

HAWAII CLIPPING SERVICE
P.O. Box 2033 - Honolulu, Hawaii
PHONE: 734-8124
Victoria Custer Elaine Stroup
HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN

OCT 28 1970

Nautical Notes

By Jack Wyatt



Island Top Cat

The 'king of cats' is Waikiki YC's Cappy Sheeley who won the Hobie-14 National Championship last weekend off Waikiki and Keehi. Sailing a superb 1-7-1-1-3-4-1 series (an 11th was discarded in the best-seven of eight scoring.) Sheeley, 27, a fiberglass shop owner topped catamaran builder Hobie Alter by 1/4 point winning the final heat.



Sheeley

The heavy wind regatta looked to be a two-man show with Alter and Sheeley winning seven of the eight races but pronounced wind shifts and violent gusts made it almost anyone's series. Even Sheeley, a very talented helmsman capsized three times, twice in one race!

California and Hawaii sailors outdistanced the fleet in the rough going, placing 1 through 15 of 45 places (California 9 to 6) but as a group all but Islanders would have preferred less wind.

This regatta proved several points. Cats are here to stay (Alter himself has built 3,800 in two years and will triple production next season,) and traditional yacht clubs are not essential for the success of a sailboat class or even sponsoring a major regatta. Outrigger C.C. with an assist from McWayne Marine and Alter staged a fine contest and most important, everyone had fun. And that's the purpose of it all.

When asked where the '71 championships will be held, Alter glanced at his blistered hands, braced himself against another gust and sighed, "not Hawaii. Cappy will have to play in our yard next year."

Rugged Racing

Although the turnout was small (13 boats in three divisions) Hawaii power boaters can congratulate themselves on their first 'Around Oahu' and Waikiki-Haleiwa events held Sunday. They couldn't have chosen more rugged conditions.

Rough seas and strong winds made a thorough test of men and boats. But as Peter Rothschild, the California driver who won the circle Island event pointed out: "A race around Oahu is unique, both for spectator and driver. Properly promoted it could offer a bright spot on the National racing scene and would draw top Mainland entries."

George Kennedy the only finisher of six Pacific Class starters placed first, winning \$500 and Herman Wilson topped the International Division, pocketing \$400. Chris Faria and Russ Hill officiated.

Adding nautical color off shore Sunday was Waikiki YC's annual cruising boat wrapup, the Duke Kahanamoku regatta. Seventy boats in 13 divisions participated in gusty trades. Winning Class A and posting the fastest corrected time for over-all honors was Escapade, sailed by WYC Commodore Fred Smales; Class B was won by Calypso, Elmars Bitte; Class C, Altercation, Don Johnson and Performance Handicap, Hustler, Greg Booth. Other class winners: Cal 24/25 Lloyd Lindsey (3-1); Cal 2-30 Bob Miller (1-1); Cal 20/1 Hal Reilly (1-1); Cal 20/2 Dick Norstrom (4-1); Santana 22, Bonnie Rhodes (1-2); Columbia 22, Floyd Ferguson (1-1); 210, Bob Brown (4-1); Soling, George Hemmeter (DSQ-1); Pacific Cat, Peter Hogg (2-1).

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SUBURBAN PRESS

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'Cappy' Cops

Cat-14 Title



Hobie (left), Cappy (right) and Shirley (middle), on the beach in front of the Outrigger Canoe Club.

Cappy Sheeley of Honolulu earned a narrow victory in the eighth and final race Sunday, to win top honors in the Second Annual Hobie Cat-14 National Championships. Sheeley, a 27-year old boat builder, raced past another Honolulu entry, Rick Naish, at the finish line and won the heat by just two seconds.

Up to that point, California's Hobie Alter, designer of the swift Hobie Cat-14, had held onto first place. Alter needed at least a seventh place finish in that race to win the overall championship, but fell to ninth in the finals. His efforts were good enough for second place honors behind Sheeley.

Alter was the runnerup in the first National Championships at San Diego, California, last year. He developed the craft 2 1/2 years ago at his boat factory in San Juan Capistrano.

The top ten slots in the final standings went to California and Hawaii sailors. Wayne Schaefer of California was third, Hawaii State titleist Ted Crane finished fourth.

Forty-five skippers from the United States and the Virgin Islands entered the three-day competition, which was run across windy courses at Keehi Lagoon and the Outrigger Canoe Club.

Sheeley ended the competition with 17 points, a mere 1/4 point up on Alter. Alter's bad break in the finals came at the start of the eighth race. He hit a buoy on the way out

and was forced to go around it once before continuing. He was closing in fast on the field when Sheeley crossed the finish line of the OCC course.

Sheeley enjoyed a good week of competition as he was also a member of the victorious Healan Canoe Club that won top honors in the Molokai to Oahu channel race. The spritful owner of the Fiberglass Shop will get to work on an 18-foot racing catamaran early next year.