

SCHEDULE 14A
(RULE 14A-101)
INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(A) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
(AMENDMENT NO.)

Filed by the registrant

Filed by a party other than the registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary proxy statement
 Definitive proxy statement
 Definitive additional materials
 Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-11(c) or Rule 14a-12

SUN HYDRAULICS CORPORATION

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement)

Payment of filing fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No filing fee required
 Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rule 14a-6(i)(4) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11:

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:

 Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the form or schedule and the date of its filing.

(1) Amount previously paid:

(2) Form, schedule or registration statement no.:

(3) Filing party:

(4) Date filed:

April 24, 1998

Dear Shareholder:

You are cordially invited to attend the 1998 Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Sun Hydraulics Corporation. The meeting will be held Saturday, May 23, 1998, at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Daylight Savings Time, at the Company's manufacturing facility located at 701 Tallevast Road, Sarasota, Florida 34243. A tour of the plant and refreshments will follow the meeting.

The Notice of the meeting and the Proxy Statement on the following pages cover the formal business of the meeting, which includes the election of Directors and a proposal to ratify the appointment of the Company's independent certified public accountants. We also will report on the progress of the Company and comment on matters of current interest.

It is important that your shares be represented at the meeting. We ask that you promptly sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card in the envelope provided, even if you plan to attend the meeting. Returning your proxy card to us will not prevent you from voting in person at the meeting if you are present and choose to do so.

If your shares are held in street name by a brokerage, your broker will supply you with a proxy to be returned to the brokerage. It is important that you return the form to the brokerage as quickly as possible so that the brokerage may vote your shares. You may not vote your shares in person at the Meeting unless you obtain a power of attorney or legal proxy from your broker authorizing you to vote the shares, and you present this power of attorney or proxy at the Meeting.

The Board of Directors and management look forward to greeting you personally at the meeting.

Sincerely,

/s/ Robert E. Koski

ROBERT E. KOSKI
Chairman of the Board

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS
SATURDAY, MAY 23, 1998

Notice hereby is given that the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Sun Hydraulics Corporation, a Florida corporation, will be held on Saturday, May 23, 1998, at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Daylight Savings Time, at the Company's manufacturing facility, located at 701 Tallevast Road, Sarasota, Florida, 34243, for the following purposes:

1. To elect one Director to serve until the Annual Meeting in 2000 and two Directors to serve until the Annual Meeting in 2001 and until their successors are elected and qualified or until their earlier resignation, removal from office or death;
2. To ratify the appointment of Price Waterhouse LLP as the Company's independent certified public accountants for the year 1998; and
3. To transact such other business as properly may come before the Meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Your attention is directed to the Proxy Statement accompanying this Notice for a more complete description of the matters to be acted upon at the

Meeting. The 1997 Annual Report of the Company is enclosed. Shareholders of record at the close of business on March 31, 1998, are entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Meeting and any adjournment thereof.

All shareholders are cordially invited to attend the Meeting. Whether or not you expect to attend, please sign and return the enclosed Proxy promptly in the envelope provided to assure the presence of a quorum. You may revoke your Proxy and vote in person at the Meeting if you desire. If your shares are held in street name by a brokerage, your broker will supply you with a proxy to be returned to the brokerage. It is important that you return the form to the brokerage as quickly as possible so that the brokerage may vote your shares. You may not vote your shares in person at the Meeting unless you obtain a power of attorney or legal proxy from your broker authorizing you to vote the shares, and you present this power of attorney or proxy at the Meeting.

By order of the Board of Directors,

/s/ Gregory C. Yadley

GREGORY C. YADLEY
Secretary

Sarasota, Florida
April 24, 1998

SUN HYDRAULICS CORPORATION
1500 WEST UNIVERSITY PARKWAY
SARASOTA, FLORIDA 34243

PROXY STATEMENT

This Proxy Statement is furnished by the Board of Directors and Management of Sun Hydraulics Corporation (the "Company") in connection with the solicitation of proxies to be voted at the Company's 1998 Annual Meeting of Shareholders, which will be held on Saturday, May 23, 1998, at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Daylight Savings Time, at the Company's manufacturing facility, located at 701 Tallevast Road, Sarasota, Florida 34243 (the "Meeting").

Any proxy delivered pursuant to this solicitation may be revoked, at the option of the person executing the proxy, at any time before it is exercised by delivering a signed revocation to the Company, by submitting a later-dated proxy, or by attending the Meeting in person and casting a ballot. If proxies are signed and returned without voting instructions, the shares represented by the proxies will be voted as recommended by the Board of Directors.

The cost of soliciting proxies will be borne by the Company. In addition to the use of the mails, proxies may be solicited personally or by telephone by regular employees of the Company. The Company does not expect to pay any compensation for the solicitation of proxies, but may reimburse brokers and other persons holding stock in their names, or in the names of nominees, for their expense in sending proxy materials to their principals and obtaining their proxies. The approximate date on which this Proxy Statement and enclosed form of proxy first has been mailed to shareholders is April 24, 1998.

