



CANADIAN OUTRIGGER HALL OF FAME

Bob Stewart (Mister Aloha)



Summary

Bob Stewart has established a reputation as the "Iron Man" (Cal Ripken) of solo outrigger canoeing. Bob has been competing in OC1 paddling for 30 years and has left a legacy that would make Peter Forand proud. Bob is incredibly knowledgeable in the history of OC1s as he has owned more than 30 boats in his long (and continuing) career. More than just an OC1 paddler, Bob has raced with top-notch OC6 crews in prestigious races worldwide. He has raced on the continents of North America, Europe and Australia, and in the Oceania South Pacific Islands of New Caledonia and Samoa. Bob also has a reputation as a builder of the sport of OC1 paddling as many of the canoes he has owned have found new homes across Canada, Continental US, and Hawaii. Bob also has a reputation as a philanthropist due to his penchant for giving back to the paddling community. [01] [02]

Early Career

In 1949, Bob was born in Halifax, NS, moving to Sudbury, ON where he began his career in the mining industry, starting with 5 years as an underground miner. His son and daughter were born in Sudbury. In 1976 the family moved to Montreal where he began his career in the mining equipment business, then in 1982 to Toronto as Bob continued his career in the heavy mining equipment industry. In 1991 following a successful bid for a contract at the Myra Falls Mine in Campbell River, Bob relocated to Vancouver having fallen in love with the West Coast. [11] [12] Early in 1991, Bob made his first appearance at a West Coast paddlesports competition as helmsman at the Vancouver International DB Festival. That same year, the Burrard Civic Marina based Dragon Canoe Club (DCC) had acquired two Calmar Canadian Class Racers (CCR) that were stored at the marina and used by some of Bob's new found dragon boat friends. [13] In the late 1990s, those Calmars were sold to Lotus and some of the paddlers, including Bob, moved to the Jericho Outrigger Canoe Club (JOCC), now known as the Jericho Paddling Club (JPC). Bob has been with Jericho for 28 years and is the second longest tenured Jericho paddler after Gabe Somjen. He is also a long-standing member of FCRC and he continues to hold memberships in both clubs.

Outrigger Canoeing Achievements

Bob has a very long and successful career as a solo outrigger canoe competitor going back at least as far as 2000. You will find Bob in the Top 3 in the standings in his boat / gender / age division for PNWORCA Winter Series races, CORA small-boat races, Big Chop Summer Racing Series, Jericho Wavechaser Summer Series, Gorge Downwind Championships, Maui-to-Molokai (M2M), Queen Liliuokalani and so many other events when you review race results on Webscorer, Paddleguru, Pacific Multisports, CORA website, and Jericho website. [21] [22] [24] [24] [25] [26] [27] [28] [29] [30] [31] [32] [33] [34] [35] [36] [37] [38] [39] [40] [41] The PNWORCA / CORA Small-Boat Racing Winter Series has been running since at least 2004. Jericho had the honour of being the first Canadian club to host a PNWORCA / CORA Small-Boat Racing Winter Series Event and in that year of 2004, Jericho hosted Event #2 and Event #5 of the seven event Winter Series. It is worth noting that the fastest time of the day at the first ever Jericho Winter Series Event in 2004 would be none other than the OC2 team of Bob Stewart and Peter Forand.

Bob has participated in many Molokai Hoe races starting with his first with Jericho in 2003, [45] then with other multinational crews, and has made it to the podium 6 times. In 2012, a team made up of renowned Australian waterman Johnny Stewart (no relation), four Hawaiians, Cappy Sheeley (Hawaiian Waterman Hall of Famer), Doc Davis (Molokai based Dentist/waterman), Gaylord Wilcox (legendary Hawaiian businessman; philanthropist; past IVF executive; renowned outrigger paddler), Canadians Bob Stewart, Peter Forand and Garry Mancell, along with renowned Ontario paddlesports coach and paddler Jim Farintosh and Quebecers Francis Tavenier and Alex Vandenharn, and with the legendary "Nappy" Napoleon "iron" steering his 59th crossing of the world's most prestigious outrigger canoe race, the Molokai Hoe, would take Silver in Masters 60+ and 43rd place finish overall. [46] [47] [48] [49]

The following year Bob raced again with Nappy's crew in his 60th Kaiwi Channel crossing. In 2019, he earned his elusive Gold medal racing with California Gold 65's, and until they restart the race in 2024, they remain 65's champions.

At the 2006 Canadian Distance Championships, a Jericho mens crew of Laci Bujos, Mike Parks, Dave Boone, Bob Stewart, steered by Gary "Oceanman" Parsons would finish in first place with a comfortable 4-minute lead on the 2nd place team from FCRC to take a one-point

lead in the overall standings and claim the 2006 CORA Season Championships. [51] At the 2010 Howe Sound CORA Distance Championships a Jericho mens crew including Bob Stewart would take first place overall and claim the 2010 CORA Season Championships. [52] At the 2018 The Gorge Race, an "Old Guys Rule" legends crew of Bob Stewart, Lucky Hookano, Alan, Tim Haentjens, Phil Morgan, and Tom Bartlett would take first place in Kupuna division. [53] Please note that these are only a handful of the OC6 race results online that could be found.

