



Ducky Dash Update - July 4, 2013

Happy Birthday America - 237, and the Best is Yet to Come
 And there was rejoicing across the land of Hawaii Kai
Ducky Dash - 2013 Emerged as a Great Success

From its outset during a chance conversation until it burst into reality today, Ducky Dash-2013 developed, grew, flourished, ultimately capturing the imaginations and hearts of The Rotary Club of Hawaii Kai and the community at large. **Adopt a Duck?** became a prideful mantra for all.

Mid-May, 2012, an idea to advance Hawaii Kai Rotary's financial capabilities began to germinate as the club that called itself the "Little Club that Could, and Did," began to focus on expanding its already strong scholastic scholarship and community service capabilities. Viewed as a fine idea, it seemed a large, complicated undertaking; too much, can we really do this? So, Ducky Dash-2013 was characterized as a "Bite Sized" undertaking - how to eat an elephant? First of all, entry level would be do-able: \$5 to adopt a duck, a *Quack Pack* of five ducks as easy as pulling out \$20.

Tasks were defined. First of all, we needed to buy lots of expensive little rubbery duckies, printing, supplies and on and on. How do we do this? It's going to be hard.

Then, the Rotary spirit kicked in as expert help, sponsorship and support began to appear with Aloha: *Can we help, we do printing? I'm in PR, maybe I can give a boost, this is a great project; I own some McDonalds Restaurants and I like your idea; I played for UH, the NFL, coach football at Kaiser, and yes, I do accept your invitation as Honorary Chair; I can get those little hummers shipped at hardly any cost to Rotary; We swim together and would like to help out with Duck Adoption; We are Kaiser Interact, and just try and keep us away; JAIMS appeared with spirited humor and Aloha.*

Suddenly it was the Fourth of July, our country's 237th birthday and those incredible Ducky Dash T-shirts were everywhere, entertainers arrived and entertained, the Emcee appeared as a long lost friend, simply jazzed by DD-2013; food, coffee, grab bag gifts, and folks from Hawaii Kai, Aina Haina, Waimanalo, Niu Valley, Kailua, Kahala, arrived. The booms, anchors, boats & kayaks were in the water, the ducks were launched behind the "noodles", the gate was in place and it was time. They were off, going with wind and tide, ever steady to the gate. Can one be excited watching 6,000 little yellow duckys with mortar board and diploma bob along to the finish lime? Oh, my yes. Then the winners names were announced and we all knew that this was about so much more than simply a prize. Aloha.

