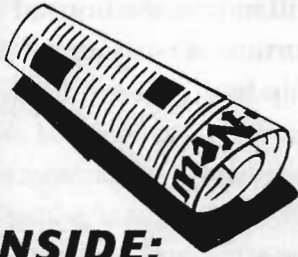




# SAFE/SEA HELPLINE



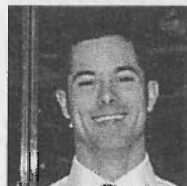
## Rhode Island's Boating Newsletter



### INSIDE:

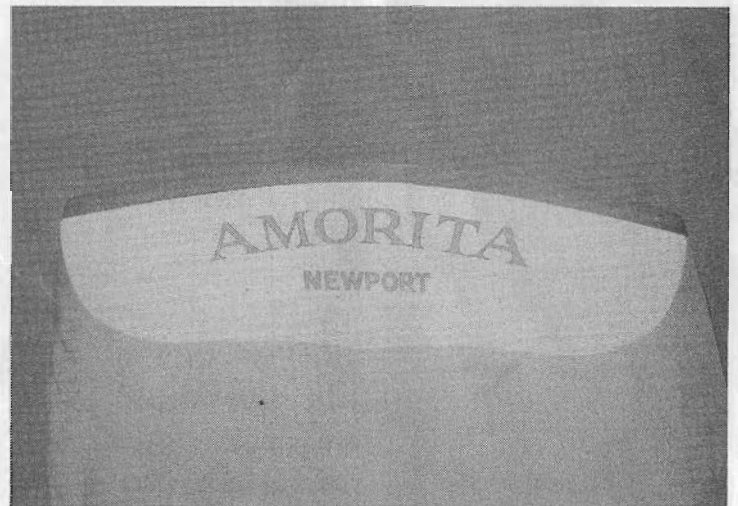
- Safe/Sea Sign Up - 2**
- Editors Notes: August 2007 - 3**
- Newport Intl. Boat Show - 4**
- Mt. Hope Terminal Fire - 8**
- Plum Beach Lighthouse - 12**
- Book Review: Simple Courage - 14**
- Watchstander's Log - 16**
- Member Boat Photos - 21**
- Marina Services List - 29**
- Helpline Classified - 31**

## Safe/Sea Recovers Classic Yacht



by:  
Capt. Phil  
LeBlanc  
Safe/Sea  
Captain

During the 1904 season, a group of New York Yacht Club members assembled before yacht designer Nathanael Herreshoff, the so called "Wizard of Bristol". Their request was simple: They wanted a class of modest and unpretentious yachts, "free of any freak proportions", with which to actively race on a regular basis. In addition, these vessels also needed to be seaworthy enough to participate in the annual Yacht Club Cruise and Regatta. Over the 1904-1905 winter, Captain Nat designed and built eighteen identical yachts, which would later be classed "New York Thirties". On July 7, 2007, build number 9, now known as S/V Amorita, was racing in a classic yacht regatta when she was



*The transom of the classic yacht Amorita. Designed and built in Bristol in 1905 by Capt. Nathanael Herreshoff, this, hull number nine, was one of only eighteen.*

involved in an unfortunate incident, and sank in mere seconds.

Delivered for the 1905 racing season, the original owners, George and Philip Adee, christened her Adelaide II. Adelaide II began to win races immediately, taking two NYYC spring regatta cups, followed by a NYYC Glen Cove Cup. Five years after being first launched, the Ade-

laide II was sold to F.B. Bragdon, who promptly re-named the vessel Amorita. By 1934, after multiple changes in ownership, the Amorita was one of only two Thirties (the other being Oriole, hull number eleven) still competing in the Yacht Club's Annual Regatta.

