

CARLTON TUCKER • HOBBIE FLEET 178, MARY ESTHER, FLORIDA, DIVISION 8, NAHCA SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR - 1998

Of the many sailors and racers who may, in one way or another, fit the description of the ideal Hobbie Sports-person, it was Carlton Tucker who consistently personified the term in ways everyone can understand. Knowing him personally, or interacting with him at racing or sailing events, it was impossible to miss his positive attitude. His humility, kindness, generosity and down-to-earth approach were witness to his commitment to the Hobbie Way of Life.

In this year of his untimely death it is appropriate that his name be honored as the 1998 Hobbie Catamaran Sports-person of the Year.

He was a "seat-of-the-pants" sailor. He didn't know or care much about high-tech stuff, and he didn't have any special rigging tricks. How many sailors must have checked out his boat before a race to see if he had

any secrets or a special way of setting it up that allowed him to sail so fast? Of course, he didn't. But, he did have an edge because he could feel the boat as though he were a part of it and he made sure that he passed the feeling along to others as best he could. He set a high standard of competitiveness and friendship that will live on forever.

He gave impromptu racing clinics whenever the wind died and everyone was hanging out under the committee tent. Countless times, he was guest expert at Rick White's sailing clinics and at local regattas. Just ask and Carlton would answer any question: how to rake a mast, how to get a better start, how to make a better mark rounding. He'd share his best sailing tactics, latest boat tuning tips and how to cook a delicious meal.

When giving seminars, Carlton's

excitement, enthusiasm, zeal and love for the sport infected everyone with energy. He cared about people and was sensitive to their feelings; honing their skills, he was often frustrated with himself. He wanted to call everyone by name, no easy task when there are 15 or 20 boats and two people on most. But, predictably, the next day he knew everyone as though each was an old friend. Just offer Carlton a plane ticket, and he would be there, helping to promote sailing in any backyard across the states, in the middle of winter and in inches of snow.

Emulating Carlton was for many, more than understanding how to race or sail well. Carlton "lived" by enjoying life and sharing the camaraderie among sailors — on or off the water. Although he was serious about his sailboat racing, he never took it too

