

# POLYNESIAN VOYAGING SOCIETY

volume III

December 2009

## Training the Next Generation

Expanding the opportunity to participate in PVS' crew training program is another venue for our organization to perpetuate culture & traditions. According to Crew Training Director BRUCE BLANKENFELD, this is a golden opportunity for anyone who has ever entertained the idea of sailing on *Hokule'a*. There is something for everyone – be it sailing offshore Oahu, sailing between the Hawaiian

islands or taking part in deep sea voyages.

Beginning in May, *Hokule'a* will undergo an extensive dry dock. All hands are welcome & needed. All of this training will culminate with a four-year Worldwide Voyage, targeted to begin in 2012.

The theme for this world voyage is “*Malama Honua*” where we share the message of caring for the Earth & human-

kind, while honoring our heritage and perpetuating our culture.

Sailing on this worldwide voyage will require taking part in the Crew Training Program & Canoe Building/Dry Dock work. In addition, all crew must pass an ocean safety/swim test & have a clean bill of health.

Come down to register & get acquainted with the programs that PVS has to offer. Schedule is posted at right.

### CREW TRAINING SCHEDULE:

Tuesdays & Thursdays

5:30 p.m.

Marine Education & Training Center

10 Sand Island Parkway

Opportunity for the next generation.



## Experiencing Pristine Palmyra

On March 10, 2009, after 10 days of waiting for clear skies, crew members of *Hokule'a* and *Kama Hele* set sail on a training voyage to Palmyra Atoll. The majority of crew had never been on a deep sea voyage on *Hokule'a*. They depended on the experience and knowledge of Captain and Navigator BRUCE BLANKENFELD & the leadership of *Kama Hele* Captain MIKE CUNNINGHAM & his veteran crew. Everyone knew how difficult it would be to find this tiny isolated atoll – coconut trees being the tallest objects. To make things a bit more difficult, clouds covered the stars most of the voyage, including *Hokupa'a* (North Star), a very important star to measure latitude. According to crew member JENNA ISHII, “Bruce taught us how to steer by the swells and wind direction and how to use pairs of setting stars to know our latitude. After 9.5 days at sea, KEALA KAI spotted the tiny sliver of land on the horizon. Hundreds of dolphins and seabirds escorted us into the sparkling blue lagoon”.

For the next few days, THE NATURE CONSERVANCY & U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE guided crew about the island & took them diving. Never before had we seen an ecosystem so alive and beautiful. Crew took hundreds of pictures to share & prove that magical places like Palmyra Atoll still exist in the world, and that if we protect Hawaii's environment, our island home can thrive again.

[Contributed by Jenna Ishii]



A Special Mahalo to DOONWOOD ENGINEERING, KAISER PERMANENTE, THE HAWAIIAN EDUCATION COUNCIL & KEEHI MARINE for their support of this voyage.



## Learning & Sharing: Integrating Our Voyaging Experiences

During the first ten months of 2009, PVS programs have touched over 3,000 individuals ~ children, community & crew. We have taken school & community groups on 46 sails, touching a total of 719 people. In addition to sharing our knowledge of voyaging traditions & extending our message of ocean stewardship, these sails provided valuable training sessions for our crew.

Crew took part in an additional 184 training sails where they were mentored by experienced captains & legendary leaders & navigators. Along with 30 Captains, PVS crew members currently number 270.

Out in the community, we continue presenting to school groups, conducting canoe tours and lecturing on the stars. In 2009, these special programs have served 2,196 children and community members.



Ava McCrea, Grade 5, Sacred Hearts School

### PVS Participates in the 2009 Tribal Canoe Journey

The Squamish Ocean-Going Canoe Family contacted PVS and invited eight paddlers to join them on the Tribal Canoe Journey 2009 Paddle to Suquamish. This year marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tribal Journeys and Canoe Gathering, which is hosted by a different tribe every year. The Squamish Canoe Family began the journey in their territory with two canoes departing from Stawamus (North Vancouver, BC), each day paddling up to 30 miles to the next territory. Protocols were observed in the longhouse of the hosting tribe, who also fed all the canoe families that arrived on their shores. By the end of the journey, almost 90 canoes gathered at Suquamish (Seattle, WA) for a week-long sharing of protocol. The Hawai'i crew, grateful for the opportunity to participate, reconnected with 'ohana in the Pacific Northwest and learned about their culture while sharing mele and hula of Hawai'i.

