

**THE 1978 HOBIE CAT 16
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Sponsored by
The Club
Cocktails**



Welcome to South Padre Island.

It is with great pride and pleasure that South Padre Island welcomes the Hobie Cat 16 World Championship Regatta and First Hobie Olympics to our seaside paradise.

We are honored and privileged to host the top sailing competition from twenty-two nations . . . along with their friends, families, and other island visitors attending the week-long festivities.

The South Padre Island Tourist Bureau extends its gratitude for your selection of our sunny Gulf retreat as headquarters for this celebrated sporting event.

The Tourist Bureau, the island, and its people welcome you. We are at your service.



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by
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The 1978 Hobie Cat 16 World Championships South Padre Island, Texas October 21-29

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STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUSTIN

DOLPH BRISCOE
GOVERNOR

May 22, 1978

Greetings:

It is a pleasure for me to welcome you to Texas and to South Padre Island on the occasion of the Hobie Cat 16 World Championships.

To the visitors to our State, I extend a special welcome. I am confident that you will receive a heartfelt welcome from our citizens and that your stay will be an enjoyable one.

I understand that this is the first time this event has been held in the Continental United States and we are pleased that South Padre Island has been chosen as the site for this event.

Texans are indeed fortunate to have access to so many miles of river and lake fronts and coastline for the enjoyment of water oriented sports. Sailing is certainly a popular recreation in Texas.

I know that this will be a most enjoyable event for those in attendance and spirited competition for the participants.

Greetings and sincere best wishes for a most successful event.

Sincerely,

Dolph Briscoe

DB:mnc

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND

Things To See And Do



Hobie Cat headquarters for the World Championships is the Hilton Sea Island. The Hilton grounds offer superb tennis courts, swimming pools, jacuzzis, volleyball, shuffleboard, and a beautiful, white sand beach for viewing the championship races on the water and the Olympic events on shore. The facilities seem to have been designed with our Hobie week in mind! The extras are there too — excellent food, luxurious rooms, and a great nightclub. The entertainment during our stay is Ruly & Company, a great band with unique, original songs as well as dancing favorites.

Here are a few of the island highlights available for your pleasure and entertainment. . . .



Fishing

The island offers fabulous year-round fishing. The warm waters of the Laguna Madre between South Padre and the mainland have the densest fish population of any bay along the Gulf or Atlantic Coast. Anglers can fish the bay during the day, or even at night from the lighted Queen Isabella fishing pier, the longest of its kind in the world. Deep sea fishing is abundant in the Gulf; charter boats leave the docks daily for the Gulf's deep blue to snag catches of ling, red snapper, mackerel, bonito, marlin, tarpon, tuna and sailfish.



The annual Texas International Fishing Tournament is so widely acclaimed that it is billed as a major sporting event and tourist attraction. For 40 years now, anglers have gathered in Port Isabel and South Padre Island to compete in the multi-division competition. Sportsmen (and sportswomen) of all ages attend, fishing by every method from sophisticated offshore craft to bamboo poles from the end of the pier. Most of the excitement centers on the big fish — marlin, sailfish and tarpon — but the night life and entertainment are rumored to be a drawing attraction as well.

Commercial fishing offers another tourist attraction. The seaports of Port Isabel and the Port of Brownsville are the home of the world's largest shrimp fishing fleet. A tour of the shrimp basin reveals hundreds of shrimp boats nestled at the docks unloading their catches of the world's most popular seafood.

For a spectacular view of the Laguna Madre Bay and the entire harbor area, climb the stairs of the historic Port Isabel Lighthouse. The now restored shrine was built in 1853 and remained in use until 1905. It is located in Port Isabel near the foot of the causeway and is open daily.



Beach Activities and Sports

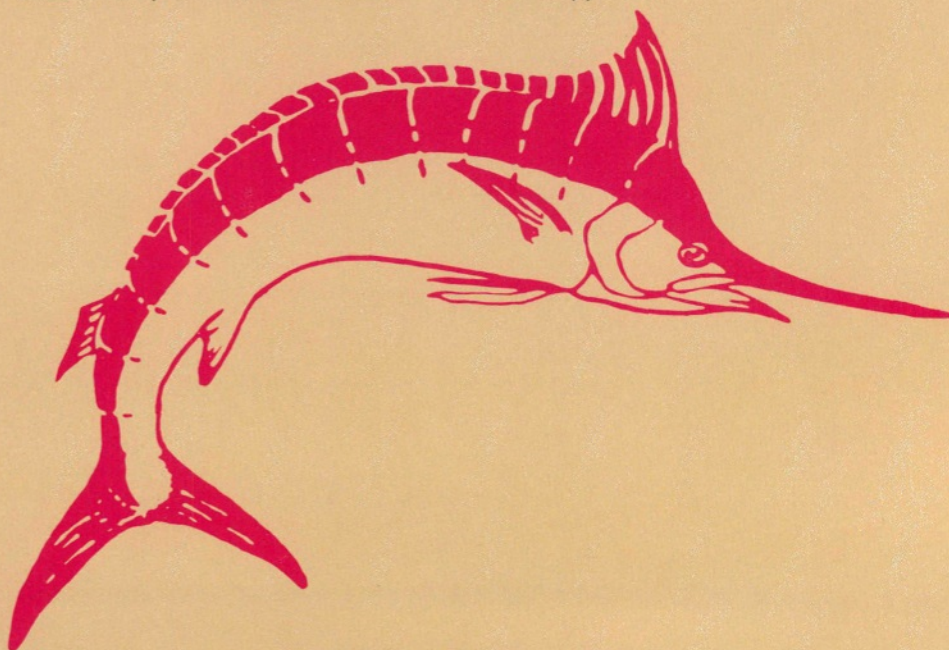
South Padre Island is a beach-combers' delight. Young and old alike love to roam the broad sandy beaches gathering unusual shells — of which there is a limitless supply. Those with high hopes stroll the dunes in search of the treasures of the past, buried by pirates in the early history of the island (see the article "Then and Now" in this program). Legend has it that gold bullion and jewels remain beneath the sands.

