

Hobie **HOTLINE**

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1988

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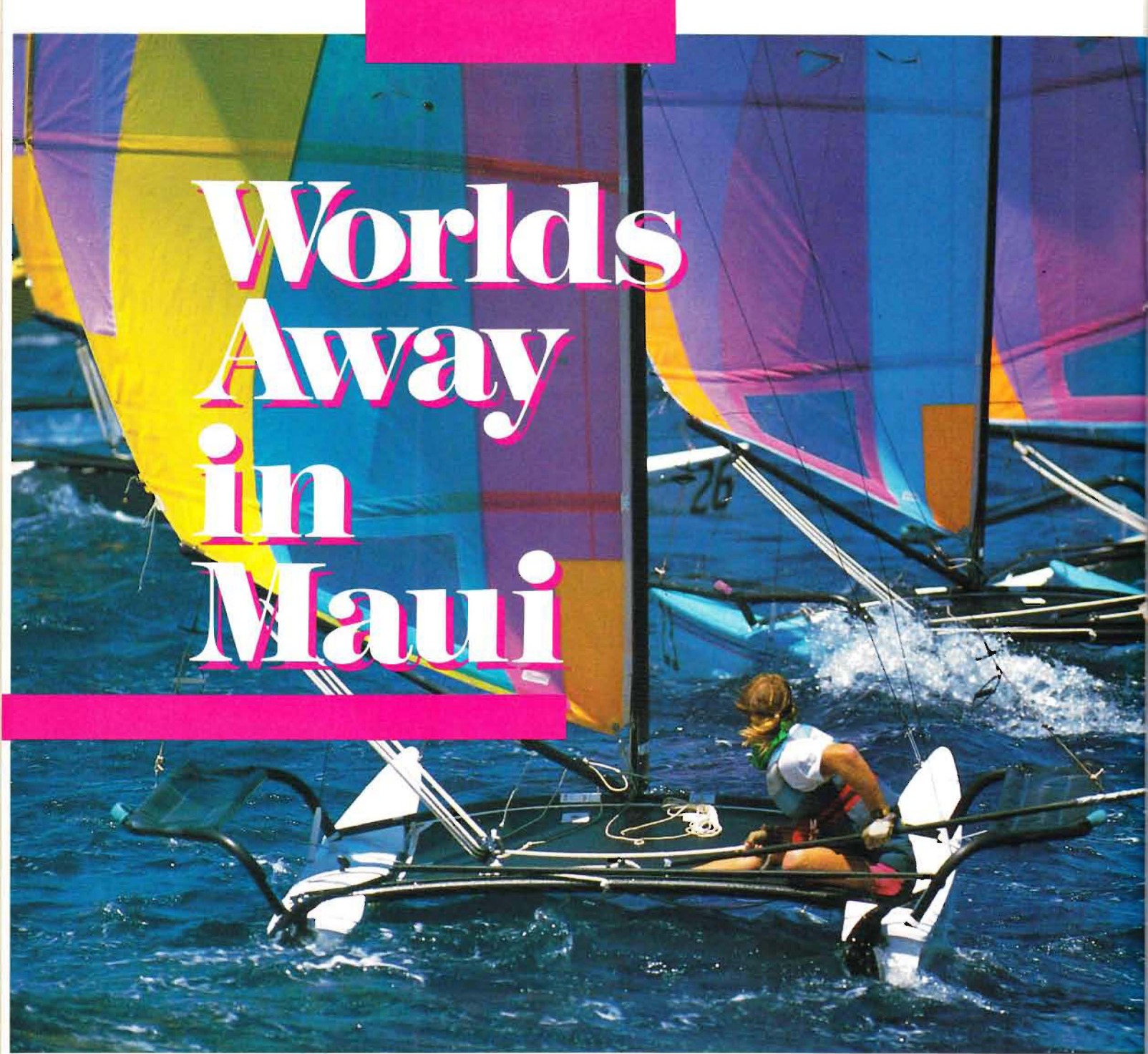


