



Remembering Hobie

I was around during the time that Paul Homes was writing Hobie's book, and Hobie was really sick by then. I read some things that Paul did before and he was a good surf journalist. But I don't know how he got what he did because Hobie had like a switch; he would just switch off.

Toward the end, Paul said to me, "Am I going to get any surprises?" I thought to myself, when a guy has done that much with his life, he sometimes creates enemies; well, all the time in my experience. Paul then asked me, "What's in the closet?" And I said, "Why? What have you heard? Nothing," I answered. "No skeletons." I think that's the best story I could tell about Hobie.

— Phil Edwards

A Conversation with the "Hobie Cat 6"

Hobie's Inventions

Paul: While Art was running the business, Hobie was on his own building all sorts of things.

Remember the bicycle?

Phil: We kept beating on that thing for 20 years.

Paul: They wanted to get a bicycle on pontoons so you could ride it through the water, and they worked their butts off on this thing.

Phil: It was always just out of reach, a little more work than you want for what you could get it to do.

Paul: And we got tired of going down to the harbor to launch this damn thing that never worked.

Phil: It just wasn't a good deal.



*Hobie at his surf shop.
Photo Credit: Bruce Davidson*

2016 Donations

THE HOBIE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION RECEIVES 501 (c) (3) STATUS

Contributions to the Hobie Memorial Foundation are now tax deductible. On February 23, 2016, the Hobie Memorial Foundation received an exclusion letter from the IRS, which recognizes it as a legal 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organization, with effect retroactive to September 17, 2015.

To make a tax deductible contribution to the Foundation, go to www.hobiememorial.com or send an email to us at hobiememorial@gmail.com.

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Paul: It's like the kayaks that they build now. You can pedal them and they go along pretty quick.

Sandy: Imagine if we had that back then. What was the guy's name that invented that? Ketterman?

Phil: Oh, you mean that drive unit?

Sandy: Yeah. That's really clever.

Phil: It goes about as fast as you can paddle.

Paul: Something like 10 miles an hour, isn't it?

Phil: No, no. If we could've gotten 10, it would've sold. It's hard for any man paddling to go 10.

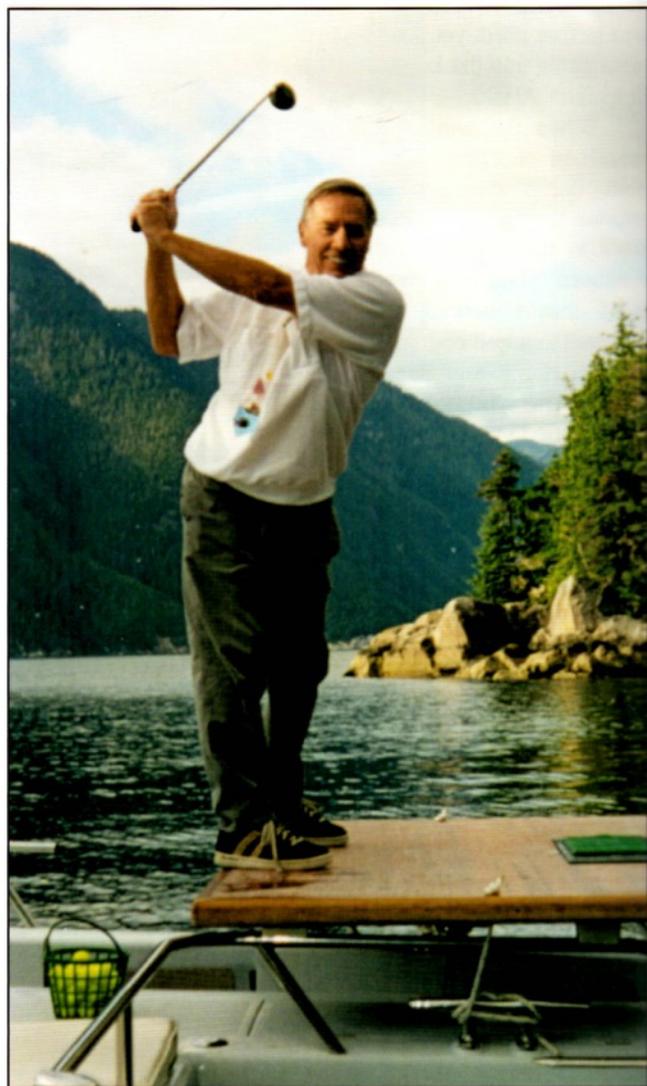
Mary: No way did it go 10 because when we did the test, remember, we were about even when you were paddling and I was pedaling.



