

JOHN NEAL'S BOAT TO CONSIDER FOR OFFSHORE CRUISING

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Through Mahina Offshore Cruising Seminars and my Boat Selection Consultations I have helped thousands of sailors locate the best ocean cruising boat for their planned voyages and budget. If you need knowledgeable, experienced (377,000 ocean miles, 44 years) and unbiased advice from someone who has no financial interest in the boat you select, I can help. Details on www.mahina.com/consult or contact me at Mahina Offshore Services, sailing@mahina.com, phone 360.378.6131.

Able 32, 42, 48	*	USA	Superb quality, expensive. Chuck Paine designs.
Alajuela 33, 38	*	USA	33 is a good design, 38 has a long bowsprit and boomkin.
Alberg 30,35, 37	*	USA	Proven, old, narrow, short waterlines, limited interior volume.
Alden 38, 43, 44, 46, 48, 54, 58	*	USA	Classy, well built, beautiful & hold their value well.
Allied 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 39, 42	*	USA	Good value. Functional, practical but getting older now.
Alubat (Ovni, Cigale) 36-58		FRA	Builders of innovative lifting-keel aluminum cruising boats
Allures 40, 45, 51		FRA	Fascinating top quality, innovative, aluminum hulls, fiberglass decks and house, lifting keel yachts. Superb.
Amel 36-64		FRA	Strong, well designed passage makers, great value, low maintenance. Only modest tankage and AC generator-dependent. Occ. serious blister problems on older models.
Amazon 29, 37, 44	*	CAN	Steel boats, attractive modern designs, some corrosion issues.
Amphitrite 43	*	FRA	Wauquiez built, strong & roomy with good storage. Odd deck design, but solid boat and good value. Avoid examples with teak decks.
Bayfield 29, 30-32, 40	*	CAN	Good value. A bit "plastic" interiors, only moderate quality.
Bianca 36-52	*	DEN	Quality Danish yard, now a winter refit and storage facility.
Bluewater 60	*	USA	Modern, top quality Chuck Paine design, only a few built.
Boreal 44, 47, 50, 53, 63		FRA	Exc., highly innovative design suitable for high latitude cruising
Bowman 36-58	*	GBR	Strong boats, good passage makers, but shortish waterlines.
Brewer 42, 44	*	CAN	Improved version of Whitby 42.
Bristol 27-45	*	USA	Good boats. Later models were better quality.
Bristol Channel Cutter 28		USA	Well built, but cockpit and cabin not very comfortable.
Bruckmann 42, 48, 50, 65	*	CAN	Solid, roomy Mark Ellis designs, perfect for inclement weather
Cabot 36	*	CAN	Ted Brewer design. Very limited production.
Caliber 28, 33, 35, 38, 40.	*	USA	Fairly well-built. Michael McCreary designs. LRC models have substantial tankage. The 47 is not an attractive boat.
Cambria 40, 44, 46	*	USA	Fast, well-built, gorgeous and have held their value well.
Camper Nicholson 31, 32, 35, 38, 39, 40, 43, 47, 56, 58, 70	*	GBR	Famous yard, long out of business now. Very seaworthy but watch for very serious blister problems on all models.
Cabo Rico 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 45, 47	*	CRI	Crealock and Paine designs. Expensive, semi-custom. Some problems with water absorption into balsa-cored decks.
Cape Dory - all models	*	USA	Classic design, quality, but narrow and small w/short WL.
Cape George Cutters 31, 36, 38		USA	Many owner-completed, quality varies. Strong and fast.
Cascade 36, 42		USA	1965-67 design. Fairly narrow, many owner completed.
Cavalier 32, 39	*	NZL	Limited production, fairly high-quality vessels, but dated design.
Centurion 36, 38, 40/41, 42/45 47/49	*	FRA	Fast, attractive solid boats with very modest tankage and somewhat limited storage. Avoid any with teak decks!
Cherubini 44, 48, 62	*	USA	Semi-custom, absolutely gorgeous, great sailing & expensive. Limited interior space compared to modern designs.
Contessa 26 & 32	*	CAN, GBR	Tania Aebi & B.J. Caldwell circumnavigated in 26's, but these are TINY boats. The 32 is small, but truly a classic.
Contest 31, 35, 36, 38, 40, 41, 42, 44, 46, 48, 55, 60		HOL	Well built, newer models are very attractive and expensive. Wide wing keels on some models. Yard available for refits.
Corbin 39	*	CAN	Roomy and strong but watch for blisters if taken to warm water.
Crealock 31, PH 32, 34, 37, 40, 44 by Pacific Seacraft		USA	Good value and well built. Graceful overhangs, canoe sterns, short waterlines mean these boats can hobbyhorse upwind.

