

SPARTAN LEADS HERRESHOFF FLEET IN CASTINE CLASSIC RACE

Castine, Me. – *Spartan*, a 72' New York 50 Class sloop designed by the famed Nathanael G. Herreshoff in 1912, led the Herreshoff Class fleet in the twelfth annual Castine Classic Yacht Race to Camden.

Spartan, skippered by Charles Ryan, bested the 58' P Class *Joyant*, built in the same year by Herreshoff and sailed by Bob McNeil. *Alera*, the first 43.5' New York 30 Class sloop built in 1904, took third place, skippered by Claas van der Linde.

This year's Castine Classic race celebrated Herreshoff and drew a record fleet of 42 boats. Prior to the race, eight historic Herreshoff yachts were on exhibition at the Castine Town Dock and were honored at a symposium at the Maine Maritime Academy. The event illuminated the finer details of the restoration of these yachts, which relied heavily on the drawings, photographs and files of the Herreshoff archives at the Hart Nautical Collections of the MIT Museum in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Kurt Hasselbalch, Hart Nautical curator, chaired the discussion among a panel of restorers, owners and sailors of Herreshoff yachts.

Halsey Herreshoff, grandson of "Captain Nat", hailed the Castine event as "the greatest collection of Herreshoff yachts in modern history." It marked the first time in over seventy-five years in which yachts representing the renowned New York 30, 40 and 50 classes, designed a century ago for the New York Yacht Club, were assembled.

The Castine event kicked off three days of classic boat racing culminating in the Eggemoggin Reach Regatta. *Spartan* took honors in all three of these races.

After a delayed start, the fleet set sail from the Castine harbor bell on a 19.6nm course designed to end in Camden. The five classes started in a very light northeasterly breeze, which shortly died. A light and fickle wind eventually came up from the southwest. The conditions made for a slow race and caused the race committee to shorten the course. However, the vast majority of the fleet was able to complete the race.

In the Spirit of Tradition class, the newly launched 75' sloop *Isobel* designed by Stephens Waring & White took honors. *Isobel*, skippered by Richard Schotte, beat *Pleione* by more than 30 minutes. *Pleione* is a Taylor 8 Meter sailed by Bruce Dyson. Race Horse, a W-37 class sloop sailed by David Martin, took third place.

Siren, a Sparkman & Stephens NY 32, led the Classic A fleet. *Siren* was skippered by Peter Cassidy. Second place went to another NY 32, *Falcon*, sailed by Bob Scott. *Quest*, a 48' Fife skippered by Diane Palm, took third.

Marie J took first place in the Classic B fleet. She is a 34' Jayne-designed sloop sailed by Eric Urbahn. *Snow Star*, a 37' Nielsen sloop skippered by Tom Kiley, took second. Third place went to *Thora*, Vince Todd's Little Harbor 36.

In the Concordia fleet, the winner was the 39' *Snow Falcon* skippered by George Gans III. Second place went to *Captiva*, another Concordia 39 sailed by John Bullard. Terry Fisher took third place sailing *Mandala*, another Concordia 39.

At the award ceremony at the Wooden Boat School in Brooklin following the Eggemoggin Reach Regatta, David Bicks, co-chair of the Castine events, presented the Ames Cup jointly to *Siren* and *Marie J.* The Ames Cup is awarded to the overall winners of the race. It honors the memory of Richard Glover Ames and Henry Russell Ames who were lost at sea on June 9, 1935 south of the Grand Banks in an unsuccessful effort to save their father who was washed overboard during the Newport to Bergen, Norway yacht race. The Ames family hailed from Castine.

Siren also won both the Sparkman & Stephens trophy, awarded to the S&S boat with the lowest corrected time and the Mitch Gibbons-Neff trophy. Bob Scott, the Castine events co-chair, presented the NY 32 trophy in memory of Mitch Gibbons-Neff, late head of S&S who regularly crewed on Scott's NY 32 *Falcon*.

The Phalarope trophy, awarded to the top Concordia yacht in memory of Thomas G Ashton Sr, was presented to George Gans' *Snow Falcon*.

Jeff Boal, skipper of the Herreshoff classic *Nellie*, presented a special Herreshoff class trophy to Charles Ryan and Victor Paul of *Spartan* on behalf of Halsey Herreshoff. (Photos courtesy of Kathy Mansfield)



Spartan: New York 50 Herreshoff Class winner



Siren: New York 32 Classic A winner, under spinnaker



Herreshoff Class start: *Joyant* and *Spartan*



Joyant: 58' Herreshoff P class, with Bob McNeil on the foredeck crew