

On September 11, 1988 at the Division 12 Ellacoya Points Regatta (held on Lake Winnapausaukee), Drake and Bonnie were the key reasons why John Smith's younger sister, Robin, is alive to sail again today.

At the start for Hobie 16's, a squall suddenly came up on the lake. In an instant, the wind picked up to over 25 knots and waves broke against the hulls of the starting Hobie 16's. John Smith, skipper of his Hobie 16 with Robin as his crew, watched as a Hobie 16 capsized in front of him at the starting line. John's boat went over and so did the one behind him. He and Robin took the capsize easily, but their boat turtled instantly. John and Robin swam to the stern of the overturned catamaran where they began to try to get aboard. The wind and rough water caused Robin to be pulled under the trampoline and she became tangled in the rigging and lines. John struggled to free

her but found all his strength was needed just to keep her head above water.

As Robin was being pulled beneath the trampoline, Drake and Bonnie (sailing their Hobie 18) were just crossing the finish line of their race, which had started before the Hobie 16s. As Drake skillfully maneuvered his boat in the high winds around the capsized boats he called out, "Do you need help?" John instantly shouted back his desperate need. Hobie catamarans sail very quickly, as fast as the wind, and in these unusual conditions, even faster.

There was no time for discussion. In the instant of John's reply, Drake told Bonnie to jump and swim for John's boat pushing her overboard simultaneously. Hesitating even a moment would have resulted in Drake's Hobie 18 being out of swimming distance to John's boat, and in the foul weather conditions Drake would

waste precious minutes tacking back to John's turtled Hobie 16. With Bonnie on the way toward John's boat, Drake sailed his Hobie 18, single-handed to the Committee Boat, where he reported the disastrous condition and called for a knife and additional help. Earlier, Bonnie who never sails without a knife, noticed hers had become frozen in its case; she hadn't purchased a new one before this day's race. She pulled herself up onto the trampoline of the turtled Hobie and scrambled to the stern only to see Robin pass into unconsciousness just inches below the water's surface.

The waves had forced Robin's head beneath the surface, and she was overcome. John, greatly fatigued, was no longer able to hold her face above the water. The continuing severe weather conditions only tangled Robin's body tighter in the lines and rigging. Summoning every ounce of strength her