While strolling on the beach, you are likely to meet some of the well-known local personalities. A visit with John McMahan, better known as "Billy Boomerang" will enlighten you on the ancient craft of making and throwing boomerangs. "Billy" gives demonstrations almost daily and offers his beautifully handcrafted specialties at inviting prices. Another local, Ila Loetscher, has gained national attention through a recent article in *People Magazine*. "Turtle Lady" as she is affectionately known, has created a

sanctuary for the giant sea turtles which inhabit the island waters. The Atlantic Green and Ridley species were both severely endangered when Ila started her project. Now she is licensed by both the state and federal governments to collect and care for the South Padre Island turtles. One of her main concerns is teaching the public, especially children, conservation awareness. Her turtles surround her like family members and perform for the tourists.

Clear Gulf waters are ideal for swimming, snorkeling, surfing, scuba diving and ah yes, sailing. . . .

Another water sport, perhaps not as natural a setting as the ocean, is found at Jeremiah's Wild Ride. Kids (and overgrown Hobie crazies) will love this exciting waterway-raft-roller coaster. The thrilling ride down the man-made mountain, careening through twists and turns, is well worth the trek back uphill for a second heart-stopper.



Things To See And Do

Historical Tours

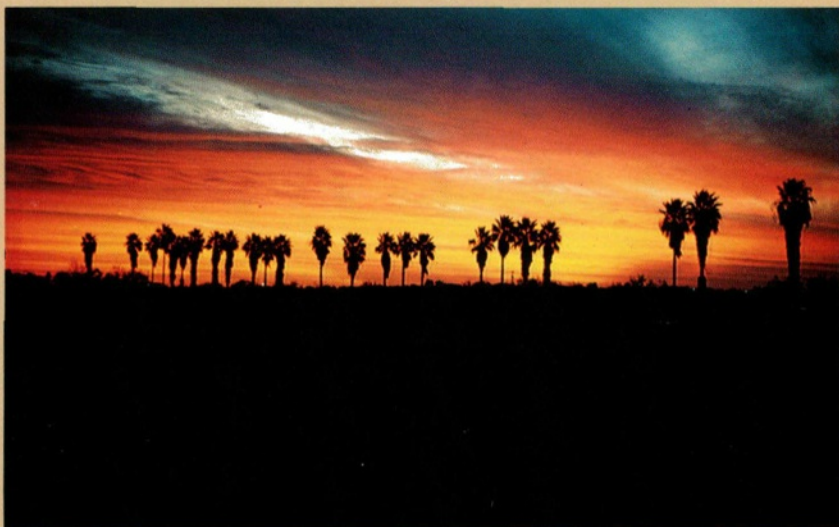
A tour into the past along the Old River Road (Texas Highway 281) is offered by James S. Sherrill and guaranteed as a day to long remember. Tour Package 1, designated as the Long Tour, starts at 9 a.m. and follows the Old River Road with about 10 stops and correlated lectures at historical spots. During the ride between stops, special commentaries are given by Jim on the historical significance of markers along the way. A lunch break at the House of Raphael in Rio Grande City offers delicious Mexican and American dishes (not included in the tour price). You are welcome to bring a brown bag lunch. Later there is a "Merienda" pause with free refreshments at the art studio of Stella Garcia Zarate at approximately 4 p.m. You return to your hotel at approximately 6 p.m. Among the places you'll visit are La Lomita Mission, The Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge and the last hand-drawn ferry on the Rio Grande. Tour fee is \$15 per person. Call for reservations, a tour bus will pick you up at your hotel. Try to arrange your schedule with other Hobie Catters; groups of four or more receive group discounts and special attention. Call James Sherrill, 512/943-2270 for arrangements.

Mr. Sherrill also offers a shorter tour which follows the Old River Road in a southerly direction. First stop is Saca de Palma and Fort Brown. Then the bus crosses into Mexico for a short tour through Matamoros and some beachcombing time on a pristine, deserted sand stretch along the Gulf. Special shell finds are almost "guaranteed!" A lunch stop is made at a special Mexican meriende on the waterfront which specializes in "camerones natural" — shrimp in the shell and various native fish dishes. This tour totals five to six hours, depending on the amount of beach time you wish. It's helpful here to form a group of four or more for the discount price of \$10 per person. Remember these are specially offered, private tours with an expert on Texas/Mexican history and nature — no large groups to hassle with or problems hearing and seeing the sites. Call Jim at 512/943-2270 and he will pick you up at your hotel and treat you to a special day!



Six Shooter Junction

Six Shooter Junction is located in Harlingen (combine the day with a trip to the Confederate Air Force flying museum in the same town) and offers the tourist an authentic taste of the Old West. The "town" depicts the adventurous and exciting times of the 1880's. You can watch artisan craftsmen in action — practicing the ancient arts of blacksmithing, candlemaking, leather working and gunsmithing.



Mexico

It's just a half hour drive to Old Mexico from our headquarters in South Padre Island. You can bargain hunt and barter for jewelry, handcrafts and other gifts in the many colorful shops of Matamoros. Special tours are also available as described in this article. Various restaurants offer fine Mexican cuisine and evening nightclub entertainment. A few hours south of Matamoros there is a group of pyramids near Poza Rica, some uncovered and others still matted with vegetation and the dust of centuries. The unique Sierra Madre terrain offers ancient volcanoes and majestic mountain peaks for the sightseer.



Continued on Page 17



Sun, Sand and Hilton Sea Island

A glimpse of the view from your cabana room tells you — you're far from everyday life at Hilton Sea Island. Before your eyes stretch mile upon mile of secluded beaches, sparkling surf and warm blue waters teeming with tarpon, reds and sailfish.

You're on South Padre Island and there's nowhere else like it. Especially when you stay at Hilton Sea Island, where the pleasures before you include four Lay-Kold tennis courts, three Gulfside pools and a whirlpool spa.

Gulf fresh seafood is a Hilton Sea Island specialty. And every evening the finest in live entertainment comes out to play.

Come once and you'll come again. To South Padre — Hilton Style — at Hilton Sea Island.



