

# The Hobie Cat "16" National Championships at Key Biscayne, Florida

By Jerry Ober

There was a lot of action, almost in the President's front yard, when the 1973 Hobie Cat National Championships were held at Key Biscayne, Florida, last October. The action was provided not only by the "16's," but by the weather as well. About the time of the 5-day regatta, a hurricane moved into the area, causing some very exciting sailing for the Hobies. In direct contrast to the placid waters of Lake



Cline Mann boats one en route to Molokai

Havasu, where the "14" Nationals were held, Key Biscayne whipped up a real tempest. Winds were from 20 to 30 mph, with gusts and many squalls. Hobie 16's carry crews, and in this regatta, it was an asset to have a heavy crew. Overturning was the order of the day, and even the eventual winners had their ups and downs. Following elimination trials, a fleet of 50 boats started the series in the finals. Only 20 or so boats were still in competition at the finish.

In this heavy weather, Hawaii's sailors did very well, placing 4 men in the top 10 finishers. First place was won by Andy Lopes of Kailua, followed by Wayne Schaffer of California, then Rick Nash of Kailua in 3rd, and Hobie Alter, with his wife crewing, in 4th. Keith Baxter and Herb Anderson, both of Kailua, were