HOLIDAY HOTLINE

NAUTICAL NOMENCLATURE

MEXICAN EXPEDITION

THE COAST GUARD



Worlds Away in Maui

BY BONNIE HEPBURN

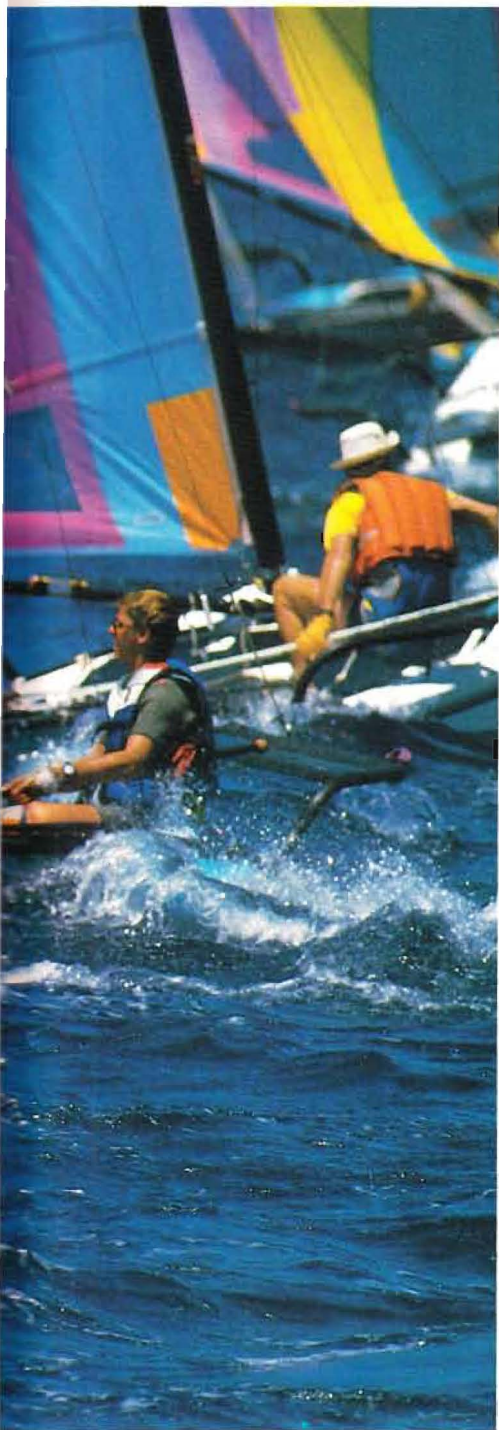
PHOTOGRAPHY BY
PATRICK McDOWELL

Ninety-eight Hobie skippers gathered on the Hawaiian island of Maui for seven days of intense, world-class competition from September 3 to September 10, 1988 knowing that only one victor would leave with the coveted first-ever Hobie 17 World Champion title. From the top of the 10,000 foot dormant volcano to the golden sands of Kaanapali Beach, Maui has rarely seen a more challenging field. Competitors gathered from three continents to sail the powerful and colorful Hobie 17s provided by Hobie Cat.

The qualifying series from September 3 to September 5 gave a preview of things to

come as fifty-eight skippers sailed in round robin races for the thirty-two slots remaining in the championship field. Hobie Cat provided thirty-six brand new, identical 17s for the competition. Each sailor had the opportunity to tune his boat prior to the start of each race; however, the skippers changed boats between races to ensure that their individual sailing skills were tested, not boat performance.

Fickle winds challenged both the racers' patience and the boats' performance, forcing the Race Committee to move courses and even cancel races. Wind conditions ranged from very light air on Saturday to rain and hurricane threats on Sunday. Winds varied from race to race: In one race, the brightly colored boats would be



sailed to maximum performance levels; in the next, sailors would find themselves becalmed and frustrated.

