

# RESTORATION QUARTERLY

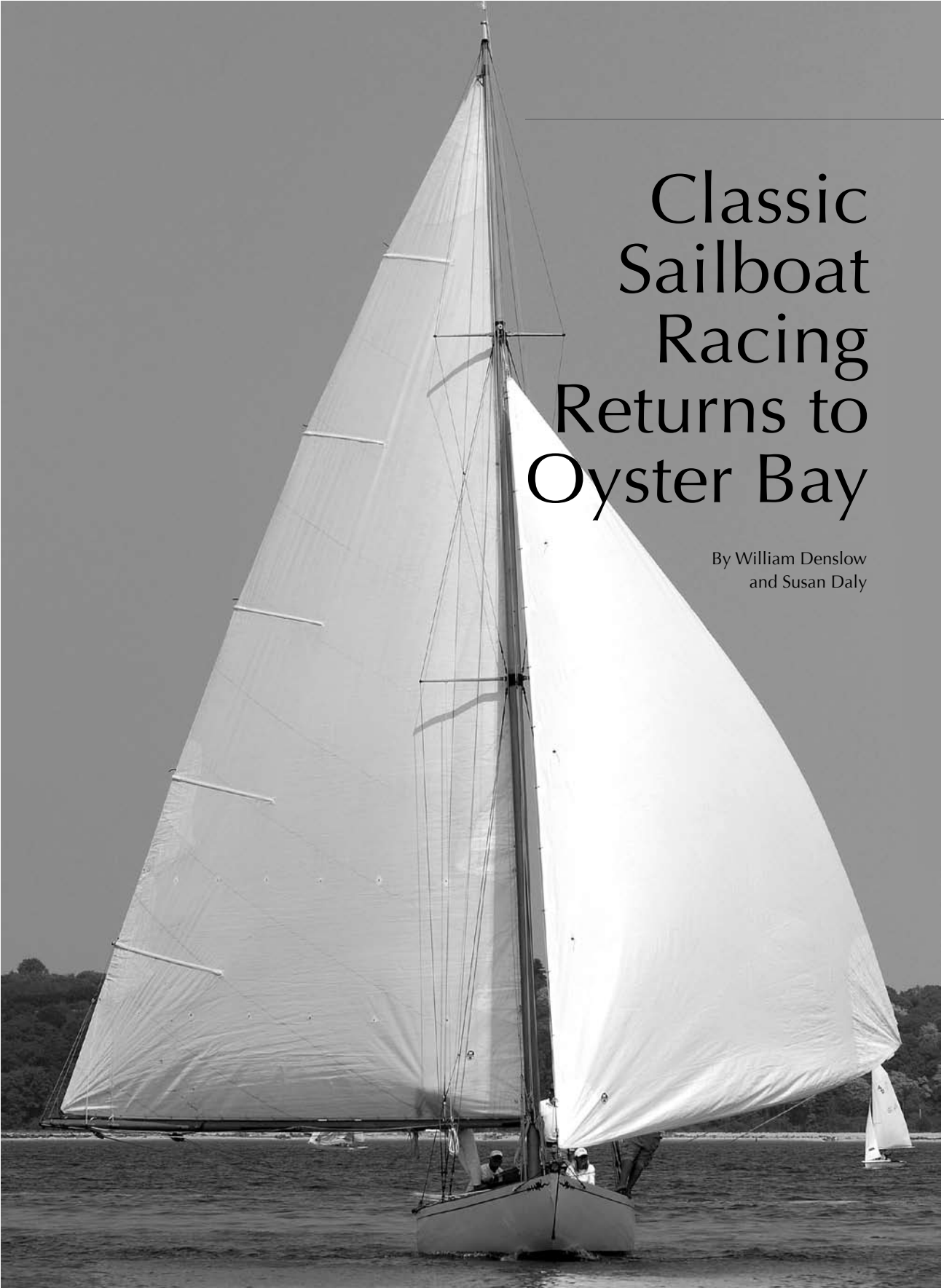
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# Classic Sailboat Racing Returns to Oyster Bay

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WHEN HUNT LAWRENCE TRAVELED TO Europe and discovered the magnitude of classic yacht racing on the Mediterranean, he thought, “Why is this not happening here in the United States?” An owner of several classic boats, Lawrence was a member of Seawanhaka Corinthian Yacht Club, a club with a distinguished history of corinthian racing, which traced back to the 1870s. Together with Donn Costanzo and Jeff Law, he conceived of a regatta with the goal of reviving classic yacht racing in Oyster Bay and nearby clubs on Western Long Island Sound. The result was the Oyster Bay Classic Regatta.

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ABOVE *Alera* chases *Saphaedra*.

FACING PAGE *Clio* wing and wing.



# Oyster Bay



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Hosted jointly by Seawanhaka Corinthian and Oak Cliff Yacht Clubs, the regatta was raced over three consecutive weekends in late May and early June of this year with two races scheduled each weekend. Boats constructed before 1973, including replicas of classic yachts, were eligible to compete.

The race course was the same for all six races of the regatta—14.5 miles around marks in Oyster Bay and out into Long Island Sound and back to the club for the finish. Starts were timed off Seawanhaka's flagpole, according to each competitor's rating, such that the entire fleet would theoretically finish at the same time. Trophies were awarded to the boats scoring best on each of the three weekends.

*Saphaedra*, a 51-foot Aage Nielson ketch launched in 1965 and owned by Jessica DeVivo and Chris Davis, won the first weekend; Terry McClinch and Jeff Dick's *Alera*, the first Herreshoff New York 30 built in 1905 and recently restored by Boothbay Harbor Shipyard, won the second; and Fred Bauerschmidt's *Scaramouche* won the third. A lack of wind on the final day resulted in the abandonment of the final race of the six-race series.

The Oyster Bay Classic Regatta finished on June 10 with the overall series trophy going to Betsy Lawrence and Donn Costanzo's *Clio*, a 46-foot Fife-designed sloop launched in 1921. *Alera* took second place, and *Saphaedra* captured third. *Caper*, a 56-foot Rhodes-designed sloop owned and sailed by Hunt Lawrence and Jeff Law, received the shipshape award.

Other boats competing were Charlie Hatton's *Evangeline*, a 39-foot Rhodes-designed sloop launched in 1962, and *Anne Caie*, a 39-foot Crocker-designed sloop owned and sailed by the Lawrences, Roxy Darling, and Pat Mundus.

Over 50 skippers, crew, and observers participated in this



## SCENES FROM A REGATTA

PHOTOS CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT *Clio* races in Cold Spring Harbor. *Caper* close hauled. Hunt Lawrence presents the trophy to Fred Bauerschmidt for winning the third weekend of the Oyster Bay Classic.



year's Oyster Bay Classic Regatta. Following on the success of the event, the organizers have put together a circuit of events for classics with the Oyster Bay Fall Series set to run over seven Saturdays in September and October 2007 and the South Bay Classic Regatta at Point O'Woods, N.Y. slated for late July 2008. Plans are also underway for a larger participation next year as the word spreads about this newcomer. By supporting this groundbreaking effort, Seawanhaka hopes to regain its role as the lighthouse for classic yacht racing in the western hemisphere. ♣