

TED & SUE LINDLEY □ HOBIE FLEET 66, PHOENIX, ARIZONA, DIVISION 2, HCA SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR - 2009

Individuals are selected to receive the Carlton Tucker Sportsmanship Award for a variety of reasons. When talking of Ted and Sue Lindley we could almost call it a lifetime achievement award.

Ted and Sue started their sailing career on a mono hull in California before moving to Phoenix, Arizona in the mid 1970's. Once in Arizona they discovered the Hobie Cat. They quickly sold their mono, and bought a Hobie 16. Ted and Sue became commodore and secretary of Hobie Fleet 66 in Phoenix, just one year after the fleet was incorporated. They sailed the Hobie 16 for a few years and then moved up to the just introduced Hobie 18. Over the next 30+ years they acquired a total of five Hobie 18's and then their Hobie Miracle 20. Ted has said that of all the boats they have sailed over the past 35 years, they really loved their Hobie 20.

The Hobie 20 in particular allowed Sue to contribute more to how well they sailed

and elevated the importance of her position as crew. They competed on the Hobie 20 platform well into their mid seventies.

I first met Ted and Sue Lindley in Rocky Point at the Ides of March Regatta in 1985. It was my first full year to sail our first H-18 and race in a Hobie Regatta. As novices, my wife and I were inspired by how consistently a H-18 with pirate sails performed in the regatta. Afterwards, to receive assistance from Team Lindley in setting up and tuning our boat was just awesome. Over the next many years Ted and Sue would help us and many other new sailors who dreamed of racing in A-Fleet. In many regattas to come I would just try to keep their boat in sight to enable us to study their sailing techniques. On the beach after the race, Ted and Sue would review how we were doing and give us valuable advice. When talking with Ted

and Sue, there was no such thing as a stupid question.

Commodore John Mulay of the Tucson Hobie Fleet 514, a C-Fleeter, volunteered to be our first Race Commodore and run the first Assault on Rocky Point, (to be renamed "Piñata Regatta" at the request of the Mexican government). Since our entire fleet was mostly composed of novices and C-Fleeters, it was a very big deal to put on our first regatta. Ted and Sue volunteered to help us on the water by offering much needed advice to the race committee and even helping to move around some of the marks between races using their Hobie Cat. This was one time that the race committee would talk to participants since we desperately needed the help. After a 180-degree wind shift it was the Lindley's who suggested we use the option of a reverse course.

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In order to inspire and encourage sportsmanship and competition within the state of Arizona and help grow our young fleets, Ted and Sue created three state champion trophies, one each for the Hobie 16 and 18 and one for the Fleet State Championship. They had made 3 large and elaborate wood trophies, and plaques to span 25+ years of sportsmanship and competition. Based upon the Cinco de Mayo and Piñata Regattas. At our award banquets held at the end of each year the trophies are awarded to the best sailors within Arizona, and the fleet with the best sailing record. We continue to add names to those beautiful trophies Ted made so many years ago.

Ted and Sue raced the Miracle 20 for several years in the late 1990s and early 2000s. One year, at the Cinco de Mayo and Piñata Regattas, the H-20 and H-18 fleets were combined into one fleet due to the small number of participants. Much to

our delight, Ted and Sue, in a true display of sportsmanship, would always stay clear of the H-18s on the racecourse. They would start slightly behind us and always tack away after crossing the start line to stay clear of the H-18s. Also, I cannot remember a single occasion in over 24 years of sailing with Ted and Sue that they have used their knowledge of the rules to take advantage of a less experienced sailor.

Starting with the first Tucson Hobie Fleet 514 Piñata Regatta in 1985, and for most of the last 24 regattas that we have held, Ted has volunteered to be on our protest committee. He initially helped us understand the rulebook, and in the early days the "appeals rulings". He brought a certain sense of formality, respect and authority to our protest hearings. He would help guide us to the proper decisions by helping us understand the rules as opposed to directing us what to do.

