

# The Moth Class

**A** YEAR or so ago Captain Joel Van Sant designed and built for himself a small sailboat for use on the very restricted waterways near Atlantic City, N. J. Three friends followed suit. A race or two was held — the news spread — other enthusiastic sailors designed and built boats. And now we have the National Moth Class Association, with upwards of one hundred 11-foot boats in existence, racing summer and winter in fleets organized in such localities as Atlantic City, N. J., Elizabeth City, N. C., Daytona Beach, Coconut Grove, Florida, and other ports.

The idea behind the class was to get a small, cheap, easy-to-build craft, which could be both designed and built by amateurs, and which would be suitable for use on small, restricted, or shoal bodies of water where larger sailing craft would not be adapted. The idea "caught on" like wildfire. A match race between two boats on the Pasquotank River, near Elizabeth City, North Carolina, was the only spark needed to get a fleet started there. A couple of Moths racing in Florida started the ball rolling in the Sunny South, and now several large fleets are racing regularly along the Florida Coast.

The large majority of Moths have been both designed and built by amateurs, though amateur and professional designers and builders, sailmakers and skippers all compete together. The boats are of various shapes and types, yet so far no boat has appeared which can claim to be the fastest under all conditions of wind and weather.

The Moths are not one-design, but are built under an extremely simple set of restrictions. Here are the principal ones:

**Hull.** Not more than 11 feet over all. One centerboard. One rudder.

**Design and Construction.** No restrictions.

**Spars.** One mast. Height above deck must not exceed 16 feet 6 inches. Diameter must not exceed 3½ inches.

One boom. Not more than 9 feet 6 inches long, nor more than 3 inches diameter.

**Sail.** One sail. Area not to exceed 65 sq. ft.

As photographs taken in various localities show, most of the Moths are chine craft, some with sharp bows and long water lines, and some with blunt overhangs or "snouts." The construction may be anything which the designer or builder wishes. The simplicity of design and construction has resulted in many home-built boats, which have proved cheap to build, and as fast as the professional job.

The interest in these little boats spread so rapidly that three clubs got together and formed the National Moth Boat Association in order to promote the best interests of the class and stimulate interclub and inter-sectional racing. For 1933, three national regattas will be held, one in New Jersey waters in August, one at Elizabeth City, N. C., in October, and the third in Florida in March. Moths may be readily transported on trailers, hoisted on davits, or pulled up on a float or on shore.

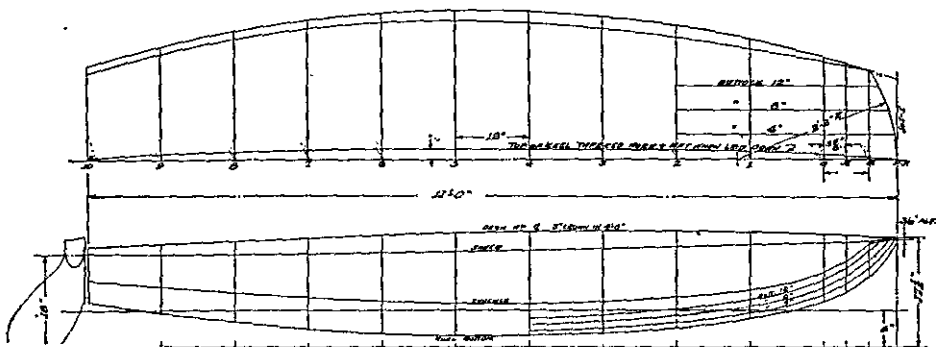
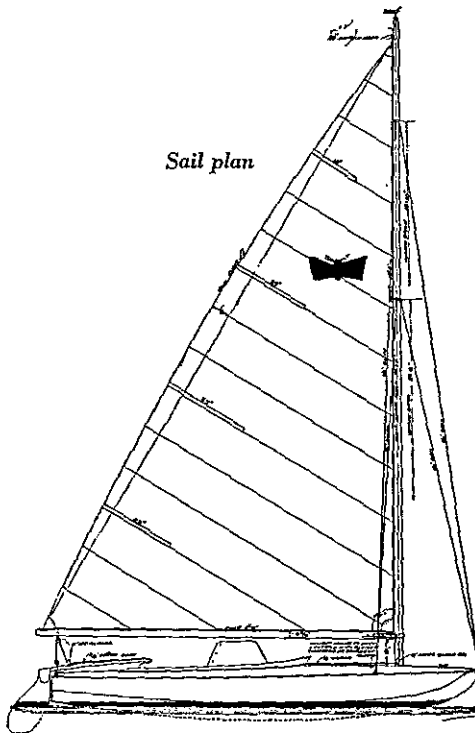
The plan of a Moth boat on this page is from the board of Thomas D. Bowes, M.E., of Philadelphia, and shows a craft of the following dimensions: l.o.a. 11'; l.w.l. 8'10"; beam, 4'; draft, without board, 4". She is distinctly of the scow type, with square stern and rounded, blunt bow. The sections show a V-bottom with moderate deadrise and no crown to the bottom such as is seen in some models of chine boats. The beam is moderate, and it is evident that she will have very long sailing lines when heeled to

her work. The hull design lends itself to amateur construction quite nicely. The rig is a simple jib-header, with boom extending only an inch or so beyond the transom.

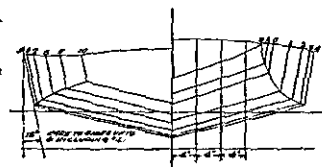
In size, the Moths are a close approach to the Frostbite dinghies. They are 6 inches shorter, 6 inches or so narrower, lower in freeboard, and have about 7 square feet less sail. Some of the Moth owners feel certain that they are faster than the dinks, but dink owners and designers do not agree with them. A team match between Moths and dinks is the logical answer.

Full information about Moths may be secured by writing to the National Moth Class Association, P. O. Box 174, Elizabeth City, North Carolina.

Sail plan



Lines and body plan of Moth boat designed by Thomas D. Bowes



Yachting May 1933