

# **HOBIE CAT HOTLINE**

PUBLISHED MONTHLY EXCLUSIVELY FOR REGISTERED HOBIE CAT OWNERS BY THE HOBIE CAT CLASS ASSOCIATION  
33012 CALLE PERFECTO, SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO, CALIFORNIA 92675

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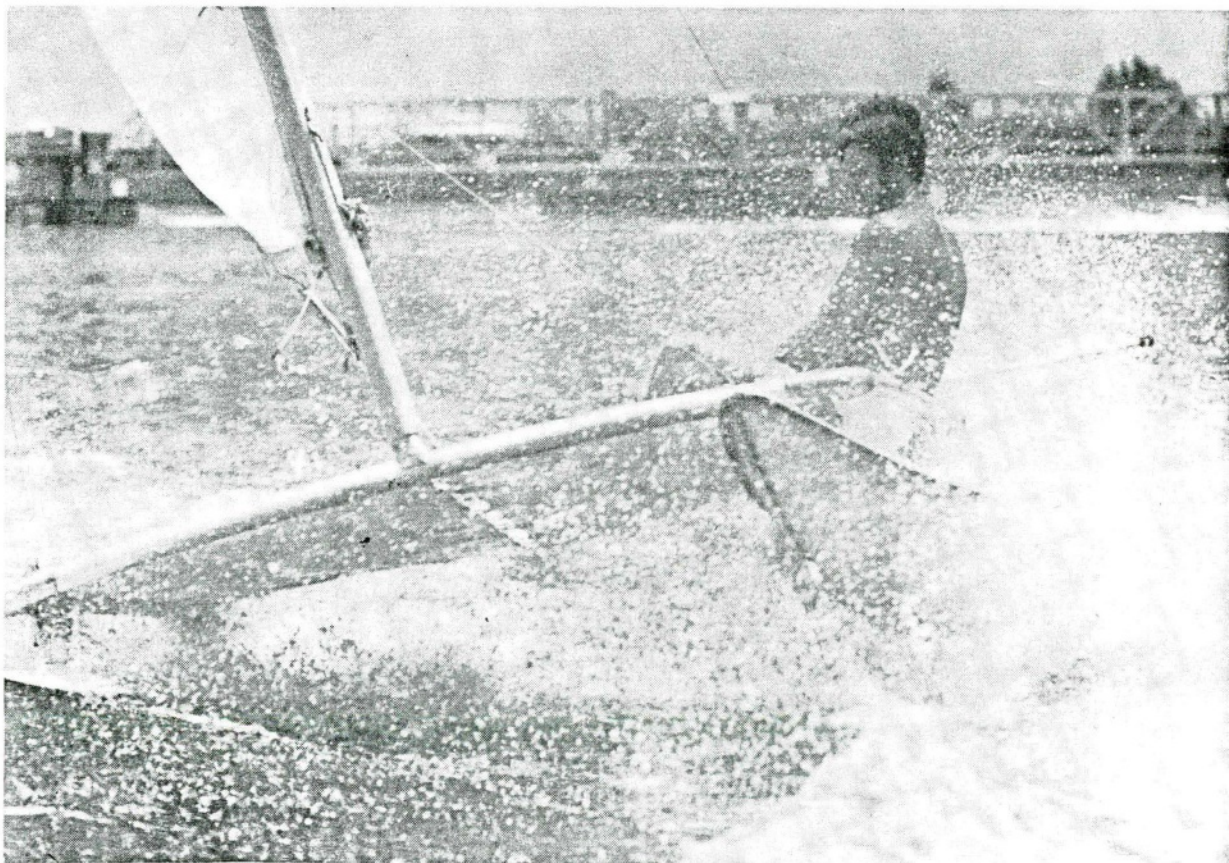


PHOTO BY JIM LUSTIC  
Satellite Beach, Florida  
Taken by Frank Cox of Jim Lustic  
MAY PHOTO CONTEST WINNER

The winning picture was chosen mainly for its excellent portrayal of the intense action and excitement that is part of Hobie Cat sailing. The picture has good composition and looked quite good in color. Congratulations to Jim Lustic for submitting an excellent photo for this month's contest.

## SKIPPER OF THE MONTH

Last October a young man proved that, without a doubt, he was one of the top, if not the top, Hobie Cat skipper in the country. The young man was Cappy Sheeley, a 27 year old native of Honolulu who won the 1970 National Championship in a series of gruelling, boat busting races.

