

Unlimited Canoes

Unlimited Canoe Distributors As Of 2026-March-10 (with updated links from 2020-December-15)

Chronicle

The following table contains an approximate timeline of the history of Unlimited OC6 canoes. Each entry has a link to a web article that sheds more light on the individuals and their contributions during that time.

Each chapter of the chronicle is based on details contained within the web articles referenced in the chapter or from interviews conducted with individuals mentioned in the chapter. Much of this history is from many years in the past and reference material will become increasingly more difficult to locate as time goes on. Some of the web articles have been saved as documents to preserve the reference material in event the original article becomes lost forever.

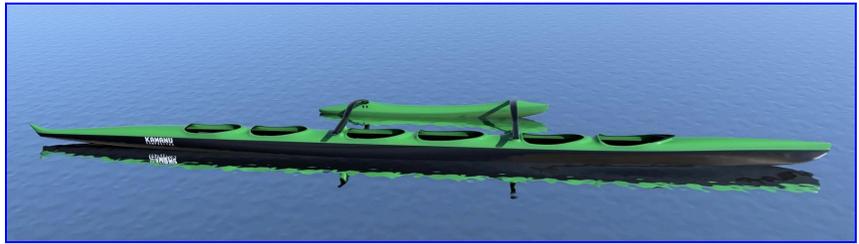
Distributors

#	Designer Builder	Make	Timeline	Reference
CH-25	Kamanu Composites (Woo)	Kamanu V6	2010	25-Kamanu (http://www.kamanucomposites.com/)
CH-28	ARE Va'a Tahiti	Matahina	2012	28-Matahina (https://www.areoutriggerworld.ca/)
CH-29	Mike Giblin	Vortex	2012	29-Vortex (https://www.outriggerzone.com/models/vortex/)
CH-30	Johnny Puakea	Malolo	2013	30-Malolo (https://puakeadesigns.com/pages/malolo-oc6/)
CH-32	Kai Wa'a Kai Bartlett	Hydra	2025	32-Hydra (https://www.kaiwaa.com/hydra-oc6/)

[CH-25-Kamanu]

Kamanu Composites (<http://www.kamanucomposites.com/>) was founded in 2007. The company is centered out of Kailua HI, but has licensed local manufacturers in France (Woo) and Australia (Kamanu AUS) and distribution networks in Los Angeles, Seattle, Japan, and Hong Kong. Kamanu has

been building Unlimited OC6s since 2010 including the Nanahope (205lbs) and the Elepaio (190lbs).



There are presently 2 Woo Kamanu OC6s at a single **CORA** club (H2O Outrigger) and a single non-**CORA** Canadian club (Wai Nui). There is also 1 Woo Da Kai OC4 at a single **CORA** club (Squamish). These Eastern Canada clubs have imported Kamanu OC6s from the France manufacturer due to the challenges of obtaining canoes from Hawaii manufacturers.

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[CH-28-Matahina]

The ARE Matahina

(<https://www.areoutriggerworld.ca/>) was first raced in Tahiti in October 2012 and then dominated the Hawaiki Nui Va'a in November 2012. The Tahitian ARE Matahina Unlimited OC6 at 130 Kilos (280lbs) is much heavier than the



Hawaiian Unlimited OC6s (145lbs). ARE Va'a Australia

(<https://www.facebook.com/ARETAHITIAUSTRALIA/>) in Mooloolaba QLD is the Australian distributor for the ARE Matahina. Newport Outrigger Canoe Club

(<http://www.newportoutriggercanoe.club/canoes/>) acquired the first ARE Matahina on the mainland United States. That canoe was borrowed by Team Air Tahiti, who finished 1st overall in its maiden race, the 2018 US Outrigger Championship's Catalina Crossing. (https://www.scora.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/2018-Catalina-Crossing_Men_Coed-Masters-Overall.pdf) The ARE Matahina canoes come in two weight classes – Club Model @ 110 kgs (240 lbs) and Performance Model @ 95 kgs (210 lbs). Kenneth Ang (<https://www.areoutriggerworld.ca/>) collaborated with Will Reichenstein (<https://www.calipaddler.com/blogs/paddle-articles/all-about-the-v1-interview-with-will-reichenstein/>) of the Wa'a House trailered the Newport Outrigger Canoe Club ARE Matahina "Aukuso Fuaavailili" to Canada for Canadian clubs to try out resulting in several Lotus Sports Club members making a private purchase of this canoe.

