JOHN NEAL'S BOAT TO CONSIDER FOR OFFSHORE CRUISING

Updated April 2021

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.

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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 "plasticy" 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, 480, 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	
Caliber 20, 33, 33, 30, 40.		UUA	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,	*	GBR	Famous yard, long out of business now. Very seaworthy but watch	
38, 39, 40, 43, 47, 56, 58, 70		ODIX	for very serious blister problems on all models.	
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Cabo Rico 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 45,	*	CRI	Crealock and Paine designs. Expensive, semi-custom. Some	
47	ļ.,		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	*	FRA	Fast, attractive solid boats with very modest tankage and somewhat	
47/49			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,	Tania Aebi & B.J. Caldwell circumnavigated in 26's, but these are	
		GBR	TINY boats. The 32 is small, but truly a classic.	
Contest 31, 35, 36, 38, 40, 41,		HOL	Well built, newer models are very attractive and expensive. Wide	
42, 44, 46, 48, 55, 60			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,		USA	Good value and well built. Graceful overhangs, canoe sterns, short	
44 by Pacific Seacraft			waterlines mean these boats can hobbyhorse upwind.	
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CS 33, 36 CSN 37, 44 CSN 37, 40, 41, 50 CSR 18, 51, 52, 58, 68 CSR 1964-34 models had solid hulls, but balsa cored-decks. Endurance 35, 38, 40 Var Peter liboid design, some owner completed, bull they various yards in ENG, SA, USA & Canada. Esprit 37 or Valiant 37, 39 CSN 38, 40 CSN 48, 54, 55, 58, 68 CSN 48, 54, 54, 55, 58, 68 CSN 58, 58					
Dana 24 by Pacific Seacraft Var Fat & Innovative, aluminum & fiberglass halls Deerfool Yachis Var Fat & Innovative, aluminum & fiberglass halls Difour Say 7, 40, 41, 50 USA Discovery 42, 48, 54, 55, 58, 68 GBR High quality yard, now also building Southerly Yachis Endurance 33, 38, 40 Var Fat High quality yard, now also building Southerly Yachis Esprit 37 or Vallant 37, 39 USA Comfortable, well proven, good value but sown have blisters. Exploration 45, 52 (Garcia) FRA Innovative, impressive go-anywhere with protected steering position and lifting keel. Fac C44 ARG Semi-modern Frers designed cruising ketch. Farst Passage 39 VSA Fast Passage 39 VSA Some built in Canada, some by Tollycraft. WA. Good batas. Fisher 30-46 GBR Sturdy and slow motorsallers. OK for high latitude cruising. Freya 39 VSA Good value, Many owner-completed, so quality varies greatly. Gardiateur 33 FRA Gorgeous, fast, semi-custom, highest quality claminum constr. Gladiateur 39 FRA Gorgeous, fast, semi-custom, highest quality unimum constr. Gladiateur 30 FRA Very sturdy, short on tankage, Waquetze built. Hallberg-Rassy, 31 - 64 FRA Hallberg-Rassy, 31 - 64 Hallmatic 30 ENG FRA Hallmatic 30 ENG FRA Good value, Many owner-completed, so quality varies greatly. Good value, Many owner-completed, so quality varies greatly. Good value, Many owner-completed, so quality varies greatly. Good value, Many owner-completed, so quality varies greatly. Good value, Many owner-completed, so quality varies greatly. Good value, Many owner-completed, so quality varies greatly. Gladiateur 39 FRA Gorgeous, fast, semi-custom, highest quality aluminum constr. Gladiateur 30 FRA Good value, Many owner-completed, so quality varies greatly. Gladiateur 30 FRA Good value, Many owner-completed, so quality varies greatly. Gladiateur 30 FRA Good v	CS 33, 36	*	CAN	Modern, fairly well built. Occasional blister problems.	
Deerfoot Yachts	CSY 37, 44	*	USA	Sturdy, roomy & reasonably priced but very old now.	
Discovery 42, 48, 54, 55, 58, 68 GBR High quality yard, now also building Southerly Yachts 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 Exploration 45, 52 (Garcia) FRA 1964-84 models had solid hulls, but balsa cored-decks. Peter ibold design, some owner completed. Built by various yards in Exploration 45, 52 (Garcia) FRA 1964-84 models had solid hulls, but balsa cored-decks. Peter ibold design, some owner completed. Built by various yards in Exploration 45, 52 (Garcia) FRA 1964-84 models had solid hulls, but balsa cored-decks. Peter ibold design, some owner completed. Built by various yards in Exploration 45, 52 (Garcia) FRA 1964-84 models had been proventive to the peter ibold design, some owner completed. Built by various yards in Exploration 45, 52 (Garcia) FRA 1964-84 models had been proventive to the peter ibold design, some owner completed. Built by various yards in Exploration 45, 52 (Garcia) FRA 1964-94 models had been proventive to the peter ibold design, some owner completed. Built by various yards in Exploration 45, 52 (Garcia) FRA 1964-94 models had been proventive to the prov	Dana 24 by Pacific Seacraft	*	USA	An attractive solid, expensive and slooow pocket ocean cruiser.	
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	Mystic 57, 60	*			
	Mystery 35, 43		GBR		

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Najad 330, 361, 370, 390, 420,		SWE	Quality, attractive boats. Excellent sailing performance. Good
490, 520	*	FINI	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
Nordic 34,37,40,44,43		USA	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
Noiseman 400,447		1/41	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		GBR	Attractive, expensive and first class. Weak resale value on larger
61, 62, 63, 66, 70, 82, 100		NZL	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,	*	USA	Moderate construction quality, but quite a good value. The 385 has
520		USA	amazing use of space and 424 cutter is tough to beat value.
Passport 40, 41, 415, 435, 44,		TAI	Modern Perry cruising design. Good storage/tankage, soggy wooden
456, 470, 50		CHI	deck cores common on older models.
Pretorien 35	*	FRA	Strong, fast & attractive, built by Wauquiez. Great value. Modest
Freionen 33		FIXA	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
Regina of Vilido, 36, 43, 49		SVVE	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,	*	USA	Built in Maine, modest quality, limited tankage and storage, but very
425, 452		USA	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.
,	*	USA	
Southern Cross 28, 31, 35, 39 Spencer 35, 42, 44, 54	*	CAN	Good boats. Fairly well built. Only modest deck storage. Ancient, solid boats, built in Vancouver, B.C. Quite dated now.
Stellar 52	*	TAI	Quality S&S design, well built, great detail work.
	*	AUT	·
Sundaar 56, 64	*		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
Owaii		1 1111	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
1 43WGII 43, 49, 30, 30, 00, 72		171	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.
Topper Hermanson 40*	<u> </u>	USA	Gerni custom steet of 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!	
Fountaine Pajot 38, 43, 44,		FRA	Attractive designs, ok quality, similar in quality to Lagoon, below	
Casamance 45, 46, 56, 60, 75			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	GBR Great Britain
AUS	Australia	FIN Finland
CAN	Canada	FRA France
CHI	China	GER Germany
CRI	Costa Rica	HOL Holland
DEN	Denmark	NZL New Zealand

RSA South Africa SCT Scotland SWE Sweden *out of business