

HARBOR 25 #12 PASSES THE TEST

St Petersburg Yacht Club Michelob Cup



The St. Petersburg Yacht Club Presents the 25th Annual



Michelob Ultra Cup

March 29, 2009

I am pleased to report that H25 #12 beat six miles to windward in winds with sustained gusts in the mid thirty knot range, peak gusts 38 – 40 (various boat wind instruments + local airport). We reefed before the start when winds were in the 15 – 20 knot range. Nothing broke. The event was SPYC's Michelob Cup, a 16 mile race around government marks with a dogleg windward slog of about 7.5 miles. Winds were south and steadily increased from the 10:15 start. It had been blowing out of the south for the last two days so Tampa Bay was rough.

The single reef was enough until the wind held in the high 20's – low thirties when gusts forced us to let the main invert. We had no second reef other than to roll the jib which I did not want to do without turning dead downwind. About 1-1/2 miles from the weather mark we abandoned. The boat was handling the steep chop extremely well with little pounding but our speed through the water hard on the wind had dropped from mid fives to high threes. There was no way to power through tacks in the very heavy chop with two or three waves hitting as you came through and tried to regain speed and rudder control. Our crew age was on the north side of 60 with some pre-existing orthopedic problems which I did not want to aggravate. 16 other boats in the 44 boat fleet (three dismastings) also withdrew. I was glad to have the lifelines despite their interfering with keeping butts on the weather side of the cockpit combing. Downwind under reefed main we surfed at speeds through the water at over nine knots. Excellent downwind steering control. We had no hardware failures and no line failures. I was proud of the boat.

Bill Ballard