

## **RHUBARB**

LOD 40.8', LWL 28.0', Beam 11.8', Draft 4.0' (centerboard up), Displacement 11 tons

Designer: William Tripp

Built 1958 by Beetle Boat Co.



The Block Island 40 yawls, designed by Bill Tripp, were launched in 1958 at Beetle Boat Company, East Greenwich, R.I. later called American Boatbuilding. Along with the Bountys they were the first production fiberglass cruising boats. At the time it was said that they would keep curing and eventually would split apart. Not so.

*Rhubarb*, hull #5, has classic lines, a 40 foot boat with a 28 foot waterline and 11 tons of displacement with a sturdy fiberglass hull. The keel/centerboard, wide decks, roomy cockpit, and lots of beam make her ideal for cruising. With 55 gallons of fuel and 120

gallons of water, her cruising range is extensive. She won the Miami-Nassau Race in 1959, raced 6 Bermuda Races, making 5<sup>th</sup> overall in one, and sailed in the last St. Pete-Havana Race 1959, winning her class easily.

Not many sailors keep one boat for 47 years and counting. For the past 40 years she has sailed to Maine and New Brunswick each summer, been down the ditch twice, as well as to Havana and the Bahamas.

Early on, after an accidental jibe caught the boom in the backstay, the boom was shortened a few inches and then the helm was moved forward. The owners love this position, especially when they can huddle under the dodger in a rainstorm. Many innovations have been made. The dining table slides forward to extend seating from 4 to 8. Three prongs were installed leading back from each side of the keel around the propeller aperture, to fend off lobster lines. Other modifications include cookie jars in wire brackets, big sliding bins behind the stove and a counter top that lifts up for trays of food supplies and condiments. One of the most important modifications was to install removable coachwork so the engine can be exposed on three sides for repair. Over the years the engine has been changed from a Mercedes diesel to a Dasher diesel and now a Pathfinder. Modern equipment has been installed, including propane cooking, refrigeration, hot water, a fiberglass holding tank, and finally in 2004 pressure water.

Rhubarb is a great heavy weather boat with an easy motion. She is often sailed with just jib and jigger, and with the partial keel the centerboard can be ignored when not racing.



*Rhubarb's* wide decks are apparent in this view. The shrouds lead further outboard than in more recent designs, giving better support to the rig at the expense of a wider lead for the genoa jib.



A spare Danforth anchor is carried on the cabin top. Anchor rodes are neatly contained in canvas bags. The tall cowl ventilators and large Dorade boxes provide good ventilation.



Large cockpit lockers provide stowage for sails and other gear.



The novel foot pedal actuates the throttle and reverse gear.



The tilting radar antenna and radar reflector are mounted on the mizzen mast.



The radar display is mounted on the underside of the dodger.



Deflectors are mounted on the keel to protect the propeller from lobster-trap lines and other flotsam.



These two views of the main cabin show the wood interior and large lockers.



Two overhead bins in the forward cabin are used for chart stowage.



On the starboard side of the companionway is a large ice box with refrigeration. A wet locker for foul weather gear is aft.





The galley on the port side includes cookie bins in wire racks and large sliding bins outboard of the stove.