The close of business on March 31, 1998, has been designated as the record date for the determination of shareholders entitled to receive notice of and to vote at the Meeting. As of March 31, 1998, 6,325,922 shares of the Company's Common Stock, par value \$.001 per share, were issued and outstanding. Each shareholder will be entitled to one vote for each share of Common Stock registered in his or her name on the books of the Company on the close of business on March 31, 1998, on all matters that come before the Meeting.

The affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares represented, in person or by proxy, and voting at the Meeting will be required to take action at the Meeting. Abstentions will be counted toward the number of shares represented at the meeting. Broker non-votes will be disregarded.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The Board of Directors of the Company currently consists of six members. The Board is divided into three classes of Directors serving staggered three-year terms. Directors hold their positions until the annual meeting of shareholders in the year in which their term expires, and until

their respective successors are elected and qualified or until their earlier resignation, removal from office or death. Executive officers serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

The term of office of two of the Company's current six Directors will expire at the 1998 Annual Meeting. One of those Directors, Arthur B. Bodley, has informed the Company that he does not wish to be nominated for an additional term. The Board of Directors unanimously recommends that you vote "FOR" the election of Ferdinand E. Megerlin and the reelection of Clyde G. Nixon to serve until the Company's annual meeting in 2001, and the election of John S. Kahler to serve until the Company's annual meeting in 2000, and until their respective successors shall be duly elected and qualified or until their earlier resignation, removal from office or death. The Board of Directors See "Management- Directors and Executive Officers" and "Certain Transactions" for further information on such nominees. Shareholders may vote for up to three nominees. The affirmative vote of a majority of the shares represented at the Meeting and entitled to vote thereon will be required for the election of Directors. Shareholders may not vote cumulatively in the election of Directors. Abstentions will be counted toward the number of shares represented at the Meeting. Broker non-votes will be disregarded. In the event any of the nominees should be unable to serve, which is not anticipated, the proxy committee, which consists of Robert E. Koski and Clyde G. Nixon, will vote for such other person or persons for the office of Director as the Board of Directors may recommend.

MANAGEMENT

DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The following table sets forth the names and ages of the Company's Directors, nominees for Director, and executive officers and the positions they hold with the Company. Executive officers serve at the pleasure of the Board of Directors.

<TABLE>

<CAPTION>

| NAME | AGE | POSITION |
|--------------------|-----|---|
| <S> | <C> | <C> |
| Robert E. Koski | 69 | Chairman of the Board of Directors (term expiring in 2000) and a member of the Compensation Committee |
| Clyde G. Nixon | 62 | President, Chief Executive Officer, and Director (term expiring in 1998) |
| Jeffrey Cooper | 57 | Engineering Manager |
| Russell G. Copeman | 59 | Manufacturing Manager |
| Richard J. Dobbyn | 54 | Chief Financial Officer |
| Peter G. Robson | 53 | General Manager, Sun Hydraulics Limited |
| John S. Kahler | 58 | Nominee for Director (term expiring in 2000) |
| James G. March | 70 | Director (term expiring in 2000) and a member of the Compensation Committee |

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<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

| NAME | AGE | POSITION |
|-----------------------|-----|---|
| Ferdinand E. Megerlin | 59 | Nominee for Director (term expiring in 2001) |
| Taco van Tijn | 74 | Director (term expiring in 1999) and a member of the Audit Committee |
| David N. Wormley | 58 | Director (term expiring in 1999) and a member of the Compensation Committee |

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ROBERT E. KOSKI is a co-founder of the Company and has served as its Chairman of the Board since it began operations in 1970. He was also its President and Chief Executive Officer from that time until November 1988. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College and past Chairman of the Board of the National Fluid Power Association. Mr. Koski has over 36 years experience in the fluid power industry, and has served as Chairman of the Fluid Power Systems and Technology Division of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, and as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Manufacturers.

CLYDE G. NIXON joined the Company in January 1988, and was named its President and Chief Executive Officer in November 1988. From September 1985, to January 1988, he served as Vice President of Cross & Trecker Corporation and was President of Warner & Swasey Company, its wholly-owned subsidiary. From 1964 to 1985, he served in various management capacities with Brown & Sharpe Manufacturing Corporation, most recently as Vice President of its fluid power division and President of Double A Products Company, its wholly-owned subsidiary. Mr. Nixon is a graduate of Cornell University and the Harvard Business School, and is Chairman of the Board of the National Fluid Power Association. Mr. Nixon has over 30 years experience in the fluid power industry.

JEFFREY COOPER joined the Company in December 1990, as an engineer and has been Engineering Manager since September 1991. From August 1987, to December 1990, he was Engineering Manager, Mobile Valves, of Vickers, Incorporated, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Trinova Corporation, and from September 1979 to August 1986, he served as Vice President of Engineering for Double A Products Company. Mr. Cooper is an engineering graduate of Willesden College of Technology, London, England. Mr. Cooper has over 29 years experience in the fluid power industry.