CS 33, 36	*	CAN	Modern, fairly well built. Occasional blister problems.
CSY 37, 44	*	USA	Sturdy, roomy & reasonably priced but very old now.
Dana 24 by Pacific Seacraft	*	USA	An attractive solid, expensive and slooow pocket ocean cruiser.
Deerfoot Yachts	*	Var	Fast & innovative, aluminum & fiberglass hulls.
Dickerson 36, 37, 40, 41, 50	*	USA	Nicely proportioned & well-built but old. Earlier 36's are very reasonably priced but lack interior space and are truly ancient.
Discovery 42, 48, 54, 55, 58, 68		GBR	High quality yard, now also building Southerly Yachts
Dufour 31, 35 - 45	*	FRA	1964-84 models had solid hulls, but balsa cored-decks.
Endurance 35, 38, 40	*	Var	Peter Ibold design, some owner completed. Built by various yards in ENG, SA, USA & Canada.
Esprit 37 or Valiant 37, 39	*	USA	Comfortable, well proven, good value but some have blisters.
Exploration 45, 52 (Garcia)		FRA	Innovative, impressive go-anywhere with protected steering position and lifting keel.
F & C 44	*	ARG	Semi-modern Frers designed cruising ketch.
Fantasi 37, 50	*	SWE	High quality attractive pilothouse boats built on Orust Is.
Farr Pilot House 50, 56, 60, 63	*	SWE	Powerful, fast, good quality. Hold value very well.
Fast Passage 39	*	USA	Some built in Canada, some by Tollycraft. WA. Good boats.
Fisher 30-46		GBR	Sturdy and slow motorsailers. OK for high latitude cruising.
Fraser 41, 46, 50	*	CAN	Good, sturdy, fairly modern cruisers.
Freya 39	*	USA	Good value. Many owner-completed, so quality varies greatly.
Garcia 46-115		FRA	Gorgeous, fast, semi-custom, highest quality aluminum constr.
Gladiateur 33	*	FRA	Very sturdy, short on tankage, Wauquiez built.
Goderich 35, 37,41	*	CAN	Attractive Brewer steel boats. Short production run, rare.
Gozzard 31, 36, 44		CAN	Good design & construction. Totally committed quality company.
Hallberg-Rassy, 31 - 64		SWE	Well built, comfortable, good tankage and systems integration. Newer Frers designs faster than earlier Enderlien models. Watch for teak deck issues on older models.
Halmatic 30	*	ENG	Similar to Nicholson 31. Watch for blisters.
Hinkley 30-64	*	USA	Attractive, highest quality, and expensive. Hold their value well. Modest tankage & storage, shortish waterlines.
Hood 38	*	FRA	Wauquiez built, Hood design, strong, fast, & attractive but short on tankage. Solid choice which really holds its value.
Hylas 46,49, 54, 54 raised Saloon, 56, 70		TAI	Frers & S & S designs. Good performance, tankage & storage. Substantially better quality & fewer problems on newer models.
Island Packet 32, 35, 350, 37,38, 380, 40, 420, 44, 45		USA	Good value, exc. company. Roomy & comfortable with good tankage & storage but some unusual features.
Jason 35 from Miller Marine	*	USA	Many owner-completed. Several have cruised extensively.
Jongert 50, 55, 60, 67, 73		HOL	Quality, heavy, expensive, well-built steel and aluminum yachts.
Justine 36	*	USA	Gorgeous Paine design, Morris built cruiser. Rare.
Kaiser Gale Force 34	*	USA	Well designed and built, good sailing qualities.
Kaiulani 34, 38	*	USA	Lovely steel Brewer & Yohe designs. Very limited production.
Kanter 42, 45, 60, 65		CAN	Steel & alu boats, semi-custom. Later alum. models much better than early steel ones. Chuck Paine & Ted Brewer designs.
LM 30, 315, 32, 380		DEN	Some have inside steering. Well-built and impressive.
Little Harbor 42 - 90	*	TAI & USA	Hood designed heavy disp., semi-custom, very high maint. Expensive and solid as a rock, but strange pinched sterns.
Malo 36, 38, 39, 45	*	SWE	Attr. high quality offshore boats with good sailing performance. Issues of skeg failure reported on 45.
Mariah 31	*	USA	At least one circumnavigation. Pacific Seacraft-built. Slowish.
Mason 33, 43, 44, 53, 54, 63	*	TAI	Handsome Ta-Shing boats, short waterlines and high maint.
Moody 38, 42, 47, 54, 64	*	GBR	Good designs of modest quality. Compare to Catalina.
Morgan 382, 383, 384	*	USA	Ted Brewer design for \$45-55K. Solid performance and value.
Morris 26, 28, 30, 32, 34,36, 42, 44, 45, 454, 46, 48.6, 52		USA	Chuck Paine designs, superb quality, highest quality US yard building cruising boats. Semi-custom and expensive.
Mystic 57, 60	*	GBR	Dubois design, Bowman built, beautiful. Only a few built.
Mystery 35, 43		GBR	Top quality, fast and attractive. Good choice!

