

US 48 Arabella (O. Stephens II, 1930)

Arabella, ex-*Comet* and *Silroc*, was Sparkman & Stephens plan n° 8. She was built by the Nevins yard at City Island.

It was believed that she had disappeared from view. Surprisingly, she has re-appeared in Lisbon, Portugal.

Olin Stephens II's first Six, *Black Rose*, is of 1929. The following year, he designed *Meteor* (which has disappeared), *Cherokee*, *Mist* and *Arabella*. These were followed in 1931 by *Bob Kat II* and *Jill*. Not bad company for a boat hidden away at Belém on the River Tagus!

Her original owners, according to the S&S drawings, were John P. Wilson and a Mr. Johnson. Perhaps C. Ray Hunt of Boston Mass of Concordia fame was a subsequent owner. The 1936 Lloyd's shows her owner as Harry Fletcher. There are quite a few mentions of *Comet* / *Silroc* in the NY Times archives up until 1937. She sailed in the spring races in Bermuda and according to some references, was later modified, which may explain the pronounced knuckle of her keel.





Prior to that, she had sailed in the Mediterranean, but we don't know when she left the US.

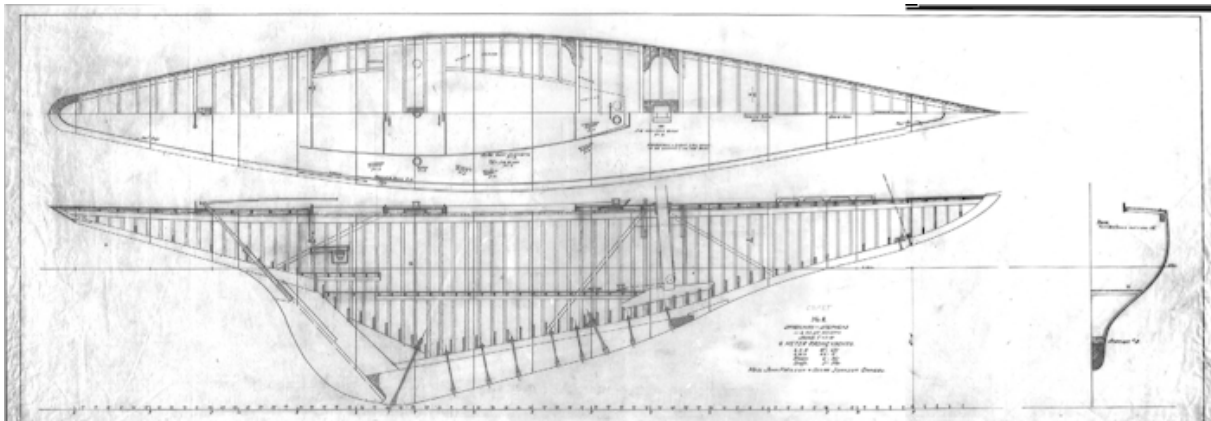
She was brought to Portugal in 1949 by José Gonçalves, sold her by 1954. He named all his boats *Sunday*, so she bore that name during his ownership.

By 1954, she was named *Arabella*.

She had a number of owners subsequently, the last in the series being a Sr. Pires de Lima

From about 1985 to 1992, she was owned by Joaquim Marques da Silva. He sold her to her current owner, Joaquim Castro.

During the 1950s, *Arabella's* experienced considerable fame in Portugal, but it faded away with the advent of fibreglass boats. In 2005, the Associação Naval de Lisboa (<http://www.anl.pt>) published a yearbook to commemorate their 150th anniversary (1856-2006). In it, there is a reference to a regatta won by *Arabella*, in 1954, with a photograph (see below).





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"Arabela", da classe 6m, desenho clássico de Olin J. Stephens II.