RUSSELL G. COPEMAN joined the Company in July 1996, as Manufacturing Manager, in charge of manufacturing operations and processes. From January 1996, to July 1996, Mr. Copeman was the principal of Copeman Consulting, and performed consulting services for the Company from March 1996 to July 1996. From January 1994, to October 1995, Mr. Copeman was a partner with Coopers & Lybrand, Australia; from July 1989, to December 1993, he was a Director of Coopers & Lybrand's International Manufacturing Practice. From January 1985, to July 1989, he served in various management positions with Vickers, Incorporated, most recently as Vice President. From August 1967, to January 1985, he served in various management positions with Double A Products Company, most recently as Vice President. Mr. Copeman is a Certified Manufacturing Engineer and a graduate of Georgia Institute of Technology and the Krannert Business School of Purdue University. Mr. Copeman has over 23 years experience in the fluid power industry.

RICHARD J. DOBBYN joined the Company in October 1995, and was named Chief Financial Officer in July 1996. From June 1995 to October 1995, Mr. Dobbyn served as the Controller of Protek Electronics. From July 1994 to June 1995, he served as the Fiscal Director of a non-profit child care agency. From September 1984 to July 1994, Mr. Dobbyn was Senior Vice President-Finance and Administration for Loral Data Systems, formerly Fairchild Weston Systems, a

Schlumberger company. Mr. Dobbyn is a Certified Public Accountant and a graduate of Boston College.

PETER G. ROBSON has served as a Director of Sun Hydraulics Limited, Coventry, England, since May 1993, and has been employed by the Company as the General Manager of its United Kingdom operations since 1982. Mr. Robson is a Chartered Engineer and a graduate of Coventry University. Mr. Robson has over 31 years experience in the fluid power industry.

JOHN S. KAHLER has served as President, CEO and a Director of Cincinnati Incorporated since January 1996. Prior to that, he served as Vice President of Cincinnati Incorporated since 1993 and a consultant to that company from 1989 to 1993. He is a graduate of Carnegie-Mellon University and the Harvard Business School.

JAMES G. MARCH is a Professor Emeritus at Stanford University, Palo Alto, California. He was a senior member of the faculty at Stanford University and the Stanford Business School from September 1970, to August 1995, and is the author of numerous books and articles on organizational behavior and decision making. From September 1964, to August 1970, Dr. March was a Professor of Psychology and Sociology at the University of California, Irvine, where he was Dean of the School of Social Sciences from 1964 to 1969. Dr. March served as a Director of the Company from 1989 to 1992, and rejoined the Company's Board of Directors in November 1995. He also is a member of the Board of Directors of Wally Industries and Chair of the Citicorp Behavioral Sciences Research Council. Dr. March is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin and received his Ph.D. from Yale University.

FERDINAND E. MEGERLIN is Chairman and Joint Managing Director of Linde AG's Industrial Trucks and Hydraulics Division in Aschaffenburg, Germany. He is also Chairman of Linde's U.S. subsidiaries Linde Hydraulics Corp., Canfield, Ohio, and Baker Material Handling Corp., Sommerville, South Carolina. Within VDMA, Germany's association for mechanical and plant engineering, Dr. Megerlin serves as Chairman of the German Fluid Power Association and as a member of the main Board of Directors. He is an engineer and received his PhD from TH Aachen, Germany. Dr. Megerlin has over 26 years of experience in the fluid power industry.

TACO VAN TIJN is an attorney (solicitor), practicing law in London, England, since May 1977. He has been a Director of the Company since February 1989, and the principal statutory officer of Sun Hydraulik Holdings Limited since January 1991.

DAVID N. WORMLEY is the Dean of the Engineering School at Pennsylvania State University, where he has taught since 1992. He previously was a member of the engineering faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Wormley is Vice-Chair of the National Science Foundation Engineering Directorate Advisory Committee. Dr. Wormley has served as a Director of the Company since December 1992. He is an engineer and earned his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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No family relationships exist between any of the Company's Directors, nominees and executive officers, except that Mr. Koski and Dr. March are step-brothers. There are no arrangements or understandings between any Director or nominee and any other person concerning service or nomination as a Director.

The Board of Directors has Audit and Compensation Committees. The Company does not have a Nominating Committee; instead, the entire Board of Directors functions as a Nominating Committee.

The Board of Directors held four meetings during 1997. Directors who are not officers of the Company are paid \$2,500 for attendance at each meeting of the Board of Directors, as well as each meeting of each Board committee on which they serve when the committee meeting is not held within one day of a meeting of the Board of Directors. Directors also are reimbursed for their

expenses incurred in connection with their attendance at such meetings.

In September, 1996, the Company granted non-statutory options to Directors Bodley and van Tijn to purchase 3,920 shares of the Company's common stock, and to Director Wormley to purchase 2,940 shares of the Company's Common Stock. All of the foregoing options were exercisable upon grant, at an exercise price of \$3.00 per share, and they expire in January, 2007.

The Audit Committee was appointed in February 1997 and held one meeting in 1997. The functions of the Audit Committee are to recommend annually to the Board of Directors the appointment of the independent public accountants of the Company, to discuss and review the scope of and the fees for the prospective annual audit with the independent public accountants, to review the results thereof with the independent public accountants, to review and approve non-audit services of the independent public accountants, to review compliance with existing major accounting and financial policies of the Company, to review the adequacy of the financial organization of the Company, to review management's procedures and policies relative to the adequacy of the Company's internal accounting controls, to review compliance with federal and state laws relating to accounting practices and to review and approve (with the concurrence of a majority of the disinterested Directors of the Company) transactions, if any, with affiliated parties.

