

LORI MOHNEY □ HOBIE FLEET 519, PORTAGE, MI, DIVISION 10, HCA SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR - 2005

It is my pleasure to announce the 2005 Sportsperson of the Year as Lori Mohney. Lori has made tremendous contributions over a long period of time to the Hobie sport. As the following narratives illustrate, she contributes at the fleet, division, HCA and IHCA levels. While it is not surprising that Lori was selected as this year's recipient, there were a record nine nominations (two were for Lori), making a difficult decision when only one could be named for the award.

Please join me in congratulating Lori and recognizing how much she gives to all of us via Hobie sailing. She serves as an example for all of us to make our own contributions.

Ed Muns, HCA Chair

The reason I feel Lori is deserving of this award, is because "she does it all." She's been doing it all year-in and year-out for over a decade at the fleet, division, national, and international levels. Lori is a driving force at the local fleet level. When the time rolls around for the Fleet 519 annual regatta, Lori leads the registration table, provides the committee boat, sails with husband Jerry and then heads home to be the quintessential hostess for the regatta dinner and party held at her home each year. All before sundown!

At the division level, Lori has served as secretary, newsletter editor, vice commodore and commodore. She participates in division meetings and offers suggestions to help revitalize and promote activity in the division. For the past couple of years, the division has rented a booth at Sail Expo in Chicago. Lori was found at

the display enthusiastically recruiting new potential Hobie sailors and introducing them to the Hobie Way of Life. Lori has also mentored a number of past division officers.

In 1995, Dick Blount (NAHCA chairman) took notice of Lori's exceptional organizational skills at the fleet and division level. He recruited her to serve as an officer in NAHCA at the national level. Since that time, she has served as 2nd Vice Chair, Vice Chair and continues to serve as the Continental Coordinator for the HCA. It is in this position that Lori has found her true calling. She encourages fleets to hold a championship regatta. She fields questions from any fleet contemplating holding such an event. It is her guidance and skill that have turned casual ideas into the reality of exceptional events enjoyed by all in attendance. She oversees an event

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every step of the way, assisting the local organizers in the planning and execution.

Lori's undeniable and unending commitment to Hobie sailing is very demanding on her time. She spends countless hours and hours on the phone, answering emails and personally traveling to regatta sites to coordinate three or four major events per year. She also holds "Women of the Water" clinics to share her joy and enthusiasm with other women interested in Hobie sailing.

She is known throughout the country and is sought out for her honest opinion and critique. When she notices the fleet, division or HCA headed off course, she is always willing to pitch in to help plot and steer a course correction that is beneficial to the sport and the sailors that love Hobie Cat sailing. She has

earned the respect and admiration of sailors worldwide.

She also serves at the international level to coordinate World Championship events. At the 16 Worlds in Mexico, I found her communicating the international language of Hobie Catting in French, Spanish, German and I think Swahilli and Pig Latin. She is so important at these events, I'm not sure when she finds time to sleep.

Yes, quite simply, Lori "does it all." I can't think of anybody whose contributions, promotion and advancement of Hobie Cat sailing for the enjoyment of all, is more deserving of the Carlton Tucker Sportsperson of the Year Award than Lori Mohney.

Kitsy Amrhein

Almost everyone in the Hobie world knows Division 10's Lori Mohney. Since she started sailing in the early 1980s, her friendly, welcoming attitude has made her well known all over the globe, and famous as a person who truly represents the Hobie Way of Life. During the course of her sailing career, she and her husband Jerry have opened their home to scores of sailors who found their way to western Michigan in the course of their travels.

Lori Mohney unselfishly given service to the Hobie Class on every level: fleet, division, national and internationally. Over the years, Lori has served as the Fleet 519 Commodore. She was Division 10's Chair-babe for a term, and also edited the division's newsletter. She has been Vice Chair of the North American Hobie Class Association

and is currently Vice President of the International Hobie Class Association.

She and her husband have planned many events with their fleet and she is the Events

Coordinator for HCA. Everybody knows if you need it done, just call Lori. Planning a world level competition in Mexico? No problem. Call Lori. How about a national event across the country in the absence of a local fleet? No problem. Call Lori.

There is no one that personifies the Hobie Way of Life more than Lori. She works a full-time job but devotes countless hours every week to Hobie sailing. It's not enough that she is one of the driving forces behind Fleet 519 but she also finds time to help out Division 10 when needed, works at the National level coordinating the North American Championships and is a Vice President in the IHCA. She has

also given Women on the Water (WOW) clinics.

This year Lori helped Steve Leo organize the Hobie Tiger Worlds in Santa Barbara and was also busy organizing the Hobie 16 North American Championships in Ventura. Both of these events entailed countless hours on the phone and more than a dozen emails every day in the many weeks and months before the events. The only family vacation she's had this year were a couple of long weekends as Lori will spend nearly six weeks working at the different sailing events this year!

The Ventura event was a little different as Lori made special arrangements so that she could actually sail in the event with her husband. PU had to remind Lori of the fact that cell phones were not allowed out on the race course. He

didn't really think that Lori would bring her cell phone out on the boat, did he?

Lori does all of this because she loves Hobie sailing and the people involved. It makes it all worthwhile when she had some of the youth teams come up to her during the event in Ventura and give her a small thank you gift and note. Just these small gestures brought tears to her eyes! To know that what you do is truly appreciated is all that she asks for. I believe that naming Lori as the Sportsperson of the Year would be the ultimate compliment and thank you for the wonderful job that she has done, and is doing, for the class.

Jeff Rabidoux, Division 10 Chair