Cappy proved not only that he is an excellent sailor but that he was in top shape for the 20 knot plus winds which prevailed throughout the three day event. Earlier in the week Cappy had been a paddler on the winning canoe in the Molokai to Oahu Canoe Race. Hobie commented after the race that Cappy must be a superman---every time he looked at Cappy he was hiked out---a rather strenuous position to maintain throughout eight consecutive races.

Cappy proved to all of us in Hawaii that he is a champions champion and has more than earned the distinction of "SKIPPER OF THE MONTH". Congratulations, Cappy, and good luck in the 1971 racing season.



## PLUG KITS

Coast Catamarans version of the S.S.T. is trying to get off the ground again. Every time we get the plug kits going out smoothly something else happens to shoot them down. Currently we are waiting for a shipment of tubes of RTV silicone sealant, which should be in the end of the month. As soon as this shipment arrives the remainder of the plug kits will be sent out (famous last words). We are doing our best to get all the kit to all owners who requested it before summer. If you are in a big hurry and can obtain your own RTV sealant, drop us a line and we will send you a plug kit without the sealant. Thanks for your remarkable patience (it only has been 8 months since we originally offered the kits).

## NEW PRODUCTS

Now available to all Hobie owners is a wedge to lower the angle of the cams on the ratchet block. This was designed mainly for the Hobie Cat 16 but is suitable for use on the 14 if so desired. It lowers the angle 12° so it becomes easier to cleat the mainsheet. Cost of the wedge and two longer screws is \$1.70. Specify Part Number 1091-5.

Soon we plan to have a "super" boom vang available to Hobie Cat skippers. This is a must for racing skippers! It is a very compact unit with a cam-type cleat instead of the V-jammer on the normal vang. It allows instant vang release and easier vang adjusting enabling the skipper to devote his entire concentration to keeping the boat moving. The complete vang will be available through Hobie dealers or directly from Coast Catamaran and will sell for \$25.00. Specify "SUPER VANG".

## ARTICLES OF INTEREST

In the MAY issue of SEA magazine is an article entitled HOBIE REGATTAS ARE FAMILY AFFAIRS (page 23). This article outlines the atmosphere which surrounds our races and make them the success they are. Also, watch the June issue of SEA for an article and the results of the London Bridge Regatta (Lake Havasu, Arizona). This is a big event in Western Hobie Cat racing. Also, covering the Havasu scene will be YACHTING, who should print results in June.

## MAINTENANCE TIP - MOORING YOUR HOBIE CAT

Mooring a Hobie Cat is quite simple but if done improperly can result in damage to your boat. The main thing to remember is to make sure everything is secure and snug.

Obviously the first thing to do is tie the boat securely to the mooring. Then furl the sail and secure all gear so it can't chafe when swells and boat wakes rock and thrash the boat. Last, but very important, be sure all shrouds are tight so the mast can't flop and fatigue the wires in the shrouds. Many an unsuspecting boat owner has moored his boat for a few days only to return to find his mast laying in the water. The easiest way to tighten the shrouds is to run a line around a shroud, under the boom and around the other shroud. Tightening this line will tighten the shrouds and minimize fatigue and wear. Another method is to install a shroud tension adjuster ( a single line tied to the bridle intersection and run through a cleat near the mast on the front cross bar). Tightening the shroud adjuster will tighten the shrouds.

A word of caution---besides the normal marine growth which accumulates on the bottom of most moored boats, many types of water (both salt and fresh) will discolor the gel coat of your Hobie Cat. We don't know what causes it so we can't advise you what to watch out for. We do know that every Hobie Cat moored in Honolulu for any length of time has discoloration from the water line down. It does not hurt the performance at all but it doesn't exactly enhance the appearance.

## COAST CATAMARAN NEWS

In the near future the Hobie Cat will be produced in two new countries---Japan and Brazil. Our licensee in Japan expects to be in production by April of this year and Brazil should produce their first boat sometime this summer. These additions bring the total number of foreign producers to six. The Hobie Cat is truly an international class.

In this country Coast Catamaran is continuing to expand. Our third and largest factory is now in production. This triples production capabilities from last year, and with nearly 300 dealers to supply, the factories should be operating at peak capacity all summer.



