



About Us

Kai Ikaika (translated “strong water” in Hawaiian) Paddling Club is a community based tax-exempt 501(c)3 non-profit club based in Portland, Oregon. The club was formed in 2000 after its’ original members participated as a recreational dragon boat crew at the Portland Rose Festival Dragon Boat Races. While we began as dragon boat paddlers, we quickly discovered our love of outrigger canoe racing and by 2007 bought our first outrigger canoe. We race both nationally and internationally and have represented the United States at the 2002 & 2006 World Dragon Boat Club Crew Championships. We are proud to have medaled in every premier event we have entered since 2002, including victories in Vancouver and Victoria BC as well as up and down the West Coast. While winning is important to the team, our focus continues to be on ohana (family) and our passion and love of the sport.

Our Mission

Promote the paddling sports of dragon boating and Polynesian outrigger canoeing. Kai Ikaika is a non-profit club with 501(c)3 tax exempt status that exists to enhance the quality of life for its’ members and bring awareness of the sport to the community.

Our River

The Willamette River in downtown Portland, Oregon is our home waters and we believe strongly in preserving the environment and protecting the river. We all have a stake in the health of the Willamette River and as such, our club is a member of the Willamette Riverkeeper organizations whose mission is dedicated solely to the protection and restoration of the river. In addition, some of our members are volunteers with the Riverkeeper’s Guardian Program, which seeks to engage citizens and train them to monitor the river for signs of pollution and check water quality.

Canoe Fleet

Kai Ikaika currently owns and maintains two Bradley Lightning OC6 canoes purchased in 2008 and one Mirage OC6 canoe purchased in 2011. Our canoes are moored at the Riverplace Marina in downtown Portland. The club’s members also own and maintain their own personal OC1 and OC2 canoes. We rent dragon boats each season from Dragon Sports USA for practice sessions

Paddling Programs

Kai Ikaika Paddling Club offers both competitive and recreational level paddling for adults. Currently the club only offers competitive dragon boat paddling.

Competitive Dragon Boat Program

This program focuses on a 20 person crew paddling dragonboat’s in a sprint race of either 250, 500 or 2000 meter distances. Competitive level paddlers commit to a rigorous training regimen as well as attendance to regular scheduled practices. This discipline focuses on fitness, technique, teamwork, team cohesion and race strategy. Kai Ikaika participates in 2-3 main race events every year, starting with the Alcan Dragonboat festival held in Vancouver, BC and finishing with the Portland Dragonboat festival held in downtown Portland, Oregon.

Competitive Outrigger Program

This program focuses on a 6 person crew paddling an outrigger canoe in long distance races of 9 miles up to 20 miles. Competitive level paddlers commit to a rigorous year round training regimen, participation in small boat (OC1 or OC2) winter training and racing as well as attendance to regularly scheduled crew practices. This discipline focuses on fitness, technique, teamwork, team cohesion and race strategy. Crews can be comprised of all women, all men or a combination of 3 men and 3 women for a mixed crew.

Recreational/Novice Outrigger Programs

Kai Ikaika is glad to offer outrigger paddling opportunities to everyone including beginners and club members who cannot commit to the rigorous training and commitment expected in the Competitive Program. In this program, you will enjoy learning the sport and possibly have an opportunity to experience racing

Members

Built on the foundation of “Ohana” the Hawaiian word for “family” , the majority of our members consist of couples, family and family at heart. We embrace the diversity of our club (with members from Samoa, Hawaii, New Zealand, Guam, and the Philippines as well as through the U.S.) and support each other in our commitment to develop and grow as individuals and community members. We have over 40 club members and plan on continued and thoughtful growth going forward.

New/Trial Paddlers

To allow everyone an opportunity to decide if paddling is something they want to pursue as a full-time sport, Kai Ikaika offers a “trial period” to newcomers. The trial period typically runs for 30 days, which may be extended at the President or Head Coach discretion. During the trial period the trial paddler is invited to experience outrigger paddling during our open club practice times, which are regularly scheduled throughout the year. Due to the seasonal nature of dragon boat races, we do not hold year round regular club practice times, however, during the month of March and April, we do hold open dragon boat practice to give trial paddlers the experience and or the opportunity to develop their technique.

A full paid club member in good standing with the club is eligible to host and will be responsible for a trial paddler. The club member is required to register the name of the trial paddler with the Secretary, along with the start date of the trial period. All required waivers must be completed by the trial paddler and kept on file at the dock.

The sport of outrigger or dragon boat paddling is physically demanding both muscularly and cardiovascular. Newcomers are expected to bring a good level of physical fitness and be capable of swimming or treading water without assistance. Anyone with known injuries or physical limitations should not participate without first consulting a doctor.

During the 30 day trial period, all trial paddlers must be introduced and evaluated by the President, Head Coach and two members of the board. Since paddling is a team sport requiring positive attitudes, team work, coachability and comradere, new paddlers that are considering joining our club are expected to exhibit these behaviors.

Guest Paddlers

From time to time, Kai Ikaika will invite guest paddlers who may or may not belong to other paddling clubs throughout the Pacific Northwest and Canada. These guest paddlers are typically high caliber, experience paddlers with a high level of physical fitness that are invited when the boat or crew are short paddlers heading into a competitive race event.

Practice Location

Outrigger canoes are stored at RiverPlace Marina located at 315 SW Montgomery, Portland, Oregon. The dock is secured and a gate key is required for entrance. Trial paddlers will need to be escorted by a club member.

Practice Schedule

Open club outrigger practice is scheduled is held on Monday and Wednesday at 6pm. Established crews within the club hold crew practices at different days and times throughout the week. Practice schedules are subject to change and typically there are summer and winter published schedules.

Dragonboat practices are open to new trial members in the months of March and April. By May, rosters have been set by the coaches and practices are focused on the crews heading to scheduled races.

Membership

Kai Ikaika Paddling Club offers paddling opportunities year round and consequently requires annual membership dues from all members regardless of how often they choose to participate or utilize club equipment. Members must pay their dues in full by March 31st. Currently there are no initiation fees. The Board of Directors establish the annual dues and announce them at the annual club meeting held every November.

There are 3 levels of memberships:

Resident Members – Those members living inside the Portland/Vancouver Metro area (within 50 mile radius) pay \$165

Non-resident Members – Those members living outside the 50 miles radius pay \$50.00

Guest Members – Those paddlers whom the club's head coach has invited to paddle and represent Kai Ikaika for select one time outrigger or dragon boat racing events are NOT required to pay club membership dues.

Member dues cover the ownership, maintenance and storage of club owned equipment and fees to dragonboat event entrance as approved by the Board of Directors.

Member dues do not cover outrigger race fees, individual USACK membership, club uniforms, paddles or other related paddling equipment, travel and lodging.

Thank you very much for your interest in our paddling club. We are more than happy to answer any additional questions you may have and invite you to come experience the joy of paddling!

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