The Compensation Committee was appointed in December 1996, and did not meet separately during 1997. The functions of the Compensation Committee are to review and approve annual salaries and bonuses for all executive officers, to review, approve and recommend to the Board of Directors the terms and conditions of all employee benefit plans or changes thereto, to administer the Company's stock option plans and carry out the responsibilities required by the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

In 1997, each incumbent Director attended all of the meetings of the Board and of each committee of which he was a member held during the period.

SECURITY OWNERSHIP OF CERTAIN BENEFICIAL OWNERS AND MANAGEMENT

The following table sets forth as of March 25, 1998, information as to the beneficial ownership of the Company's Common Stock by (i) each person or entity known by the Company to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock, (ii) each Director and nominee for Director, (iii) each named executive officer of the Company, as defined in

Item 402(a)(3) of Regulation S-K under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 ("Named Executive Officer"), and (iv) all Directors and executive officers of the Company as a group. Except as otherwise indicated, the persons listed below have sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares of Common Stock owned by them, except to the extent such power may be shared with a spouse.

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

| NAME AND ADDRESS OF BENEFICIAL OWNER(1) | AMOUNT AND NATURE OF | PERCENT OF | CLASS (2) |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| ----- | ----- | BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP | |
| <S> | <C> | <C> | |
| Koski Family Limited Partnership 5619 Preston Oaks Road Dallas, Texas 75240 | 2,258,543 | 35.7 | |
| Christine L. Koski(3) 5619 Preston Oaks Road Dallas, Texas 75240 | 2,322,838 | 36.7 | |
| Robert C. Koski(3)(5) 315 Sycamore Street Decatur, Georgia 30030 | 2,266,543 | 35.8 | |
| Thomas L. Koski(3) | 2,258,543 | 35.7 | |

| | | |
|---|-----------|------|
| Six New Street East Norwalk, Connecticut 06855 | | |
| Robert E. Koski(3)(4)(5) | 2,544,921 | 40.2 |
| Beverly Koski(3)(4)(5) | 2,544,921 | 40.2 |
| Robert S. and Ann R. Ferrell(6) | 421,037 | 6.7 |
| 5924 Cranbrook Way, #101 Naples, Florida 34112 | | |
| Clyde G. Nixon(7) | 213,266 | 3.3 |
| Peter G. Robson(8) | 72,730 | 1.1 |
| James G. March(9) | 53,572 | * |
| Jeffrey Cooper(8) | 54,529 | * |
| Arthur B. Bodley(10) | 13,860 | * |
| Russell G. Copeman(8) | 21,052 | * |
| Taco van Tijn(10) | 8,920 | * |
| Richard J. Dobbyn(11) | 15,500 | * |
| David N. Wormley(12) | 3,940 | * |
| John S. Kahler(13) | 1,000 | * |
| Ferdinand E. Megerlin | 0 | - |
| All Directors and Executive Officers as a Group (10 persons) | 3,002,290 | 45.4 |

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- * Less than 1%.
- (1) Unless otherwise indicated, the address of each of the persons listed who own more than 5% of the Company's Common Stock is 1500 West University Parkway, Sarasota, Florida 34243.

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- (2) This column set forth shares of the Company's Common Stock which are deemed to be "beneficially owned" by the persons named in the table under Rule 13d-3 of the Securities and Exchange Commission. All of the persons named in the table have sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares beneficially owned by them except as otherwise described in the following footnotes.
- (3) Includes 2,258,543 shares owned by the Koski Family Limited Partnership, over which Christine L. Koski, Robert C. Koski, Thomas L. Koski, Robert E. Koski and Beverly Koski share voting and dispositive power as the general partners in the Partnership. Christine L. Koski, Robert C. Koski and Thomas L. Koski are the adult children of Robert E. Koski and Beverly Koski.
- (4) Includes 151,216 shares owned by Beverly Koski and 127,162 shares owned by Robert E. Koski. Beverly Koski is the spouse of Robert E. Koski.
- (5) Includes 8,000 shares owned by the Koski Family Foundation, Inc., over which Robert E. Koski, Beverly Koski and Robert C. Koski share voting and dispositive power.
- (6) According to information supplied to the Company by the Ferrells in connection with the initial public stock offering of the Company on January 9, 1997. Includes 240,125 shares owned by the Robert S. Ferrell Trust, of which Robert S. Ferrell is the sole trustee, and 180,312 shares owned by the Ann R. Ferrell Trust, of which Ann R. Ferrell is the sole trustee. Robert S. Ferrell is the spouse of Ann R. Ferrell. Includes 600 shares owned individually by Ann R. Ferrell.
- (7) Includes 47,927 shares which are owned jointly by Mr. Nixon and his spouse. Also includes 115,817 shares subject to currently exercisable options and 49,522 shares which are held by Lois Joan Nixon Trust.
- (8) Represents shares subject to currently exercisable options.
- (9) Shares are owned by the March Family Trust, of which Dr. March and his spouse are trustees.
- (10) Includes 3,920 shares subject to currently exercisable options, and 2,500 shares owned by Mr. van Tijn's spouse.
- (11) Includes 14,000 shares subject to currently exercisable options.
- (12) Includes 2,940 shares subject to currently exercisable options.
- (13) Shares are owned jointly by Mr. Kahler and his spouse.

