



Harbor 25 #1 Shows Her Stuff in the BYC Beercans

July 16, 2009

Newport Harbor on Thursday evenings is a sight to be seen!

Balboa Yacht Club's Summer Beercan Series draws about fifty boats. With the maximum length overall set at 50 feet, the largest boat entered in the series is *It's Okay*, which measures in at 49' 11". And one of the smallest boats in the crowd is our Sanana 20. Also on the water on Thursday evenings is a fleet of about twenty-five Harbor 20s and ten or more Lehman 12s sailing in Newport

Harbor Yacht Club's Twilight Series. As you can imagine, there is a lot of action on the water.

To keep some semblance of order, the Beercan rules prohibit the use of spinnakers of any type or size. Double headsails aren't allowed either, but the boats are allowed to use whisker poles to wing out their headsails going downwind. Most of the boats are offshore racing boats and have huge overlapping genoas that give them yards of sail area.

Then along comes our little Harbor 25. In fact, most Thursday evenings see three of them out racing with no more than two people in the cockpit with big smiles on their faces. So far this summer, Harbor 25 #1 has been the big winner. They won their class in the Ale Series in May, they won their class in the Lager Series in June, and they won the first race in the Pilsner Series in July. In that first race, they were just 20 seconds from being first overall on corrected time. Owner Don LaLonde and his crew Rik Hobbie, who are both relatively new to sailing, couldn't be more proud.

And at the end of the race, they just roll up their jib, flake the main, have a beer and a sandwich in the cockpit, cover the boat and head for home. No sails to lug back to the car!