The Race Committee worked hard to set courses that would keep the event moving and formidable. At the end of the qualifications, everyone involved knew that this first championship would indeed be a world-class competition. The top sixteen sailors in each of the two weight categories joined the forty pre-qualified sailors and moved on to the championship races. Nine of the sailors that competed in the qualifying series ultimately made it into the finals and ranked among the top thirty-six for the entire World event.

The second series of races repeated the exuberance and frustration of the qualify-

ing events. The championship series began on Tuesday, September 6. On that first day of championship racing, a field of seventy-two sailors, thirty-six in each of the lightweight and heavyweight divisions, suffered through light southerly winds that allowed only two races. The frustration grew on Wednesday as the field sailed in ten to fifteen knot trade winds that continually and unexpectedly changed direction.

In the third race on Wednesday, the trade winds backed out a mere thirty seconds before the starting flag dropped. Half of the fleet bobbed in a light southerly breeze as they watched the other half of the fleet sail to a terrific start in brisk northerly air. The winds continued to back off and fill the rest of the day, making the racing both tough and tricky.

Australian Shaun Jackson demonstrated the personal resilience and competitive spirit that marked the entire series. Rounding A mark in race six, Jackson held first place. In the process of rounding the mark, he slipped off his boat. In spectacular Hobie fashion, he cartwheeled through the water, causing some spectators to think that he had mistaken the 17 championship series for the Olympic trials. Jackson, displaying remarkable determination and skill as a sailor, managed to climb back aboard and sail to a fantastic third place finish.

The determination and skill of all the Australians was apparent by the time the second series of races finished in strong trade winds that blew continuously the entire day. After a full four races on Thursday, the Australians seemed to serve formal notice that they had come to the first-ever Hobie 17 World Championship with the intention of taking the World crown Down Under.

Although Australian Gary Metcalfe already claimed the 16 Worlds title in Scheveningen, Holland earlier this year, the skill of the younger Metcalfe brothers, Michael and Chris, surprised some of the veteran American sailors, who mistakenly equated their youthfulness with inexperience. These young men weren't discounted long, though, as they established and maintained their hold on the top slots in the championship races. The top ten contenders going into the finals events were: Michael Metcalfe; Carlton Tucker; Chris Metcalfe; Steve Myrter; Dean Froome; Fred Niederquell; Hobie Alter, Jr.; Alan Egusa; Tom Materna and Wick Smith.

The final races began on September 9 in light air that prevented the Race Committee from getting off more than one race. The cancelled second race found competitors reacting to the frustrating wind conditions in typical Hobie fashion: They called a meeting. Tying up to the Committee boat, the racers held a lengthy consultation. Although none of the participants would comment publicly on the nature of their discussions, it was noted that they all returned to the beach with smiles on their faces. The fact that none of the boats sailed to the beach in a straight

line was attributed to wind conditions, rather than the mai tai cocktails on tap at the Committee boat. Knowledgeable sources speculated that the discussions centered on the spectacular visual delights surrounding the sailors. This source would not comment on whether those delights were the Hawaiian scenery or the bathing beauties on the Committee boat.

On a more serious note, there were four general recalls in a row during the attempt to race on September 9. These continual recall problems prompted the Race Committee to invoke the black flag rule. After two general recalls in succession, any competitor who made a false start would be disqualified from that race. Invoking the black flag rule improved the starting efforts of all the skippers tremendously.

The last day of the finals offered classic Hobie Cat sailing conditions. Carlton Tucker of Fort Walton Beach, Florida remained within striking distance of Michael Metcalfe for the World Championship crown. Race one started out with good trade winds of sixteen to seventeen knots on a course three. Tucker finally broke out in the lead on a reach. He led Metcalfe by four boat lengths coming up to A mark, but on the run from B to C mark Metcalfe challenged Tucker by jibing a half-dozen times. Tucker unsuccessfully maneuvered to cover the challenge, but Metcalfe sailed to the best advantage. Rounding B mark, Metcalfe had not only succeeded in passing Tucker, but had also increased his lead by three lengths. Suspense built as the spectators were caught up in the tension and excitement of the race. Tucker repeatedly challenged Metcalfe in a vain effort to regain the lead, but Metcalfe kept Tucker in his lee and finished the race with a comfortable margin.