DIRECTOR AND EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

SUMMARY COMPENSATION

The following table is a summary of the compensation paid or accrued by the Company for the last three fiscal years for services in all capacities to each of the Named Executive Officers.

SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

| NAME AND PRINCIPAL POSITION | LONG TERM COMPENSATION AWARDS-- | | | SECURITIES UNDERLYING OPTIONS/SARS (#) | OTHER ANNUAL COMPENSATION (4) |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------------|
| | ANNUAL COMPENSATION YEAR | SALARY | | | |
| <S> | <C> | <C> | <C> | <C> | |
| Robert E. Koski, Chairman of the Board of Directors | 1997 1996 1995 | \$106,000 106,000 106,000 | --- | \$20,175 18,798 (5) 28,033 (5) | |
| Clyde G. Nixon, President and Chief Executive Officer | 1997 1996 1995 | \$180,000 180,000 165,000 | 58,781 (1) 94,765 (2) 110,739 (3) | \$22,927 12,239 21,807 (6) | |
| Robert J. Devereaux Vice President (7) | 1997 1996 1995 | \$129,000 129,000 123,500 | 29,963 (1) 48,306 (2) --- | \$18,461 11,160 19,771 | |
| Jeffrey Cooper Engineering Manager | 1997 1996 1995 | \$121,000 116,000 110,500 | 27,100 43,689 (2) --- | \$13,567 9,314 10,280 | |
| Russell G. Copeman Manufacturing Manager | 1997 1996 1995 | \$134,000 64,500 --- | 65,000 (1) --- | \$35,547 (8) 92,931 (8) --- | |
| Richard J. Dobbyn Chief Financial Officer | 1997 1996 1995 | \$ 97,000 88,000 17,083 | 35,000 (1) --- | \$ 7,054 --- | |

</TABLE>

- (1) Represents incentive stock options granted on January 9, 1997, the date of the Company's initial public offering, at an exercise price equal to the public offering price.
- (2) Represents nonqualified stock options granted in conjunction with the termination of the executive's phantom stock compensation agreement.
- (3) Represents phantom stock compensation award.

- (4) Except as otherwise noted, reflects primarily contributions made by the Company on behalf of the employee to the Company's 401(k) plan and excess life insurance premiums.
- (5) Includes payment by the Company of certain professional fees on behalf

of Mr. Koski in 1996 and 1995 in the amounts of \$11,478 and \$7,250, respectively.

- (6) Includes payment by the Company of certain club dues on behalf of Mr. Nixon in the amount of \$12,000.
- (7) Mr. Devereaux resigned as Vice President of the Company effective December 31, 1997.
- (8) Includes payment by the Company of certain consulting fees and moving expenses.

STOCK OPTION/SAR GRANTS IN LAST FISCAL YEAR

The following table details individual grants of stock options made in fiscal year 1997 to each of the Named Executive Officers of the Company. All options were granted pursuant to the Company's 1996 Stock Option Plan and are exercisable currently. No stock appreciation rights (SAR) were granted during the period. The table also indicates the potential realizable value of each grant of options assuming that the market price of the underlying security appreciates in value from the date of the grant to the end of the option term at the following annualized rates:

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

| | INDIVIDUAL GRANTS | | | | POTENTIAL REALIZABLE VALUE AT ASSUMED ANNUAL RATES OF STOCK PRICE APPRECIATION FOR OPTION TERM (1) | | | |
|-------------------------|--|---|------------------------|-----------------|--|-----------|---------|----|
| NAME | NUMBER OF UNDERLYING OPTIONS GRANTED (#) | PERCENT OF TOTAL EMPLOYEES IN FISCAL YEAR (%) | EXERCISE PRICE (\$/SH) | EXPIRATION DATE | 5% (\$) | 10% (\$) | 0% (\$) | |
| (a) | (b) | (c) | (d) | (e) | (f) | (g) | (h) | |
| Robert E. Koski | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| Clyde G. Nixon | 58,781 | 20.3% | \$9.50 | 1/9/07 | \$307,872 | \$758,304 | -- | -- |
| Jeffrey Cooper | 27,100 | 9.4% | 9.50 | 1/9/07 | 141,939 | 349,604 | -- | -- |
| Russell G. Copeman | 65,000 | 22.5% | 9.50 | 1/9/07 | 340,445 | 838,533 | -- | -- |
| Richard J. Dobbyn | 35,000 | 12.1% | 9.50 | 1/9/07 | 183,317 | 451,518 | -- | -- |
| Robert J. Devereaux (2) | 29,963 | 10.4% | 9.50 | 1/9/07 | 156,935 | 386,538 | -- | -- |

- (1) These options were granted on January 9, 1997, the date of the Company's initial public offering, at a price of \$9.50, which was the initial public offering price for the shares of Common Stock on such date. The 5% and 10% assumed annual rates of stock price appreciation are provided in compliance with Regulation S-K under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. The Company does not necessarily believe that these appreciation calculations are indicative of actual future stock option values or that the price of Common Stock will appreciate at such rates.
- (2) Mr. Devereaux resigned as Vice President of the Company effective December 31, 1997.

