

# Hobie 16 North Americans BACK TO THE BEACH

By Bob Merrick

No carbon fiber, no spinnaker, no daggerboards, no problem. Keeping it simple is what Hobie 16 racing is all about, simply fast and simply fun. For over 30 years this has been the formula that's made the Hobie 16 the most popular catamaran class in the world and the class that hits the beach at full speed, *Hobie style*.

After two years of racing on inland bodies of water the 2005 Hobie 16 North American Championship returned to an Ocean Venue – and back to the beach – in Ventura, California. The location promised afternoons of solid double trapezing conditions coupled with surfable ocean swells, to make for some fun and exciting racing. At times it looked like the wind had taken a vacation, but by the end of the event there had been plenty of good wind as well as some of the light stuff, and the most well-rounded sailors were given the titles of North American Champion. Fortunately, the regatta ended in a climax with three genuinely windy races for the Gold Fleet finals on the last day, creating some good stories for everyone to bring home to the local fleets.

Thanks to the generous support of the Hobie Cat Company, the regatta was sailed entirely in brand-new provided boats. The provided boat format drew additional foreign competitors, making this year's regatta extra competitive.

## Youth and Women

The regatta started on a Wednesday with three days of racing for the Youth and Women's Hobie 16 Championships. Thirteen teams competed in each of the two divisions. Jason and Charles Hess, from Guatemala, dominated the Youth regatta with a perfect score of all first-place finishes. Later in the week, Jason finished 12<sup>th</sup> in the Open Championship proving he is more than a good youth sailor. In second were last year's youth champions Mike Siau and Trey James from New York. Siau

and James did manage to push the young Guatemalans at times, coming the closest with a photo finish in race 10.

The Women's Championship was shaping up to be a closer event on the scoreboard, but when the wind picked up towards the end of the regatta Annie Nelson and Kathy Kulkoski pulled away from the pack to win the event. Also making a big move as the wind strength increased – finishing second was Worrell 1000 veteran Sandra Tartaglino sailing with Eileen Haubl.

## Open

After a windless qualifying round on the weekend, racing the Open Championship started on Monday with 68 teams competing. The pre-race favorites, Enrique and Carla Figueroa jumped the gun in the first race and had to restart resulting in a 15<sup>th</sup> place finish for the race. After that early stumble it was all business for the Puerto Ricans who won seven of their next 10 races, to win the North American Championship. This was Enrique's fifth Championship win in the Hobie 16 and the second for his wife Carla.

Enrique grew up in the Hobie class, starting in the early days of the Hobie 14. His first major win was the Hobie 14 Worlds in 1981. He won his first Hobie 16 NAs in 1984 and was sailing a Tornado at the Olympics four years later. Figueroa got the 2005 season off to a good start, winning the Hobie Tiger class World Championship in March. His win at the 16 NAs has earned him a spot at the Hobie 16 Worlds to be held in South Africa in late October. He is one of the world's best Hobie 16 sailors and definitely has a chance to earn a second World Championship this year in South Africa.

In second place was Juan Maegli and Christina Guirola, another team of youth standouts from Guatemala. Maegli has been competing with the top adults in



Carla and Enrique Figueroa



Juani Maegli and Cristina Guirola



the class for years now and even earned himself a fourth place finish at the 2004 World Championships in Mexico.

Last year's Champions Armando Noriega and Rodrigo Achach ended the regatta in third.

By the end of the week it was clear that the hispanic sailors were *en fuego*. The top five teams were from Puerto Rico, Mexico, Guatemala or Brasil.

For complete results and more pictures go to [www.HCA-NA.org](http://www.HCA-NA.org)



