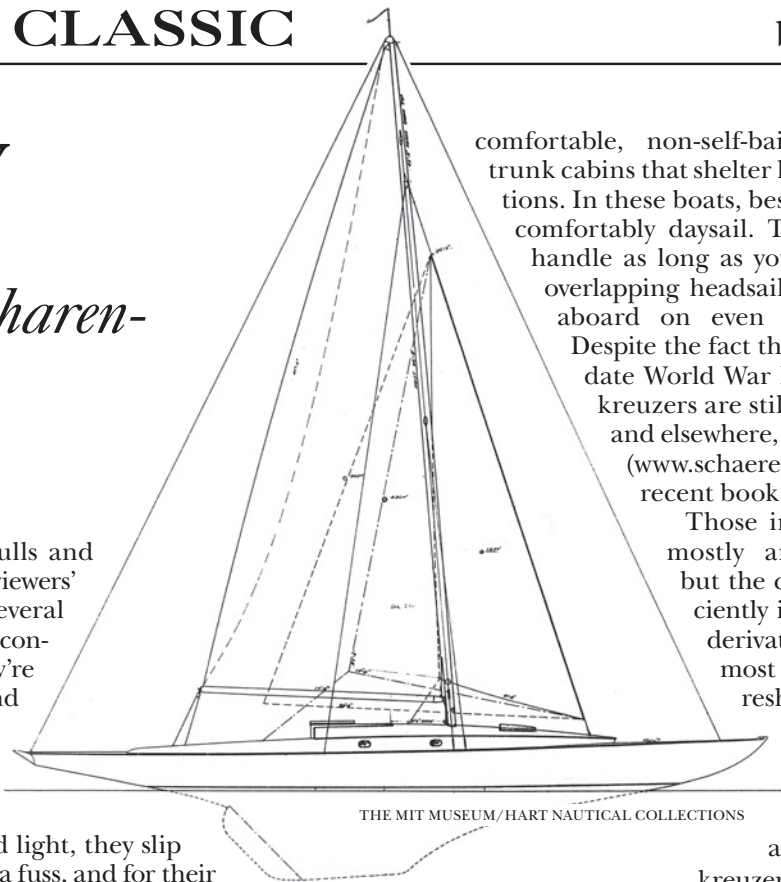




BETSY

A slippery scharenkreuzer

Their splinter-like hulls and tiny sloop rigs turn viewers' heads even now—several generations after being conceived in Scandinavia. They're called scharenkreuzers and are classified according to their sail area—which ranges from 15 to 150 square meters. Long on the waterline, narrow, and light, they slip through the water without a fuss, and for their sail area they are very, very fast. They all have



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comfortable, non-self-bailing cockpits and trunk cabins that shelter limited accommodations. In these boats, besides racing, you can comfortably daysail. They're very easy to handle as long as you don't fly a grossly overlapping headsail, and you can sleep aboard on even the smallest ones. Despite the fact that most of them pre-date World War II, fleets of scharenkreuzers are still active in the Baltic and elsewhere, and there's a website (www.schaerenkreuzer.info) and a recent book about them.

Those in the United States mostly arrived as imports, but the concept proved sufficiently intriguing that a few derivatives were built here, most notably by the Herreshoff Mfg. Co., which turned out the Fishers Island 23s and the Northeast Harbor 30s as modified scharenkreuzers during the 1930s.


Particulars

| | |
|--|------------|
| LOA | 47' |
| LWL | 30' |
| Beam | 7'10" |
| Draft | 5'6" |
| Sail area | 430 sq ft |
| Displacement | 12,000 lbs |
| Designed and built by Herreshoff Mfg. Co., Bristol, Rhode Island, 1933 | |



JANE KURKO

BETSY: A 40-Square-Meter

This boat would require a total rebuild since her hull, which is partly sheathed in fiberglass, has lost its shape and much of its detail. Her internal structure has gone bad, too. But complete builders' plans are available and most of her hardware remains, as does her cast-lead ballast keel. She's large enough to offer standing headroom and pretty good cruising accommodations. You can find more about this sleek craft on Artisan Boatworks' website (www.artisanboatworks.com), and more still if you call or visit. 

Maynard Bray is WoodenBoat's technical editor.