Najad 330, 361, 370, 390, 420, 490, 520		SWE	Quality, attractive boats. Excellent sailing performance. Good tankage, storage and high level of craftsmanship.
Nauti-Cat Motorsailers 35,40,42, 43, 53	*	FIN	Later S & S designed models are much better performers than earlier tubby models. Newer boats are very high quality.
Niagara 31, 35, 42	*	CAN	Well-built & roomy. Good value. Watch for soggy deck cores.
Nordborg 30-40	*	DAN	High quality but classic, narrow Elvstrom and S&S designs.
Nordic 34,37,40,44,45	*	USA	Attractive boats, some solvable problems with mast step deflection and leaky hull to deck joint on the 40 & 44.
Norseman 400,447	*	TAI	Have held their value well but require a lot of maintenance. Rusty fuel tanks present an expensive repair issue.
Nordship 35, 360, 380, 430	*	DEN	High quality Danish yard. Gorgeous deck saloons models.
North Wind 43,50, 58		SPA	S&S designs, fairly good construction quality. Rare in NA.
Ocean 60, 71	*	GBR	Powerful boats, many have had blister problems. Very old now.
Ocean Cruising 42	*	USA	Only a few built by Hank Hinkley. Classy, top quality.
Outbound 44, 46 52		CHI	Attractive, fast, well-built boats with excellent customer service.
Ovni 35, 395, 445, 495, 58	*	FRA	Sturdy, low maintenance excellent aluminum, lifting keels
Oyster 42, 45, 485,49,53, 55, 56 61, 62, 63, 66, 70, 82, 100		GBR NZL	Attractive, expensive and first class. Weak resale value on larger models make this an excellent, though expensive choice.
Pacific Seacraft 34, 37, 40, 44		USA	Well built boats, good resale. Graceful overhangs, short W/L.
Pearson 35, 365, 385, 422, 424, 520	*	USA	Moderate construction quality, but quite a good value. The 385 has amazing use of space and 424 cutter is tough to beat value.
Passport 40, 41, 415, 435, 44, 456, 470, 50		TAI CHI	Modern Perry cruising design. Good storage/tankage, soggy wooden deck cores common on older models.
Pretorien 35	*	FRA	Strong, fast & attractive, built by Wauquiez. Great value. Modest tankage, some have saildrives, a negative. Later models better.
Regina of Vindo, 38, 43, 49		SWE	Gorgeous, exquisitely built, highest quality deck saloon. In a class of their own for quality and design.
Rival 36-41, Rival Bowman 42	*	ENG	Strong, good-looking and sailing boats. RB 42 very impressive.
Rustler 36, 37, 42		ENG	Totally impressive, high quality boats and excellent company.
Sabre 34, 362,38, 402, 42, 402, 425, 452	*	USA	Built in Maine, modest quality, limited tankage and storage, but very pretty. Doctor's boats for New England.
Sadler 34	*	GBR	Unsinkable, fast, great performance. Good choice.
Santa Cruz 52, 53	*	USA	Strong, fast is fun, but pounds upwind! Now built in FL
Saturna 33	*	CAN	Attractive and roomy Bill Garden-designed pilothouse cutter.
Scanmar 33, 345, 35 & 40	*	SWE	Limited production but good design & quality construction.
Sceptre 41, 43	*	CAN	Modern quality pilothouse with good sailing performance.
Seawind 30, Seawind II 32	*	USA	Solid old boats, good value, built by Allied Yachts, NY.
Seguin 44, 51 by Lyman-Morse		USA	S & S & Hood design, highest quality, fast. Semi-custom.
Shannon 32, 36, 39, 43, 47, 53.		USA	Good reliable boats. Hold their value well. A few issues...
Sirius 310DS, 350DS, 40DS		GER	Most innovative, well-built and practical DS boats. Brilliant!
Skye 51	*	TAI	Similar looking to Swans. Soggy deck problems common.
Southerly 330-590		ENG	Quality built, very attractive and innovative swing-keel yachts.
Southern Cross 28, 31, 35, 39	*	USA	Good boats. Fairly well built. Only modest deck storage.
Spencer 35, 42, 44, 54	*	CAN	Ancient, solid boats, built in Vancouver, B.C. Quite dated now.
Stellar 52	*	TAI	Quality S&S design, well built, great detail work.
Sunbeam 32, 34, 37, 38, 40	*	AUT	Not bad! Built in Austria.
Sundeer 56, 64	*	USA	Innovative design & excellent offwind performance. Good systems layout. Some need extensive refits. Built by TPI.
Swan		FIN	Newest models poorly suited for ocean cruising with open cockpits and limited tankage & storage. Teak deck issues.
Shearwater 39, 45	*	RSA	Strong, traditional appearance, fairly good performance.
Sweden Yachts	*	SWE	Quality racer-cruiser designs, short on tankage and storage.
Tartan 34, 3500, 37, 3700, 41, 4100, 4600	*	USA	Well proven, several 37's have circumnavigated. Some designs have centerboards. Modest aluminum tankage.
Taswell 43, 49, 56, 58, 60, 72		TAI	Ta Shing quality, attractive, good sailing performance. Limited tankage on some models.
Tashiba 31, 36, 40	*	TAI	High maintenance Perry designs built by Ta Shing.
Topper Hermanson 40+	*	USA	Semi custom steel or aluminum Van de Stadt designs.

