

# **KAHULUI SMALL BOAT HARBOR & THE MAUI TRAILER BOAT CLUB**

The close relationship between these two entities started over 27 years ago. It has been witnessed and worked on by any number of Club members, to numerous to mention by name. We have briefly outlined below some of the more significant events during that 27 year period.

## **Kahului Small Boat Harbor in the distant past.**

Try as we might, we were not able to locate the exact date when the ramp and a loading dock were created. We did however speak with some members who had used them over 30 years ago. At that time they had to take some major risks with their boat to reach the ocean.

## **The year 1978**

Ten Trailer Boat owners believed that they needed to organize into some kind of a group to be effective in seeking improvements to the Ramp. This idea thus shaped the **Maui Trailer Boat Club**.

## **The year 1984.**

As the population of Maui increased, the number and size of boats using the Kahului facility also increased. These larger vessels began having some dangerous and difficult experiences in reaching the ocean. The officers of the Club sought some assistance from the DOT. A public meeting was held with the US Corps of engineers and the Club's proposal for the improvements was made. The Corps denied the requests, stating that there were not enough fish caught and sold by boats using the Harbor to warrant the improvements.

## **The year 1985**

The Officers and Members of the club knew that they were catching and selling lots of fish, but how were they going to prove that to the Corps? Demonstrate it with a public event, thus the first Fishing Tournament sponsored by the **Maui Trailer Boat Club** was scheduled.

## **The year 1988**

The Club continued to hold the Hanapa'a tournament sending the record of each year's catch to the Corps. By the end of the year, the Corps realized that their earlier fish catch records were inaccurate and accepted these latter ones.

## **The years 1991 to 1993**

The Club continued to lobby the DOT Maui Harbors Division. During these years the Boat Harbor was dredged with a Channel 50' W x 1,300' L to a minus 6' deep @ M.L.L.W. Water was also piped into the Harbor and a lighted Concrete Wash-down Pad was built.

## **The year 1994**

The State transfers authority over all Hawaii Small Boat Harbors, from the DOT Harbors Division to the Department of Land & Natural Resources.

## **The year 1996**

For years the boaters using the Kahului Ramp struggled to get their trucks and boats up and out of the water. The reason was that the original asphalt approach had deteriorated to a point that the trucks were driving on sand. The Club furnished the labor and DOBOR the money. Within one forenoon a reinforced concrete approach had been put into place.

## **The year 1997**

The club received notification from the Corps with an updated schedule for the improvements at the Ramp. Work was to start in December 1997 and complete by January 1999. It didn't happen.

### **The year 2000**

The Club received from the Corps, a complete set of drawings for the Kahului ramp Improvements. It was titled: Kahului Light Draft Navigation Improvements. When the members received it they are all aglow, believing that the job was finally going to happen. It didn't as we now know.

### **The years 2000 to 2004**

During this period, the Club's officers and members were engrossed in E-mails, letters, Telephone calls and meetings with representatives of DLNR, the Corps and members of the Legislator. The amount of paper accumulated was being measured by inches rather than by numbers of copies.

### **The years 2004 & 2005**

During these years, there was both good and bad news. The first good news was that the Corps had awarded the contract for a major portion of the Improvement work at Kahului, and had secured all of the funds needed to complete their portion of the project. The bad news was that the State lacked the funds necessary for their portion of the work. The Club was invited to a number of meetings with the State to review what could be accomplished and what would have to be done at a later date. The officers of the Club appealed to Senator Tsutsui and Rep. Nakasone and requested that \$1,000,000 be placed in 2005 budget, so that the planned 125' Dock would be completed in 2005. That \$1,000,000 was approved by the legislator, and the entire community is looking forward to the 125' dock's construction. Early in 2005 a major storm all but sank the Kahului ramps loading docks. A number of the members and friends used their ingenuity went to work and rebuilt both of the docks so that they were placed into use once again.

Original plans and specifications detailed trees, lawns the various landscaping improvements. Paving and striping of parking stalls are also noted.

### **The year 2006 through 2008**

On the 20th of June 2006, the first phase of the Kahului Small Boat Harbor Improvements Project was officially blessed and dedicated by Governor Linda Lingle. The State Department of Boating and Ocean Recreation control the land along Kahului Beach Road to the rocks with the gate. This includes the boat ramp and wash down area.

### **The year 2009**

The "C" dock is installed; a concrete launching area is installed fronting the ramp. The wash down area is resurfaced. The addition of a handicapped boat trailer parking and handicapped boat wash down is completed.

### **The year 2010**

Ice is available for purchase. An Ice and Water house was installed along the boat ramp so what is left to do?

**PLENTY!**

- The contractor that completed the dredging operation, failed to remove two very large rocks that are just on the border line of the turning basin. These rocks are marked with buoys but have destroyed many props.
- Original plans and specifications detailed trees, lawns and various landscaping improvements.

### **Officers & Directors - 2014**

Commodore: *Dave Barker*

Vice-Commodore: *Jeremiah Hogan*

Secretary: *Kathleen Barker*

Corresponding Secretary: *Dave Barker*

Treasurer: *Ray Whener*

Directors: *John Meston & Dave Bagda  
& Deytyn Asami*

