

1976 Annual Sailing Report

by Harold Hutchings, Chairman, Sailing Committee

The Sailing Committee began 1976 by reaffirming its objectives as:

1. Provide opportunities to learn to sail small boats.
2. Improve and encourage sailing through organized instruction.
3. Sponsor and encourage intra- and inter-club regattas.
4. Develop an organized club sailing team.
5. Provide opportunities for recreational sailing and related activities.
6. Acquire and maintain sailing equipment and facilities.

To fulfill these objectives, an ambitious slate of 12 programs was established. Of these, good results were achieved in novice instruction, the Multi-Hull TransPac, the Summer Program, the OCC Regatta seasons, the Hobie 16 World Championships, public relations, equipment acquisition and maintenance, and HYRA liaison. In addition, some success was also attained in club boat qualifying and development of a sailing team. Two programs, intermediate instruction and HYRA guest crews, did not materialize due to a lack of interest.

INSTRUCTION. A club first was achieved when the Coast Guard Auxiliary presented a professional course on the fundamentals of sailing. It included 16 hours of classroom instruction and was supplemented by practical sessions conducted by club instructors. Approximately 25 members received their certificates and all were quite enthusiastic about the course.

BOAT ACQUISITION. The Club purchased four new Lasers to modernize the Club fleet and provide the basis for an active sailing team. In December the flagship of the Club fleet, a spanking new Hobie 16, was received in return for the Club's hosting the Hobie World.

OCC REGATTA SEASON. Five Saturdays of races were held during September in wind that always seemed to be less than 5 knots or more than 20 knots. Three classes of boats were entered, Laser, Hobie 14 and 16, with about 15 total entrants. At the conclusion, an awards presentation dinner was held for 42 sailors, family and friends. The club sailing champions were determined from this series.

HOBIE 16 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP. The Out-rigger was host to the first Hobie 16 Worlds in one of the largest events ever to be held at the club. 128 teams from all over the world (including four OCC teams) and several hundred more family, friend, spectators, press, etc. gathered at the OCC and adjacent beaches as the six-day spectacle unfolded. The event was highly successful and even profitable for the Club. It is estimated the profits (including the value of the Hobie 16) generated by the event well exceeded the committee's expenses for the entire year.

The expanded sailing program and the achievements throughout the year could not have taken place if it were not for the interest and dedication of the committee members, the assistance and cooperation of management and the staff and the backing received from the Club Captain and the Board of Directors. In particular, special gratitude is extended to Norm Riede, Fran Pearson, and Wayne Faulkner for the continuing efforts over the year.