With the membership of Phoenix Fleet 66 declining in the last few years, the fleet was extremely short handed last year in putting on the Cinco de Mayo Regatta. Ted and Sue stepped up big-time and designed the T-Shirts, made the trophies, and served as the race committee. They practically put on a 2-person show, and let me tell you, for two people in their late seventies, it was quite a show.

(From Barb Perlmutter): We have known the Lindley's for over 26 years of Hobie Cat Racing and I have never known a kinder and more sincere couple. I've often heard them referred to as Sir Ted and Lady Susan, which seems fitting for such a gracious couple. Ted has always put great care into showing others the important steps of boat setup, tuning, maintenance, and storage. He has become a Division 2 idol. His tips and grins on the water have been priceless. Knowing that he and Sue can be winning races and State

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Championships in their seventies is certainly encouraging for sailors of any age. I often say I'd like to be sailing in my seventies with as big of a grin on my face as Sue and Ted often display. Their love for the sport is obvious, and we love them for being a part of our sport.

Ted and Sue have driven their RV, pulling 8 different Hobie Cats all over the United States attending North America Championship Regattas from coast to coast. In addition to participating in the main event, Sue has also participated in the Women's Regatta at some of these events.

Many remember one race in Ft Walton Beach, Florida, on a particularly windy / stormy day in which the race course was moved inside the bay, Ted and Sue finished upside down on their H-20. Apparently there is no rule specifying whether you finish right side up or upside

down as long as your boat crosses the finish line.

(From Rick Buchanan) My wife, Barbara, and I have known Ted and Sue for at least 25 years of sailing Hobie Cats. During this time we've seen them compete on a 16, an 18, and eventually a 20 (with their dogs onboard - and yes, they still beat us). Several years ago at a Nationals event there was a delivery problem with a local caterer providing the RC with lunches, once again, Ted and Sue saved the day by taking on the lunch task. They have both been active in local fleet events serving as, among other things, PRO, Beach Capt. and even as a "Taste Tester" for Salsa contests. Ted and Sue have been active with the "Canine Companions" program to benefit others in need. I don't think I've ever seen them without two dogs on a leash. Their persistence with these dogs in training is typical of Ted and Sue who have never

been anything less than the best of friends to all they come in contact with.

In addition to the local, state, divisional and national events, Ted and Sue have attended many World Championships including events in Australia, Toronto, Canada, and San Francisco. In Australia their luggage was lost and didn't arrive until 2am on race day. It was so windy the night before the event started that the course had been moved up River away from the ocean. The time change also cut into their sleep time only allowing for 1 hour of sleep before the qualification round of racing. Even though they hadn't pre-qualified in the US they handled the adverse circumstances with their usual grace and good humor, and did well enough on the first day of racing to qualify for the main event.

Ted and Sue have retired from active racing with the Pinata Regatta in 2009

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being their last regatta. They will not be retiring from sailing or the Hobie way of life. Their schedule is still full of Hobie events.

This past February at Lake Havasu Ted served as the Beach Captain, a role he will once again fulfill at the HAVAMEGA in November. In addition, Ted and Sue have also volunteered to be the Race Committee for the 2010 Phoenix Fleet 66's Division 2 Cinco de Mayo Regatta. Their plans also include attending future Cinco de Mayo and Pinata Regattas in Puerto Penasco, Mexico.

Over the last 35 years, Ted and Sue Lindley have strongly promoted Hobie sailing and the Hobie way of life. They have consistently practiced exemplary sportsmanship. They have inspired sailors to join the Hobie family, provided training, leadership, and support to sailors old and new. Leading by example, Ted and Sue

have enabled others to increase their skill levels and encouraged and enhanced the spirit of sportsmanlike competition. They have strongly supported the HCA, IHCA, and the Hobie One Design Philosophy. Ted and Sue are a perfect example of the kind of people that make sailing and racing a Hobie Cat one of life's truly outstanding experiences.

Some of you may remember that Ted and Sue were two of the original committee members tasked with creating the Sportsmanship Award. As they retire from actively racing this year it is only fitting that, they are awarded the Carlton Tucker Sportsmanship award.

Submitted by

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Commodore
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October 11, 2009