Armando Noriega Jr. and Rodrigo Achach



Bob Merrick and Liza Cleveland



Jason Hess and Andres Lopez



Jeff Alter and Cody Alter

### Open Final Gold - Overall Results

Place	Name	Ctry/State	Net Points
1	Enrique Figueroa / Carla Figueroa	PUR	15
2	Juani Maegli / Cristina Guirola	GUA	28
3	Armando Noriega, Jr. / Rodrigo Achach	MEX	54
4	Juliano Viana / Bok Gomes	BRA	55
5	Jorge Murrieta / Andres Akle	MEX	56
6	Pedro Colon/ Martin Roldan, Jr.	PUR	60
7	Javier Cabildo / Andrea Mier y Teran	MEX	66
8	Bob Merrick / Liza Cleveland	USA/CT	73
9	Bob Enqwirda / Lisa Elred	AUS	76
10	Francisco Figueroa / Jolliam Berrios	PUR	82
11	Mike Montague / Kathy Ward	USA/CA	86
12	Jason Hess / Andres Lopez	GUA	89
13	Wally Myers / Tyler Myers	USA/NJ	90
14	Keith Christensen / Kristen King	USA/CA	94
15	Matt Bounds / Diane Bisesi	USA/MI	102
16	Jeff Alter / Cody Alter	USA/CA	105
17	Paul Hess / Mary Ann Hess	USA/CA	113
18	Sue Korzeniewski / Michael Siau	USA/NY	123
19	Steve Leo / Kim Moore	USA/CA	129
20	Pat Porter / Darcy Porter	USA/CA	129
21	Rich McVeigh / Lisa Griffth	USA/MD	130
22	Hobie Alter Jr. / Scotty Alter	USA/CA	131
23	Annie Nelson/ Kathy Kulkowski	USA/CA	137
24	Mark Modderman / Ryan Stokes	USA/NJ	140
25	Dan Kulkoski / Ryan Mazzeo	USA/NJ	141
26	Bruce Tardrew / Gerald Ryan	AUS	144
27	Ken Nelson / Fluffy White	USA/CA	146
28	Ron Katz / Donna Katz	USA/CA	166
29	Scott McIntosh / Michelle Abbott	USA/NV	176
30	Jim Sajdak / Polly Murphy	USA/CA	178
31	John Hauser / Linda Hauser	USA/CA	179
32	Greg Raybon / Eric Raybon	USA/NJ	183
33	Gary Russell / Terri Reuwsaat	USA/CA	189
34	Peter Nelson / Laura Sullivan	USA/WA	190



## Open Final Silver - Overall Results

Place	Name	Ctry/St	Net Points
1	Sean Tomlinson / Krista Garcia	USA/CA	134
2	Ken Hilk / Beverly Griffio	USA/DE	140
3	Todd Christensen / Leslie Christensen	USA/WA	145
4	Grahame Southwick / Renee Philp	FIJ	147
5	Bill Myter / Shauna MacGee	USA/CA	147
6	John Ziolkowski / Sabrina Ostrom	USA/CA	148
7	Jim Glanden / Kelly Wood	USA/DE	150
8	Rex Miller / Greg Brown	USA/CA	153
9	Jeff Perlmutter / Susan Stockdale	USA/AZ	167
10	Dave Sparkuhl / Linda Sparkuhl	USA/CA	174
11	Pat Bisesi / Sarah Bisesi	USA/NY	179
12	Jerry Mohney / Lori Mohney	USA/MI	181
13	Sean Tracy / Kathleen Tracy	USA/CO	182
14	Adam Borcharding / Julianne Jones	USA/CA	183
15	Paul Tobie / Tara Ames	USA/CA	188
16	Alan Pitts / Stefan Shelton	AUS	191
17	Randy Payne / Faith Payne	USA/NJ	193
18	Armando Noriega, Sr. / Marsha Noriega	MEX	194
19	David Dixon / Lee Frincke	USA/CA	199
20	Anthony Krauss / Lani Krauss	USA/AZ	211
21	Rex Mitchell / Brittany Mitchell	USA/NV	214
22	Alan Mohill / Debbie Brown	USA/CA	214
23	Roger Hensler / Pat Hensler	USA/AZ	218
24	Steve Klein / Eric Brown	USA/CA	223
25	Slim Johnson / Chris Bradshaw	USA/MN	227
26	Ron LaPorta / Alicia LaPorta	USA/PA	229
27	Jack Winter / Jacob Green	USA/CA	229
28	Gordon Bagley / Trevor Jones	USA/NV	241
29	Mark Lewis / Tiffany Lewis	USA/CA	248
30	John O'Leary / Lori Salisbury	USA/CA	251
31	Frank Ternullo / Gabi Hilk	USA/CA	253
32	Steve Boese / Becky Frisk	USA/CA	260
33	Ron Wagniere / Jessica Brown	USA/CA	267
34	David Martin / Chelsey Marshall	USA/NJ	289

## Women - Overall Results

Place	Name	Ctry/St	Net Points
1	Annie Nelson / Kathy Kulkowski	USA/CA	16
2	Sandra Tartaglino / Eileen Haubl	USA/MA	37
3	Mary Lindsay / Barbara Roettger	USA/CA	40
4	Karen Grisko / Carol Hilk	USA/NY	52
5	Teri McKenna / Debbie Brown	USA/CA	53
6	Lynn Myers / Kristy Benton	USA/NJ	53
7	Shiela Holmes / Karen Palmer	USA/TX	57
8	Kathy Miles / Fluffy White	USA/NY	59
9	Linda Kimball / Kelly Wood	USA/CA	60
10	Heather Morrison / Kathleen Tracy	USA/KS	63
11	Judy Nasmith / Vicki Ulibarri	USA/WA	70
12	Barb Perlmutter / Susan Stockdale	USA/AZ	106
13	Deb Olsen / Rachel Olsen	USA/CO	120



