



March 24, 2020

Aloha BOO Crew! I do hope this message finds you healthy, upbeat and safely following the CDC guidelines and executive orders of Governor Brown as we all face this unprecedented and faceless health crisis. As you can imagine, as is the case with the rest of the world, the outrigger paddling community has been turned upside down. As of this writing, SCORA (Southern California) has canceled practices and is wrestling with what to do with their spring/summer races, NAC (Newport Aquatic Center) has suspended all operations and the 2020 IVF World Sprints in Hilo have been canceled. To pepper in some good news, the Queen Liliuokalani distance race is still on in August... *at least for now.*

This evening was supposed to be the annual New Member meeting at Tumalo Creek Kayak & Canoe, however, in accordance with the guidelines and executive orders put forth, I was compelled to cancel it. My number one priority this season is to ensure the health and well-being of all members of our paddling Ohana. We all face this virus and it's impacts together; likewise how we paddle - as one.

Our typical start date of the first Saturday of April is currently on hold. The Board of Directors have been closely following all releases and updates with regards to the COVID-19 viral outbreak. As this situation remains fluid, so do our plans for the season. We remain optimistic that we will be able to get on the water together at some point in the not too distant future. The PNWORCA leadership is meeting via video conference on April 18th to discuss plans and races going forward. I hope to have more information for you following this meeting. In the meantime, I hope that you all are staying strong, healthy and motivated! I encourage those of you with OC1, kayaks, canoes, SUPs, etc. to *safely* utilize them during this time (while practicing social distancing of course). The Deschutes River is still pretty shallow, but it's open! I also encourage you all to engage with one another... have an at-home workout, diet ideas, or the like? Share it on our Facebook page! These troubled times **will** pass and then we will get back to what we all love – *paddling!*

Please stay tuned in to our Facebook page and website www.bendoutrigger.org for more information as we all power through this!

Mahalo nui loa, be safe, be well, and we will see you soon!

Todd Steinbach
President
Bend Oregon Outrigger Canoe Club