

RICK BUCHANAN ■ HOBIE FLEET 4, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, DIVISION 2, HCA SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR - 2008

We are pleased to announce that Rick Buchanan has been selected as the recipient of the 2008 Carlton Tucker Sportsman of the Year Award. For most of his adult life, Rick has contributed his time and effort to support the Hobie Community and has tirelessly done so with friendly enthusiasm and a helpful attitude. Rick's qualification has been earned slowly but surely through consistent positive action; without glory, day-in and day-out, through thick and thin, over 3 decades.

Rick got involved in the Hobie Community back in the late 70s. He saw Hobie Cats sailing at Lake Nacimiento near his college, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and knew he had to "have one of those". A Hobie 16 was his graduation present to himself. He moved back to Oceanside and was active in a fleet there which was soon merged into Fleet 4, San Diego. His support and contribution to the success of

this and other fleets in Division 2 has continued ever since.

Rick and his wife Barbara met at a regatta at Lake Perris. He saw someone leaning on his truck and realized she was cute, so instead of chasing her off, struck up a conversation and the rest is history. Early on they each owned 18's, so sometimes they would race together and other times they would race against each other. They've now been married 24 years and have two grown sons. When their boys were young, they took turns staying on the beach taking care of not only their children, but also, children of other sailors in order to allow parents to race without worrying about the children. They called this the Regatta Kids Club.

Rick has served in multiple capacities at regattas all over the Western United States too many times to possibly count. He has served as repair man, chase boat, pin

setter, beach captain, PRO, RC member and even burger flipper at Division Points Regattas and has similarly served at numerous Nationals and Worlds events. The ink wasn't even dry on the proposal for the 2009 Mega event at Lake Havasu and Rick was the first person in line offering to help out with a chase boat, anchors for marks and anything else that may be needed.

For 15 years Rick assisted Ron Palmer and Stoney Douglas in making the Mid Winters West in San Felipe Mexico one of the HCA's premier annual events. For the past several years, he and Barbara have been the sole driving force behind this outstanding regatta. In addition to a fun, well managed and smooth running regatta, a notable hallmark of Rick's leadership is that he gives public recognition to every youth participant in the race. Each one receives a memento at the awards

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ceremony amid great celebration and are encouraged to attend future events.

Rick taught himself how to work with fiberglass and has become a master craftsman. He has worked miracles on many crunched hulls and has written several articles for the Hotline. His phone and email are now kept busy from readers asking more detailed questions. He gladly and freely shares his knowledge with these inquirers, however, his only request for payment is that every caller/E-Mailer join or renew their HCA membership before they talk. This position is not required by the HCA but is consistent with Rick's own belief in the ideals of the association.

A mysterious and debilitating nerve disorder has gripped Rick's life. However, sympathy is neither something he wants nor needs. He openly talks of this disease with frankness and humor. To a group of racers last spring he said" I may

talk like I'm drunk and walk like I'm drunk, but unlike most of you guys, I'm not really drunk". Last week in an email he told me that he was perturbed because he had fallen down twice in one day. However, in true Buchanan form he also wrote that the good news was that he had figured out that he was sitting on his legs wrong and causing his feet to fall asleep, "an easy adjustment to make". In the same message he said that he was looking forward to his therapy session later and that he was sure to never miss it "the therapist looks like Heather Locklear".

His physical condition caused him to retire early from his position with the Oceanside Marine Police Department and he can no longer sail, however, he and Barbara still tow their motor boat all over the place contributing time and talent to help others enjoy their Hobie time more. The 2009 HAVAMEGA had been approved for little more than a week, and Rick was already in

line offering encouragement and help, saying on the Hobie Forum "If you have this event near the west coast, I'll bring our power boat and the RC equipment to help out."

The best thing of all about Rick Buchanan is his down to earth, honest to goodness, genuine enthusiasm. It is impossible to spend more than 60 seconds or so with him without having a good chuckle, or smile, or other affirmative response. He is an exemplary human being and an inspiration to all that know him and by his long term consistent contribution to our sport has proven worthy of the honor afforded by the Carlton Tucker Award. We hope you agree.

Respectfully submitted.

George Burchfiel  
Commodore Fleet 4  
And the members of  
Fleet 4 and all of Division 2