

GARY 'SLIM' JOHNSON HOBIE FLEET 474, SPIRIT LAKE, IOWA, DIVISION 7, HCA
SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR 2016

Slim is widely known across the decades of Hobie sailors in the 16 and Hobie 17 Classes as a great competitor and great sport, win or lose. He has been involved in Hobie racing for at least 30 years and has been involved in the inter workings of Division 7, serving in a number of capacities such as Commodore, Secretary and most recently as Treasurer.

Slim has always been very helpful to the newer and younger sailors in teaching them the 'tricks of the trade', shortcuts on how to rig properly and been a patient skipper to various crew he has had over the years.

Slim has been a great example of how to behave when you win and when you lose. Always smiling and gracious no matter what.

(From Ryan Richardson) I think Slim shows a great example of the "Hobie Way of Life". Part of any life is just showing-up, and he participates in every aspect of our sport. He is on the water, on a 17, on a 16, on a Wave, at every regatta, at championship events, at meetings, at the restaurant, at the bar. Slim is there. In his interactions with other sailors, Slim has always been happy, welcoming, smiling, encouraging, and a great person to introduce to new sailors.

(From Casey Larson) I was lucky enough to be able to crew for Slim for a number of years. He has taught me so much about sailing and the Hobie way of life. Slim taught me that having fun was the most important thing and I'll tell you that sailing with Slim was always a fun and memorable experience. We also had plenty of fun off the water, for example getting ice cream and filling our pockets with mints. :) He truly made my love of sailing grow even larger and he continues to do so for so many people.

(From Andy Larson) I am proud to call Slim a good friend! I remember Slim from the first regatta. As a beginning sailor, he seemed bigger than life. Top of the line equipment and all the "Bling" needed to intimidate the shit out of me, yet he took the time to not only welcome my family and myself, but help us out setting up and encouraging us. Since then it's almost as if he were part of our family. We have spent more time with Slim than my own parents (sorry Mom.. you don't sail) Both of my daughters have sailed with Slim especially Casey, who was his regular H16 crew for years. Slim is a great competitor on the water and off. He is always ready to share, compare notes, offer help, and give you some shit when we screw up! Gary "Slim" Johnson is the epitome of a Hobie sailor, living and enjoying this wonderful lifestyle! THANKS SLIM Dadgummit.

(From Steve Brewer) Slim has been an avid Hobie guy for 37 years (started in 79, his number). He has been involved in all aspects of our sport: all officer positions; hosting regattas; coach; and mentor. He is the first to make a new person feel welcome, which is clearly reflected by the many who call him a friend. Great passion and always a smile! Slim makes Hobie racing fun. He would be an outstanding choice for this award.

Submitted by Chris Wessels
Hobie Fleet 10