

*ARGYLL DESIGN 628 AND HER RACING HISTORY*¹

BY

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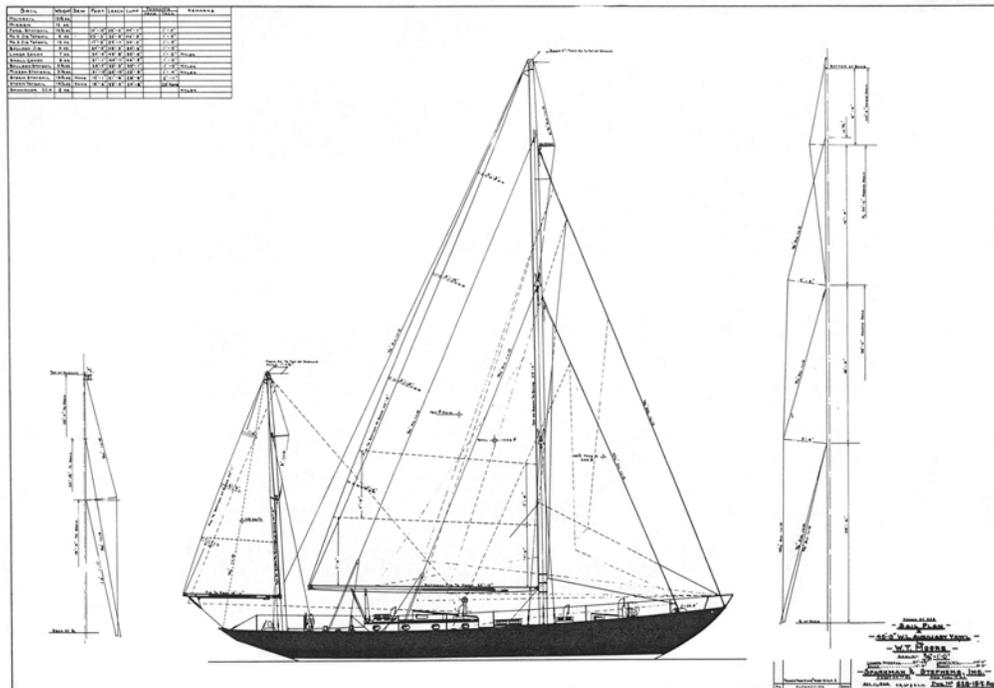


Photo courtesy of Peter Koenig

There are certain boats which exemplify their creator's design theories. *Argyll* is one of these. Together with *Dorade*, *Stormy Weather*, *Gesture*, *Blitzen*, *Bolero* and the smaller *Egret*, she has always been one of my all time favourites. *Dorade* gave birth to *Stormy Weather* but the creation of the NY32 class, featured in last year's Association Yearbook, led to the development of a series of larger vessels between 1936 and 1949 which refined the lines, and above all the strength of the sweep of the sheer, into what I consider to be the sweetest and finest yachts to come from Olin's board. This period also saw the launching of *Tomahawk*, another ravishing, fast 48' yawl currently rebuilding in Cornwall, and of the smaller class boats of intense beauty such as the *Voyagers* and the dainty 40' *Brazil/Mackinac* Class, in many ways the highly successful *S&S* riposte to Philip Rhodes race winning R27s. Of course *Argyll* is vastly larger and heavier than the NY 32s, yet she bears remarkable similarities as can be seen in the accompanying superimposed drawings, her size allowing for a finer bow, with just a hint of a knuckle or fullness in the profile, midway between the waterline and the mast step which was later to characterise the heavy displacement cruiser-racers of the 1950s such as *Baccarat* and her ilk. At the same time just aft of the mast step there is the beginnings of a concavity which was to become ever more marked as the years passed in order to fine down displacement. *Argyll's* keel and deadwood are longer and flatter than the NY32 and she still carries her rudder far aft allowing for good downwind control. Rigged as a yawl, her mizzen mounted just abaft of the rudder

¹ As always I must record my profound gratitude to Josephine Ilagan for scans and *Argyll's* racing record reproduced below and to Mitch Gibbons Neff and all at S&S Inc. for allowing me to reproduce them.

stock is dwarfed by the main and has a very short boom. For a yacht of her dimensions her accommodations are comfortable yet simple – indeed they resemble those of the NY32 on a larger scale except that the main companionway is centered.

