



The Herreshoff Registry
A resource for owners, prospective owners, builders, and aficionados

Buzzards Bay 25

LOA: 32 feet
LWL: 25 feet
Beam: 8 feet, 9 inches
Draft: 3 feet, 1 inch with centerboard up; 6 feet with board down
Sail Area: 539 sq. ft.



L. Francis Herreshoff noted that the Buzzard's Bay 25 was his father's favorite design. Noted more for his engineering than his art, Captain Nat made a fine showing on both fronts with the BB25. Not only is she stunning to look at with the refined sheer and hollow bow, but she embodies every bit of the engineering genius NGH was famous for.

The Buzzards Bay 25 was designed in 1914. In vogue at the time were lightly built boats with long overhangs. Boats were raced hard every season, and they had a tendency to "hog" and leak. Like the famous 12-1/2 footers, the BB25 was designed for the choppy, shallow waters of Buzzards Bay. It had a hollow bow, higher freeboard, and shorter overhangs than many of its predecessors. The hollow bow helps keep the boat dry, and the shorter overhangs provide improved durability.

The BB25 is quite fast, and they have always done well in sailing regattas.

The boat is a "compromise sloop", meaning it has both a ballast keel and centerboard, to accommodate shoal water. It is one of the largest open cockpit boats built by HMCo and has an enormous gaff rig with nearly 550 square feet of sail. Sailing her with this rig is an armful as she has quite a bit of weather helm, and she can be intimidating in a breeze. At one point, BAGATELLE had a yawl rig that reportedly did quite well and balanced the helm.

Herreshoff built 5 of these 25 footers. ARIA (ex-WHITECAP) is on exhibit at the Herreshoff Marine Museum. BAGATELLE was restored in 1998 and sails out of Mystic, CT. VITESSA was restored in 2002 and is in Round Pond, ME. MINK is awaiting restoration. The 5th, TARANTULA, disappeared before 1920 and is presumed lost.

Like many of NGH's designs, the Buzzards Bay 25 is still popular today. The beauty and sailing prowess of this boat have motivated modern builders, and there are recent examples of traditional construction, cold-molding, and fiberglass sailing today.

