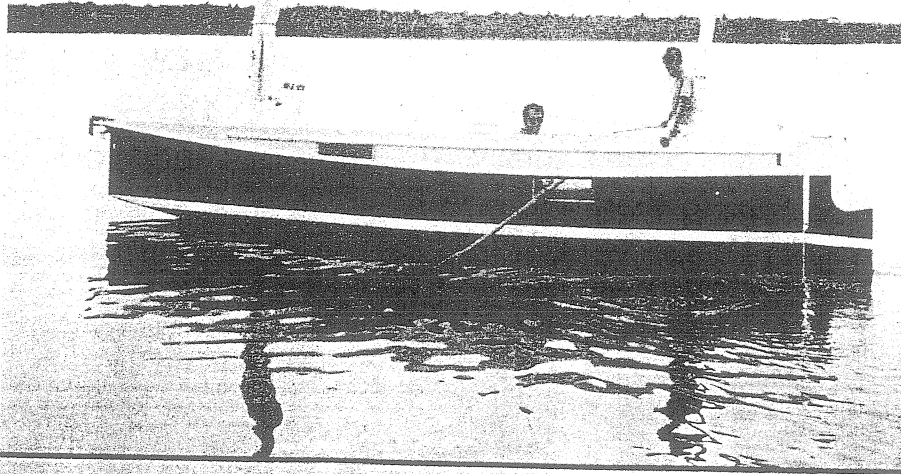


# The Launching of "Sandy Bottoms"

Report & Photos by David Bredemeier

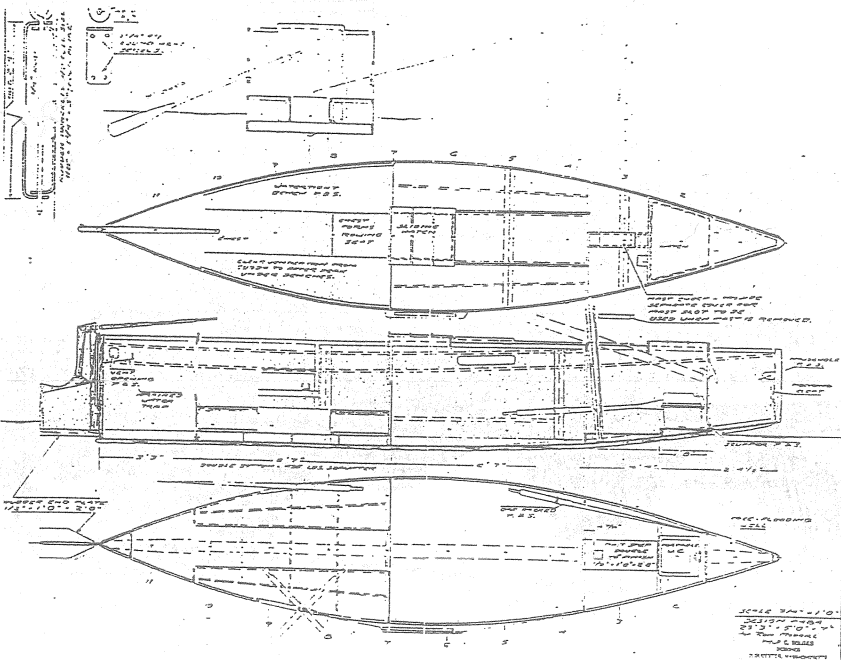


"I was a little late for the launching of my newly finished (well, almost finished) boat, "Sandy Bottoms" myself, caught in my own driveway with the mainmast stuck in the up position. The paint on the mast and tabernacle was still fresh and the retaining bolt was a little tight. Fortunately, my wife had gone on ahead to the Lake Nipinicket launch ramp to set up for our launching party.

After I arrived with the boat, we spread a drop cloth under the trailer to catch any glass and my daughter Rachel did the honors with a "christening bottle", which is fizzy but not potable, and comes with a net to contain much of the glass as well. We saved the GOOD fizzy for ourselves. Then we pushed "Sandy Bottoms" right in with the sails furlled to the masts, and rowed her to the beach for rigging and boarding.

We had light breezes with a few puffs to catch our attention and took out several parties of sailers. We did sail backwards and in circles several times as I discovered I'd led too many lines to the same spot in the cockpit. Later I also discovered the boat had no distinct weather helm, even though it would self-steer on a reach. Still later I realized I had located the dagger board a couple of inches forward of the designer's intended location. Reality and humility, hand in hand again!

"Sandy Bottoms" is a type designer Phil Bolger calls "Anhinga", a 23' 3"x5'x7" water ballasted sharpie. I had to look up anhinga too, it's a water bird native to Florida. The hull remains perfectly flat at the stern for extra buoyancy where people usually congregate, like the economy cruiser and "Eek" in Phil's book, "30-Odd Boats". The water ballast tank is under the entire cockpit area. The single leeboard is a dagger board sliding through slots on the outside of the



Left from the top: Under oars following the launching, and later returning from the first sail, all smiles. The plans by Phil Bolger. Right, sailing and beaching on Lake Memphramagog, indeed "Sandy Bottoms".