Race two featured the best winds of the match as well as the first course seven in the series. The fleet started in winds of twenty knots. Crossing the starting line, the fleet split into three groups. A small group of sailors chose a port tack to make a fast run for the beach where they hoped to pick up a lift off the beach. The second group went up the middle of the course and then tacked over onto port and worked their way up the center of the course to the weather mark. The majority of the racers held the starboard tack until they got to the port layline and then tacked over.

The top boats in this race came out of this third group. Jeff Alter led around the course with Carlton Tucker following him, but unable to mount a significant challenge to his lead. Michael Metcalfe trailed in third place. The closeness of Tucker and Metcalfe's finish in the second race set the stage for the last, decisive race of the finals.

Last minute wind changes forced last minute course changes in the final race, putting the weather mark to the south out of the trade winds into a backwind area. After one general recall, the fleet started in good order. Immediately after crossing the starting line, it split into two distinct groups



going in opposite directions. Half of the fleet went to the beach where they hoped to pick up the wind and avoid the strong current on the course; the other half of the fleet braved the current to take advantage of the strong wind line.

Unfortunately for Carlton Tucker, he chose the beach. "I still had a chance in the last race. My strategy was to start windward and cross, but I changed my mind and followed to the beach, where the wind died," Tucker explained. Chris Metcalfe also chose the beach, but Michael Metcalfe chose the opposite strategy, going to the strong wind line on the course. This put Michael Metcalfe in a commanding position for the championship, although not for this race. Rounding the first mark, he remained back in the pack. Jeff Alter came around first, followed by Wolfgang Kornwebel, Michael Metcalfe, Bill Whitehurst, Bruce Bechtold, Fred Niederquell, Bob Seaman, Michael Jacobs, Hobie Alter, Jr. and Dean Froome.

Alter maintained his lead around the course and took first place in this race. Metcalfe took third place. The throw-out scores impacted heavily on the overall outcome. Carlton Tucker's throw-out score ended up being twenty-six points, contrasted to Michael Metcalfe's throw-out of only ten points. Chris Metcalfe's throw-out score of twenty points occurred in this race, also. Chris tacked in front of Tucker rounding A mark, earning a foul that required him to complete two 360 degree turns before continuing. It wasn't good enough for Tucker, though, who needed a seventh place or better finish in that third race to win.

When the third race was completed, the winner of the first-ever Hobie 17 World Championship title was Michael Metcalfe, who not only claimed the world crown, but the heavyweight division honors. Chris Metcalfe placed second overall and took first place in the lightweight division. Carlton Tucker had the third place honors

overall and second in the heavyweight category.


"It hurt to lose, but I blew it myself," Tucker confessed. "It is so frustrating to come in second, that I'm almost glad I took third," he said of his drop in the standings. A factor which all the veteran sailors acknowledged in this competition was practice on the Hobie 17. While the Metcalfe brothers have spent the last two years practicing hard and long to come to Maui for this competition, many of the other sailors have had their recent experience on other Hobies.

Both the Alter brothers and Carlton Tucker have been quite active in the Pro-Sail and other 21 events during the last year. In fact, Tucker admitted that he had not sailed a 17 since 1987. "The 17 is a great boat, but I don't own one myself. Besides, I'm more of a doublehanded sailor and prefer a crew, although I can go to a singlehanded event and run well. The last time I was on a 17 was at the 17 Nationals in Daytona in 1987," Tucker confided. "However, that doesn't take anything away from the Metcalfes," he added. "They are very skillful sailors and competing with them was an eye-opener."

