

Many people aren't sure how Kelvin got into Hobie sailing, or how this became his passion. Yet in a way, this enigma establishes the setting. This submission provides the insight about the person who is very deserving of this award.

For Kelvin, it's never been about him. It's about others, sailors and strangers alike. For local sailors, his selfless actions help to get others back out on the water with a simple repair or some sailing tips. As the daylight fades and the wind is still blowing, it's not about the sailing "he's" missing, it's about the sailing "you're" missing. For the new person who's never sailed before, it's about giving them an experience they'll enjoy with the thought that they too will become hooked on sailing.

Kelvin is a modest person who does not talk about himself, or boast about his accomplishments. It's common for some sailors to come up with excuses for poor

racing/sailing such as, the wind was too heavy, the wind was too light, my blocks don't seem to be working right, I have a new crew, etc. You just won't hear these things from Kelvin. There's no complaining, there's only sailing. If something didn't go quite right, "let's make some adjustments and move on".

Kelvin also has a naturally positive persona that infects those who meet him. Regardless of the day he may be having, he's a man who greets everyone with a firm handshake and a broad smile. When gathering at our local sailing venue, if the weather isn't suitable that day, it's not the end of the world. Those of us who know Kelvin have come to learn that he's found a sanctuary (of sorts) with Hobie sailing. A true lover of the sport will see a silver lining in every cloud. Even on overcast days, (metaphorically speaking) I don't think Kelvin sees any clouds at all. To him it's a matter of perspective. On weather challenged days, instead of

complaining, he'll say: "The way I look at it, it's another day at the lake with good company. And if things don't change, there's always tomorrow." Optimistic words like this help expand on his character, and help us all enjoy our summer passion even more by not getting caught up in things we can't control.

Kelvin willingly accepts the challenges Mother Nature tosses his way and at times you can hear a "Yeeee Haaaa" coming from his boat as he's screaming along. However when things get dicey on the water, he never compromises safety. Even when he's back on the beach enjoying a cool beverage with others, he has an eye to the water for other boaters. If necessary, he's one of the first people to offer help. I can recall him calling out on numerous occasions, "Looks like (so-and-so's) having trouble, grab a life jacket and let's go."

Now, while these assessments have been observed by many local and visiting sailors, what follows are some examples of the contributions he's made to our fleet and the sport of sailing. More importantly, these examples illustrate the character behind actions, and what he has done, and continues to do, to foster and exemplify the Hobie Way of Life.

Years ago, Yankton's Hobie Beach once boasted of over 50 boats, and several more fleet members. In the late 80's changes took place within the South Dakota Parks department and the management of Hobie Beach. The unfortunate result was that a fleet of over 50 boats soon dropped to barely 10. Observing the demise of the fleet, Kelvin persisted to find a way to turn things around. He recognized that on almost every SD tourism brochure, or billboard promoting the SD State Parks, was a picture of a colorful Hobie Cat. As Kelvin recalls – "How could the State, on one hand see the value in promoting

sailing, and on the other hand, let this happen?" Kelvin penned a letter to the Governor of the State of South Dakota and the Chairman of the State Parks Department. It must have been brilliant, shortly thereafter Kelvin received a response from the Governor of SD. In short the Governor stated that these issues would be addressed. This resulted in a meeting between Kelvin, another fleet officer and the head of the SD Parks Department. Through their collaborative efforts they were able to determine what steps were necessary to keep Hobie Beach alive, and re-establish an accommodating environment for catamaran sailing. Fast forward 20+ years and we now have an ACTIVE fleet of over 25 members that has hosted numerous fleet races, Division regattas, Division Championships, the 2006 North Central Area Championships, (which exposed Yankton's venue to other sailors from the Midwest) and ultimately helped land the 2008 Hobie 20 Championships.

One of the luxuries we have at Hobie Beach is that on any given weekend, there's usually someone around. Who wants to go to an empty beach? It's like going into an empty bar. What's the point? But at Hobie Beach we've come to learn that it's just a matter of time before the sailors arrive. Kelvin is one of the regulars that keeps people around, and gives others an excuse, or a reason to stop by, and thus begins the domino effect. Another sailor drives by and sees two cars, and then there are three, and so on. Kelvin's consistent presence at Hobie Beach helps maintain a very strong participation of local sailors.