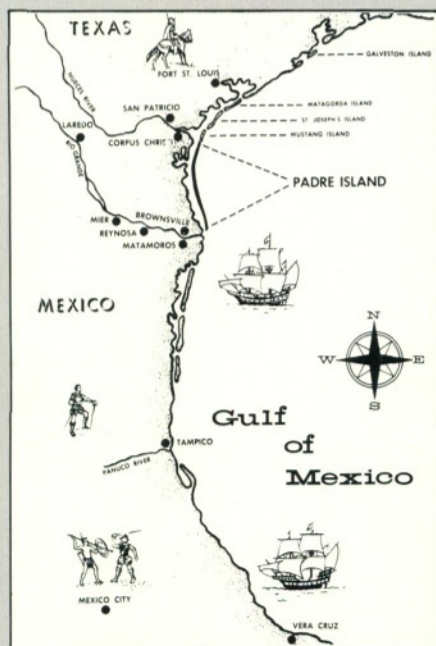
The **HILTON SEA ISLAND**



500 Padre Boulevard
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512/943-2685



Courtesy of Texas News Syndicate Press



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SOUTH PADRE ISLAND

Then And Now

The island was always there, bleached by the sun and washed by the warm gulf waters. It was the home of sea birds and turtles. Fish of every kind abounded in the gulf which opened to the ocean and in the lagoon on the inland side. There were Indians who came to the island long ago for summer stays but apparently they returned to the mainland in winter.

Then later the Spaniards came, seeking new wealth to claim in the name of the Church and the Queen. Finding nothing they considered to be of value, they moved on to richer, greener lands. They passed the island many times, carrying their treasures from the new world back with them to the old. The island was marked by their passing with the wrecks of their ships, blown aground and broken up by the gulf storms. Those sailors and passengers who by chance made their way to the island were harassed and often killed by roving Indians reputed to be cannibals.

Then the Padres brought their religion to the island and sought to calm the Indian inhabitants. The island earned its name at this point, Padre Island, in honor of Padre Nicolas Balli. As civilization spread, the first European settlements appeared on the island. But offshore, the violence continued as the pirates attacked and plundered the Spanish ships as they passed. It is said that the pirates buried among the dunes what treasure they couldn't carry away.

But for these few struggles, nearly 300 years passed as the island remained untouched — a lovely, lonely strip of white sand and grassy dunes. It lay approximately two miles off the mainland, stretching 113 miles from south to north and varying in width from a few hundred yards to a little over three miles.

Throughout the 1800's, the island and most of the south Texas lowlands were continually besieged by the armies of several wars. The Texas Revolution, the United States/Mexican War and the American Civil War all scarred the island peace. At the same time, the infamous Lafitte and his pirates were using the lagoon as a hideaway harbor from which they raided Gulf shipping.

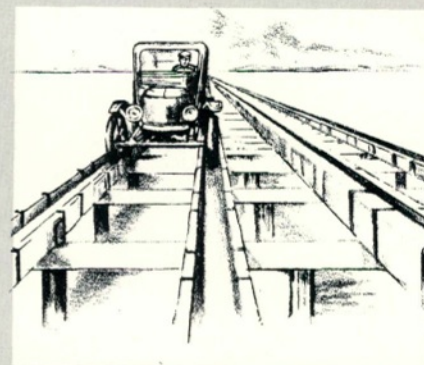
Texas established an independent republic after the bloody break from Mexico. For 10 years thereafter fighting continued over the ownership of the land from the Nueces River to the Rio Grande, which included Padre Island. Supply depots were established on the mainland opposite the southern tip of the island and along the Rio Grande River to support the personnel defending the territory.

The gold rush in California brought tons of new shipping through Port Isabel, the city located on the mainland across from the southern tip of Padre Island. Freighters came as well as many adventurous souls who hoped to find their fortunes supplying the necessities of life to the gold seekers. Some stayed and made their homes on the island. But with the advent of the Civil War, even the hardiest of these fled in fear of their lives, abandoning all they owned. Troops from both the Union and Confederate armies moved back and forth across the island during the war, slaughtering and feeding on the livestock left behind by the ranchers. At the end of the fighting, when the last troops had gone, Padre Island was once again an uninhabited desert.

After the Civil War, most of south Texas was overrun by bands of outlaws, refugees from the Mexican revolutions and stragglers from the two American armies. Thousands of horses and cattle which had been scattered during the years of fighting, grazed the wilds unattended, thriving on the land. This livestock was the enticement which brought a few enterprising people back into the area, searching for a means to regain their fortunes lost during the war years. Once again, ranching was established on Padre Island. Until well into the 1900's, Padre Island created a colorful legend as the home of a few very tough-minded, rugged individualists who actively and violently discouraged anyone else from attempting to settle permanently.

There were years of enormous change that followed — years of empire building, huge cattle drives, range wars, Indian fighting and of the modernization of transportation and communications. Finally, as the 19th century ended, Texas found itself

thoroughly tamed. It was fenced and cross-fenced, serviced by railroads and populated by a progressive, law abiding citizenry. The convenience of the railroads had practically destroyed the freight traffic at Port Isabel and Port Aransas. It became essential for those whose livelihood had depended on the success of the shipping ports to find other ways to earn a living.



Courtesy of Texas News Syndicate Press

Tourism was introduced on the north end of the island in the early 1920's. Fifty years of progress on the mainland showed very little effect on Padre Island. The beauty and serenity of the unmarred expanse coupled with the romance of its colorful history brought visitors flocking to the island shores. Investors and builders planned to develop the entire island as America's playground; publicizing the climate as the cleanest and healthiest in the nation. They envisioned causeways at each end of the island connected by a major highway and dreamed of residential subdivisions interlaced with scenic parks, shopping centers and recreational facilities.

In those days, access to Padre Island was difficult at best. Ferry boats operated at each end but the few hotels were connected by no highway other than the beach. Finally in 1927, a causeway of sorts was completed at the north end. Three miles of water was spanned with wooden pilings carrying a superstructure not unlike a railroad sized for Model T's. Only the very daring could have enjoyed that trip, yet in its first month of operation there were 1800 recorded crossings.



Courtesy of Texas News Syndicate Press

As America entered the great Depression, financing for the island dream disappeared. All the plans for America's finest playground were tabled. Then World War II pressed the development of Padre Island even farther into the background, but the dream did not die. The right to private ownership of island lands was determined in the courts during that time and the first comprehensive survey of the island was made. Boundaries for island properties today are still based upon that survey.

In 1950, a permanent causeway was completed at the north end of the island and in 1954, the first Queen Isabella Causeway was opened from Port Isabel to the southern tip.

If this were just the story of a dream at last come true, we could end it now, with the sun setting from a pink and turquoise sky into the gold flecked waters of the Laguna Madre — but this is not the end, it is only the beginning of the dream that is South Padre Island today.

