

# Amorita in first on windy day

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NEWPORT — It may seem hard for outsiders to believe that classic yachts, some of them a century old, can be made to sail well, even in challenging weather conditions.

Such was the case yesterday with Jed Pearsall's gaff-rigged sloop, Amorita, built in 1905, which took a first in class at the Museum of Yachting's 27th annual Classic Yacht Regatta. Pearsall and his crew and those on 29 other yachts successfully made it around an 11.4-mile course while being raked by winds of 25-35 mph from tropical storm Ernesto.

Fortunately, Dr. Robin Wallace, the New York Yacht Club's race committee chairman, was able to give them a course, keeping them in the east passage of Narragansett close, for the most part, to the eastern shore, where they had some protection from the white-capped seas rolling over the Bay and across Newport harbor.

Even so, many of the yachts, including the two classic 12-meter yachts American Eagle and Columbia, sailed with drastically reduced mainsails. One yacht sailed the whole race without a mainsail, and several others, including the winning Herreshoff S boat, Dirigo, sailed the race without a jib.

Wind conditions were particularly difficult over the last mile of the race, as crews fought microbursts of wind while trying to hold a close-hauled course on port tack from Rose Island to the finish off Goat Island.

That's where Anchovy, the 21-foot Fish Class gaff-rigged sloop owned by the Museum of Yachting and newly renovated, came to grief. Observers aboard the committee boat, the 59-foot, double-ender, Carina, saw Anchovy blown over on her beam ends, then sink out of sight as boats converged on the scene.

Anchovy's skipper, Richard Eberhard of Newport, later told the Museum of Yachting that he and his crew, Deborah White of Newport, had caught a gust, which laid them over and buried the boom. Then the yacht filled

up and sank quickly.

Eberhard and White were pulled aboard the Farr 40 sloop, Alinghi, returning from a regatta up the Bay and transferred to the Newport harbor master's boat, which took them ashore at high speed. Aside from being soaked, they were none the worse for their experience. A decision on whether to salvage Anchovy will be delayed until a diver inspects the sunken yacht.

The race committee remained on station for an hour after the last finisher to ensure that all racing yachts had been accounted for.

Today waterfront observers on Newport Harbor will be treated to a classic yacht parade, starting sometime after 11 a.m.

## The summary:

**CLASS WHITE:** 1, Van Ki Pass, West; 2, Ticonderoga, Franz; 3, Equus, Tofias; 4, Rugosa, Herreshoff; 5, Restive, Denny; 6, Olympian, Purtell; 7, Manaaki, Fountain; 8, Adventuress, Lynch.

**CLASS BLACK:** 1, Amorita, Pearsall; 2, Dorade, Cato; 3, Fortune, Glassie; 4, Alera, McLinch; 5, Angelita, Croll; 6, Noreaster, Graves; 7, Hope San, Albrecht.

**CLASS GREEN:** 1, Destiny, McColough; 2, Teaser, Appleton; 3, Prima Donna, Puchkoff; 4, Flapper, Rieff; 5, Hawk, Trouselek; 6, Rune, Luce; 7, Pandora, Kilroy; 8, Clarity, Jim Pearsall.

**CLASS ORANGE:** 1, Nimble, Kane; 2, Kittywake, Senning; 3, Cinderella, Cummer. Anchovy, Eberhard, did not finish.

**CLASS 5 12-METERS:** 1, American Eagle, Slee; 2, Columbia, Hanover.

**CLASS BLUE S CLASS:** 1, Dirigo, Wilhelm; Shadow, Leeson, did not finish.

## CLASSIC YACHT REGATTA