

MARV GANTSWEG • HOBIE FLEET 180, MARINA DEL REY, CA, DIVISION 2, NAHCA SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR - 1997

Division 2 and Fleet 180 select Marv Gantsweg to be the recipient of the 1997 NAHCA Sportsperson of the Year Award.

Marv was a real “Hobie Way” kind of guy; a special person who went out of his way to help any new sailor whether they wanted it or not! Over the years, Marv is best remembered as a stalwart supporter of Hobie sailing who never missed an opportunity to persuade others to try the sport.

A strong advocate of his fleet and division, Marv was always willing to take on whatever job needed to be done and he tirelessly encouraged others to get involved. He volunteered hours of work and persistent “schmoozing” to gain and maintain ongoing goodwill to assure the continuance of Division 2’s Marina Del Rey Regatta.

Marv was friendly and full of personality. His efforts included helping and encouraging UCLA students in the university’s sailing program. He recruited interested sailors into new fleet members and kept them crewing regularly at local regattas. He also invited students to sail and crew with him on his Hobie 16. With his

patience and charm, novice sailors soon became as passionate about Hobie sailing as Marv. At a time when so many Hobie fleets were getting smaller, Marv was single-handedly bringing in new members.

Al Mohill remembers how his cousin Marv talked him into sailing at one regatta when Marv needed crew. The two *discussed* (argued, or whatever you want to call it), every point of sail that day. They could be heard on every leg of the race course, during every race of the day. In spite of this they shared the cost of a Hobie 18 and sailed together for some time before they relented and bought two Hobie 16s in order to compete against each other.

When Marv’s sister Barbara celebrated her 50th, Marv decided she wasn’t having enough fun in life; so, he taught her to sail Hobie Cats. She soon became his full-time, A-fleet crew at regattas. How’s that for “turning on” a family to the “Hobie Way of Life.”

As an outstanding Hobie “Ambassador of Good Will” Marv brought many new sailors into the sport by demonstrating con-

sistent interest in them as well as interest in their increasing sailing skills. He was always helping others: sharing about boat tuning, sailing methods, rules and tactics—all the while promoting good sportsmanship.

One of Marv’s most outstanding qualities was his ability to communicate with everyone at any level of understanding. He had a sixth sense about where people were in their sailing learning curve; he was always checking to be sure a particular concept was understood—that he was “getting through.” Above all, Marv exhibited a wonderful sense of humor and camaraderie. He was a truly great teacher of sailing and of the “Hobie Way of Life.”

Marv Gantsweg was entertainment; his life was filled with joy and his joy was just as contagious as the joy we all feel about Hobie sailing and racing. His boundless energy and enthusiasm will be sorely missed.

Is it possible that heaven needed Marv to set a square line and fearlessly give the Hobie 20’s a course seven, twice around?

*Rest in Peace, Marv.*