Rich McVeigh and Lisa Griffith



Hobie Alter Jr. and Scotty Alter



Armando Noriega Sr.  
and Marsha Noriega



Women Champs Annie Nelson  
and Kathy Kulkowski



# ISAF YOUTH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Bob Merrick

In 1999 the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) formally approved the inclusion of a multihull discipline at the ISAF Youth World Sailing Championship from 2004 onwards. The ISAF Youth World Championships is an event held every year for sailors under the age of 19. Only one team per country is selected in each of the seven divisions. The present classes are: Laser boys, Laser Radial girls, 420 boys and girls, Mistral windsurfer girls and boys, and Hobie 16 open. This is a great step forward for the worldwide multihull community and has been greeted with much enthusiasm and a bit of controversy.

The Hobie 16 was chosen as the youth multihull class from 2004 to 2007 for the obvious reasons of worldwide availability and an already existing pool of young talented sailors to draw from. Youth sailors around the world have been racing in Hobie 16s long before ISAF finally decided to include multihulls in its youth championship. The Hobie 16 has such a worldwide availability that young sailors in almost any country have access to the boats and fleets to race against. This should ensure that all youth sailors around the world have a fair chance to do well at the Youth Worlds.

The first ISAF Youth Worlds to use a multihull discipline was in 2001, hosted by France in Hobie 16s. At that point the multihull discipline was not yet a required part of the championship. The event was, however, a nice demonstration of how much a multihull fleet can add to the event.

Although the Hobie 16s were used in their class-legal configuration in 2001, ISAF decided that a spinnaker had to be added to the boat for the championships starting in 2004. Evidently, ISAF thought it was necessary to make the Hobie 16 more exciting for the youth, however no such changes have been required in the Laser, 420 or Mistral classes. While some European countries have adopted the spinnaker change many countries were left at a severe disadvantage when the spinnaker was added. With no fleet of spinnaker-rigged Hobie 16s in their home country and no development of such a fleet on the horizon these youth are left to enter the Youth Worlds with



Jason Alexander Hess Castillo and Charles Hess

their fingers crossed. It is understandable that the class sailors don't want to mess with the formula for the most successful multihull on the planet. Adding a spinnaker to the class would do unspeakable damage to the existing fleets and all to benefit the one youth team that gets to go to the ISAF Worlds every year. The class is unlikely to change.

In the long run the decision to use a spinnaker, or not, on the Hobie 16 will likely not matter as ISAF has been conducting evaluation trials to select a new multihull class for the Youth Worlds, possibly starting as early as 2007. In February of this year the ISAF Multihull Committee recommended to the decision makers at

ISAF that the SL16 should be selected as the next Youth Worlds boat. At the present time there are only about 20 of these boats racing in France. The good news is that youth teams from all over the world, bar the French, will likely be equally disadvantaged since none of them have even seen one of these boats, let alone sailed one. However, the new class will need to achieve international status before it is used in the ISAF Youth Worlds. To get ISAF status the class will need to organize fleets of at least 20 boats in six countries on at least three continents. This will be no small feat for a junior boat that costs over \$14,000 USD and has no used boat market. The World will be watching for

## Youth - Overall Results

Place ....	Name .....	Ctry/St.....	Net Points
1 .....	Jason Alexander Hess Castillo / Charles Hess .....	GUA.....	9
2 .....	Michael Siau / Trey James.....	USA/NY .....	19
3 .....	Andrew Robinson / Trent Freeman.....	CAN/BC .....	33
4 .....	Steve Hilk / Alicia LaPorta.....	USA/DE .....	43
5 .....	Timm Wallace / JR Serroto .....	USA/FL .....	54
6 .....	Darren Hoffman / Jessie Opie.....	USA/FL .....	58
7 .....	Erin LaPorta / Gabi Hilk.....	USA/PA .....	66
8 .....	Jean-Luc Bonde / Matt Ives.....	CAN/BC .....	69
9 .....	Jake Larson / Mark Wilson .....	USA/IA .....	71
10 .....	Alexander Wessels / Jordon Wessels .....	USA/IA .....	73
11 .....	Alex Butti / Spencer Johnson.....	USA/CA .....	88
12 .....	Danny Vickers / Trevor Lewis.....	USA/CA .....	93
13 .....	Hunter Leary / Tyler Young.....	USA/CA .....	117