In addition to the camaraderie he brings to the beach, Kelvin is always prepared. How many times have we dropped a clevis pin in the sand only to wonder how it disappears so quickly? The bigger problem is how in the heck am I going to get out on the water? On more than one occasion, Kelvin has personally provided

parts, at no charge, and with no expectation that it be returned. (However through gratitude for his generosity, these parts are usually returned. Hey, you never know who might need them next!)

In addition to being a great sportsman, Kelvin is a strong leader. He has held multiple fleet positions and is our standing Vice Commodore. While a fleet's survival depends on people stepping into these positions, (sometimes begrudgingly) Kelvin doesn't view his contributions as holding a position or having a "title", but rather being part of an organization and helping to facilitate events that bring everyone together to have a good time. Even on days with no formal activities, Kelvin's gotten the fun rolling with some type of on-the-water activity.

Hobie Beach is an attractive venue for sailors, but also for passers-by looking for a place to lie in the sand to enjoy the sun and water. Periodically these visitors will

wander over to check out the fully rigged cats sitting at the waters edge, ready to go. Kelvin is one of the first people to strike up a friendly conversation with them, and before long they're off for a ride. (Because if Kelvin is sitting on the beach, he is itching to get back on the water, and he relishes telling stories about the good times that were had.)

When the daylight and winds begin to fade and the appetites kick in, Kelvin isn't necessarily looking to shut things down, but rather to continue the camaraderie at a local joint that hits the spot. Just because the sailing is done for the day, doesn't mean you have to go home. If you try to leave, he'll have a comment that's reminiscent of good fatherly advice. As he might say: "You've got to eat right? (yep) Well then come on, We're all headed out for dinner". The scenario has played out many-a-time and results in further bonding and storytelling, which keeps our Hobie family healthy and growing.

As many of us can attest, it takes a considerable amount of time and effort to host a regatta. More importantly it takes dedicated and reliable people. On behalf of Fleet 291, I think it's safe to say that we can all vouch to the support and reliability Kelvin brings to the table when running these events. Whether it's patching marks, working on trophies, helping recruit support staff, or setting out breakfast early Sunday morning after a long Saturday night, he has stepped up and delivered.

The passion Kelvin has for this sport is witnessed by young an old alike. Thanks to Bobby Edmonds, the local Scout Troop was provided with a pair of Hobie 16's. This generous donation helped, and still helps to give many young boys and girls a chance to experience the sport of sailing. While the boats were a great contribution, the local Sea Scouts knew very little about catamarans. Kelvin saw this as a valuable opportunity to help them understand the new Hobie Cats as more than just a couple

of boats to go beat around on. He wanted to make sure that the Scouts, and the Scout leaders understood the mechanics of the boat, the safety requirements, and that they were well maintained for future Scouts to enjoy. As Kelvin usually does, he jumped in with both feet. Not only did he help manufacture necessary items to help protect the boats and equipment, but he also became a certified volunteer for the Scouts. Through Kelvin's efforts, we have seen scout participation in most of our events and the scout leaders have also recognized the strength of our organization and how we can have a mutually beneficial relationship.

Kelvin's contributions do not stop once the season ends. In the off season he scours the net looking for spare parts, sails or unloved boats to fix up and get back to the water. If a local sailor has a boat that needs a little TLC, Kelvin's the go-to guy. As an accomplished repairman, and a restoration master, Kelvin will donate

countless hours of work turning a once dull and faded boat into a shining beauty!

Above it is mentioned that Kelvin exemplifies the "Hobie Way of Life". This is a liberal application because it's more of a philosophical approach he personifies. Even though Kelvin is a Hobie sailor at heart, and the local venue is referred to as "Hobie Beach" above all it is a catamaran beach. Kelvin embraces anyone who shares a passion for catamaran sailing. His character has strengthened Hobie Beach as it has grown into a diversified and unified group of sailors.

In this submission we've heard the word "passion" on more than one occasion. Passion is a characteristic that fills the heart and soul with drive, determination, and selfless enthusiasm without asking for anything in return.

The manifestation of passion not only becomes part of the individual who possesses it, but it also has an infectious

impact on those who share something they truly believe in.

When it comes to Hobie Sailing, Kelvin IS the passion.

Kelvin may humbly disagree with these assessments of his character, or his nomination for this award. However there is no denying that his past and continuing contributions validate the position we all take when we submit this nomination for Kelvin Tellinghuisen to be the 2010 Carlton Tucker recipient.

Submitted by David Rice and the Sailors of Fleet 291 and Division 7