*[Contributed by Ka'iulani Murphy]*



First Stop: Kwum Kwum, N. Vancouver B.C.

### Welcome Jarnell



Jarnell Martinson is no stranger to the good works of PVS, having previously worked for the organization in the 1990's. She now joins PVS as the new grant Project Director.

PVS has been fortunate to secure two grants, one from the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) & the other from the Department of Education (DOE), supporting crew training, the perpetuation of voyaging traditions, ocean stewardship & the 2009-2010 retrofit of Hokule'a. Jarnell will help to oversee these grants. We are happy to have her!



## Daylight-Embark aboard USS Ronald Reagan

PVS navigators and captains were invited to a day embark aboard the nuclear powered aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan on June 4, 2009 to learn about the sailors and mechanisms used to navigate today's technologically advanced aircraft carrier. Those fortunate enough to accept the offer were: Navigator/Captain **Chad Baybayan** from Kona, Captain **Russell Amimoto**; Captain **Na`alehu Anthony**; Navigator/Captain **Kaiulani Murphy** and Office Manager **Ramona Ontiveros**.



We flew on and off the carrier via a C-2 Greyhound, experiencing an exciting "trap" landing, deceleration from 105 mph to 0 mph in two seconds, then a thrilling "cat shot" off the aircraft carrier acceleration from 0 to 128 mph in three seconds. WOW!!

We were greeted by Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Admiral Robert F. Willard and Commanding Officer of the USS Ronald Reagan, Kenneth J. Norton, CAPT, USN. After a tour below deck, we had lunch in the Officers Dining Room, then donned "flight deck gear" and had a chance to view daily flight operations from main deck. We met two local sailors from Hawaii: Yancy Zuniga, an Aviation Support Equipment Technician 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, of Puna, Hawaii and Erika Clawson, a Hospital Corpsman 3<sup>rd</sup> Class from Aiea, Hawaii.

We learned about the enormous amount of teamwork required to navigate 97,000 tons of moving steel, a theme common in Polynesian voyaging as well. The precision by which the men and women operated each task left no room for error. It was an awesome experience. We thank all the men and women who serve aboard the USS Ronald Reagan for their hard work & dedication to their mission & to our country.

[Contributed by Ramona Ontiveros]

## Hokule'a Sails with Princess Taiping

In January, 2009, under the leadership of Captain Nelson Liu, the traditional Ming Dynasty war junk Princess Taiping reached the Hawaiian Islands on the return leg of her 14,000 mile trans-Pacific voyage. Two months after departing from Honolulu, in the native waters of Suao, North-east Taiwan, she was hit broadside by a cargo ship tragically ending what was to be a momentous accomplishment in the revival of Chinese seafaring culture. Despite the loss of such an eloquent vessel, and sure disappointment for its captain and crew, there was a silver lining among the darkness... a rendezvous with Hawaii's own voyaging canoe *Hokule'a*.

A potluck dinner onboard Princess Taiping led to the plans for a sail with Hokule'a in Mamala Bay. Along with Mike Taylor, Kana Uchida, and other PVS volunteers, I took advantage of an invitation to crew on Princess Taiping for the afternoon sail. The experience was unforgettable. Captain Liu expressed his sincere happiness for the occasion stating that despite being 75% complete of an arduous Pacific crossing, sailing with Hokule'a was the voyages most valued experience. "Without this, the trip would not be the same." - Nelson. Mahalo to BRETT FEE, KAMAKI WORTHINGTON, KAIULANI MURPHY, & AARON KANDELL for making it happen.

[Contributed by Eli Witt]



[photo by James Hadde]





## 2009 Hilo Wayfinding & Navigation Festival

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual 2009 Hilo Wayfinding and Navigation Festival was held at the 'Imiloa Astronomy Center over the weekend of October 16-18. This growing event, sponsored by the Research and Development Office of the County of Hawai'i, was created to provide an annual public event that engages the community in the voyaging traditions of the seafaring ancestors that settled these islands.