Phil Edwards, Mickey Munoz, Hobie and Hobie Jr. with a racing paddle board and a shortboard typical of the early '70s era. Photo: Hobie Archive

Phil: Oh, we would've loved 10. But, no, it's about the same as you can paddle, which is brilliant, I think.

Sandy: In Hobie's latter years he came up with a very elaborate golf system of rating golfers and how far down the course they had to be to drive the ball, based on pro women's, pro men's, and senior men's handicaps.



Hobie enjoys nothing much more than whacking a few balls off the stern; Photo Hobie family album

Sandy: I stopped by his house in the desert one day to play golf with him, and he showed me his system and asked, "What do you think of this?"

It had to do with teeing off. When we played golf, we would tee off from the women's tees because we couldn't hit the ball very far. Unfortunately, you're never gonna get any guys to tee off from the women's tees, no matter how old they are.

I don't know if they got the idea from Hobie or not, but a few years later, when he was deep into his cancer and trying to recover, the USGA came out with a Play It Forward Campaign because golfing associations were having problems getting new players out. The amount of players was dwindling, not increasing like some sports. They started this two or three years ago, and it encourages players like me to play it forward, play it forward tees.

It's never bothered me. It makes my game of golf so much more enjoyable. It didn't lower my score much. But it sure made it a lot nicer because I could occasionally get a par or even a birdie. I was starting out so much farther when I drove the ball that I could be at the same place on the golf course as the guy who drives it 50 yards farther than me. So when we get to our second shot, we're at about the same spot on the course. It didn't do me a whole lot of good because that same guy that drove it 50 yards farther, his second shot is gonna go 30 yards farther than mine also. But the idea is it was another handicapping system that makes golfing a little more fair. Golf is a difficult game.

Golf is very traditional too, like sailing. We broke some of the traditions of yacht club sailing by having our own sailing organization, putting on our own races. In fact, one of our promos was that you didn't have to belong to a yacht club to race your boat. You could come sail in one of our events. That's probably one of the reasons Hobie came up with the toy, we then gave them a reason to play with the toy, which we did totally ourselves for the first 15 years or so.

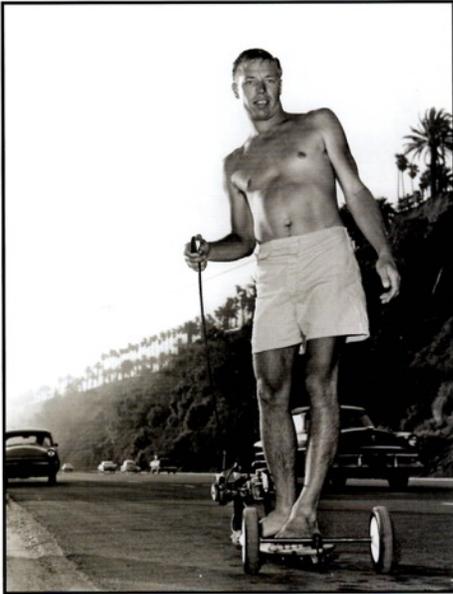
Remembering Hobie

Sandy: The thing about Hobie that I really admire was that he had a way of looking at things from the One Design Racing of the boat; keeping everything the same and sailing the same product. It was up to the skipper to do the job right.

Mary: Phil and I have always been personal friends with Hobie. He got this huge 60-foot catamaran that Robbie made happen, and he took us cruising. We went all the way through the inland waterways up in Alaska, all down the coast from British Columbia to Dana Point. We've had some fabulous times just playing. Hobie plays just like he does everything else, very enthusiastically. Never a dull moment.

Robbie: When we were building the Hobie 33, he would look at hull designs down at the harbor, the Olsen 30s and stuff, and he made a little jig that would measure the hull shape at spots on all of these different boats before he would formulate his own opinion of how it should be done. He was like that on all projects, every stage, he would think it out to the max.

Paul: When he was on a project, he didn't think about anything else.



Hobie demonstrates his motorized skateboard on PCH in front of the Hilton residence. This image originally appeared in the Los Angeles Herald Examiner on 5/11/65. Photo: Los Angeles Public Library Photo Collection

Robbie: Before we started the 60, I was on Dick Simon's Indy Race Car Team, and I was driving a motorhome from Laguna Seca. Coming down Coast Highway, it was about three o'clock in the morning, and Hobie's light was on upstairs in his workshop. I thought, "It's too late, I'll stop by tomorrow."

The next day I drove to his shop and he shows me his model and says, "What are you doing?" I said, "I've got one more race in Miami then I'll be back out here looking for a job."