In the late 1930's, the Amorita was taken up the Hudson River

1 to the Great Lakes, where she would remain for many decades. Because *Amorita* was an unpowered vessel, in order to make the voyage up the Hudson, she was fitted with an outboard bracket to be powered off the stern with a twenty-two horsepower outboard engine. During this time, it was one of four origi-

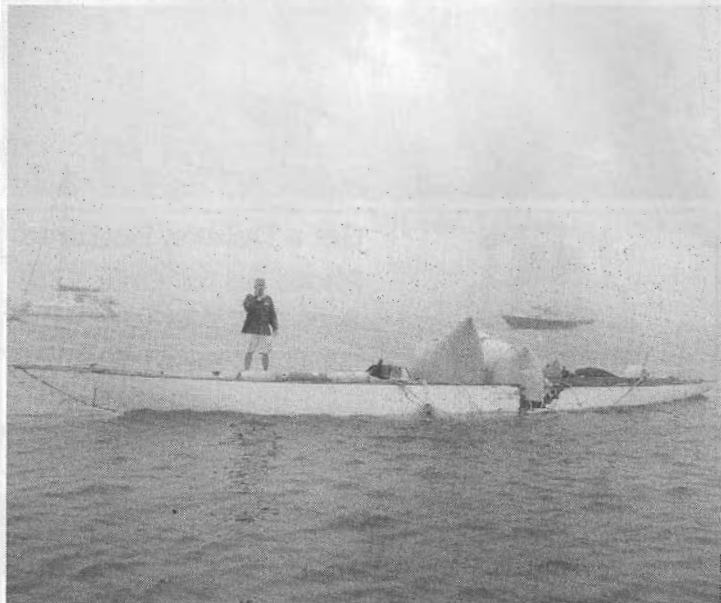
nal Thirties that class records and Lloyds of London lost track of.

The 1950's proved to be a tumultuous decade for the classic beauty. Beginning in 1950, she was purchased by Mr. John Ruffner, who had the vessel fiberglassed from the waterline down, and installed a powerful Red Wing engine, before relocating the vessel to

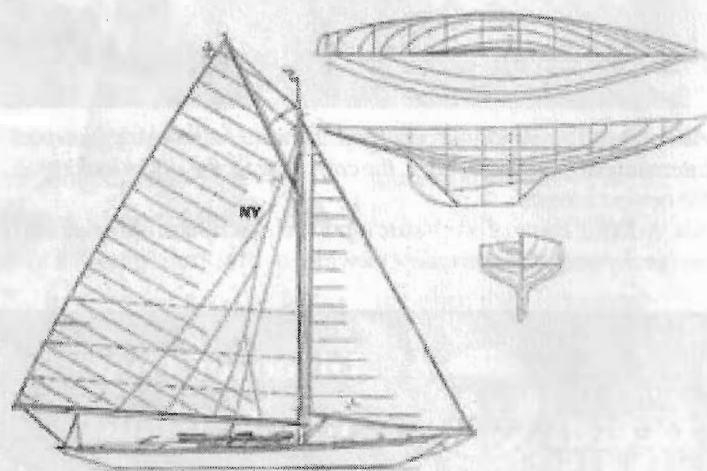
Lake Erie. In the Autumn of 1954, she was dismantled over the bow, with only the jib flying in a thirty-plus knot gale while returning to Vermilion Ohio, from a race at the Toledo Yacht Club.

Unfortunately, the 1960's and early 1970's were no kinder to *Amorita* than the 1950's had been. In 1961, she was purchased by Dr. Ken

Thomas of Lakewood Ohio, and was sailed with a new cabin and rig in the Cleveland, Ohio area. Unfortunately, time, use, and a lack of TLC began to overtake the once resplendent vessel, and she fell into disrepair over the course of the 60's. From 1968 to 1975, she was abandoned by the Thomas family and



Salvage diver, Capt. Mike Goodridge, stands on the bow of *Amorita*. After raising the vessel, it was towed to a haul out facility through fog so dense, multiple escorts were required.



The original line drawings of the New York Thirty Class. In addition to these racing yachts, Capt. Nat also designed and built five America's Cup defenders including *Vigilant*, *Defender*, *Columbia*, *Reliance*, and *Resolute*.