Most new Hobie Cat owners don't even consider racing when they first buy their boat. They are completely enthralled in the new thrills and excitement the catamaran provides. They go out and try to master tacking and fly a hull occasionally. But, most of all they love the excitement that accompanies high speed cat sailing - the rush of water past the hulls, the spray splashing at their face and the tremendous feeling of SPEED. Eventually, however, the new skipper masters hull flying and tacking and begins to search for new excitement and challenge.

Many new skippers are reluctant to come out and race because they figure they will only get in the way of the hot sailors, and besides - they aren't competitive anyway. However, if you look around you will see that it's the good skippers who want people to come out and race---they're the ones who call around the night before the race trying to get more boats out. And, usually they're more than happy to give new skippers pointers, to answer questions and give assistance where needed. One thing you'll soon find is that when you get a Hobie Cat skipper talking about sailing you'll have trouble shutting him up---so if you ask for advice be prepared to get a lot of it. One skipper got so involved talking to an onlooker about Hobie Cat sailing that he completely missed the start of the race!

Once a skipper has mastered the basic sailing skills he really has few ways to further his sailing ability if he does not sail with other skippers. Sailing with others provides a comparison while offering the opportunity to learn through an exchange of ideas and techniques. In a way racing forces a skipper to learn and advance so he is not left behind. It provides the ideal atmosphere for skippers to try new techniques and see if they really make a difference, and to see what other skippers are doing to make their boat go faster.

The Hobie Cat racing program was initiated by Hobie at the time he introduced the Hobie Cat in 1968. As soon as there were 5 or 6 boats out (even if they all belonged to close friends) Hobie organized the first Hobie Cat Regatta. There were several reasons Hobie wanted a racing program. The basic reasons were: 1) Racing gave new owners something to do with their boat once the initial thrills and excitement began to wear off, 2) Competitive racing helps each skipper improve and perfect his sailing skills, and 3) Hobie knew that an active class would be a growing class.

The racing program is quite unique in that there is no yacht club affiliation required of participants and the program is coordinated and administered by the manufacturer, Coast Catamaran Corporation. Hobie felt that yacht clubs serve an extremely valuable function on the yacht racing scene, but it was unfortunate that small boat racing was so costly (often times exceeding the cost of the boat when you consider yacht club initiation fees and annual dues). Worst of all you couldn't even race a couple of times to see if you enjoyed it before you invested in a club membership! Why not establish a program where all Hobie Cat owners have the opportunity to participate in races as often as they like at minimum expense to them? That way everyone who can afford a Hobie Cat can afford to race with a minimum of bother and cost. Consequently the Hobie Cat races are open to any Hobie Cat skipper who wishes to participate and owners are regularly notified of activities in their areas.

Hobie has always kept in mind the relative expense to the skipper when setting up the racing program and racing rules. It is for this reason that the racing rules are perhaps the strictest of any one-design class anywhere. The thinking on this is two-fold: 1st - encourage skippers to concentrate on sailing techniques to win by discouraging the development and use of "racing goodies" and 2nd - to prevent skippers from engaging in a high cost "equipment" duel. We have even gone so far as to require that all sails used in official Hobie Cat Regattas be purchased through Coast Catamaran. In so doing we insure all stock boats are competitive---no one can go out and have a high priced sail maker make an exotic sail which gives him either an actual or psychological advantage. This idea holds true throughout our rules---the changes allowed are simple, inexpensive, and do not change the actual sailing characteristics of the boat---they just make some things more convenient.

The foremost objective of the Hobie Cat racing program is to provide each participating skipper with the challenge and fun that is associated with our races. The challenge of competing with other skippers of equivalent ability and experience---the challenge of developing and improving your sailing skills in an effort to sail faster than everyone else. The fun of associating with other skippers who all have a common interest and of participating in the festivities which frequently are included in a regatta program---the barbeques and banquets, the chance to camp on the beach with other Hobie Cat owners and have your boat at your back doorstep---poised and ready for a relaxing frolic between races.

When you first start racing obviously you won't know the rules. You'll probably make a lot of mistakes, but then everyone does. There is one unwritten rule that most new skippers follow which helps eliminate problems---if you are in doubt stay out of the other guys way. If someone yells something at you, it is best to do as he says until you learn the rules and know he is wrong. And, above all if there's something you don't understand ask someone about it---that's the quickest way to learn.

If you would like to try racing don't hesitate to come out and participate. Or, if you'd rather, try watching a race and get someone to explain what's going on. You should find it interesting and challenging. If you have no desire to race we know you will enjoy pleasure sailing your Hobie Cat - it's that kind of boat.