Trintella 35-47	*	HOL	Roomy and well built. Newer designs are aluminum and exp.
Triton 29 by Pearson	*	USA	Good value, sturdy. Earliest fiberglass production boat. Ancient!
Twister 28	*	UK	Long production run. Sturdy but narrow, built by Tyler Yachts.
Valiant 32, 37, 39, 40, 42, 47, 50	*	USA	Few problems with the excellent Texas built boats. Proven designs. Dbl ender = limited cockpit stowage, no swim step.
Vancouver 27	*	CAN	Also built in Taiwan & England. Solid pocket circumnavigator
Vancouver 28, 34, 36, 38		GBR	High quality semi-traditional yachts built by Northshore Marine
Vangard 32	*	USA	Good value but ancient Phil Rhodes design, built by Pearson
Vega 27, by Albin Marine	*	SWE	At least six have circumnavigated. Inexpensive, light and fast.
Victoria 30, 34	*	GBR	Chuck Paine design, Morris built.
Vilm 116, 117	*	GER	High quality motorsailers, solid and good for higher latitudes
Vindo 29, 34, 38, 39	*	SWE	Attractive, well built, but very high maintenance.
Vineyard Vixen 30, 34	*	USA	Attractive design, quality boats but rare.
Westerly 26 – 43	*	GBR	Not flashy, but moderately well-built boats. Similar to Moody.
Westsail 28, 32, 39, 42, 43	*	USA	Sturdy boats but watch for leaky aluminum tanks.
Whitby 42, 44	*	CAN	Brewer designs, good value, roomy and fairly well built but slow.
Yamaha 33, 35CS, 37	*	JAP	Solid, no-nonsense sturdy, low maintenance.
Yankee 30, 38	*	USA	S & S designed. Inexpensive and very capable. Great value.

