

## CINDY PHIPPS • HOBIE FLEET 192, OMAHA, NE, DIVISION 7, NAHCA SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR — 2001

Cindy Phipps has spent the last 20 years exemplifying the Hobie Way of Life. She has been active at the Fleet, Division, and Continental levels. She has been a Fleet officer, a Division officer, and contributed numerous articles to the NAHCA News.

Cindy has been the editor of the Division 7 Regatta Book for the past seven years. Most people appreciate receiving this information packed book, but few know how much time and effort it takes to put it together. It is no small task coordinating the advertising, flyers, fleet officer lists, schedule, and all the other parts of the book in a layout that is efficient and interesting. She has spent countless hours working with the Division officers, on the phone with Fleet officers and regatta organizers, and e-mailing people.

In 2000, to assure the success of the Division 7 Guest Expert Program, she contacted Wally Myers to get his bio, put together all the promotional material for the Division 7 Chair, made up the crew raffle tickets, and always had a full set of flyers and tickets at the regattas.

Cindy has been a Division 7 Officer seven times and also helped with numerous Division activities. She was instrumental in establishing the Division 7 bylaws and regatta rules and recommendations; the crew

of the year, most improved sailor and sportsperson of the year award programs; regatta evaluation program; crew training seminars; and fly-up certificates for the "B" and "C" fleet sailors. In 1995, she recognized that sailors who had won Division 7 crew of the year, most improved sailor and sportsperson traveling trophies had nothing to show for their accomplishments after they gave the trophy back. She researched all the past winners, designed, framed and sent out a special certificate to each of them. She has continued to provide the certificate to winners for the past five years. For the past six years Division 7 has made a commitment to help improve points regattas by sponsoring a special race management seminar for fleet members. Cindy developed a visual presentation program that is both informational and entertaining. As the program has evolved she has volunteered her time and talent to do annual updates. She has also worked at developing and editing the seminar training manual.

Many sailors in Division 7 and at the Continental level know from personal experience that she has been there to comfort and support them when they are discouraged, cold, tired and scared. She is also there to give them words of encouragement

when they do a good job. She does that a lot. Many crews, and some skippers, look back and credit Cindy with teaching them how to get out on the trapeze. Cindy also has brought unique non-sailing activities to the Hobie experience. Sailors who travel and compete in points regattas around Division 7 know about THE BRA, Christmas decorations, and the 'better than sex' brownies.

On top of that she is also a very active sailor, with a significant list of accomplishments: Continental Champion, two times Division 7 Champion, four times Division Points Champion as well as having been selected by her fellow Hobie sailors as Crew of the Year and Sportsperson of the Year for Division 7. While this shows that she is pretty good at the sport, it is more important to her that she goes to regattas because it helps the local fleet and the Division.

People know her as gregarious and outgoing, but she doesn't talk about or take credit for her sailing skill or for a lot of the things she does for her local fleet or the Division behind the scenes. There are no regatta fairies that pull all these events together while we sailors sleep. There are people in the Fleets and in the Division who do a lot of work to make them happen. Cindy is one of them.