

MIKE MONTAGUE HOBIE FLEET 281, NORTH BAY, CALIFORNIA, DIVISION 3, HCA
SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR 2017

I would like to nominate Mike Montague for the Carlton Tucker Award based on his decades of authentic support and dedication to this sport we love so much. Although Mike is a true sailor to the core, his heart is clearly in Hobies. Having started sailing a H16 in the mid-70s, he has remained a keystone of the class for forty years.

As a competitor, Mike is consistently one of the front runners in any condition, from light breeze to blowing dogs off chains. Past accomplishments include 2nd in at least two 16 NAs (and multitude of top 10 finishes), Alter Cup Champion, 18SX NA Champion, 8th at H16 Worlds, multiple Mid-Winters Championships on both sides of the country and multiple Division 3 championships. More importantly, in my eyes, however, is the way he always is a consummate gentleman on the water. Mike doesn't yell and scream, he doesn't try to intimidate, he doesn't take unnecessary risks near other boats, he doesn't protest, he doesn't press questionable situations to his advantage knowing a rule bend could bail him out. In short, he is genuinely a pleasure to sail against. This on the water demeanor has earned the genuine respect of anyone that has had the pleasure of competing with him.

Beyond his sailing prowess, Mike has been instrumental in regatta support and engaging new sailors. Several years ago, our Division was having trouble at some regattas getting adequate safety boat coverage. Mike purchased a used Hobie skiff with his own funds and has never asked for a dime of reimbursement. He had the trailer modified so he can put his Hobie 16 on top and will bring it to any regatta where they need it, including Northern and Southern California, Nevada, and Mexico. He gives his personal time freely to help any time he can, whether it be to a Fleet, Division or North American Championship. At two separate NA Championships hosted by Division 3, Mike guaranteed an amazing and memorable finals dinner for everyone at the world-renowned Monterey Bay Aquarium by covering the additional expense (which was not small), simply because he wanted to make sure all the teams would have the best experience possible. Again, no request for special recognition or repayment.

Mike owned and maintained two great 16s for several years. One was his personal vessel and the other for anyone coming to regattas from out of the area that needed a boat. He also made this boat accessible to anyone looking to get involved in racing especially youth teams. Mike would usually double-stack these boats to an event, ensure the loaner was all set up and ready, then start on his own. He is always encouraging new participants both recreationally at the fleet level and competitively at our divisional events. Often, he can be found having kids or adult newcomers crew for him or matching newbies with skippers seeking crew.

Mike is always reliable, honest, compassionate, considerate, and as far from self-centered as possible. Many consider him a true friend in the purest sense and one of the absolute best

ambassadors for Hobie sailing I've ever known. I believe he would be honored by this award and that Carlton himself would applaud.

(From Slim Johnson) I would like to nominate Mike Montague for the Carlton Tucker Sportsman of the Year. He has given so much to Hobie Sailing. I have witnessed him helping youth sailors, new sailors and some of us struggling old sailors. He does it all with class and makes you feel good about your sailing.

Mike's actions on and off the water are something we all should try to set as a standard. He has hauled his skiff to regattas for committee use. He has brought an extra boat for us visiting sailors to use. When winning (often) or not, Mike is always a class act and a person I always look forward to seeing at regattas. He definitely would be an excellent choice: a true Sportsman.

(From Phil Collins) Michael is the perfect choice for the Carlton Tucker Award. Throughout the decades I have known him, he has been a shining example of a sportsman and gentleman on and off the water. He actively promotes the Hobie way of life in regatta management and numerous other ways. Mike is a great sailor and more importantly, a great human being.

(From Susan and Tom Korzeniewski) We have had the pleasure to learn from and race against Mike Montague for over 25 years. Mike has lived the Hobie Way of Life for many years. His desire to grow the class is very contagious. Even with Mike's quiet and modest demeanor, he shines as a teacher to every level of sailor. I have seen Mike take the time to rig a new person's boat even if his own boat wasn't ready. Mike has given many Guest Expert Programs and spent hours encouraging youth and Women participation. He is dedicated to growing the class on a National and International level.

(From Ken Hilk) Mike Montague is a super deserving candidate for the CTA. I've known Mike since 1998, when he came to Rehoboth, DE for the North American Hobie 16 championships. Mike is a humble but very gifted and talented competitor. No matter where Mike places in competitions he does so with grace. I've had the honor of competing with Mike at four Hobie 16 World Championships - he has always represented the USA team well and is close friends with many competitors across the world. Mike has always freely shared his knowledge of boat tuning and race tactics with all sailors, whether new to the sport or seasoned veterans.

Mike will do anything for a fellow Hobie sailor. He has loaned his boat and equipment out to sailors from the East Coast many times for West Coast events. One time at a Worlds event in China we were not happy with the lunch food we were eating so we emailed Mike - he went out of his way to bring us two giant containers of Jiffy Peanut Butter for the US teammates to eat for lunch! Mike has also flown across the country to the Midwinters and other winter events on the East Coast, lending

his participation and making these events more credible and exciting. Mike's tireless support of events around the US has helped the sport of Hobie sailing recover from potential distress in the 90s when we saw drop-offs in attendance and he has recently helped strengthen our attendance numbers at national events.

I strongly advocate for Mike Montague to receive the Carlton Tucker Award this year.

(From Mick Butler, Hobie 16 World Champion 2007) I had the chance to meet and sail against Carlton before his untimely passing. Mike imbues everything about the "Hobie Way of Life" that Carlton stood for. His love of the Race is only surpassed by his love of the Event. Seeing old friends, making new ones, telling stories, having a laugh this is Mike.

(From Grahame Southwick) Although we don't see as much of him as we would like, I have to tell you what a great ambassador he is for US Hobie sailing, and what a great spirit and competitor he is, being the face of US Hobie sailing here in the SW Pacific. We love to see him down this way, but unfortunately the view is more often than not, a distant view of his rear end.

Notwithstanding that, it would give us great pleasure to nominate him for this award on behalf of Fiji Hobie Fleet 252.

Submitted by Paul Hess

Hobie Fleet 281

Phil Collins

From: Sue Korzeniewski <sfittness@tiNcny.rr.com>
Date: March 1, 2017 at 1:09:27 PM EST
To: Paul Hess <hessmp@comcast.net>
Subject: Carlton Tucker Award

Hello Paul!

Great idea to nominate Mike.

Sent from my iPhone
Susan Korzeniewski
4 Seasons Pilat