"Ok, come see me," he answered, and that was the start of the Hobie 60. He gave me a checkbook, and said, "Go get tools and ask Gordon if he has any old tools." I went over to Clark Foam, and Gordon said, "Whatever you want, just point it out and you can take it." It was great. Then Hobie took off for Australia to meet with the Lock Brothers and go over his model while we set the shop up. That was really a neat project for Hobie. He had all the money to build it. It was his dream.

We'll wait for the next Hobie.

Phil: It's too late.

Paul: Yeah, it's too late. If we took Hobie the way he was then and brought him here now, maybe so, but I don't see it happening.

Sandy: He'd probably figure another way around it. That was the kind of guy he was. He'd take a problem; it could be in marketing, manufacturing, he'd figure out a way to solve the problem, and it would be totally unique.

Mary: No matter what project it was, no matter what he set out to do, he had unparalleled enthusiasm.

Paul: Absolutely.

Phil: He could get everybody psyched up too. "Alright, now we're gonna do this!"

Mary: Later in life, Hobie was pretty much retired, and if I had a problem at my new business or something, I'd call him and he'd say, "Alright, now, here's what you have to do and here's how you're gonna do it, and here's blah, blah, blah, blah, blah." I mean, he would just dive into whatever it was, unlike anybody I've ever known.



*Hobie puts together the Hobie Hawk, almost ready for takeoff.
Photo: Hobie Archive*

WHAT HAPPENED IN JUNE?

6/14/16 & 6/15/16 - HxGN LIVE

Anaheim Convention Center

Robbie Roberson, President of the Hobie Memorial Foundation, Lance Jost, Artist, and Wayne Schafer, Honorary Chairman of the Hobie Memorial Foundation, were all speakers at HxGN Live a couple of weeks ago in both a taped video, as well as presenters at the convention.

Speaking of their relationship with Hobie Alter, Roberson and Schafer related stories of the history of the Hobie Cat, and Jost spoke about how metrology is useful to artists when creating a life-size sculpture.

A big thanks goes to James Rawstron, Kyle Pheland, and Scott Zanio at Hexagon Metrology.

To see the taped interview on YouTube, click on the following link or copy and paste into your browser:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gkQCw2L87iE>

6/25/16 & 6/26/16 - Doheny Surf Festival

The Hobie Memorial Foundation had a booth at the Doheny Surf Festival this past weekend. Located next to the Dana Point Historical Society and across from Hobie's, we met a lot of great people and had fun networking. Thank you to those who donated to the foundation, to the volunteers who manned the booth; Nancy Jenkins, Barbara Johannes, Bruce Beal, and Lance Jost, and to Tracey Engelking and Sean Douglas at Hobie for all their support!



RAFFLE WINNER:

The winner of the raffle prize, a Hobie glass etching, designed by artist, Lance Jost, was Jaime Seuss of Oceanside. Congratulations Jaime!

SUMMER EVENTS

The Hobie Memorial Foundation will have a booth at each of the Dana Point Concerts, every Sunday from 7/10/16 to 8/21/16.

SEA TERRACE PARK:

7/10/16:	Skynyrd Reloaded (Lynyrd Skynyrd Tribute) Southbound (Allman Brothers Tribute)	2:30pm - 4:00pm 4:30pm - 6:00pm
7/17/16:	Lights (Journey Tribute) BOSTYX (Featuring David Victor formerly of BOSTON)	2:30pm - 4:00pm 4:30pm - 6:00pm
7/24/16:	Tricia Freeman Band Peaceful Easy (Eagles Tribute)	2:30pm - 4:00pm 4:30pm - 6:00pm
7/31/16:	Fan Halen (Van Halen Tribute) Led ZepAgain (Led Zeppelin Tribute)	2:30pm - 4:00pm 4:30pm - 6:00pm
8/7/16:	Raymond Michael's Casino All Stars (Elvis, Tom & Engelbert) Hot August Night (Neil Diamond Tribute)	2:30pm - 4:00pm 4:30pm - 6:00pm
8/14/16:	Brent Payne Craig Wayne Boyd (Season 7 Winner of The Voice)	2:30pm - 4:00pm 4:30pm - 6:00pm

HERITAGE PARK:

8/21/16:	Savor the Band (Santana Tribute) The Fabulous Ultra Tones	2:30pm - 4:00pm 4:30pm - 6:00pm
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HOBIE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

24056 AVENIDA CORONA
DANA POINT, CA 92629

www.hobiememorial.com
hobiememorial@gmail.com