

FIRST ANNUAL HARBOR 20 EAST/WEST CHALLENGE



South Carolina Yacht Club October 17 – 19, 2008

Five husband/wife teams of Harbor 20 sailors recently experienced a sailing weekend of a lifetime. They were invited by the members of Harbor 20 Fleet 3 to sail in the First Annual East/West Harbor 20 Challenge. The mission was to bring Harbor 20 sailors from the East and West Coast together to meet, sail, and enjoy. The event was an incredible success.

The South Carolina Yacht Club is located at Windmill Harbor on Hilton Head Island and is an absolutely beautiful club with amazing southern charm. The club owns three Harbor 20s, which they rent to their members and use in their sailing school. There are also ten privately owned Harbor 20s in the club. So there were enough boats for ten teams. In order to involve as many people as possible, each boat was sailed with a crew of three.



The regatta started as the Newport Beach sailors touched down at the Savannah Airport. They were greeted by members of Fleet 3 and were whisked away in a chartered van. They proceeded directly to a welcoming party at the yacht club. And after a delightful evening, the visiting sailors were taken to the homes of their hosts for a good night's rest in preparation for a busy weekend of sailing.



After lunch at the club on Saturday morning, the ten practically brand new Harbor 20s proceeded through the locks out onto Calibogue Sound. Without an obstruction in sight, the committee was able to set perfect windward/leeward courses and proceeded to tick off six races in quick succession. It was a little cloudy and

cold, and the winds piped up to the 10 – 14 knot range. The choppy conditions definitely put the fair weathered So Cal sailors at a noticeable disadvantage, and the Hilton Head fleet ended the day with a healthy lead.

A hot shower, a glass of wine, and another great party eased the pain; and everyone arrived at the club the next day with cheery optimism. Fortunately for the Newport team, it



was a completely different day: Sunny and warm, and light, fluky wind conditions that helped level the playing field. At the end of four more races, the Hilton Head team still held the lead, but one of the Newport sailors had the best overall score. So each team took home a prize.

Next year the East/west Challenge will be held in Newport Beach. The plans are already in the making!