Local crewmembers of the Hilo based deep-sea voyaging canoe **Hökūalaka'i** conducted hands on knot tying and splicing activities. There were nine double-hulled sailing canoes used in local on water programming on exhibit throughout the campus. The planetarium ran regular shows orienting the audience to the night sky as viewed by today's navigators. **Chad Kālepa Baybayan** ran daily activities on navigation, which featured the star compass, calibrating your hand to measure altitude, and building a reference course line.

Documentaries over the weekend featured Alan Rosen's, "Mau Voyager"; Gail Evanari's, "Wayfinders: A Pacific Odyssey"; and a special premier showing of "Voyager" by Herb Kane & Paul Csige. Three days of panel discussions followed each documentary: Hawaiian oral traditions conducted by a panel of noted Hawaiian scholars done completely through the Hawaiian language ; native astronomers who spoke to a various range of topics from Hawaiian cosmogony, Maui the Demigod, and astronomy on Maunakea & guests from Aotearoa speaking on a pending project to sail seven voyaging canoes to Hawai'i next year & finally, a presentation by Hawai'i's five Pwo navigators and seven voyaging leaders .

The weekend's highlight was a special adze tying ceremony that symbolically tied the various statewide voyaging organizations into a voyaging alliance named "Ohana Wa'a". Each voyaging organization was asked to apply a lash to a stone adze gifted to 'Ohana Wa'a by friends from Huahine. Special guest who were invited to witness the event and participate by pouring water from Lake Waiiau over the bound adze included PVS founders Herb Kawainui Kane and Ben Finney, and former Vice President of the PVS Joanne Kamuela Kahanamoku.

Please mark your calendars for next year's *Hilo Wayfinding and Navigation Festival* event, which will be held October 15-17. 'Imiloa will also host, *'Imi Na'auao*, an annual spring crew training event for 'Ohana Wa'a members. Contact your local voyaging organization for details.

[Contributed by Chad Kalepa Baybayan]

For more information:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pClkyiUabOQ>

<http://www.bigislandvideonews.com/2009/10october/20091019wayfinding.htm>

Also, visit Imiloa's website at

<http://www.imiloahawaii.org>





Chad Baybayan explains Wayfinding using the Star Compass

More from Hilo . . .



Panel Discussion by Voyaging Leaders

## Return to Kaho'olawe

Fulfilling a commitment to connect with the island as a living and active resource, Hokule'a returned to the shores of Kanaloa Kaho'olawe early this summer. The last time she moored in Honokanai'a Bay, Hokule'a joined voyaging canoes Makali'i, Hokualaka'i and Mo'olele for a gathering that celebrated the "early warriors," those who lead the way to the healing of Kanaloa and the reawakening of the voyaging canoes. This summer, nearly five years later, Hokule'a and her crew joined a Malama Kaho'olawe Project access which combined the energies and resources of the **Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana**, the **Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission**, **Polynesian Voyaging Society** and the **Pacific American Foundation**, who sponsored the access. The voyage from O'ahu to Kaho'olawe and back was an awesome crew training opportunity. Mahalo nui to all those who made this special v o y a g e possible.



[Contributed  
Ka'iulani  
Murphy]

by

## METC Happenings

The 25' whaler that was recently painted by the senior class is being sent to the motor installer to have two new 150 hp Suzuki engines, along with hydraulic steering, engine controls & instruments. When she returns, we will have a new escort for Hokule'a when needed.

**Bob Perkins** will be starting escort boat Captain Training for the whaler as well as Ikaika. It is hoped that each Captain will send two crew to the training sessions in order to alleviate the shortage of escort boat Captains. Training will be both classroom-based and behind the wheel. Stay tuned for details.

POLYNESIAN VOYAGING SOCIETY

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**Here is my donation to the Polynesian Voyaging Society  
to support its voyaging & educational mission.**

\_\_\_ Holokahiki (Sailor).....\$50 +                      \_\_\_ Ho`okele Wa`a (Navigator)....\$500 +  
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**OUR VISION.** *Hawai'i, our special island home, will be a place where the people, land and sea are cared for, and communities are healthy and safe.*