

For Immediate Release

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HOBIE SAILBOATS CONTINUE THEIR EVOLUTION
Hobie Bravo Newest Model in Company's Sailboat Division.
Winner of 2003 Innovation Award.

Oceanside, California – April 2003 — Hobie Cat's 2003 sailing fleet is highlighted by the introduction of the Hobie Bravo, winner of the 2003 Innovation Award presented by NMMA (National Marine Manufacturers Association) and BWI (Boat Writers International) at the February Miami International Boat Show. The award is the recreational boating industry's highest honor for product excellence. The Hobie Bravo is the newest addition to Hobie's impressive and award-winning lineup of beginner to world-class competition sailboats.

Hobie's **High Performance Series** includes the 18-foot Hobie Tiger, currently one of the fastest and hottest catamaran racing boats in the world. Another boat in the series, the Hobie Cat 16, is one of the most recognizable names in the boating world and the model that put Hobie on the sailing world's map. The **Recreation Series** boats, including the new Hobie Bravo, are fun, durable, forgiving, and well-priced. Innovations such as Hobie's wing seats, kick-up rudders, and the Comptip mast have become benchmarks for the sailboat industry. Many Hobie innovations have greatly simplified the sport of sailing, such as the new Hobie Bravo "A-frame" rig, eliminating side stays, and its unique mainsheet attachment through the rudder casting, eliminating the need for a bridle. The list goes on.

The image that comes to mind when describing Hobie Cat boats is captured in a phrase coined by Hobie Alter, Sr. in his early years of boat design: "the Hobie way of life." "When you want to escape the rat race, relax outdoors on the water, or experience sailing excitement like never before, our family of boats has something for your lifestyle," Alter stated. "Hobie Cat sailing is fun, and our main goal is to design products to help you enjoy your on-the-water leisure time. All our products are exciting, easy to use, and built to last."

RECREATION SERIES

The recently introduced **Hobie Bravo** sailboat was described by the awarding judges as a model that will help introduce new people to boating who otherwise might not get out on the water. This boat is lightweight, easy to handle, and quick to rig and launch. The design is both simple and unintimidating, combining the comfort of a monohull deck, the speed of a catamaran bow, and the stability of a trimaran stern. The large sail makes the Bravo responsive in light wind, while its square top makes it forgiving in gusty conditions. It also features a patent-pending, roller-furling mainsail.

Two other models in the Recreation Series designed with beginners in mind include are the **Hobie Wave Classic** and **Hobie Wave Club Editions**. The Classic is quick to assemble and disassemble and is easy to transport. The Club Edition has added features such as a three-piece trampoline and spinnaker that make it attractive to resorts and beach clubs around the world. Both versions are simple to sail and tack. The large hull volume on the easy-to-sail **Hobie Getaway** catamaran makes it a good choice for the whole family or for a group of friends. In 2002, the Getaway was selected by **Sailing magazine** as the "Best Recreational Racer" Boat of the Year. It was also included in **Sail magazine's** 2002 annual "Top 10 Winner" list.

HIGH PERFORMANCE SERIES

All 10 boats in Hobie's High Performance Series are constructed of top-grade fiberglass/foam. One group of these boats is manufactured at Hobie factories in Europe while the other group is manufactured in the company's Oceanside, California, facilities.

Made in Europe

From Europe comes the **Hobie Fox**. Designed to conform to Formula 20 racing rules, it is the fastest catamaran in the Hobie line. One of the fastest growing catamaran one-design racing fleets in the world, the **Hobie Tiger** is an ISAF- (International Sailing Federation) recognized class and is enjoying major momentum worldwide. Built for a two-person race crew, it is designed to conform to Formula 18 racing rules. Two Hobie USA employees, Greg Thomas and Jacques Bernier, are the current North American Continental champions.

The **Hobie FX One** is the newest single-hander in the race category and has enough flotation for two people. A combination of features from the Hobie Fox and Hobie Tiger make the FX One strong and fast, both on and off the wind. An all-around boat for fun, the **Hobie Dragoon** is a perfect choice for those learning to sail or entering races for the first time. It can be maneuvered without a boom while learning, after which time a boom, double trapeze, and spinnaker can be added for more advanced fun and thrills. This boat will fit on top of a car for transporting.

Made in the U.S.A.

Made in the U.S.A. boats include the **Hobie TriFoiler**, named Boat of the Year in 1997 by **Sailing World**, not an honor to be taken lightly. This boat lifts off at 12 knots and will perform at speeds up to 35mph. The TriFoiler is a two-seater, front to back, with a center cockpit, control panel for sail and foil adjustments, speedometer, and steering pedals. Versatile and affordable, the **Hobie 21 Sport Cruiser** offers unique features such as high and dry performance hulls, comfortable wing seats, and furling main and jib sails. The **Hobie 20 Miracle** is the

largest 20-foot, one-design catamaran racing class in the U.S., combining maximum power and acceleration with precision handling.

