

The  
WOODEN BOAT

Joseph Gribbins

## Classic Sailing Yachts



and science into a vessel that does everything a sailing classic should do: look wonderful, cruise safely and comfortably, and win races.

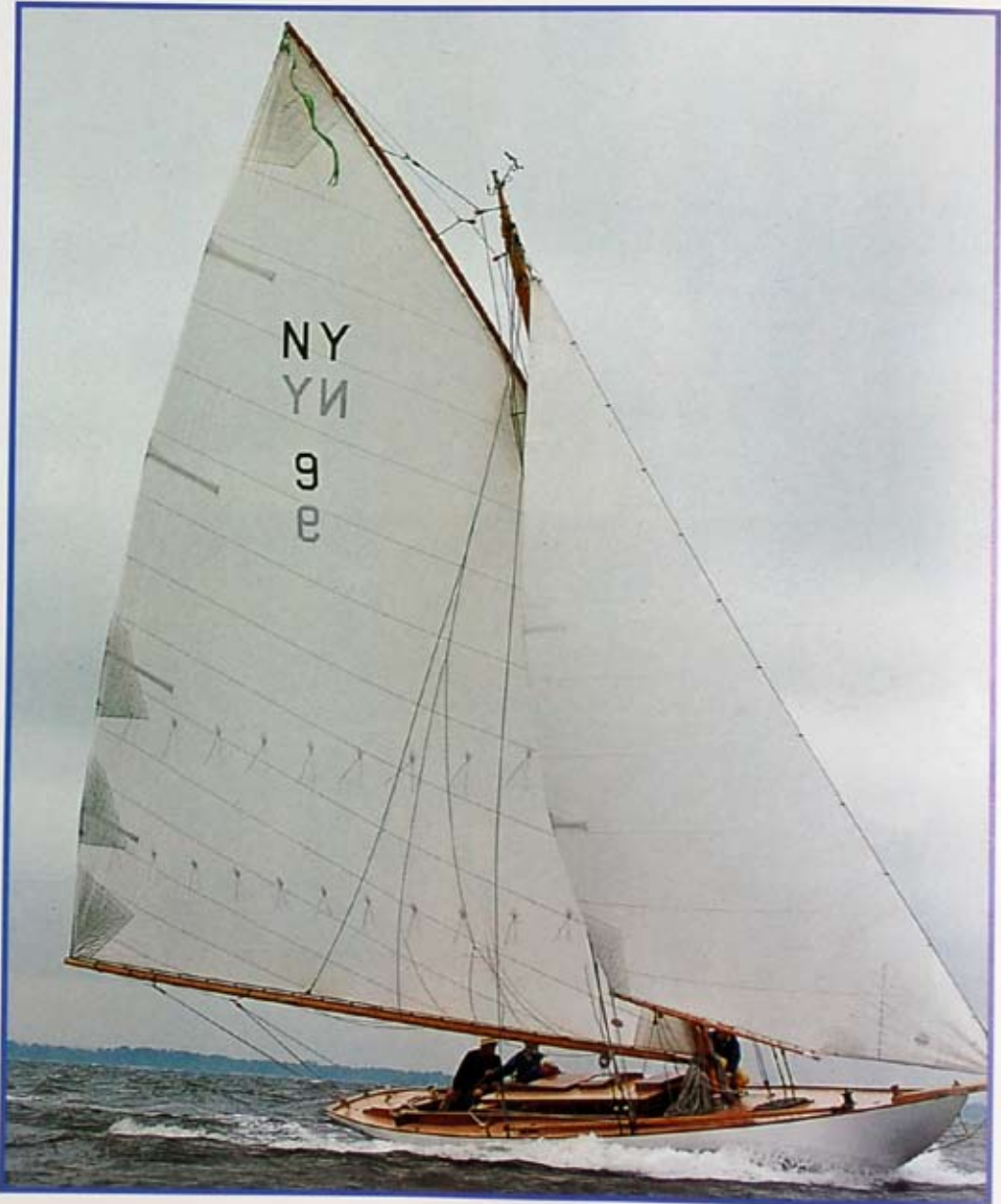
Older cruising/racing classics are the New York 30s and Buzzards Bay 25s, both intended as fleets of identical yachts able to compete evenly without fussy handicapping formulas. Eighteen New York 30s were built in 1905 for members of the New York Yacht Club. Only four of the Buzzards Bay 25s were built in 1914; they were as expensive as they were beautiful. Both were designed by

Nathanael Herreshoff, then at the top of his form as the world's principal creator of racing yachts. Both also have an Edwardian elegance: varnished-wood house structures, big gaff sailplans, long tapering ends, and what now seem to be perfect proportions from a time when designers and owners valued the aesthetic impact of these expensive playthings.

Sailing yachts used strictly for racing include the "Meter" boats spawned in 1906 by Europe's International Rule, a formula for yacht designers and

▶ **A**n Edwardian-era yacht, *Amorita* has long tapering ends and details that seem delicate by today's huskier standards. Her overall length is forty-three feet six inches (13.3m); her waterline length is approximately thirty feet (9.1m).





**A**morita, one of the surviving New York 30s built in 1905 for members of the New York Yacht Club, shows off her fine lines and big gaff-rigged sailplan.