

HARBOR 25 #22 IS TURNING HEADS IN NEWPORT



February 3, 2009

Harbor 25 #22, *Cocktail*, owned by Michael Rettie, is a beautiful dark blue boat with cool looking Elliott/Pattison Kevlar and carbon racing sails. *Cocktail* is competing in the PHRF B fleet in the Bahia Corinthian Yacht Club Hot Rum Series in Newport Beach. She is in PHRF B with a rating of 174 and is the smallest in her class by about five feet. She is competing against a Beneteau 40 which rates 108, a Petersen 34 at 120, a Tartan 35 at 120, a Catalina 38 at 114, and six other boats.

After six races *Cocktail* is in third place. The series has seen every possible wind condition – from 0 to 25 knots, and they are racing in the bay without spinnakers. The Harbor 25's scores are 3-3-6-5-5-2. In the last race the boat was second boat-for-boat – not bad for a daysailer with a self-tacking jib!

What is important to note is that the races are in the bay, so the boats with the taller

rigs have a big advantage. Their masts reach above the houses and capture wind our shorter mast never sees. There is also a lot of up wind and reaching in the courses, which gives the boats with longer waterlines the advantage. Being a small boat on the starting line is also a challenge. Once the big guys get out in front we spend a lot of time looking for clear air.

It is great fun nevertheless. Especially since the Harbor 25 can sail with two or three guys, girls, or kids. And the crew never has to leave the cockpit. And you can bet those other guys don't sit on cushions either!