The island stands now divided into three segments. The north end around Corpus Christi, has been described as "a glittering jewel by the sea" . . . the description speaks for itself. The central section has been dedicated as a National Sea Shore, to be preserved perpetually in its natural state for the enjoyment of all. The lower 37 miles, from the Mansfield Ship Channel south to the Brazos Santiago Pass is designated as South Padre Island. It is here that the island's future is beginning to unfold.

The land remains bleached by the sun and washed by the warm waters of the gulf. It is still the home of sea birds and turtles with fish of every kind abounding in the gulf and the inland lagoon. The cannibals are gone, as are the pirates and the Conquistadors. Their memory remains — and their treasures too, it is said. The shoreline is still marked by the wrecks of the Spanish ships, now a lure to divers and photographers. These landmarks and their treasures are protected by the Texas Antiquities Act. Also marking

the shoreline are today's modern marinas, sheltering powered and sailing craft of every description. Some are present for the pleasure of their owners, others are for hire by visitors. Port activity is lively once again. Shipping and shrimping are two of the major industries of the area.

The climate is still the cleanest and healthiest in the nation. There is little, if any, pollution in the air. Nothing blots out the diamond bright stars over the island at night and there is no sight so lovely as the path of the moon reflected on the Gulf. "Gentle" best describes the weather. Temperatures range from the low 60's in winter to the high 80's in summer. There is never a day so nippy or so scorching that the people are deterred from their enjoyment of the beaches. The dunes remain, topped with sea oats and held in place by the ever-present railroad vine. Artists, camera buffs, and solitary souls who love the quiet serenity of uncluttered space wander them at will. Miles of white sand beaches slope gently into calm shallow water — all there for swimmers, surfers, sailors, sun worshipers, shell collectors, waders and watchers.

Only the harshness is gone. A slow and careful development of the southern portion of the island has provided all the amenities of easy living without marring the incredible beauty of the setting. People now come across a magnificent causeway opened in late 1974. During its first month of operation, 166,650 crossings were recorded. No longer a rickety, wooden railway for cars, this is a concrete and steel tribute to engineering that rises from its beginning at Port Isabel to sweep across two miles of the Laguna Madre in a graceful curving arc that provides a spectacular first glimpse of the island.

Today's newcomers are greeted with the special brand of South Padre Island hospitality. The 600 permanent residents are still tough-minded individualists, but they are also a gregarious, open, lighthearted sort who love the island and all it has to offer. They are willing to share it all with any who would love it as well.

There are those who feel that South Padre Island is at its best right now but it would be a mistake to believe that there will be no progress in paradise. We have learned a lot since the days of the Conquistadors and the cattle barons. We know that the value and beauty of the land is in its identity — we no longer feel it necessary to change it completely or hide it away. We have found that in sharing the beauty of the island with others, our appreciation of it is enhanced. We have proven that development of an area need not be destructive to its natural charm and with that thought held firmly in mind, we have laid careful groundwork to insure the island's future. There are still 32 miles of South Padre Island reaching north from Andy Bowie Park to the Mansfield Ship Channel that are untouched after 400 years of surrounding civilization. The dream of a semi-tropical island paradise where golden days follow each other in endless succession is not "out there" somewhere in the South Pacific . . . it is here, just two miles off the Texas Gulf Coast . . . South Padre Island, a treasure in itself.

The Beginning

Contributed by
Troy Giles Realty

Illustrated by
Gerda McMurtry

Edited from the story
by Region A. Beger



Courtesy of Texas News Syndicate Press

The Beach Shop



The Beach Shop welcomes the '78 Hobie World Championships to South Padre Island and invites you to adopt the "Island Attitude" with comfortable and carefree clothing from the BEACH SHOP. Choose from a large selection of men's and women's resort fashions including quality Hobie Sportswear.

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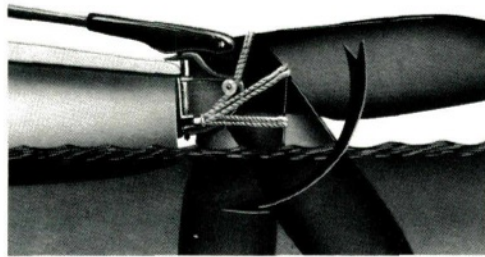


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The Confederate Air Force Ghost Squadron



111's, Japanese Vals, Kates and Zeros and many more. Many of these planes were actually flown in the filming of the movies "Battle of Britain," "Midway," "Tora! Tora! Tora!," "The Hindenburg" and more recently in the television series "Black Sheep Squadron."

In 1957, a group of pilots interested in restoring an old P-51 Mustang fighter plane discovered in their search for parts and information that most of the old World War II aircraft were being destroyed by the government. Finding that no attempt was being made by the federal government or any branch of the military service to preserve the marvelous planes for museum purposes, they decided to develop their own collection. During the past 20 years, a group of determined "colonels" have assembled one of the finest and most complete flying museums, restoring and maintaining their crafts in flying condition and performing at many air shows all over the nation. The collection now features 77 aircraft including not only combat fighters and bombers, but also transports, trainers, gliders and helicopters.

Rebel Field is on the north side of town adjacent to the Harlingen International Airport, just a short drive from South Padre Island. The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday and from 1 to 6 p.m. on Sundays and holidays. You can explore the planes at roost and view a museum display of the equipment and paraphernalia that yesterday's airmen used. The annual Airshow is in early October and includes an amazing World War II Air Power Demonstration that reenacts the aviation events of the war.



Rebel Field in Harlingen, Texas is the home of the Confederate Air Force and its amazing Ghost Squadron. The most unique flying museum in the world today, it is composed entirely of World War II aircraft — all flyable or currently being restored!

