

# BIG GUNBOATS READY TO BATTLE

**SIMPSON BAY--Gunboats will once again be at the start line of St. Maarten Heineken Regatta. This year, seven to eight of the Luxury racers will be sailing the waters around The Friendly Island.**

Among the newer boats will be *Arethus*, a Gunboat 60 (footer). Owned by Philip Lotz of the United States and home-ported in Newport, Rhode Island, *Arethus* is only hull number 6 of series and sail number 61006. Bill Haynie is the captain and manager of *Arethus*. The boat was designed by Nigel Irens and built by Hudson Yachts in China. She was launched in August of 2015 and delivered to Newport via a containership.

"Her owners are highly accomplished sailors who have owned many different types of race boats before her, and have won many, many regattas around the world in their various boats," said Haynie. "*Arethus* is the largest yacht they have owned, and the first catamaran. The Gunboat appealed to them as they desired a yacht which they could both cruise on comfortably and race competitively. As you probably know, Gunboats offer a level of performance which is normally only realized on much larger, and much



**Seven to eight multihulls are expected to be on the start line in the Gunboat Class as the 37th St. Maarten Heineken Regatta sets sail.**

more 'racing-dedicated' monohulls."

Gunboat began in 2002 with a vision to build comfortable, family-friendly cruising catamarans that utilized the latest in race boat technology.

"*Arethus* employs a captain/manager and a first mate/engineer full time, and contracts other professional crew for offshore passage and regattas. Typically, we race with eight-nine crew," says Haynie who cannot wait to get back to St. Maarten. "The entire crew is excited to race in the Heineken Regatta. Between the nine of us, we have may many Heinekens under our belt." After a brief pause and

a smile, he clarifies "Regattas, that is..."

"It is always the highlight of the Caribbean circuit, not least because St. Maarten makes such a perfect venue for both sailing and partying." Since her launch in 2015, *Arethus* has raced in four regattas. "Our most recent event was last month – we raced in the 160-mile Ft Lauderdale – Key West 'Feeder' and took third place," boasted the captain. "Then we competed in Key West Race Week, though we were the only boat in the multihull class."

The action for the Gunboat should be good at the 37th St. Maarten Heineken

Regatta. Already five Multihulls have pre-registered for the Regatta, including *Flow* another Gunboat 60. "The Gunboat class looks to be at least seven boats strong (maybe eight now) which is just fantastic for all involved, including the spectators," says Haynie.

While Gunboats have had their own class in the past, this year it looks like they may get a strong challenge from the new Cats from HH.



***Arethus* is great and means "the waterer". In Greek mythology, she was a nymph chased by the Greek river god Alpheus. She is remembered on Greek coins surrounded by a circle of dolphins. On St. Maarten, her namesake may be just as hard to catch up with the spinnaker.**



**The Gunboat 60 has a beam of 28.21 feet, and drafts between 2.62 feet to 9.2 feet when the boards are lowered. Her mast is 85.40 feet tall and can displace 42,990 pounds when fully load.**



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