Jeff Alter concurred. "The top sailors ended up on top," Alter stated. "You had to be good or lucky to win," he added. "The competition was tough." The competition was not the only thing that drew praise from the racers in this premiere Hobie 17 sailing event. Everyone extolled the work of the Race Committee and the World Hobie Class Association for putting on such a well-run event. Paul Ulibarri, Beach Captain, and Rich Jeffries, Race Committee Chairman, received many kudos for their efforts. Jeff Alter noted that the Race Committee operated under difficult conditions, but never seemed to get flustered as they made their many changes and reset the courses over and over.

Michael Metcalfe agreed that the Race Committee did a professional job, but he was disappointed in the weather and water conditions. "It was really flat which surprised me, because actually Hawaii is known for its high wave situation," Metcalfe said. "The hurricane threats were great!"

The top ten finishers in the 17 World Championship series came from Australia, the United States and Germany, making it a truly international event. (See the Race Results for more details.)

The first Hobie 17 World Championship in Maui was a great event with top class competition. It featured great nightlife and parties, too, including a Miss Hobie 17 World Bikini contest and a Mr. Hobie 17 World contest. Everyone at the 17 World Championship seemed to have fun off the water as well as on the water. In case you're wondering, we elected not to report on the social side of this event because of the razzing we took about the September/October 1988 article on the 17 Nationals from the racers on Maui and from our readers. -Ed. 

REGATTA RESULTS

INTERNATIONAL

O'NEIL HOBIE 16 EUROPEANS
CHARLOTTENLUND FORT, DENMARK
AUGUST 26-SEPTEMBER 3, 1988

NAME	COUNTRY	POINTS
1. Leptien/Schussler	Ger	26.50
2. Mohr/Mohr	Ger	28.00
3. Neergaard/Kjer	DK	35.50
4. Delius/Delius	Ger	69.00
5. Stoll/Olsen	F	70.00
6. Visser/Visser	NL	73.00
7. Bianchi/Cirri	I	93.00
8. Loffmann/Lyng	DK	107.00
9. Hansen/Sommer	DK	110.75
10. Bardram/Zillmer	Ger	113.00

WORLDS

HOBIE 17 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP
MAUI, HAWAII
SEPTEMBER 3-10, 1988

FINALS

NAME	COUNTRY	POINTS
1. M. Metcalfe/H	Aus	15.25
2. C. Metcalfe/L	Aus	28.75

3. C. Tucker/H	USA	31.75
4. B. Bechtold/L	Ger	52.50
5. H. Alter, Jr./L	USA	52.75
6. J. Alter/H	USA	59.85
7. D. Froome/L	USA	60.75
8. F. Niederquell/H	Ger	61.75
9. S. Myrter/L	USA	70.00
10. W. Smith/H	USA	79.00
11. B. Seaman/L	USA	79.00
12. A. Egusa/L	USA	84.75
13. T. Materna/L	USA	87.75
14. B. Whitehurst/L	USA	93.75
15. W. Cope/H	USA	95.00
16. K. Myers/L	USA	99.00
17. S. Leo/H	USA	99.00
18. M. Jacobs/H	USA	103.00
19. J. Frei/L	NW	103.00
20. S. Mattfield/H	Aus	112.00
21. P. Vivient/H	Fra	116.33
22. D. Ploss/H	USA	119.00
23. W. Kornwebel/L	USA	127.00
24. I. Mackay/L	Aus	128.00
25. B. Moss/L	USA	128.00
26. R. Muggleton/H	Aus	137.00
27. S. Jackson/I	Aus	139.00
28. D. Kulkoski/H	USA	147.00
29. T. Karaim/L	Can	151.00
30. W. Myrter/H	USA	160.00
31. T. Korzeniewski/H	USA	161.00
32. M. Garrett/L	USA	163.00
33. M. Burgess/L	Aus	171.00
34. P. Kelly/H	Aus	175.00
35. D. Lung/H	USA	176.00
36. J. Bochacourt/H	Fra	178.00

CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES

NAME	COUNTRY	POINTS
1. M. Metcalfe/H	Aus	4.25
2. C. Tucker/H	USA	6.75
3. C. Metcalfe/L	Aus	11.00
4. S. Myrter/L	USA	18.00
5. D. Froome/L	USA	18.00
6. F. Niederquell/H	Ger	19.75
7. H. Alter, Jr./L	USA	20.75
8. A. Egusa/L	USA	21.75