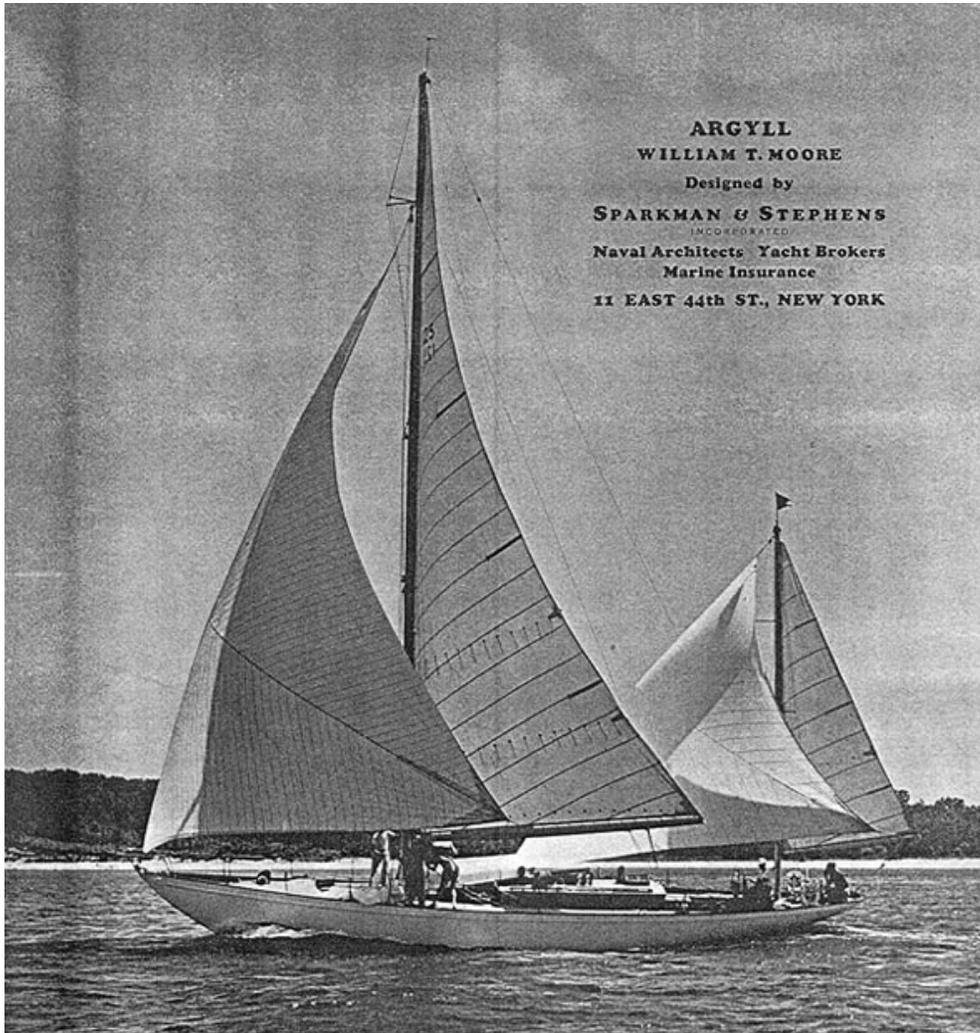


Argyll's sail plan.

Built by Simms bros., truly excellent builders who also executed the delectable 47' *S&S* design *Magic Venture*, she carried a not excessive 1456 sq.ft. of measured sail area and was, according to Olin, a development of the previous year's Bermuda Race winner, *Gesture*, though a little beamier while finer beneath the water. This was carried out with a view to light air performance. Her construction was double planked mahogany on finest white oak, monel fastened, her decks and soles teak of course, and her brightwork mahogany. The sail plan is classic *S&S* CCA with a healthy main and a low aspect of approx. 2.25 hoist : boom length. The inner forestay was removable to allow the carrying of large overlap genoas. It was anticipated that the rig was stiff enough to preclude the use of the double runner set up in light to medium air.



Restored and gleaming in 2005



Argyll in her first year.