Bob has represented Team Canada at International Va'a Federation (IVF) World Sprints / Distance from 2004-2024. At 2010 Calgary IVF World Sprints, Bob would race with V6 500M and V6 1000M and V12 500M Masters 60+ crews, and take Gold in 3 events. At 2016 Australia IVF World Sprints, Bob would race with V6 500M and V6 1000M and V12 500M crews, and take Bronze in V12 500M. [55] At 2023 Samoa IVF World Distance, Bob would race with a V6 Masters 70+ crew and take Bronze. [56] [57] At 2024 Hilo IVF World Sprints, Bob would race with V6 500M and V6 500M and V12 500M Masters 70+ / 75+ "Canadian Icemen" crews, and take Gold in 3 events.

Coach-Builder Achievements

The Jericho Sailing Centre has been developed, managed, and operated since its inception by the Not-for-Profit Jericho Sailing Centre Association (JSCA). This year marks their 50th year and JSCA will be celebrating this milestone for the next 12 months with a variety of special events. If Bob gets his wish, this could include a paddling race with a First Nations theme. JSCA has a membership now exceeding 3,000 and their mandate is to deliver low cost, highly accessible, safe, ocean recreational programs to all Vancouverites, both members and guests alike. Bob has also been a member of the JSCA Board of Directors and Jericho Rescue for many years, and in recent years has advised on the outrigger "huli" rescue procedures that now are included in the Jericho Rescue Safety document. [61]

CORA notes the importance of the ongoing introduction of new canoes to clubs and regions has contributed to the growth of the sport. Bob has served as an intermediary in expanding access to OC1s to other paddlers through his efforts to continuously expand and upgrade his own solo outrigger canoe collection. Bob has a long history of selling, gifting, and lending his OC1s to others so that they may have opportunities for OC1 training / racing. Bob has sold his canoes to individuals at Comox, Victoria, Jericho, Lotus, False Creek, the Sunshine Coast, the Interior, and Portland. Bob has gifted OC1s to individuals at Comox, False Creek, and Portland. Bob also has solo canoes on Maui where he spends time in the winter racing in the Maui Paddling Hui winter small boat racing series.

Pioneering Achievements



Although many Canadian solo outrigger canoe paddlers do very well at Canadian small-boat races, the PNWORCA Winter Series is very much about putting in miles on the highway as well as on the water. The competition in the PNWORCA Winter Series has become so intense since 2004 when 2 Canadian events were added to bring the series to 7 events, that winning the Peter Forand Masters Challenge almost certainly requires a paddler to have at least five first places in their boat / gender / age division. Bob would achieve this in 2024 thus becoming the first ever Canadian to be crowned Peter Forand Masters Challenge Champion in the long history of the PNWORCA Winter Series, by triggering the tie-breaker rule agreed to by PNWORCA & CORA, such that the trophy should be awarded to the co-champion with the most senior date of birth. [71] [72]

Exemplary Achievements

Bob generously volunteered his time to assist the CORA Town Hall Committee. Bob developed a session for the Off-The-Water Series in 2021 when only small boats were available for paddling due to social distancing protocols during the COVID Global Pandemic. At this CORA Town Hall, Bob provided a detailed chronology of his career in paddlesports and his knowledge of OC1 design evolution over the course of 30+ years. Bob provided a comprehensive history on the names and backgrounds of many of the OC1 designers (Tresnak; Blyth; Giblin; Bartlett; Puakea; Taylor; Evslin; etc.) and all their canoe models from the early 1990s to present day. Bob provided insights on how OC1 construction techniques and paint application and performance design visions had evolved over 30+ years. Bob provided an understanding of OC1 characteristics / terminology / behaviour (rocker, beam, freeboard, waterlines, cross-section, volume, chine (rounded-hull), flat-bottomed, pearling), so as to assist small boat paddlers in assessing which OC1 model would be best suited to their physical makeup and paddling goals. [81] [82]

Bob has a long history of community support as in his regular donations of Vancouver Canucks Tickets to support Jericho Rescue, Jericho Paddling Club, FCRCC and other fundraising events. At the 2024 PNWORCA Winter Series Championships, Bob presented a "Male and Female Rookie of the Year" gift to Steve and Danielle Kala (Peter Forand Masters Challenge 5th Place) of Mountain Home Canoe Club in recognition of their contributions and passion for outrigger paddling and their volunteer efforts with MHCC, an award that he hopes will become an established award for future PNWORCA Winter Series. [83]

References

Note	Article	Link
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[12]	Saxum Brampton ON	https://www.ctidirectory.com/search/company.cfm?company=21176
[13]	Burrard Marina Dragon Canoe Club (DCC)	https://parkboardmeetings.vancouver.ca/2009/plan090303/burrardmarina092.pdf
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[22]	2004 PNWORCA Winter Series Jericho 1	https://www.jerichooutrigger.com/races2004/pnworca.html
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[41]	2024 Penticton Small Boats Bob	https://www.jerichooutrigger.com/races2024/weapon.html
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[57]	2023 Samoa IVF World Distance	https://jsca.bc.ca/2023/08/22/in-the-wind-august-22-2023/
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Visuals



2003 Molokai Hoe Jericho Crew



2012 Molokai Hoe International Crew



2024 Hilo IVF World Sprints Crew



2024 Peter Forand Masters Challenge Award