The Ghost Squadron exhibit offers a representative cross sample of at least one of all the major American aircraft that saw combat during the war as well as several examples of foreign aircraft. Included in the collection, all completely operable in flying condition and many the only remaining aircraft of their type are: B-29 Superfortress, A-20 Havoc, SBD Dauntless, P-39 Airacobras, British Spitfire, German Messerschmidt Me-109's, Heindel He-





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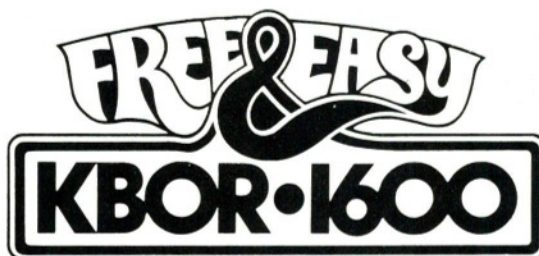
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## Things To See And Do

Continued from Page 7

### Gladys Porter Zoo

Considered one of the premiere zoos of the world, this unique haven provides sanctuary for over 1500 mammals, birds and reptiles — many of which represent the last living specimens of rare and endangered species. The animals are housed in recreated natural habitats designed to simulate regions of tropical America, Indo-Australia, Asia and Africa. The entire exhibition is constructed amidst a 31-acre botanical garden; all plants and animals are identified with descriptive labels.

Concern for the vanishing wildlife of the world prompted the construction of the Gladys Porter Zoo and it has well served the interest of conservation and education about the ecology of our planet. The zoo has received national recognition and numerous awards for its successful breeding programs of rare animals. Some of the animals are found in no other zoo in the world. In addition to boasting one of the most valuable animal collections ever assembled, the zoo features an extensive Herpetarium, a survival center, an animal nursery and young primate playground as well as a Children's Zoo where youngsters may wander among the animals for the best nature lessons available.

The Zoo is open every day of the year from 10 a.m. until one hour before dusk. Admission is \$2.00 for adults, \$1.50 for students, and 50 cents for children under 12. A tour train operates on Sundays from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. for 35 cents per passenger. The Zoo is located in Brownsville at 6th and Ringold. Ask in your hotel lobby for specific directions and maps.

### Marine Biology Laboratory

The Pan American University Marine Biology Laboratory is located at the extreme southern tip of South Padre Island, at the edge of Isla Blanca Park. The four acre site contains a large display area featuring local marine plants and animals. Included in the exhibit are representative native flowering plants, seaweeds, mollusks, and marine vertebrates. Four of the species of turtles which are found on South Padre Island are also exhibited. Aquaria contain a variety of the marine life unique to the area. All specimens, both alive and preserved, have been collected on South Padre Island. The Marine Laboratory is open for public viewing Monday through Friday from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. and on Sundays from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (closed Saturdays and holidays).



*Special thanks to Dennis Ohe, our host at the Hilton Sea Island, and to Ralph Thompson, head of the South Padre Island Tourist Bureau. These two men are the islanders responsible for making the Worlds happen on South Padre. The logistics of such an event are often overwhelming but Dennis and Ralph have managed to grapple with all our requests and plans and come up with the means to make everything happen. We are forever grateful. Sincere appreciation also to our sponsors, The Club Cocktails, for their support and interest.*





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# Schedule of Events

## Sunday, October 22

- 9:00 a.m. Skipper Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Qualifying Races
- 5:00 p.m. Leisure evening

## Monday, October 23

- 9:00 a.m. Skipper Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Qualifying Races
- 7:00 p.m. Welcome Party  
Announcement of Qualifiers  
Hilton Sea Island

## Tuesday, October 24

- 9:00 a.m. Skipper Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Championship Races  
First Day
- 5:00 p.m. Leisure evening

## Wednesday, October 25

- 9:00 a.m. Skipper Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Championship Races  
Second Day
- 5:00 p.m. Leisure evening

## Thursday, October 26

- 9:00 a.m. Skipper Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Championship Races  
Third Day
- 5:00 p.m. Leisure evening

## Friday, October 27

- 9:00 a.m. Skipper Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Championship Races  
Fourth Day
- 7:00 p.m. Finalists' Party  
Announcement of Race Standings  
Hilton Sea Island

## Saturday, October 28

- 9:00 a.m. Skipper Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. Final Competition
- 7:00 p.m. Awards Banquet  
Bahia Mar Hotel

See page 34 for Olympic Events Schedule





## Worlds Past

In 1973, after only six years of production, Hobie Cats had so effectively stolen their way into the supposedly traditional sailing scene, that interest and competition dictated a first World's Championship. Over 100 Hobie sailors and supporters from 14 nations across the world descended upon Waikiki Beach in Hawaii to match their ranks and choose their champion.

In another break from tradition, the Hobie Cat factory provided all identically-rigged, new stock boats for the competition. This World's Championship and all to follow were to be the most "one-design" regattas ever staged. By eliminating equipment and financial variables, only sailing skills and skippers' strategy remain to determine the Hobie Cat Champion, a true contest of talent.

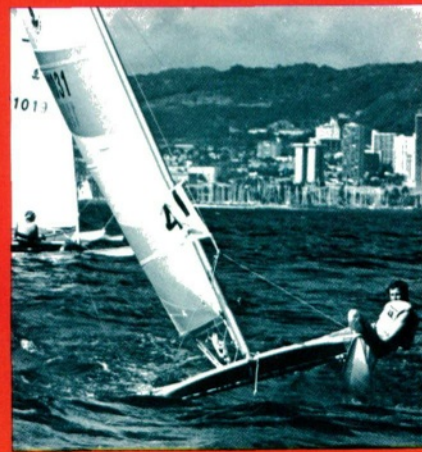
Hawaiian winds blew strong and sturdy through the first days of competition. After eight races, Jeff Canepa of California led the field with an apparently insurmountable lead. On



the final day, uncharacteristic weather hit and the winds becalmed. Another Californian, Richard Loufek executed two faultless light weather wins, ate up Canepa's lead and took the World Champion title by 1¾ points. Jeff kept second and third went to Hobie Alter himself, father figure of it all.

Everyone headed for their corner of the world, freshened with newly shared strategies and friendships and determined to stoke the fire for the next year's challenge.

And soon it came — to the land of the original catamarans of a thousand years previous. The black sand



beaches of Tahiti hosted competitors from 21 nations in 1974 for the Second Hobie Cat 14 World Championships. The French Polynesian weather was merciless and the international sailors battled heavy, gusting winds over long, arduous courses. Loufek and Canepa maintained their hold on the pack but this time Jeff held on longest and captured the World Champions title, with Loufek settling for second. Australia showed its face on the scene with sailors Horsley and Wilkie taking fifth and eighth overall in what proved to be their continent's initiation into the battle for top skipper rankings



which would continue to grow more competitive each year.

