

## A Rich History

C. Raymond Hunt, who died in 1978 at the age of 70, was one of the most influential figures in the history of recreational boating. His work lives on today both in the production of Hunt Yachts, as in the new Harrier 29, and in the hulls created by C. Raymond Hunt and Associates, the design firm he started in Boston in 1966. Hunt's fame, continued to this day, was in the design of the deep-V hull, which revolutionized a boat's ability to cut through blue water, even in rough conditions, at speed and with maximum maneuverability.

A quiet, modest man, Hunt grew up sailing in Duxbury Harbor, Massachusetts. He won his first national championship when he was 15, his last when he was 55. He raced JBoats and 12-meters and everything in between. He also designed the Concordia yawl in 1939, one of the most beautiful boats ever to hit the water.



Equally at home with powerboats, Hunt designed the Boston Whaler 13 on the back of an envelope in the mid-50s. With its triple-sonson, unsinkable hull, it was a radical departure at the time. Then Dick Bertram, while practicing for the America's Cup, saw Hunt racing through rough water on his first V-hull powerboat. Bertram asked Hunt to design one for him for the 1960 Miami-Nassau race, and Hunt came up with *Brave*

*Moppie*, which not only won the race but also launched Bertram Yachts and the fabled Bertram 31.

The original Hunt Surfhunter, a 25 with a 23-degree deadrise at the stern, came next. In the following years Hunt Associates designed boats from 9 feet to more than 100 feet for a wide range of boat companies — Grand Banks, Grady-White, Hinckley, Four Winns, Wellcraft, Burger, Lee Wilbur and Palmer Johnson, to name a few — all with the same rough-water performance and dry ride of the original Hunt hulls.

Hunt Yachts itself produces boats from 25 to 36 feet. John Deknatel, who runs the design firm and was Hunt's first "associate," credits the company's work on patrol and pilot boats for keeping them up to date on what works and what doesn't, even in horrible sea conditions. Next up: A beautiful Hunt 52 motor-yacht this fall. Stay tuned.



**HUNT'S LEGACY.** C. Raymond Hunt, one of the world's best boat designers (top). The original Brave Moppie (middle), and the stunning Hunt 36 (bottom).