

Tiedemann Regatta Honors Yachtsmen

During Fourth of July weekend, the New York Yacht Club hosted what is quickly becoming the most heartfelt gathering of classic boat owners from around the world. First started over 30 years ago, by local sailors Don Glassie and David Kilroy, as a casual, early season regatta for classic yachts, the Landing Regatta immediately took off in popularity. Although the name and venues have changed over the years, the regatta continues to offer the best camaraderie among sailors who prefer classic yachts. Eventually, the regatta was renamed to honor the memory of local yachtsman Robert Tiedemann, best known for establishing new life for post-America's Cup 12 metre yachts.

This past February, Newport lost another one of its finest classic yachtsmen, the original regatta founder and local entrepreneur, Don Glassie. His passion for classic yachting in Newport extended beyond competing on his personal yacht, *Fortune*. During the last decade, he established a business that allowed sailors and non-sailors alike to experience Narragansett Bay aboard two classic vessels, the 1930's powerboat *Rumrunner II* and the traditional wooden schooner *Madeleine*. In his memory, one of Glassie's favorite traditions of awarding a bottle of Black Duck Rum to regatta winners was resurrected.

Many readers might recall that during this event in 2007, one of Newport's most significant classic racers, the 1905 Herreshoff NY-30 class yacht *Amorita*, was run down and sunk by a much larger visiting yacht. It took four years of dedication by her owners, Jed Pearsall and Bill Doyle, to persevere through the long process of insurance wrangling and boat re-building, but *Amorita* proudly made her return home to Narragansett Bay for the Robert H. Tiedemann Classic Yachting Weekend. And she did it in style. Followed by a helicopter and



Amorita, skippered by Jed Pearsall and Bill Doyle, finished second in the Vintage B division of the Robert H. Tiedemann Regatta held earlier this month. (Photo by Sally Anne Santos / Windlass Creative)

support boats filming her every move, she went out and promptly won her first race - which just so happened to be the same race around Jamestown where she was struck down four years ago. Unfinished business, indeed.

It was a fantastic weekend and wonderful celebration of classic yachting for all those who appreciate the beauty and grace of these wonderful vessels.

Top finishing Newporters included: In the W- Class, the all-female crew of *White Wings*, owned by Donald Tofias. Among the 12 metres, *Columbia*, owned by Alain Hanover, and *Northern Light*, owned

by Elizabeth Tiedemann, and sailed by Kip Curren. In the highly competitive Vintage B division, second overall went to Newporters Jed Pearsall and Bill Doyle aboard *Amorita*, with *Fortune*, skippered by the late Don Glassie's son Tom and business partner John Taft, finishing fourth.

The 6 metre class was won by Molly Savard and the Cherokee syndicate.

Other winners include: Small Vintage - *Fidelio*, C. Townsend Modern Classics - *Seal*, Brodsky / VanLiew S-Class - *Aquila*, G. Davis / A. Davis Vintage A - *Black Watch*, T. Fetter Vintage B - *Angelita*, H. Skelsey