

First Hobie 16 Worlds Off and Onshore

The great white laundry line strung along the beachfront just before sundown and after sunup early this month is the rigging and dacron of 54 sleek new Hobies, the fleet assembled for the first Hobie 16 World Championship Regatta.

At mid-day, they're mostly off-shore, competing in the eight races (after qualifiers) which make up the series, ending Sat., Nov. 6. After dark, the craft are beached (under security) at the Natatorium end of our shorefront.

Ninety-six local and Mainland skippers and crews are competing for 20 top honors to be awarded at the big celebratory banquet in the

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Imperial Ballroom at Kaimana Beach, race headquarters hotel, following closing day races. Banquet reservations are available through the OCC front desk.

The big event is sponsored by Irvine, Calif.-based National Hobie Class Association; OCC is host club. Sandy Banks, NHCA director, is general chairman; Club commodore Hal Hutchings and Sailing Committee member Dave Hoffman are handling matters for OCC. (See Coming Events in this issue for schedule of race activities.)

Counting skippers, crews, family and camp followers, more than 400 Mainland visitors are here—many in and around the Club—for the event.

The Hobies used in the races are provided by the manufacturing company founded by designer Hobie Alter, Coast Catamaran Corporation, now owned by Coleman Company, Inc., the lantern and camping equipment folks. McWayne Marine Supply, local distributor, is handling logistics and assembly.

Of the 54 new Hobies, six are on standby as backup craft, 48 are in the race. Since skippers and crews sail every other race, a total of 96 can compete. Boat assignment is rotated so that no crew gets to use the same Hobie twice.

Of 96 places in the competition, 26 are reserved for Hawaii crews—five are assigned OCC teams: Leith Anderson and daughter Kathy; Ted Crane and Todd Bradley; Hal Hutchings and Howard Lynn; Dave Hoffman and Bruce Blakely; and Dale Hope and Jay Anderson.