STOCK OPTION EXERCISES AND YEAR END OPTION VALUES

The following table sets forth information with respect to the Named Executive Officers concerning the exercise of options during 1997 and unexercised options held on December 31, 1997.

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

AGGREGATED OPTION/SAR EXERCISES IN LAST FISCAL YEAR AND FISCAL YEAR END OPTION VALUES

| NAME | SHARES ACQUIRED ON EXERCISE (#) | VALUE REALIZED (\$) | NUMBER OF SECURITIES UNDERLYING UNEXERCISED OPTIONS/SARS AT FISCAL YEAR-END (#) | VALUE OF UNEXERCISED IN-THE-MONEY OPTIONS/SARS AT FISCAL YEAR-END (\$) | EXERCISABLE/ UNEXERCISABLE (1) |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| | | | (c) | (d) | |
| Robert E. Koski | --- | --- | 0 / 0 | 0 / 0 | |
| Clyde G. Nixon | --- | --- | 105,291 / 48,255 | \$694,408 / \$120,638 | |
| Robert J. Devereaux (2) | 10,000 | \$80,300 | 48,832 / 19,437 | \$353,065 / \$48,593 | |
| Jeffrey Cooper | --- | --- | 49,109 / 21,680 | \$387,965 / \$54,200 | |
| Russell G. Copeman | --- | --- | 10,526 / 54,474 | \$26,315 / \$136,185 | |
| Richard J. Dobbyn | --- | --- | 7,000 / 28,000 | \$17,500 / \$70,000 | |

</TABLE>

- (1) Based upon the December 31, 1997 closing stock price of \$12.00 per share, as reported on the Nasdaq National Market.
- (2) Mr. Devereaux resigned as Vice President of the Company effective December 31, 1997.

The information contained in the following sections "Report of Board of Directors Acting as Compensation Committee" and "Performance Graph" are not deemed to be "soliciting material" or to be "filed" with the Securities and Exchange Commission or subject to Regulations 14A or 14C or to the liabilities of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934.

REPORT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS ACTING AS COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

The following report was prepared by the Board of Directors, acting in conjunction with the Company's Compensation Committee:

The goals of the Company's compensation program are to attract, retain, motivate and reward highly qualified management personnel and to provide them with long-term career opportunities. The Company's compensation philosophy is to provide its executives with a competitive total compensation package which motivates superior job performance, the achievement of the Company's business objectives, and the enhancement of shareholder value. Compensation of the Company's Named Executive Officers will be reviewed annually by the Board of Directors and the Compensation Committee. Changes proposed for these employees will be evaluated and approved by the Compensation Committee on an individual basis.

The Company's general approach to compensating Named Executive Officers is to pay cash salaries which generally are competitive within ranges of salaries paid to executives of other manufacturing companies, although the Company does not attempt to meet salary levels of such companies. Instead, the Committee sets overall compensation at a level it believes to be fair, based upon a subjective analysis of the individual executive's experience and past and potential contributions to the Company. The Company, historically, has not paid performance-based bonuses. To assist in determining appropriate overall compensation, the Company intends in the

future to review information regarding revenues, income, and executive compensation for other public manufacturing companies.

Stock option grants to Named Executive Officers and other key employees of the Company, including the Chief Executive Officer, will be made at the discretion of the Compensation Committee pursuant to the Company's 1996 Stock Option Plan (the "Stock Option Plan"). Factors and criteria to be used

by the Compensation Committee in the award of stock options will include individual responsibilities, individual performance and direct and indirect contributions to the profitability of the Company. The benefits derived from each stock option granted under the Stock Option Plan are directly attributable to a future increase in the value of the Company's Common Stock. Messrs. Cooper, Devereaux, and Nixon received stock options on January 9, 1997, which grants were made in connection with the termination of certain phantom stock agreements. See "Executive Compensation Agreements." Messrs. Copeman and Dobbyn were granted incentive stock options on January 9, 1997.

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code limits the tax deduction to \$1 million for compensation paid to a corporation's key executive officers unless certain requirements are met. One of the requirements imposed under regulations promulgated by the Internal Revenue Service is that the corporation's compensation committee be comprised solely of "disinterested directors." Not all of the Directors serving on the Company's Compensation Committee are disinterested under those regulations. However, given the Company's compensation program and historic compensation levels, the Company does not believe the limitation on deductibility will have a material effect on the Company. The Company intends to monitor the effect of the Section 162(m) regulations and take steps in the future as might be appropriate.

