

DOUG SKIDMORE • HOBIE CAT USA, FALLBROOK, CALIFORNIA, DIVISION 2, NAHCA SPORTSPERSON OF THE YEAR -2002

In the late 70's, Doug Skidmore purchased his first Hobie Cat while working on his degree at the University of Washington and that is the beginning of this Hobie story.

Over the years Doug became a very competitive sailor on the H-16, H-17, and H-20. He also became quite involved in the development of the Class in the Pacific Northwest. Most of the activity in those days was centered on Seattle where Doug lived, and so he sailed and served as a volunteer in NAHCA Division 4. Over the years, the Division became host to several National Championships. Doug was a key player in the planning of these events. At the H-17 Continentals, he served as the Principal Race Officer, where he did a great job in

conditions of 20 to 35 knots daily. This Championship was sailed on the Columbia Gorge, which is the 4th windiest site in the world.

Doug's wife, Maggie, is also from the Pacific Northwest. They met at a Hobie Regatta in Seattle and are now the proud parents of two future Hobie sailors. Maggie comes from a strong Hobie family and is herself a very competitive sailor.

Along the way, Doug became involved with the Hobie Cat Company as a sales representative on the West Coast. Things developed as they will for a talented person and soon he found himself as the Sales Director of the company. All the while he continued to compete in regattas and to support the Class as a volunteer. In his

ever-expanding role, he was able to influence the Company's awareness of the value of a strong Class Association. By this time the class had become the International Hobie Class Association with a North American Region, the NAHCA.

Most of you know the rest of the story: Doug went on to become the President of Hobie Cat USA, a position that he holds to this day. Having shared lean times, a strong bond has formed between the Company and the Class. Skiddy has been the voice throughout the years that has supported this relationship. Through all of this activity several things have never changed. He has remained a volunteer, a strong supporter of the Class, and a Hobie Cat sailor.