Back across the ocean came the Hobie masses in '75 to Palmas del Mar in Puerto Rico. So keen had the competition become that 56 of the top-notch international sailors made the trip in hopes of qualifying for only 24 open spots still available. In all, more than 100 Hobie Catters settled on the shores in luxurious condominiums, traveling from 15 countries on five continents.

Sailing and weather conditions were just plain tough . . . turbulent water with close-trough chop and strong, gusting winds with squalls wavering across the course unpredictably. It proved to be just the battering that Jeff Canepa ("Billygoat") snuggles up to and he maintained his World Champion title for the second year. Top competition truly went international at this third World's; the United States supremacy of the event and particularly the undefeatable California faction cracked wide open and many nations streamed in — the top 10 skippers hailed from Puerto Rico, Tahiti, Australia, Brazil and the USA.

Despite the varying nationalities, differing customs, and translation problems of the participants — the World's social life is every bit as keen as the racing. Drawn together by their common interest in Hobie Cats and bound by their determination and skills, there is no one language shared but sailing. Even so, gestures, eyes, smiles and laughter are enough to express all thoughts. The chance to mix in the flow of so many people is one of the greatest rewards of international Hobie competition.

To showcase the growing Hobie Cat 16 racing class, the next World's event in 1976 returned to Hawaii and became the First Hobie Cat 16 World Championships. More than 120 teams (skipper and crew) set up camp on the familiar Waikiki shore at the Kaimana Hotel for this first crack at the new title of 16 World Champion. Forceful winds persisted throughout the week as the major factor in the hard fought competition. The local Hawaii team of Dean Froome and John Driscoll finally captured the event with only a  $\frac{3}{4}$  point margin over the second place team. "Dino" and "JD" triumphed with near perfect sailing, remarkable endurance, and their own style of "hooting and hollering" around the courses. Right behind them and in reach of the title through the last race was the team of — who else? Loufek and Canepa, the only two sailors to win the World Champion title in the Hobie 14 events. Six of the other top 10 teams were from Hawaii, the locals proving they had a hand on rough and tumble competition. Two Australian teams also placed in the top 10, con-

tinuing their push among the World's best.

We went to the unique island of Lanzarote in search of the Fourth Hobie Cat 14 World Champion in 1977. From 21 countries, sailors traveled to the distant Canary Islands to test their skills in the waters off the African coast. In an unequalled display of complete, all around sailing talent, Dean Froome of Hawaii captured the championship with flawless light weather tactics and shrewd racing strategy. As the first man to carry both



World titles (Hobie 14 and 16) simultaneously, "Dino" proved that any kind of sailing was his kind by winning each in completely different weather conditions. United States skippers took second, third and fourth as well with the sweep broken in fifth place by Blain Dodds of South Africa. Tahiti and Brazil were also represented in the top 10. South Africa proved to be the upcoming nation to watch for in future events. The majority of top positions went to USA skippers, leaving other countries hungering for the next year's revenge.

So in 1978, we all head for South Padre Island, Texas to vie for the Second Hobie Cat 16 World Championship. As the sixth world event since our beginning, it marks the first time the races have been held in the United States. The long, narrow Texas island with perfect beaches and wind awaits our mass invasion. Skippers from all over the world filled the pre-registration lists far in advance and 2000 to 3000 spectators are expected during the event. More than ever before, the racing promises to be highly competitive and the week unforgettable.





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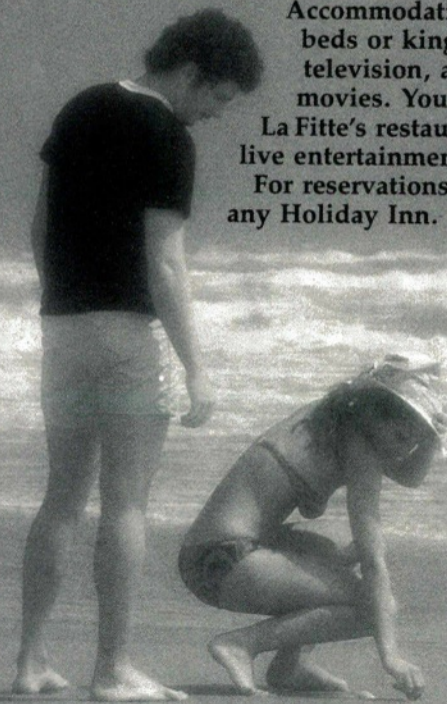
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# Competition And Scoring

All Hobie Cat World competition will be sailed on identically rigged, factory supplied Hobie Cat 16's. Racing is organized on a round-robin basis, with every skipper using a different boat in each race and sailing against every other skipper at least once in the series. All boat and race assignment slips are prepared in mathematical sequence before the event and then drawn from a hat by the competitors on the first day of racing.

Rigging adjustments and other alterations are specifically outlined and limited by stringent rules. Skippers and crew have only 30 minutes on the beach between races to make allowable changes. More so than any other sailing event today, Hobie Cat World competition is based on individual sailor's skills and knowledge rather than equipment or financial advantages.

Overall there are 96 racing slots open for two-person teams in the 1978 World Championships. In accordance with a predetermined schedule compiled by the Hobie Class Association, countries all over the world are allowed a certain number of prequalified spots for their top native skippers. Sailors have been competing all year in their respective areas to earn these "guaranteed" spots. Altogether approximately 65 to 70 of the teams arriving at the Worlds will be prequalified.

A minimum of 26 positions are held open for teams who wish to attempt to

qualify on-the-spot in Texas. A qualifying series of races will be staged on Sunday and Monday, October 22 and 23, starting at 10 a.m. All racing will take place off the beach in front of the Hilton Sea Island on South Padre Island. Monday evening at the Welcome Party, an announcement will be made of the two days' results, revealing the top skippers who will fill the open slots. If any prequalified skippers do not show to claim their positions, more than 26 spots may be available for qualifiers.

Scoring will be standard throughout the competition, based on the order in which the boats cross the finish line after sailing designated triangular race courses (pending outcome of any protests filed). First place is awarded  $\frac{3}{4}$  points, second is two points, third is three, etc.; the lowest overall series score wins.

