

CARLOS ARMANDO NORIEGA • HOBIE FLEET 236, MEXICO CITY, MEXICO, DIVISION 13, NAHCA SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR - 199

The e-mail address of the Noriega Family of Mexico City is as follows: famnoriega@compuserve.com.mx. But it is missing one important word; i.e. *Hobie*.

Famnoriega includes Carlos Armando Noriega Sr., Marta Negrete de Noriega, and children Marta, Armando Jr., Tatiana, and Pamela. This is a true Hobie Family who have *all* sailed Hobie Cats over the years in various combinations of family teams. The family (the *entire* family) lives, eats, and breathes the Hobie Way of Life. For Armando Sr., working is a way to provide for his greatest passion; Hobie sailing. Fortunately, all of the Noriega family share his love for the sport.

Armando started sailing years ago; Tatiana, now 20, was his crew. Because Armando was himself learning to sail a Hobie Cat, understandably, Tatiana's love for the sport was somewhat modi-

fied. She soon turned her crewing duties over to her younger sister, Pamela. Since then, the tables have turned; Armando Sr. now crews for Pamela—she a rising star in both Junior and Women's Hobie racing. Meanwhile, son Armando was also learning to sail. And, anyone who has sailed in an event with him has learned to respect his prowess as a skipper. Armando and his crew, Enrique Montano, took first place in the U.S. Youth Continental Regatta in Daytona Beach and they have competed as representatives for Mexico in the PanAm Games. Sister Pamela followed by winning the same event last year and then racing in the Youth Worlds in South Africa.

Armando contacted the NAHCA the first time about seven years ago by sending memberships for all six family members. Curious about this *Mexican connection*, Ron and Shirley Palmer tele-

phoned Mexico City, "...not knowing if we could even communicate." Of course, the entire family speaks English. Armando, with his usual enthusiasm, has volunteered to serve as liaison for the NAHCA. His friends don't call him "The Energiser Bunny" for nothing!

The NAHCA connection with the Noriegas became even stronger in LaRoche, France where Armando Jr. was crewing for his father in the IYRU World Championships. Most of the family was in France for that event. Full family in attendance is a Noriega trademark. The family travels together. If you see one Noriega on the beach, you won't have to look far before finding the others—most of them in wet suits and harnesses, ready to jump on a Hobie 16.

The Noriega clan attends as many Hobie events as they possibly can every year—World Championships, Continental Championships, Area

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Championships and virtually all Hobie events in the southern part of the North American Region, including Guatemala and Puerto Rico.

Carlos Armando *gives back* to the sailing class in numerous ways that include:

- Revived and rejuvenated Mexico City Hobie Fleet 236
- Established and promotes Yucatan Hobie Fleet 904
- Key Organiser of the 1995 H-16 World Championship Regatta in Huatulco Mexico
- NAHCA Division 13 Chairman
- Hobie spokesman within Federacion Mexicana de Vela; most recently as vice president
- Supports Hobie Youth and Women's programs
- Mexican liaison for Mid-Winter's West Regatta

- Jury member for Mexican sailing events

- Provides race committee staff, equipment and support

As a dedicated supporter of the Hobie Way of Life, Armando consistently and enthusiastically promotes Hobie activities including racing, training, Hobie family support, and Sailing Federation involvement. He effectively convinces many sailors to travel to and take part in events—be they in Mexico, Guatemala, Puerto Rico, Venezuela, the U.S.A., or other locations around the world.

Armando lives and works in Mexico City. However, his real *home* is on the shore of Valle de Bravo. Many Hobie sailors have been the beneficiaries of Noriega Hobie hospitality. Armando owns five Hobie 16s that he has loaned to sailors who have been willing to

travel to special events in Mexico.

When the Women's PanAm Games were held in Mexico, Armando offered boats, food and housing to North American women sailors who otherwise would have been unable to attend. Those who took advantage of his offer returned home spreading rave reviews of the warmth, friendliness and generosity of the Noriega family.

Both the Noriega Family *and* the Hobie Family are of great importance and value to Carlos Armando Noriega. Consistent encouragement and a friendly smile are traits recognised by everyone who comes in contact with this outstanding and dedicated Hobie sailor and volunteer. On any beach in the world, Armando is ready with his welcoming smile and encouraging words.

*Three cheers for Armando!*