## Brewer Marinas

### Brewer Wickford

25% Safe/Sea Discount for Transients  
Call on VHF Channel 09  
or (401) 884-7014

### Brewer Cove Haven

Bullock's Cove (E. Providence)  
25% Safe/Sea Discount for Transients  
(401) 246-1600

### Brewer Cowesett

Just Outside Apponaug Cove  
25% Safe/Sea Discount for Transients  
(401) 884-0544

### Brewer Sakonnet

Just North of Tiverton Basin  
25% Safe/Sea Discount for Transients  
(401) 683-3551

Swimming Pools • Fine Restaurants • Full Mechanical Repairs  
Travel Lift Service • Fiberglass Repairs • Ships Stores

## HANSON CURRAN LLP

COUNSELORS AT LAW & PROCTORS IN ADMIRALTY



INQUIRIES TO:  
JAMES T. MURPHY  
THE FRANCIS BUILDING  
146 WESTMINSTER STREET  
PROVIDENCE, RI 02903-2202  
TELEPHONE: 401.421.2154  
FACSIMILE: 401.521.7040  
WEB: WWW.HANSONCURRAN.COM  
EMAIL:  
JTM@HANSONCURRAN.COM

Rhode Island does not have a procedure for the recognition of specialization among attorneys.

6

left to the elements behind the Cleveland Yacht Club.

Amorita was scheduled to be cut up and disposed of on December 20, 1975, her lead ballast to be scrapped in order to pay her storage fees. Amazingly, just thirty minutes before her untimely demise, she was saved by an unlikely savior. Gordon Group, a surveyor hired by the Cleveland Yacht Club, recognized her significance and stepped in with a stay of execution. Together with a friend he enlisted to help underwrite the restoration, Group commenced to bring the vessel back to life as a racer. After extensive repairs (not replacements) to the hull, Amorita was relaunched in 1979 with her previously installed tall cabin and Marconi rig. She was donated to the Full Sea Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to the salvation and restoration of

classic yachts, before being bought by the father and son team of Adrian and Jed Pearsall.

The Pearsalls fully restored Amorita to her original Herreshoff specifications and beauty. The restoration included reframing, sister framing, new planks, new decking, cabin, cockpit, engine, interior, and a gaff rig. In 1983, the vessel was shipped here, to Newport, in order to watch the America's Cup Races between America's Liberty and Australia's infamously wing-keeled Australia II. Although that contest was a sad one for all serious American sailors, the Pearsalls, along with Amorita, had finally found a home. Since that time, she has become a fixture on the Newport waterfront, and has graced an innumerable collection of sailing publications and calendars. She has competed in, and

won, numerous races throughout New England, and is oftentimes the oldest vessel in attendance.

Sadly, this July, while racing in the Museum of Yachting's Robert H. Tiedmann Classic Yacht Regatta, Amorita was approaching a mark with New York Thirty sister-ship, Alera (hull number one), when she was struck amidships by Sumurun, a ninety-four foot classic Ketch. This priceless treasure sank immediately in fifty-five feet of water. Luckily, her crew was quickly rescued without injury. Safe/Sea arrived on scene within minutes of the incident, and immediately went to work in an attempt to preserve the hull and prepare for the recovery, placing two divers in the water within an hour and a half of the sinking.

On July 10, after several days of preparations, including researching construction

plans, analyzing two NY-30 sisterships, and keeping a safe watch on her with periodic dives, Safe/Sea, along with salvage divers Mike Goodridge and Dave Stillman from Newburyport, MA, successfully raised Amorita from the bottom and redelivered her to her grateful owners. All of us at Safe/Sea are proud we could accomplish the reclamation of this historic vessel from the sea. 🐚



## GOAT ISLAND MARINA

- 150 Slips
- 24 Hour Security
- 30, 50, 100 Amp, 3 phase power
- Grocery and Package Store
- Pub & Restaurant
- Showers & Laundry
- Health Spa
- Swimming Pools Mon-Thurs
- Pumpout service
- Ashore Picnic Area

(401) 849-5655 • VHF Ch. 09

## A.H. Edwards Marine, Ltd.

### Block Island's Marine Mechanic

- On-the-water Service
- Gasoline or Diesel Inboards
- I/O's & Outdrives
- Diving & Mooring Services

**Call Us On  
VHF Ch. 12  
or 401.466.2655**

## Shoreline Diving & Mooring Services

(401) 295-2801

### Diving Services

Vessel Maintenance  
Salvage  
Lost moorings  
Digital Photography  
Commercial Boat Charters

[www.shorelinediving.com](http://www.shorelinediving.com)

### Mooring Services

New Installations  
Annual Servicing  
Inspections

Mushrooms, pyramids, blocks and helix

### Tackle Sales:

Anchors, shackles, swivels, buoys and pendants