9. T. Materna/L	USA	25.75
10. W. Smith/H	USA	28.00
11. J. Alter/H	USA	29.00
12. B. Seaman/L	USA	29.00
13. B. Bechtold/L	Ger	30.75
14. S. Mattfield/H	Aus	31.00
15. S. Leo/H	USA	32.00
16. B. Whitehurst/L	USA	36.75
17. S. Jackson/L	Aus	39.00
18. W. Cope/H	USA	40.00
19. B. Moss/L	USA	40.00
20. W. Myrter/H	USA	44.00
21. W. Myers/L	USA	45.00
22. P. Vivient/H	Fra	45.00
23. M. Jacobs/H	USA	45.00
24. W. Kornwebel/L	USA	47.00
25. P. Kelly/H	Aus	48.00
26. M. Garrett/L	USA	50.00
27. J. Frei/L	NW	50.00
28. R. Muggleton/H	Aus	53.00
29. T. Korzeniewski/H	USA	56.00
30. D. Ploss/H	USA	57.00
31. I. Mackay/L	Aus	57.00
32. M. Burgess/L	Aus	61.00
33. T. Karaim/L	Can	61.00
34. J. Bochacourt/H	Fra	61.00
35. D. Kulkoski/H	USA	61.00
36. D. Lung/H	USA	63.00
37. W. Schafer/L	USA	64.00
38. L. Orford/H	Aus	65.00
39. R. Jenkins/L	USA	67.00
40. C. Sheeley/H	USA	68.00
41. T. Kappelmann/L	Ger	71.00
42. B. Bergstedt/L	USA	71.00
43. G. Ursich/H	USA	72.00
44. W. Owen/H	Aus	73.00
45. W. Mooneyham/L	USA	73.00
46. J. Glanden/H	USA	74.00
47. D. Cotter/H	USA	75.00
48. F. Fogerty/H	USA	76.00
49. M. Laruffa/H	Aus	80.00
50. E. Bjerring/L	USA	84.00
51. M. Furukawa/H	USA	5.00
52. J. Eagle/L	Aus	85.00
53. D. Jamieson/L	Can	86.00
54. J. Conner/H	USA	86.00
55. J. Featham/L	Aus	87.00

BOUNTY HUNTERS WANTED

REWARD

To provide information leading to the elimination of low power lines in all sailing and launching areas.

Bounty hunters will receive a special Hobie goodie in return for taking these three steps:

1. Scout your sailing areas for low power lines.
2. If you see low power lines, write to the power company who owns the lines, explain the hazards to sailors presented by those lines and ask the company what they plan to do to eliminate the hazard.
3. Send a copy of the letter to Hobie Cat, and when you get a response, send a copy of that to Hobie as well.

In return, Hobie Cat will send a Hobie goodie to you and will take up the issue with the power company to support you in your hunt for outlaw lines.

This program has met with good success over the years. By working together, we can make the waters safer for all sailors.

Send copies of letters to:
Hobie Cat Bounty Program
P.O. Box 1008
Oceanside, CA 92054

BECOME A BOUNTY HUNTER

ATTENTION! SAILORS!

WE NEED YOUR OPINION

The World Hobie Class Association has received a proposal to eliminate the 150 pound (68 kg) minimum crew weight requirement on the Hobie 14. This means that at all WHCA sanctioned regattas, the Hobie Cat 14 could be sailed without any minimum crew weight.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Send your comments and recommendations to:

