



Queen's Pa'u Unit Riders

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Many of my readers ask how do I pick a topic to write about after more than 200 articles. Well, I know that there are millions of things that I don't know much about and would like to learn more about them. But, generally, something happens to trigger my brain towards a certain subject. In Sunday's paper (6/5/2016) right at the top of the front page was a picture of this lady that I know quite well. Her name is Brenda Ryan and she is a member of the Queen's Pa'u Unit Riders. She is riding in the King Kamehameha Day floral Parade.



The Sunday Paper



Brenda getting her hair done for the big event



Brenda's horse getting her hair done

Here are a few more pictures taken at the King Kamehameha Day floral Parade held on Saturday, 11 Jun 2016.



Brenda with her horse before the parade



Picture taken during the parade – Brenda is on second horse in center



Brenda with her children at the party after the parade

These pictures show Brenda Ryan with our dog Monty.



Monty getting some instruction on how to act at the Dog Show



Brenda says he will win at the Dog Show



Monty performing in the ring at the Dog Show



Brenda and Monty resting in the shade before performing in the ring



And the winner is – who else? - Monty

Brenda Ryan is a well-known Rottweiler breeder here on the island of Oahu and that is where our dog Monty came from (father is named Mana and mother is named Hoku). Brenda knows Monty well since she was the one who prepared Monty for and presented him at the Dog Show. We actually got Monty from a lady named Joy Jay who got the mother Hoku from Brenda. The above pictures show Brenda getting Monty ready for the Dog Show and then putting him through the required routines in the ring. Monty done great and was named “Top Dog” among all Rottweilers at the show. This was his one and only Dog Show. I’m too old and too busy to do the Dog Show circuit.



Brenda not only owns and breeds Rottweiler dogs, she is also a “Horse Person” who owns, trains, and rides horses. She is a member of the Queen’s Pa’u Unit Riders. Pa’u riders (pronounced pah-oo riders) are wahine (Hawaiian for women) horseback riders who wear long, colorful skirts (Hawaiian: pā’ū) and characteristically ride astride, rather than sidesaddle. A pā’ū unit is a procession of elegant and finely dressed women atop horseback. Women and horses alike are adorned with over the top floral pieces in a brilliant display of pageantry. Pā’ū riding is a tradition that dates back to the early 1800s when Hawai’i’s royal women toured the islands on horseback. This equestrian tradition declined after the overthrow of the Kingdom of Hawaii, but was revitalized in the early 20th century with the establishment of formal riding organizations called Pa’u Riders. Today, they participate in Kamehameha Day floral parades and other festivals throughout the islands.

In the Kamehameha Day floral parade, there are eight Hawaiian Island pa'u riding units that represent each island, their colors, and flower. There are eight pa'u princesses and one pa'u Queen in each unit. The Queen wears any color of her choice. In addition to the Queen and Princesses, each pa'u unit has a lead page, two attendants, and three escorts. And every unit would not be complete without the pooper-scoopers. This parade has about 100 horses in it and they can generate a lot of poop.



Pa`u queens are royalty with the shortest reigns on record. Having the top spot in the Hawaiian equestrian procession, their official appearances and reign lasts for the three hours or so during the actual parade.

Here are the flowers and colors which represent each island float and Pa'u unit:

Oahu has an Ilima flower and their color is yellow
The Big Island of Hawaii has the ohia lehua and their color is red
Maui has the lokelani and their color is pink
Lanai has the kaunaona and their color is orange
Kauai has the mokihana and their color is purple
Molokai has kukuis and their color is green
Niihau has niihau shells and their colors are brown
Kahoolawe has ahinahina and their colors are grey



Pa'u Unit from the Big Island of Hawaii

There will be over 15 different review stands along the parade route. No matter where you are on the route, you will be able to hear the parade narrative. In celebration of the many cultures here in Hawai'i, the parade narrative will be offered in Hawaiian and Japanese at the Royal Hawaiian Center review stand. All other review stands will be in English. If you aren't able to make it to the parade in person, it is streamed live and broadcasted on OC 16 television.



King Kamehameha Statue in front of 'Iolani Palace

June 11, 2016 celebrates the 100th Annual King Kamehameha Day Floral Parade. The parade will begin at 9:00 a.m. at the historic 'Iolani Palace in downtown Honolulu and will make its way to Kapi'olani Park in Waikiki, the parade stretches just over 4 miles long and takes a little more than 3 hours to complete.



Colorful Float with Children Singing and Dancing



One of the most popular parade floats is that which carries King Kamehameha and his tattooed warriors. Every year, someone from the Hawaiian community is selected to be the Mōī, the sovereign King Kamehameha I. Draped in royal yellow regalia, the Mōī stands proudly surrounded by his attending koa, warriors, all with spears in hand (He ruled from 1782 until 1819). It was around 1810 that King Kamehameha founded the Kamehameha dynasty by unifying the Hawaiian Islands. The monarchy continued until 1893, when it was toppled by an American-supported coup.

The parade and party after are great displays of Old Hawai'i Pageantry.

The 100th parade will culminate with a large ho'olaule'a (party) at Kapi'olani Park scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. Expect to see fine Hawaiian arts and crafts, hear live music from top performing artists, and submerge yourself in Hawaiian cultural practices.

Everyone from riders to pooper-scoopers is judged before and during the parade. Winning units are recognized at an awards ceremony the day after the parade at Cook's Ranch in Waimanalo. The celebratory occasion is a fitting climax to Aloha Festivals, the only statewide cultural event in the nation.



There are Hula Dancers and great Hawaiian Live Music

Well, hopefully you learned something about the King Kamehameha Day Floral Parade and The Queen's Pa'u Unit Riders. You also might have learned a little bit about our friend Brenda Ryan and our dog Monty.

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