

# ***Rockin Chair is Rocking 'N Rolling***

**by Bill Hart**

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This photo shows me and Jack Adkin (that's us lee bowing the red boat) racing my Harbor 20 in PHRF. The locale is near Punta Gorda, on Charlotte Harbor in Florida. It was a fairly breezy day. Note the rail meat on the bigger boats. While Jack and I sit comfortably in the cockpit . . . on cushions no less.



I raced a Ranger 28 on Charlotte Harbor for about 25 years until the boat was badly damaged by Hurricane Charley. While I was deliberating on whether to repair such an old boat, it occurred to me that the Ranger and I had grown old together. So, I took the insurance settlement and downsized and simplified into my Harbor 20, which I named "Rockin' Chair".

To optimize the boat for PHRF I have added "plastic" sails with big roaches and a Melges 24 style furler to streamline the leading edge of the jib. I have also rigged a vang and traveler on the Hoyt boom to provide more control over the trim and shape of the foresail. Those modifications did not change the rating.

In winds of 10 knots or less and reasonably smooth water we are extremely competitive. Recently, in one such race, we actually finished 1st, boat for boat, at the front of the fleet ahead of a Swan 40, a Tartan 37 and assorted other biggies. Reaching in light to moderate air we can be a threat to almost everybody, including our S2 7.9's. It is great fun to beat the big boats but, of course, on a breezier day, like in the photo, we get waterlined and the shoe is on the other foot.

Starts are a challenge because it's easy to get blanketed by the taller rigs of the bigger boats. I usually try to position my start to have the option to immediately tack into clear air, if necessary. I also try to stay in the clear on the race course.

We have sailed in some nasty conditions and I am surprised and pleased with the Harbor 20's big boat feel and its ability to handle wind and rough water.

Congratulations on a great design.

Regards,

Bill Hart

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