WHCA
Hobie 14 Weight Proposal
P.O. Box 1008
Oceanside, CA 92054

REGATTA RESULTS

56. M. Insley/H	NW	88.00
57. P. Mangle/H	Aus	90.00
58. B. Bass/L	USA	92.00
59. D. Johnson/L	USA	92.00
60. B. Fields/L	USA	93.00
61. Y. Van Spellen/L	Hoi	95.00
62. J. Lucas/H	NW	102.00
63. S. Hales/L	Aus	105.00
64. F. Giachin/H	Aus	111.00
65. G. Buck/H	USA	113.00
66. D. Jordan/L	Aus	114.00
67. D. Machardy/H	Can	115.00
68. T. McGregor/L	Can	116.00
69. G. Sparacca/L	Fra	119.00
70. Y. Yazawa/H	Jap	129.00
71. T. Goodman/H	USA	132.00
72. C. Upton/L	Can	136.00

H = Heavyweight division
L = Lightweight division

PROFESSIONAL

PROSAIL SERIES
NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND
AUGUST 13-14, 1988

TEAM NAME	SKIPPER/CREW	POINTS
1. Starbuss Supplex	Dryland/Eddington	10.00
2. Hood Sails/SSI	Tucker/Purcell	15.50
3. Starbuss Supplex	Bashford/Eddington	20.75
4. Havoline Racing	Alter/White	32.00
5. Cycle Marine	Stewart/Murray	49.00
6. Team/Harken	Roberts/Franks	52.00
7. Team Norcal	Clacher/Loose	57.00
8. Hobie Sunglasses	Alter/Nunes	61.00
9. Silver Bullet	Kelly/Loupe	72.00

10. Barnett Racing	Barnett/Rhyne	75.00
11. One-off Actionware	Anne Gardner-Nelson	77.00
12. Windsport Miami	Moss/Rionda	86.00
13. Team Vango	Vandervort/Lundberg	90.00
14. Team California	Schaffer/Moore	104.00
15. Sailing Spirit	Tannert/Fahle	105.00
16. Team Florida #1	Daniels/Carlson	107.00
17. Southern Visions	Wilkins/Theil	111.00
18. Team Caribe	Kerman/Causey	126.00
19. The Big One	Cuttillo/Jones	130.00
20. Candlewood East	Burgess/O'Hara	130.00
21. New Hampshire Hobie	Finn/McCarthy	139.00
22. Urban Squirrel	Flynn/Ranzenbach	145.00
23. Team Florida II	Labbe/Johnson	150.00
24. Hawk Mountain	Moriarty/Moriarty	161.00
25. Team Cincy	Clawitsch/Driscoll	169.00

THE ULTIMATE YACHT RACE
CORPUS CHRISTI, TX
MAY 6-15, 1988

HOBIE 21

PLACE	TEAM NAME	SKIPPER
1.	Hood Sails	Carlton Tucker
2.	Fosters Australia	Brett Dryland
3.	Sails By Smyth	Randy Smyth
4.	Hobie Sunglass I	Hobie Alter, Jr.
5.	Eddington Bros.	Rick Eddington
6.	Poche Beach Racing Team	Wayne Schafer
7.	San Fran Speed Sailors	Alan Egusa
8.	Team Torgan	David Sweeney
9.	Mariah Sail Sports I	Carl Roberts
10.	Hobie Sunglass II	Jeff Alter

HOTLINE regrets that the Ultimate Race Results printed in last issue were incorrect.

Join a Fleet

Thought about joining up with fellow Hobie sailors in your area? Send us this coupon and we'll let you know where your closest fleet is located.

☐ I would like information on how to contact the fleet closest to me, which, according to the Fleet Directory listing in the HOTLINE, is fleet # ____.

☐ I can't find a fleet that is located near me, therefore send me information on how to start a fleet.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to: The Hobie Class Association
P.O. Box 1008
Oceanside, CA 92054

HOTLINE HOTLINE HOTLINE FREE!

FOR FLEET COMMODORES...

A free one-year subscription to the Hobie HOTLINE. We want to say thank you for all the work you do on behalf of your fleet. We know that Hobie Cat sailing is a lot more fun because of dedicated people like you, and we want to make sure that you have the latest information about Cat sailing and other fleet events. So sit back and relax and we'll make sure that the HOTLINE is delivered to your home.

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