyone will have a chance to race between eating good food, enjoying a little ukulele music, and likely some dancing. This should be a lot of fun and, who knows, we might even be able to recruit some outstanding novices for the next race season.

Not only is the September 23rd event free of charge, but there is also no charge for club membership for the military (and military dependents), which will make up at least sixty percent of our association. We are extremely grateful to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, SCORA, and all of our supporters, sponsors and the volunteers that make it possible for us to share some of the Polynesian culture and this sport that we love so much.

Susie Nemeth
KMOCC.org