Tuesday, October 24, is the first day of the actual World Championship Series. Weather and all conditions permitting, the Race Committee expects to stage three races per day, Tuesday through Friday, starting at 10 a.m. each morning. Each team will sail in half of the races (a total of six races for each team if the entire 12 race series is staged) and their accumulated score on Friday evening will be determined for eliminations by

their best five races, throwing out the highest score (worst finish).

At a banquet Friday evening (October 27) at the Hilton Sea Island, the top half of the fleet (48 teams) will be announced and they alone will compete on the final day.

Two races will be staged in the Finals on Saturday, October 28, starting at 10 a.m. The top 48 teams will compete in both races (each race on a different boat picked by the luck of the draw on Friday evening). For scoring purposes, their entire previous six race series plus the two Saturday races will be added and the worst score thrown out (they do not have to keep the same throwout that was used for Friday's tally, if they have a worse finish on Saturday, they may use it as their throwout) — two columns are provided on the score sheets after the sixth race for both totals, one with throwout race included and one with the throwout already subtracted, for your ease in computing the scores. **See next page for score sheets.**

Based on the teams' best seven of the eight race series, scores will be computed and the 1978 Hobie Cat World Champions and runner-up top teams will be announced at the Awards Banquet and Trophy Presentation on Saturday, at 7 p.m. at the Bahia Mar Hotel.



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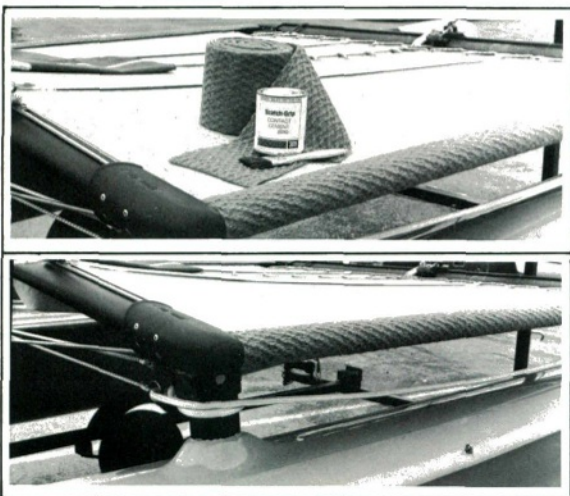
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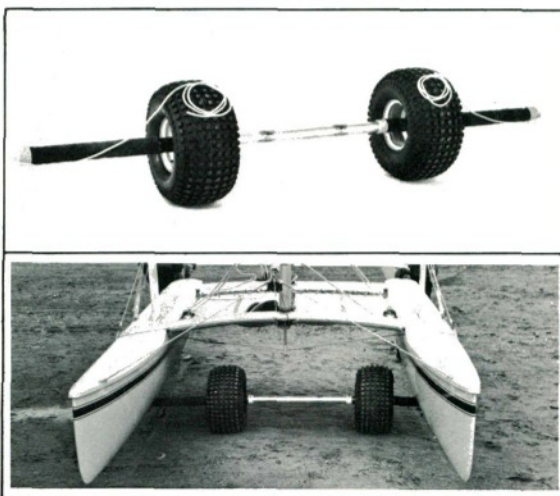


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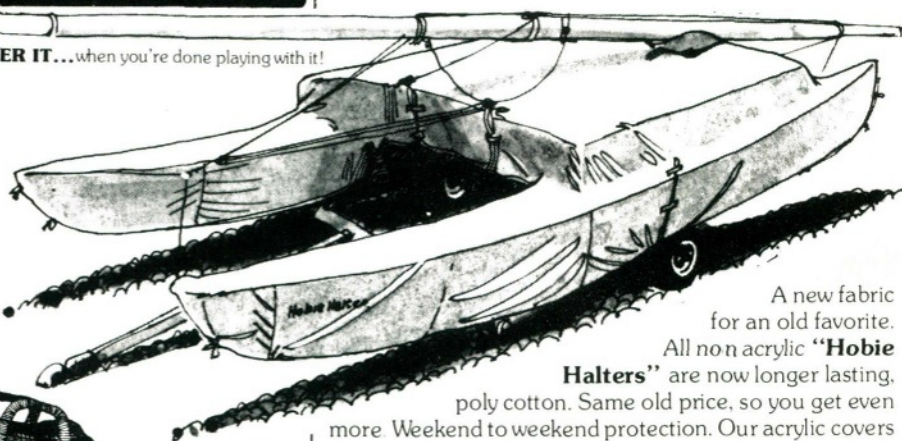


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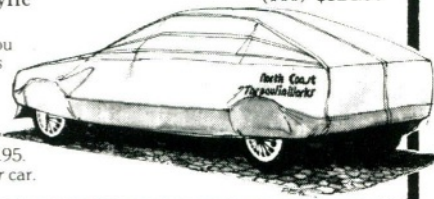
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## Noah's Navigator



### Personal Jewelry for the Practical Sportsman

Noah's Navigator is a solid brass sundial/compass which can be carried — and used — anywhere. Available as either a pendant or a keyring. Noah's Navigator is an elegant piece of jewelry which does more than just look good. It's a practical tool which could save your life!

Noah's Navigator is literally a portable sundial, using solar principles to accurately indicate time of day and compass direction. But unlike the ancient sundial, Noah's Navigator can be carried anywhere — it even has adjustments for latitude, Standard Time and Daylight Savings Time. It's a precision-crafted instrument as reliable as the sun itself.

Available in solid brass, silverplate, or 18-kt goldplate, Noah's Navigator is a unique conversation piece which provides both personal enjoyment and useful information. It's one of those special items which everyone should own.

Complete instructions are included. Use the order form below to order your Noah's Navigator now. Please send check with order, no C.O.D.'s.

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ Noah's Navigator(s)

☐ keychain(s)    ☐ pendant(s)

\$20.00 ea., includes shipping

Silver Plate \$29.95

Gold Plate \$39.95

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Send this coupon plus your check to:

Parker House  
4320 Campus Drive, Suite 230  
Newport Beach, CA 92660

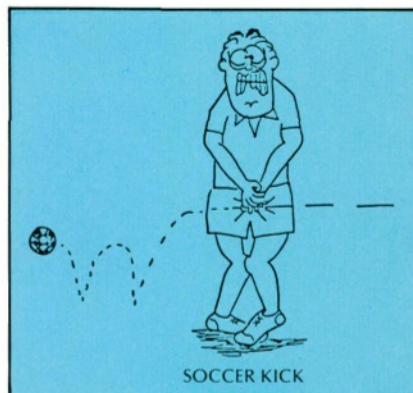
# Hobie Olympics

Grab your dancing shoes, a six-pack of whatever drink suits you, your tennis racket, and some mustard for the hot dogs! The World Championship Olympics Ashore are coming. . . .

