



Our new, "Columbia Red" Columbia 30 (Escudero) introduced several new features at this year's Oakland Strictly Sail boat show. Escudero is equipped with wheel steering, a larger 14 horsepower diesel and a new, standard feature: an in-boom, single-line mainsail reefing system.

The boat and the new features were very well received at the show. Fundamentally, wheel steering makes the Columbia accessible to a larger market. The Edson system incorporates a rack and pinion arrangement that ties into the existing transom-hung rudder/ cassette system. An oversized, 48" wheel delivers easy control at any point of sail. The design is simple and straightforward. I sailed Escudero in the Newport-Ensenada race following the show, and can report that the wheel is both well balanced and responsive.



The standard 9 HP 1GM10 Yanmar diesel saildrive unit powers the Columbia 30 at around 6.5 knots. The upgraded 2 cylinder, 14 HP Yanmar 2YM15 delivers speeds of around 8 knots, is fresh-water cooled, and is more quiet, with less vibration than the standard single-cylinder unit.

Click to enlarge.

Because of the Columbia 30's large, flat-top main sail, a simple, integrated reefing system is a must. Our new in-boom, single line reefing system simplifies the reefing process and reduces the time required to reef....reefing now takes around a minute.

Oakland show visitors were also able to enjoy the new "Island" interior, featuring designer Sunbrella fabrics and highly polished, Hawaiian Koa wood accents. Warm, inviting and relaxed, the new, optional designer interior fabrics and wood bring a new level of yachting finish to the Columbia 30.



Click to enlarge.

During the show, there were so many visitors on the boat that people were truly able to get an idea of just how much room the Columbia 30 has, both below and above deck. The 12-foot cockpit was often filled with 6 or even 8 people....the same went for the cabin. Once you're on board, the advantages of the boat's layout and room come to life.

Following the show, we trailered the Columbia 30 back to Newport Beach, relaunched, and sailed with three other Columbia 30's in the Newport-to-Ensenada race. Columbia 30 Cartel took 10th overall on corrected time...beating 450 boats. All of the three finishing Columbia 30's placed in the top 10% of the fleet. Boat for boat, Columbia 30's beat the following: Four J109s, Six J120s, two J44s, a J133, a Mumm 36, two Reynolds 33 catamarans, a Schock 40, two Santa Cruz 50s, a Santa Cruz 52, Santa Cruz 70, all the Soverel 33s, a Viper 830, and many other strong performing boats. Corrected, we also beat four Beneteau 40.7s, two Cheetah 30s, two Henderson 30s, three Hobie 33s, an 1D35, three 1D48s, two Reichel Pugh 50s, a Reichel Pugh 75, Pyewacket (Reichel Pugh Max Z86), Magnitude 80 (Andrews 80), Peligrosso (Dencho 70), Merlin (Lee 68), and the list goes on. Perhaps most important, we had a lot of fun, and sailing with five guys for 26 hours is actually civilized on the Colum! bia 30...

As always, if you are interested in the new 2006 Columbia 30 Sport Yacht, please don't hesitate to send us an e-mail (info@columbiayachts.com) or call us directly, (714) 557-0712.

For racing images, news, articles, reviews and more, please visit www.columbiayachts.com.

Good sailing,

Vince Valdes
President, Columbia Yacht Corporation