Catamarans

Antares 44		ARG	Most impressive construction details and quality. No saildrives!!!
Atlantic 42, 48, 55		CHIL	Chris White forward cockpit design, quality construction.
Catana 401, 431, 471, 521		FRA	Good design, but customer service seriously lacks at delivery, complicated systems and expensive to maintain.
Dean 400, 441		RSA	Modern, solid, and fast.
Dolphin 46		BRA	Daggerboards, nice performance and comfort balance
Explocat 52 by Garcia		FRA	Highest quality aluminum high-latitude expedition cat. Amazing!
Fontaine Pajot 38, 43, 44, Casamance 45, 46, 56, 60, 75		FRA	Attractive designs, ok quality, similar in quality to Lagoon, below Leopard. Some rigging failure dismasting issues.
Gunboat 48-90	*	VAR	Expensive, innovative rocketships now built in France
Kronos 45		FRA	Wauquiez-Beneteau built.
Knysna 440, 480		RSA	Sturdy but a little odd; poor engine access. Foam-core, no balsa
Lagoon 38, 41, 47, 57, 67		FRA	Beneteau built, great charter boat, not as well built and don't age as well as Leopards.
Leopard 38,42,44, 46,47, 62		RSA	Good designs, well built, easily maintained. Moderate bridge deck clearance. Leopard 44, & 48 breakthrough design with forward cockpit. Look for non-charter, owner 3 cab. version
Manta 38, 40, 42	*	USA	Well designed and built. Great cruising boat. Slightly heavy.
Outremer 40-64		FRA	Fast and strong, lightweight construction, no balsa coring! Expensive and fairly high experience level required.
PDQ 32, 36, 42, 44	*	CAN	Long successful production run. Now called Antares 44.
Privilege 40-62		FRA	Very good build quality, elegant finish, good Lombard design
Prout 37, 38, 45, 50	*	ENG	Reasonably priced, well proven, long production run.
Seawind 33, 39, 41, 52		AUS	Moderate quality, originally built in Australia, now in Viet Nam
St. Francis 50		RSA	Vacuum-bagged foam sandwich quality construction
Soubise 46		FRA	Excellent, super-fast and high quality, semi-custom.
Voyage 380, 440, 500, 580		RSA	Lightweight, low freeboard & bridge deck clearance, good value

ARG Argentina
AUS Australia
CAN Canada
CHI China
CRI Costa Rica
DEN Denmark

GBR Great Britain
FIN Finland
FRA France
GER Germany
HOL Holland
NZL New Zealand

RSA South Africa
SCT Scotland
SWE Sweden
*out of business