Robert E. Koski and Clyde G. Nixon abstain from all determinations by the Board of Directors acting as the Compensation Committee as they relate to their respective compensation as Chairman of the Board and as Chief Executive Officer and President, respectively.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Arthur B. Bodley | Robert E. Koski |
| James G. March | Clyde G. Nixon |
| Taco Van Tijn | David N. Wormley |

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION AGREEMENTS

In September 1996, in connection with the termination of certain individual phantom stock compensation agreements, the Company issued to eight employees of the Company, including Messrs. Cooper, Nixon and Robson, who are Executive Officers of the Company (and Mr. Devereaux, who resigned as an Executive Officer effective December 31, 1997), options to purchase 305,260 shares of Common Stock. The exercise prices for such options ranged from \$3.00 to \$5.05, with a weighted average of \$3.95. Such options are exercisable and have a term of

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10 years. As part of the same agreements, following its initial public offering, the Company also issued to such employees incentive stock options to purchase 189,348 shares of Common Stock at the initial public offering price of the Common Stock of \$9.50 per share. Such incentive stock options vest over varying periods of up to seven years.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE INTERLOCKS AND INSIDER PARTICIPATION IN COMPENSATION DECISIONS

The Board of Directors of the Company, in conjunction with the Compensation Committee, determined the compensation, including salary and bonus, of the Executive Officers of the Company for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1997, and the initial compensation for the current fiscal year through the date hereof. In the future, the Compensation Committee of the Board of Directors will determine the compensation of the Company's Executive Officers.

PERFORMANCE GRAPH

The following graph compares cumulative total return among Sun Hydraulics Corporation, Nasdaq Stock Market Index (U.S.) and a Peer Group from January 9, 1997, to December 31, 1997, assuming \$100 invested in each on

January 9, 1997. Total return assumes reinvestment of any dividends for all companies considered within the comparison. The stock price performance shown on the graph above is not necessarily indicative of future price performance. Companies in the peer group are Aeroquip-Vickers Inc., Commercial Intertech Corp., Denison International plc, Moog Inc., The Oilgear Company and Parker Hannifin Corp.

[GRAPH]

<TABLE>
<CAPTION>

| | 1/9/97 | 3/31/97 | 6/30/97 | 9/30/97 | 12/31/97 | |
|----------------------------|--------|---------|---------|---------|----------|-----|
| <S> | <C> | <C> | <C> | <C> | <C> | |
| Sun Hydraulics Corporation | | 100 | 116 | 123 | 133 | 128 |
| Peer Group | 100 | 103 | 146 | 162 | 164 | |
| Nasdaq Stock Market (U.S.) | | 100 | 92 | 109 | 127 | 119 |

</TABLE>

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CERTAIN TRANSACTIONS

The information set forth herein briefly describes transactions during the past fiscal year between the Company and its Directors, officers and 5% shareholders. Management of the Company believes that such transactions have been on terms no less favorable to the Company than those that could have been obtained from unaffiliated parties. These transactions have been approved by a majority of the Company's disinterested Directors. Future transactions, if any, with affiliated parties will be approved by a majority of the Company's disinterested Directors and the Audit Committee and will be on terms no less favorable to the Company than those that could be obtained from unaffiliated parties.

REORGANIZATION WITH SUN HYDRAULIK HOLDINGS LIMITED

Immediately prior to the Company's initial public offering of Common Stock in January, 1997, the Company effected a 9.90373 for 1 stock split of its capital stock. The Company at the same time acquired all of the outstanding shares of capital stock of Sun Hydraulik Holdings Limited, a private limited company organized under the Laws of England and Wales ("SHHL"), pursuant to an exchange offer made by the Company to all of the shareholders of SHHL (the "Reorganization"). Pursuant to the terms of the exchange offer, the Company issued 1.17013 shares of Common Stock (for a total of 374,810 shares of Common Stock) and \$0.16 in cash for each share of stock of SHHL acquired by it. No registration rights were granted to the SHHL shareholders, and the shares of the Company's Common Stock issued to them in the Reorganization are "restricted securities" under the Securities Act of 1933.

Prior to the Reorganization, the Company and SHHL were controlled by the same group of shareholders and were operated as a common enterprise, with all of the Company's European operations carried out through subsidiaries of SHHL operating in England and Germany. The relative values of the Company and SHHL for purposes of the Reorganization were established by appraisals conducted for this purpose. These appraisals also were used to establish the relative values of the Company and Suninco, Inc. for the June 1996 merger of those two corporations. See "Suninco Merger" below.

SUNOPTech, LTD.

In October 1995, the Company contributed certain intangible assets to SunOpTech, Ltd. ("SunOpTech"), a limited partnership formed to further the development of manufacturing software. In January 1996, the Company distributed to its shareholders the 65% limited partnership interest in SunOpTech which it received in exchange for the contributed intangible assets. Robert E. Koski owns 51% of the common stock of the general partner of SunOpTech and is a member of the board of directors of the general partner.

The Company currently has no ownership interest in SunOpTech.

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The Company entered into a contract with SunOpTech for a 35-month term beginning November 1995, for the development of computer software and computer support to the Company. The Company will pay approximately \$1,000,000 over the contract term, provide office space and equipment and reimburse SunOpTech for reasonable expenses related to the software development. During 1997, the Company paid fees of \$317,000 and expenses of \$291,000 under the agreement, and provided certain administrative support to SunOpTech at no charge. The software is being utilized in the Company's plants in Sarasota and Germany. Under its agreement with SunOpTech, the Company has a perpetual, nonexclusive license to use the software, as well as any future enhancements, without charge other than the development and support fees to be provided during the 35-month term of the agreement.