In the 1950 Bermuda Race the competition was hot! Never mind the other designer's creations – this was another of those *S&S* years! Competing were *Argyll*, *Blitzen*, *Avanti*, *Gesture*, *Bolero*, *Loki*, *Egret*, *Mustang*. After all during these years every year was an *S&S* bloodbath.....*Edlu* won in 1934, *Baruna* in 1938, *Gesture* in 1946, *Baruna* in 1948 and now *Argyll* won outright and Class A in 1950. What a triumph and what a spectacle it must have been to behold! No wonder Uffa Fox waxed lyrical as each *S&S* came down the ways. *Argyll* continued her initial success and continued racing all over the world from the North Sea to Rio di Janiero and of course in the Mediterranean.¹ William T. Moore must have loved his boat, and who can blame him, for he hung on to her for 25 years until he died. She was next acquired by a Bostonian and refitted at Hodgson's in East Boothbay. In the late 1970s she was acquired by Stan Parks who apparently gutted and refastened her in Florida in 1976-7, changing the interior for cruising and charter. She was again up for sale in the mid '80s listed for an asking price of \$175,000 which just goes to show what has happened since to the value of money. At this time she carried Imron coated aluminium spars and stainless standing rigging while the accommodation was reputed to sleep ten as against the original design for eight. The galley which had originally been aft of the foc'sle was by now amidships aft of the companionway as at present. Her power plant was, by current standards, a mere auxiliary – a 50hp Westerbeke fitted in 1982.



Argyll after her recent restoration. (Photo courtesy of Peter Koenig).

By 1991 *Argyll* was once again on the market in Maine at \$275,000. Yet a further rebuild had taken place in 1988-9 with new planking and some frames, some new fastenings, a stainless mast step and ring beam said to have been installed for racing. Her transmission had also been replaced. It is therefore with satisfaction that we can read of the thorough going restoration carried out under Ed Burnett's watchful eye – a rebuild certainly more far reaching than anything aforementioned – and in consequence we can now look forward to seeing *Argyll's* incredibly elegant profile racing and cruising for many years to come. Sadly owing to a change of plans she is once more up for sale and one can also only hope that someone with a deep pocket will come forward to restore her close cousin, *Gesture*, currently lying in California.

RACE RECORD:

1948 Bermuda Race, last in class A of 15 yachts.

1948 Informal Invitation Race-from Glen Cove to Port Jefferson & return, 6th in a fleet of 18.

1948 NYYC Annual Cruise-Run from New London to Block Island, won in sloops/yawls 40-Ft. rating & over beating 7 yachts. Run from Newport to Mattapoisett, 5th in a fleet of 9. Buzzard's Bay Race, 3rd in a fleet of 15. Run from Mattapoisett to Edgartown, 6th in a fleet of 9. Run from Edgartown to Newport, 6th in a fleet of 9.

1948 Astor Cup, 4th in a fleet of 7.

1949 Newport-Annapolis Race, 2nd place in class A of 12 yachts.

1950 Bermuda Race, overall winner in 59 starters.

1950 Informal Invitation Race-from Mattinicock to Port Jefferson & return, finished 8th in class A of 12 yachts.

1950 NYYC Annual Cruise-Run from New London to Block Island, 7th in 16 sloops/yawls 40-Ft. rating & over. Run from Block Island to Newport, 4th in a fleet of 16. Run from Newport to Mattapoisett, 15th in a fleet of 18. Run from Mattapoisett to Edgartown, won in the sloops/yawls over 40-Ft. rating.

