

Classic Boat

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OCTOBER 2007

SHE SCOONS

21st century schooner

**INLAND WATERS
FOCUS**

**Broads survivor
Thames A Rater
Henley tradition
Hydroplanes... and
a boat from Venice**

**Origins of the Trapeze
Brittany by dinghy**

Metro

Classic Boat

W Printed in UK

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MAN OVERBOARD! RECOVERY DRILLS

Bigpicture

The day that Amorita sank

Photographs by Billy Black

As owners of NY30 *Amorita*, we are often asked what took place the day she sank in Rhode Island Sound (CB231). While the events are easy to recount, the emotional side of the story is much harder to express.

It can be described by the deafening sound of 102-year-old planking being disintegrated by 94ft (29m) and ninety tons crushing through her deck. It's the horrifying vision of water flooding through her midsection, swallowing her interior and scattering her once-perfect hull across the surface.

It's clinging to her helm, refusing to let go in desperate hope that somehow you might actually be able to hold her above water. It's the anguish of being alone in the sea, separated from your friends when every rational thought tells you they may be dead.

It's the overwhelming relief of finding your crew safe, but the heartache of looking into their eyes knowing that our 28-year love affair with *Amorita* may be over.

It's the optimism of divers who are confident they can salvage her, and the enormous relief when she is finally raised. It's the encouragement of yachting experts and boatbuilders who reassure us *Amorita* can and should be brought back to her former self. It's the sickening feeling when you realize that the at-fault yacht is disappointing us in not making things right.

While we now know the sound of a broken heart, we've also felt the much-needed warmth of friends and fellow sailors, who share our sadness and offer every ounce of support.

And it's the confidence in knowing that when *Amorita* is rebuilt and sailing again, she will once again prove to be a boat that refuses to die, and will continue a love affair that will last forever.

Jed Pearsall, Bill Doyle, owners, *Amorita*



The sequence of events at the Robert H Tiedemann Memorial Regatta (July 7) as 43ft 1905 New York 30 *Amorita* was sliced into by 94ft 1914 ketch *Sumurun*



The crash starts as *Sumurun's* bow tears into the mainsail of *Alera* (middle) which was then allegedly tangled with *Amorita's*, (sail no-9) mainsheet, pulling her into the path of the heavier ketch