This year for the first time, the Hobie Cat sailing championships will be spiced with a few land events — to test some of the hidden talents lurking within our Hobie skippers, crews, families and friends. Entrants will be battling for honors in esteemed contests of water walking, soccer kicking, six-pack chugging, frisbee throwing, hot dog eating, tennis playing, tug-of-warring, marathon running, volleyball

playing, and even disco dancing. It's all so crazy, watching should be as fun as competing!

Some events are still open for entrants, so if you wish to prove your worth in these daring escapades, stop by the Hobie Olympics Registration Desk at the Hilton for a rule book and free psychiatric advice. All events (except the Disco "Cat Fever" Contest) will be held at the beach and outdoor facilities of our headquarter hotel — The Hilton Sea Island. The trophies are beautiful Olympic-style medals . . . just like the big guys get! Join the sporting crowd — it's the Hobie Life!



### Monday

5:00 p.m. Tug-Of-War — Elimination Series

### Tuesday

7:00 a.m. Mixed Doubles Tennis Tournament begins  
7:00 a.m. Beach Volleyball Tournament begins  
5:00 p.m. Frisbee Throw — Elimination Series  
5:00 p.m. Soccer Football Kick — Elimination Series  
6:00 p.m. Hot Dog Eating Contest

### Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Mixed Doubles Tennis continues  
7:00 a.m. Beach Volleyball continues  
5:00 p.m. Six-Pack Relay Races  
6:00 p.m. Water Walking — Elimination Series

### Thursday

7:00 a.m. Mixed Doubles Tennis continues  
7:00 a.m. Beach Volleyball continues  
5:00 p.m. Frisbee Throw Finals  
5:00 p.m. Soccer Football Kick Finals  
9:00 p.m. Disco Dance Contest

### Friday

7:00 a.m. Mixed Doubles Tennis continues  
7:00 a.m. Beach Volleyball continues  
7:00 a.m. Beach Marathon  
5:00 p.m. Water Walking Finals

### Saturday

7:00 a.m. Mixed Doubles Tennis Finals  
4:00 p.m. Beach Volleyball Finals  
5:00 p.m. Tug-Of-War Finals



Illustrations by Bill Baldwin



# The perfect Piña Colada. Open The Club and you've got it made.



A haunting blend of rum and tropical fruit flavors to titillate your taste. Our Piña Colada. Mixed for you like nobody but The Club can. Just like all The Club cocktails, it's perfect. Not surprising. We've mixed more drinks than anyone else in the world. All that's left for you to do is enjoy.

Open The Club and savor the Piña Colada. You've got it made.

**The Club®**  
Cocktails since 1875.



**COMPARE!**

# Coleman® Poly-Lites®

## Feature for feature, dollar for dollar... the best values under the sun.

These are the ones that proved just how tough "plastic" coolers and jugs can be. How efficient in holding the cold. How good-looking. Yet when it comes to price, all that separates 'em from the herd is a buck or so. Maybe even less.

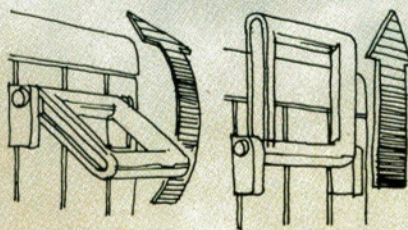
So take a close look at a Coleman Poly-Lite, like our 12-gallon model shown here.

Start with the most basic point. All Coleman coolers and jugs are insulated with urethane, the best material available.

And lots of it.  
So they hold  
the cold.

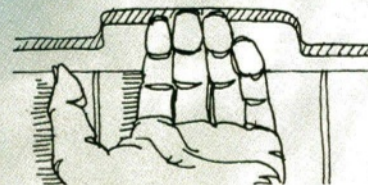
Next, think *tough*. That high-density polyethylene hide shrugs off all the rocks and hard places. Keeps its bright color in the sun. Won't rust or corrode, even in salt water.

You'll also find special touches. Like handles that are smooth and round, won't pinch. They swing



out for carrying, like on most coolers. But they also lift straight up for tight places, like a car trunk.

The snap latch is fumble proof, *inside* the lid where it can't break off. Close the lid firmly for traveling. Softly, and you get the "quick-seal" position so you can open it easily with one hand.



And something new available as an accessory: the Cool-a-tray. Fill it with water, freeze it—and it provides extra cooling power for meat, cheese, other perishables.

Poly-Lite coolers and jugs. Sizes, styles, colors for anyone. And the price is right.

*Remember: Coleman equipment can come in handy in storms, blizzards and power losses too.*



**The great outdoors  
is too good to miss.**



The Coleman Company, Inc. • Wichita, Kansas





## Participating Countries

American Samoa

Netherlands

Australia

Puerto Rico

Brazil

South Africa

Canada

Spain

France

Switzerland

Guam

Tahiti

Guatemala

Thailand

Hawaii

United States

Hong Kong

Virgin Islands

Japan

West Germany





"PEPSI-COLA" AND "PEPSI" ARE REGISTERED TRADEMARKS OF PepsiCo, INC. FOR SOFT DRINKS.

# America's Cup





# HAVE YOU READ *Yachting* LATELY?

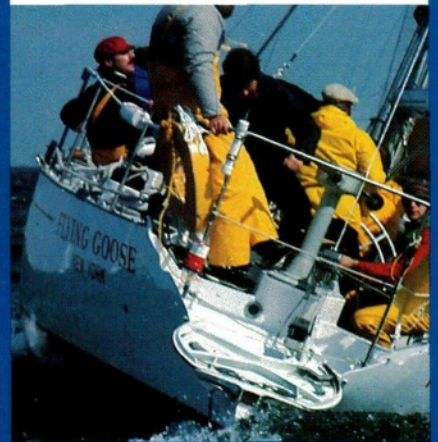
**Yachting**



**Yachting**



**Yachting**





# FOCUS ON QUALITY.



KEITH BAXTER AT DIAMOND HEAD, HAWAII

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