

OCC Runners Rule the Swamp Again

By Katy Bourne

The OCC "Slime and Grime" team won the Kaneohe Marine Base Swamp Romp once again this year. The team stuck together through five miles of sand, sewer pipes, endless mud puddles, an ocean swim and tire obstacles.

Dave Stackhouse, Tommy Damon and Billy Balding carried UH Wahine volleyball superstar Alicia Arnott, the state champion paddler, and Katy Bourne on their shoulders after crawling on bellies under a web of ropes and prancing through more tangled ropes from above.

We balanced as we ran across logs from one to six feet above the ground and scaled over an eight-foot wall before swinging over dark holes of deep mud just waiting to strip the boots off of our feet.

The usual light running attire and high performance shoes were replaced with army boots, long pants and t-shirts that seemed to add several pounds with each flop in the mud and water.

We are especially proud of OCC's finest young athletes whose adventurous spirit was willing to take on the non-traditional challenging, and utterly ridiculous rigors of the Kaneohe Marine Base Swamp Romp.

Alicia not only held her own, but inspired other young OCC athletes to join us or create an age group team of their own. There is a place for anyone willing to have fun participating.

The only thing visible from under the mud as we finished was our white teeth as we crossed the line arm-in-arm with huge smiles and visions of next year.

The next OCC race is the Hana Relays in September. Sign up now at the Front Desk and find out what fun you've been missing.