For many experienced sailors and novices alike, Hobie Cat is so well-known that it is a synonymous name for a catamaran. Seven different models offer sailors choices for various conditions, uses, and personal preferences. **Hobie's 18 Special Edition** is one of the world's largest catamaran racing classes. The high flotation and symmetrical hull shape ensures speed during racing, while the generous capacity ensures cruising fun for up to four people. Added performance features on the **Hobie 18 SX** include a taller mast, vertical-cut Mylar sails, and wing seats. Both the **Hobie 17 Sport** and the **Hobie 17 Special Edition** offer a clean design, boomless rig, and easy handling for single-handed sailing. The addition of a uni-rig sail plan comes standard on the **Hobie 17 Special Edition**. The **Hobie 16** is the most popular, the best recognized, and the most versatile boat in the Hobie sailboat line. It was developed by Hobie Alter, Sr. to meet his specifications of speed, affordability, and fun as well as the ability to be launched off the beach and returned through the surf.

SPECIFICATIONS *Recreation Series*

HOBIE GETAWAY

Length: 16' 7"
Beam: 7' 8"
Beam w/wings: 10'4"
Mast: 25'
Main Sail Area: 180 sq. ft.
Weight: 290 lbs.
Hull: Cross-link Polyethylene
Suggested Retail: \$5,795

HOBIE WAVE

Length: 13'
Beam: 7'
Mast: 20'
Sail: 95 sq. ft.
Weight: 245 lbs.
Hull: Cross-link Polyethylene
Suggested Retail: \$3,895

HOBIE BRAVO

Length: 12'
Beam: 53"
Mast: 19'
Sail: 86 sq. ft.
Weight: 195 lbs.

Hull: Super Linear II Polyethylene
Suggested Retail: \$2,495

***European
High Performance Series***

HOBIE FOX

Length: 20'
Beam: 8' 6"
Mast: 31' 2"
Sail: 194 sq. ft.
Spinnaker: 269 sq. ft.
Weight: 419 lbs
Hull: Fiberglass/Foam Sandwich
Suggested Retail: \$15,995

HOBIE TIGER

Length: 18'
Beam: 8'6"
Mast: 29' 6"
Weight: 397lbs (with spinnaker)
Sail: 183 sq. ft.
Spinnaker: 225 sq. ft.
Hull: Fiberglass/Foam Sandwich
Suggested Retail: \$12,995

HOBIE FX ONE

Length: 17'
Beam: 8'
Mast: 27' 7"
Sail: 200 sq. ft.
Spinnaker: 188.15 sq ft.
Weight: 340 lbs.
Hull: Fiberglass/Foam Sandwich
Suggested Retail: \$10,395

HOBIE DRAGON

Length: 12' 10"
Beam: 7' 1"
Mast: 21'
Sail: 118 sq. ft.
Weight: 230 lbs.
Hull: Fiberglass/Foam Sandwich
Suggested Retail: \$5,895

***U.S.A.
High Performance Series***

HOBIE TRIFOILER

Length: 22'
Beam: 19'
Mast: 18'
Sail: 215 sq. ft.

Weight: 320 lbs.
Hull: Fiberglass/Foam Sandwich
Suggested Retail: \$13,995

HOBIE 21 SPORT CRUISER

Length: 21'
Beam: 8' 6"
Beam w/wings: 12' 11"
Mast: 29'
Sail: 222 sq. ft.
Weight: 600 lbs
Hull: Fiberglass/Foam Sandwich.
Suggested Retail: \$16,495

HOBIE 20 MIRACLE

Length: 19' 6"
Beam: 8' 6"
Mast: 31'
Sail: 250 sq. ft.
Weight: 420 lbs.
Hull: Fiberglass/Foam Sandwich
Suggested Retail: \$11,995

HOBIE 18 SPECIAL EDITION/18 SX

Length: 18'
Beam: 8'
Beam w/wings: 12' 6"
Mast: 28'
Mast SX: 29' 7"
Sail: 220 sq. ft.
Weight: 450 lbs.
Hull: Fiberglass/Foam Sandwich
Suggested Retail: \$9,995/11,995

HOBIE 17 SPORT/17 SPECIAL EDITION

Length: 17'
Beam: 8'
Beam w/wings: 11' 7"
Mast: 27' 7"
Sail: 168 sq. ft.
Sail Sport: 200 sq. ft.
Weight: 340 lbs.
Draft: 10"
Suggested Retail: \$8,295/8,995

HOBIE 16

Length: 16' 7"
Beam: 7' 11"
Mast: 218 sq ft
Weight: 320 lbs

Draft: 10"

Suggested Retail: \$7,795

Since 1950, Hobie Cat Company has been in the business of shaping a unique lifestyle based around fun, water, and quality products. From their headquarters in Oceanside, California, they manufacture, distribute, and market an impressive collection of watercraft worldwide. These include an ever-expanding line of recreational and racing sailboats, pedal-driven and paddle sit-on-top kayaks, fishing boats, and authorized parts and accessories.

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Images Available Upon Request
www.hobiecat.com