

16th Naha hahri race program

May 5, 1990 at Naha Sinko (Aja New port)

Event	Participate			Starting Time
(1) General entry	Course 1 (Black)	Course 2 (Yellow)	Course 3 (Green)	
1 Schools	Houseikai	Okinawa industrial h. Sch	Okinawa Syougakuin H. Sch.	11:30
2	Syuri H. Sch. OB	Naha H. Sch. OB	Oroku H. Sch. OB	:50
3	Ryukyu University	U. S. Air Force (Male)	Okinawa University	12:10
4	Tomari Elem. Sch PTA	Naha Jr. H. Sch PTA	Kumoji Elem. Sch PTA	:30
5 Buisness Organization	Maejima Elem. Sch PTA	U. S Air Force (Female)	Sikina Sake Distiller	:50
6	Port Security Office	Port Transporta- tion Office	Sogojimukyoku	1:10
7	Okinawa electric Safety Ass.	Naha Police Office	Jyundokan	1:30
8	U. S. Army (Female)	OAS	Naha School Lunch Center	:50
9	Ryukyu Ship Build ing	Marumasa jyuki	U. S. Army (Male)	2:10
10	SWAL	JAL	ANA	:30
11	U. S. Marine Corps (Female)	U. S. Navy (Female)	NEC	:50
12	U. S. Marine Corps (Male)	Maritime Sefety Agency	U. S. Navy (Male)	3:10
13	IBM	NTT	Fujitsu	3:30
(2) Ugan bari	Prayer given before the by three areds: Tomari. Kume. Naha			4:00
(3) General Entry Final	Final race by three Top Best Record Teams			:30
(4) Syutsujinshiki	(Ceremony given Before tha Main Event			:50
(5) Hon Bari (Main event)	Tomari	Kume	Naha	5:30
(6) Commendation Ceremony (Awards given)				6:00

May 5, Saturday

Children's Show	10:30 a.m.
Hahri Race	11:30 a.m.
Ryukyu-Kuni-Matsui Drum Show	12:00 p.m.
Family Computer Game	1:00 p.m.
Family Band Show Percussion Performance	1:30 p.m.
Main Hahri Boat Race	3:00 p.m.
Children's Show	4:00 p.m.
Variety Show	5:00 p.m.
Fireworks	6:30 p.m.
	8:00 p.m.

The 16th Annual Naha Hahri Boat Races will begin May 3, 1990, Thursday, and continue through May 5, Saturday. The Naha race is one of the largest on island, although, Hahri boat races are held at several fishing ports in Okinawa. The Naha Hahri Boat Races include teams from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps as well as teams from various schools, civic, and business organizations. These teams compete in preliminary races.

Itoman, Yakena (in Yonashiro Village), and Yomitan Village also hold Hahri boat races annually. The races are customarily held on May 4 of the Lunar Calendar, this year May 27 on the Solar Calendar. In the northern part of Okinawa, in the Ogimi Village for example, the Hahri races are held in September as part of the sea god festival. During these

festivals, people pray to the sea god for good harvests on land and sea.

The custom of Hahri boat racing dates back several centuries to China. The legend can be traced to the death of Kutsugen, a Chinese poet. Kutsugen was a virtuous and patriotic poet who died 2,000 years ago in China at the age of 66. He was well respected, loved and honored by his people. It is because of his death by drowning that the Hahri boat races originated.

Katuren drowned within the sight of many of his admirers. People on the shore quickly put their boats to sea in an unsuccessful attempt to rescue the poet. The boatmen began to blame themselves for his death, saying he might have survived if they had been faster with the oars. They began training to improve their speed and the Hahri boat races were instituted in memory of the legendary scholar.

The main Hahri event will be held on May 5 at 4:00 p.m. this year. This contest pits three teams against each other in a single race. One boat, *Tomari*, represents Ryukyu. The clothing of the crew, the flag, and the hull of the boat are black. A second boat, *Naha*, represents Japan and the clothing of the crew and the boat are blue. The third boat, *Kume*, represents China and their colors are yellow.

The boats are approximately 14.5 meters in length, have a draft .72 meters long, and are 2.1 meters wide. The boats can weigh up to 2 tons. The crew consists of forty-two people: sixteen starboard (right side) rowers, sixteen port (left side) rowers, two gong sounders, two helmsmen, three flagmen, two central riders, and one singer of the traditional Hahri song. The emphasis is on team work.

The Naha Hahri Boat Races are held at Aja New Port, just south of Camp Kinser and north of the center of Naha. It can be easily found by driving south down Hwy. 58. There will be a highway marker identifying the port as you enter Naha. There is usually very little parking space available in the immediate area. The following schedule of events outlines the festival's activities.