

# LIBERTY CALL

## Surface Line Week



World famous local chef, Sam Choy samples a dish from the chili cookoff during the Surface Line Week competitions.



Lt. Cmdr Aaron Peters (left), Executive Officer of the USS Salvor (ARS 52) and SN Marco Gil compete in the Tug-of-War competition during Surface Line Week.

### Surface Sailors compete in athletic, rating events

By J02 Greg Cleghorne  
NAVY REGION HAWAII

When the final numbers were tallied, this year's overall Surface Line Week '99 (SLW) winner was USS Hopper (DDG 70) with 118 total points. Second place went to the "James Gang" of USS Reuben James (FFG 57) with 102 points and third place went to USS Port Royal (CG 73) with 79 points.

SLW '99 was held Oct. 15 through Nov. 5 at Pearl Harbor with 11 commands participating in 37 athletic and professional skill events.

The competitive event for surface ships is designed to promote rating skill development, physical readiness, teamwork, esprit de corps and sportsmanship.

Categories ranged from flag football to signalman olympics to something as deep in Navy history and tradition as boatswain's mate piping.

This year's highlight, Hawaiian style cooking, had celebrity drawing power. Local culinary legend Sam Choy was on hand to judge mess management specialist's creations and gave the shaka to the Reuben James' entry.

"All participants demonstrated high levels of professional expertise and an intense competitive spirit," said Frank Del Gaudio, Commander, Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific (COMANVSURFGRU MIDPAC) fleet recreation coordinator.

Another highly-competitive event that took place during SLW is the Admiral's Cup competition that honored the command most

successful in overall afloat intramural athletic competition throughout the year.

USS Crommelin (FFG 37) sailed away with the Admiral's Cup honor and, fittingly, was well out to sea when they were named.

"Crommelin put together an extremely successful season in virtually every available athletic event," said Del Gaudio.

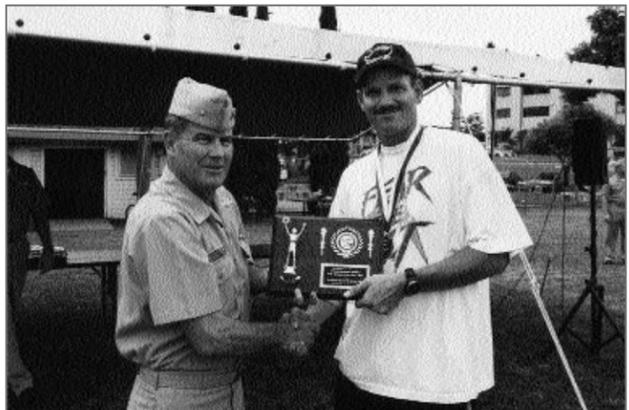
Rear Adm. John Townes III, COMANVSURFGRU MIDPAC presented the overall first, second, third place and the male and female awards for Athletes of the Year. When Crommelin returns, he will present them with the Admiral's Cup award.

While most of the events focused on teamwork, an important award also goes to two top individuals.

USS Hopper Sailors swept this category too. Ens. Carrie Spannagel won Female Athlete of the Year and Sonar Technician (Surface) 1st Class (SW) Shawn Devlin won Male Athlete of the Year.

Honorable mentions go to Reuben James' Gas Turbine System Technician (Mechanical) 2nd Class (SW) Robert Aycock and Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit One's Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Timothy McVeigh for their athletic achievements this year.

"We couldn't have succeeded in this year's SLW and Admiral's Cup competition without the tremendous contributions of the many event coordinators," Del Gaudio said. "The competition highlighted the camaraderie, teamwork and mutual respect that are the strengths of the Pearl Harbor surface warfare community."



Rear Adm. John Townes III, Commander Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific presents Ens. Carrie Spannagel (top) and STG1(SW) Shawn Devlin, both from USS Hopper (DDG 70), with the COMANVSURFGRU MIDPAC Athlete of the Year awards.

Photos by  
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