1950 King's Cup, 12th in a fleet of 14.

1950 NYYC Annual Regatta, 9th in 20 sloops/yawls over 40-Ft. rating.
1951 Newport-Annapolis Race, 8th in 17 class A yachts.
1951 Informal Invitation Race-from Mattinicock to Port Jefferson & return, 3rd in 14 class A.
1951 NYYC Annual Cruise-Run from Fisher's Island to Block Island, 2nd in 14 sloops/yawls 40-rating & over. Run from Block Island to Newport, 5th in a fleet of 14. Run from Newport to Padanaram, 3rd in a fleet of 15. Run from Cape Cod Canal to Provincetown, 6th in a fleet of 15. Run from Provincetown to Marblehead, 5th in a fleet of 16.
1952 Bermuda Race, 13th in class B of 21 yachts.
1952 Informal Invitation Race-from Mattinicock to Port Jefferson & return, did not finish the race.
1952 NYYC Annual Cruise-Run from New London to Block Island, 10th in 11 sloops/yawls 40-Ft. rating & over.
1953 Newport-Annapolis Race, won in class B beating 9 yachts.
1953 Informal Invitation Race-from Mattinicock to Jefferson & return, 4th in 14 class A.
1953 Una Cup, 4th in a fleet of 36.
1953 NYYC Annual Cruise-Run from Newport to Padanaram, won in class A beating 13 yachts. Run from Padanaram to Marion, last in 10 class A. Run from Cape Cod Canal to Boothbay Harbor, 9th in 12 class A. Run from Boothbay Harbor to Tenants Harbor, 8th in 12 class A.
1954 Bermuda Race, 6th in class B of 19 yachts.
1954 NYYC Annual Regatta, 9th in 16 class A yachts.
1954 Queen's Cup, 4th in a fleet of 16.
1954 NYYC Annual Cruise-Run from Newport to Vineyard Haven, 2nd in 18 class A yachts. Run from Vineyard Haven to Nantucket, 3rd in 19 class A yachts. Run from Nantucket to Edgartown, 8th in 19 class A yachts.
1955 NYYC Spring Regatta, 3rd place in 13 class A yachts.
1956 Bermuda Race, 3rd in class B of 21 yachts.
1956 NYYC Spring Regatta, won in class A beating 18 yachts.
1956 NYYC Annual Cruise-Run from Newport to Padanaram, 5th in 15 class A yachts. Run from Padanaram to Marion, 4th in 13 class A yachts.
1957 NYYC Annual Regatta, 3rd in class A of 10 yachts.
1958 Bermuda Race, 3rd prize in class A.
1959 NYYC Annual Regatta, 8th in 9 class I yachts.
1959 NYYC Annual Cruise-Run from New London to Newport, 3rd in 12 class I yachts. Run from Newport to Mattapoisett, 2nd in 12 class I. Run from Cape Cod Canal to Marblehead, 5th in 10 class I. Run from Marblehead to Provincetown, 7th in 11 class I.
1959 Una Cup, 8th in a fleet of 25.
1959 Astor Cup, 8th in 11 class I yachts.
1960 Bermuda Race, 4th in class B of 28 yachts and 40th in the overall fleet of 129.
1960 NYYC Annual Regatta, 17th in class I of 22 yachts.
1961 NYYC Annual Regatta, 10th in class I of 13 yachts.
1962 Bermuda Race, 17th in class A of 17 yachts.
1962 NYYC Annual Regatta, did not finish the race.
1962 NYYC Annual Cruise-Run from New London to Block Island, 9th in class I of 13 yachts. Run from Block Island to Newport, 12th in 14 class I. Run from Mattapoisett to Hadley Harbor, 10th in 16 class I. Run from Hadley Harbor to Marion, 8th in 16 class I. Run from Marion to Padanaram, 9th in 18 class I.
1963 NYYC Annual Regatta, winner in class I beating 7 yachts.
1963 NYYC Annual Cruise-Run from Newport to Padanaram, 3rd in class I of 12 yachts. Run from Padanaram to Edgartown, 4th in 11 class I. Run from Woods Hole to Marion, 5th in 11 class I yachts.
1963 Astor Cup, 3rd in class II of 7 yachts.
1964 Bermuda Race, 12th in class A of 26 yachts.
1964 NYYC Annual Regatta, last in class I of 9 yachts.
1964 NYYC Annual Cruise-Run from New London to Block Island, did not finish the race. Run from Newport to Padanaram, 7th in 16 class I.
1965 NYYC Annual Regatta, 6th in 10 class I yachts.
1966 Bermuda Race, 19th in class B of 24 yachts.
1967 Annapolis-Newport Race, 8th in the overall fleet and 5th in class I of 16 yachts.
1967 NYYC Annual Regatta, 7th in 11 class I yachts.
1968 Bermuda Race, 16th in class B of 21 yachts and 63rd in the overall fleet of 151.
1970 Bermuda Race, 15th in class B of 17 yachts and 66th in the overall fleet of 149.
1972 Bermuda Race, 17th in class B of 23 yachts and 123rd in the overall fleet of 178.