There are presently 9 ARE Matahina OC6s at 6 **CORA** clubs (Lotus; False Creek; Suncoast; Pacific Reach; Star Nation; Penticton), all in Western Canada. The first ARE Matahina in PNWORCA was acquired in 2018 by Kikaha in Tacoma WA. Team Air Tahiti borrowed the Kikaha ARE Matahina for the 2019 Gorge Race and took 10 minutes off the course record set in 2018 by Red Bull Wa'a.

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[CH-29-Vortex]

Ozone (Outrigger Zone) (<http://outriggerzone.com/>) in Maui HI has been manufacturing canoes and products designed by Kai Wa'a, Puakea Designs, and Mike Giblin for over 25 years including the new Unlimited Puakea Malolo and Giblin Vortex (<https://www.outriggerzone.com/models/vortex/>) OC6 canoes. Mike Giblin (<https://mikegiblincanoes.com/canoes-unleashed/>) manufactured the Kaumuali'i (<https://store.outriggerzone.com/news/unlimited-olamau/>) out of an old workshop on Maui as an Unlimited OC6 prototype for the 2012 Olamau Race. Kai Aniani Canoe Club (<https://store.outriggerzone.com/news/into-the-vortex-a-review/>) of Florida in September 2013 were one of the first outrigger clubs to take ownership of the new Giblin Vortex. Outrigger Zone (<https://www.outriggerzone.com/dealers/>) has dealers in territories worldwide. JD Davies of Waterwalker (<https://www.outriggerzone.com/dealers/ozonenorthwest/>) in Carson WA had been selling canoes and surfskis in the Pacific NorthWest since 1994, and had been organizing the largest canoe race in the Pacific NorthWest for over 20 years, the Gorge Outrigger Canoe Race. (<https://thegorgerace.com/>) As an Ozone distributor (<https://www.outriggerzone.com/boats/designer/>) and manager of the Ozone Pacific NorthWest warehouse, JD Davies hosted an open house in July 2014 (<https://store.outriggerzone.com/2013/08/>) with Mike Giblin at the Gorge Outrigger Canoe Race with his new Vortex Unlimited OC6. There were no takers. In the summer of 2015, Lance Mamiya of Kennewick WA became the first owner of a Vortex Unlimited OC6 in PNWORCA and formed Team FreeLance.



There are presently 15 Giblin Vortex OC6s at 10 **CORA** clubs.

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[CH-30-Malolo]

The (Johnny) Puakea Designs Unlimited Malolo (145lbs) (<https://puakeadesigns.com/pages/malolo-oc6/>) is a refined design of the 2013 Olamau Race (<https://store.outriggerzone.com/product-insights/unlimited-potential-malolo-oc6/>) Shell Va'a winning canoe, the canoe that was built specifically using the



Outrigger Zone (Ozone) (<http://outriggerzone.com/>) one-piece construction. Outrigger Zone builds singles (OC1), doubles (OC2) and six-person outrigger canoes (OC6). Hana Hou Paddlesports (HHP) (<https://www.hanahoupaddlesports.com/about/>) in Comox Valley BC owned by Don Irvine and Zoe Norcross-Nu'u has been the western Canada distributor for Outrigger Zone (Ozone) since 2013. ColdWater Canoe (<https://coldwatercanoe.com/>) in Ottawa ON owned by Trevor Woodside has been the eastern Canada distributor for Outrigger Zone (Ozone) since 2017.

There are presently 22 Puakea Malolo OC6s at 12 **CORA** clubs and 3 non-**CORA** Canadian clubs making this the fourth most prevalent OC6 in Canada.

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[CH-32-Hydra]

The Kai Wa'a Hydra Unlimited canoe (https://www.kaiwaa.com/hydra-oc6/) was introduced in 2024 by Kai Bartlett, with the Standard Hull weighing 125 lbs and the Pro Hull weighing 99 lbs. The Kai Wa'a Hydra pairs the design and performance expertise of Kai Wa'a with the



construction and quality of Outrigger Zone to bring exceptional comfort and versatility to perform in all conditions. The Kai Wa'a Hydra introduced several outrigger canoe technology innovations including a unique cockpit design with asymmetrical gunnels, the Lele OC6 ama much lighter than any other modern OC6 ama, iakos that are about 50% lighter than previous Unlimited canoes, and a new rigging/receiver setup where the hull-side receivers are separate blocks that sit in a curved-bottom slot in the hull. The Kai Wa'a Hydra was chosen as the official V6 for the 2026 Singapore IVF World Sprints (https://www.worldsprints2026singapore.com/) Championships.

There are presently 12 Kai Wa'a Hydra OC6s at 6 **CORA** clubs and 4 non-**CORA** Canadian clubs.

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