SUNINCO MERGER

On June 28, 1996, Suninco, Inc. ("Suninco") was merged into the Company. Prior to the merger, the Company and Suninco were controlled by the same group of shareholders and were operated as a common enterprise, with Suninco as the owner and lessor of the Company's Sarasota, Florida, manufacturing plant and certain equipment utilized by the Company at that location. The relative values of the Company and Suninco in the merger were established by appraisals conducted for this purpose. In structuring the merger, the Company concluded that, based upon such appraisals, the issuance of 178,426 shares of Common Stock to the former Suninco shareholders represented fair value for the acquired assets of Suninco.

ATLAS FLUID COMPONENTS COMPANY, INC.

Arthur B. Bodley, a Director of the Company, is the President, Chief Executive Officer and controlling stockholder of Atlas Fluid Components Company, Inc. ("Atlas"), a fluid power distributorship in Akron, Ohio, that purchases and sells the Company's products pursuant to one of the Company's standard distributor agreements. Atlas purchased approximately \$1.3 million, \$1.1 million and \$0.9 million of products from the Company in fiscal 1995, 1996, 1997, respectively.

COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 16(a) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 requires the Company's Directors, officers and holders of more than 10% of the Company's Common Stock to file with the Securities and Exchange Commission initial reports of ownership and reports of changes in ownership of Common Stock and any other equity securities of the Company. To the Company's knowledge, based solely upon a review of the forms, reports and certificates filed with the Company by such persons, all of them complied with the Section 16(a) filing requirements in 1997.

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RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

The Company has engaged the firm of Price Waterhouse LLP, independent certified public accountants, to report upon the financial statements included in the Annual Report submitted herewith. A representative from said firm will be in attendance at the Meeting, will have the opportunity to make a statement if desired, and will be available to respond to any questions from those in attendance. The Company has appointed Price Waterhouse LLP to report upon its 1998 financial statements, subject to ratification of such appointment by the shareholders at the Meeting. Shareholder ratification of the Company's

independent certified public accountants is not required by the Company's Bylaws or otherwise. The Board of Directors has elected to seek such ratification as a matter of good corporate practice and unanimously recommends that you vote "FOR" such ratification. Abstentions will be counted toward the number of shares represented at the Meeting. Broker non-votes will be disregarded. If the shareholders do not ratify this appointment, other certified public accountants will be considered by the Board of Directors upon recommendation of the Audit Committee.

OTHER BUSINESS

Management of the Company does not know of any other business that may be presented at the Meeting. If any matter not described herein should be presented for shareholder action at the Meeting, the persons named in the enclosed Proxy will vote the shares represented thereby in accordance with their best judgment.

SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS FOR PRESENTATION AT THE 1999 ANNUAL MEETING

The Board of Directors requests that any shareholder proposals intended for presentation at the 1999 Annual Meeting be submitted to Gregory C. Yadley, Secretary, in writing no later than November 1, 1998, for consideration for inclusion in the Company's proxy materials for such meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

GREGORY C. YADLEY
Secretary

Dated: April 24, 1998

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APPENDIX

SUN HYDRAULICS CORPORATION
1500 WEST UNIVERSITY PARKWAY
SARASOTA, FL 34243

PROXY FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS TO BE HELD MAY 23, 1998. THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The undersigned, having received notice of the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Sun Hydraulics Corporation to be held at 10:00 a.m., Eastern Daylight Savings Time, on Saturday, May 23, 1998, hereby designates and appoints Robert E. Koski and Clyde G. Nixon, and each of them with authority to act without the other, as attorneys and proxies for the undersigned, with full power of substitution, to vote all shares of Common Stock, par value \$.001 per share, of Sun Hydraulics Corporation that the undersigned is entitled to vote at such Meeting or at any adjournment thereof, with all the powers the undersigned would possess if personally present, such proxies being directed to vote as specified below and in their discretion on any other business that may properly come before the Meeting.

1. Election of Directors: Clyde G. Nixon, John S. Kahler and Ferdinand E. Megerlin
2. Appointment of Price Waterhouse LLP as independent certified public accountants of the Company

This proxy when properly executed will be voted in the manner directed herein by the undersigned shareholder. If no direction is made, this proxy will be voted for Proposals 1 and 2.

1. Election of Directors

FOR

WITHHELD

For, except vote withheld from the following nominee(s):

2. Appointment of Price Waterhouse LLP as Independent Certified Public Accountants of the Corporation

FOR

AGAINST

ABSTAIN

(see reverse side)

3. In their discretion the proxies are authorized to vote upon such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

The undersigned reserves the right to revoke this Proxy at any time prior to the Proxy being voted at the Meeting. The Proxy may be revoked by delivering a signed revocation to the Company at any time prior to the Meeting, by submitting a later-dated Proxy, or by attending the Meeting in person and casting a ballot. The undersigned hereby revokes any proxy previously given to vote such shares at the Meeting.

Signature(s)

Date

Signature(s)

Date

NOTE: Please sign exactly as name appears hereon. Joint owners should each sign. When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, trustee, guardian or corporate officer, please give full title as such.