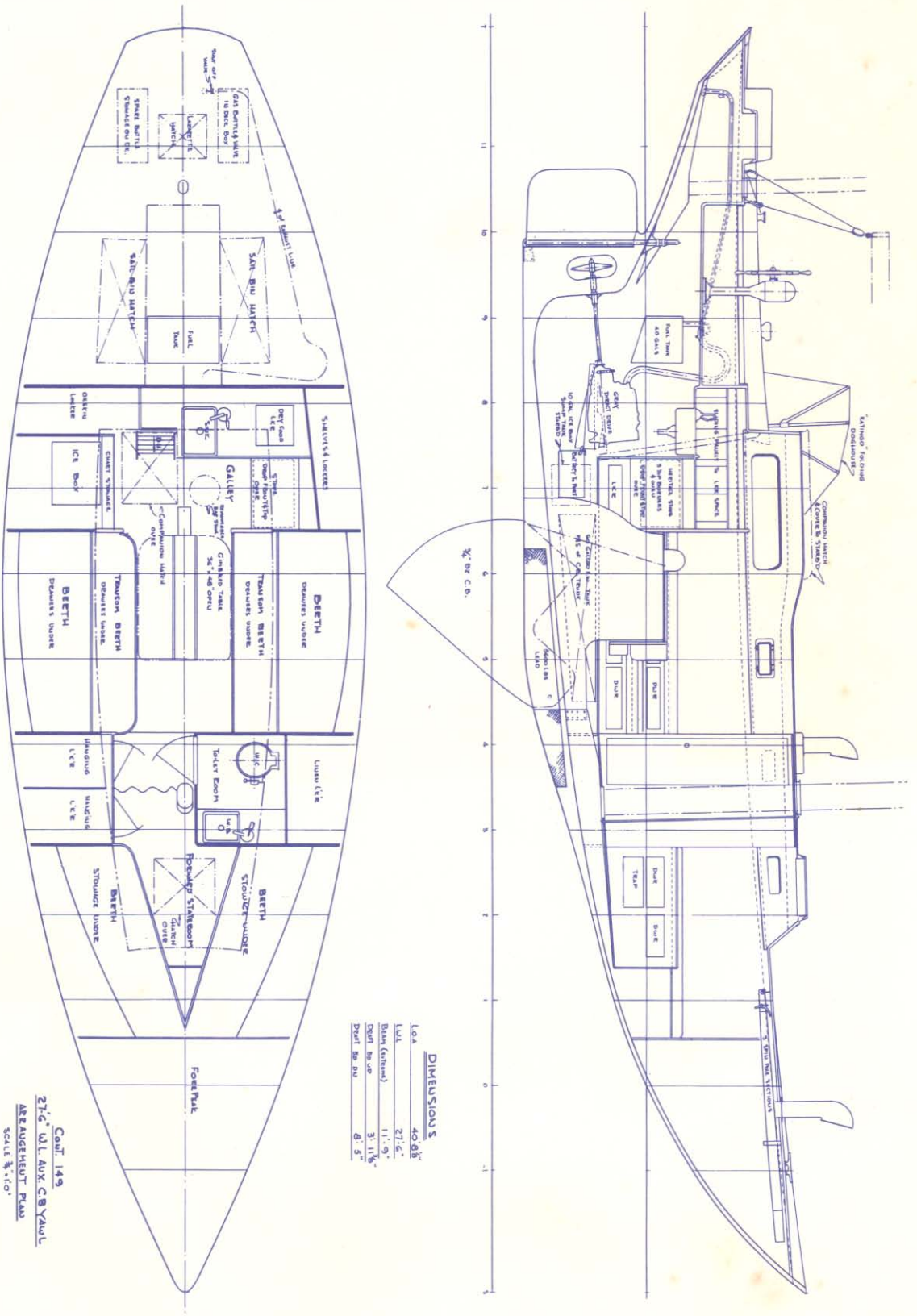


The hinged counter top lifts for access to sliding trays and storage underneath.

BEETLE BOAT CO., INC.  
 EAST GREENWICH, R. I.

FIBERGLAS YAWL

"Block Island 40"



**DIMENSIONS**

LOA	40.61'
LWL	27'6"
Beam (extrem)	11'-0"
Deck beam	3'-1 1/8"
Deck br. nu.	8'-5"

COIT 149  
 27'-6" W.L. AUX. CABIN  
 ARRANGEMENT PLAN  
 SCALE 3/16"

# "Block Island 40"

## FIBERGLAS YAWL

BEETLE BOAT CO., INC.  
EAST GREENWICH, R. I.

CONT 149  
27'6" W.L. AUX. C.B. YAWL  
SAIL PLAN  
SCALE 1/2" = 1'-0"

DIMENSIONS  
L.O.A. 40'-6 1/2"  
L.W.L. 27'-6"  
BEAM (at stern) 11'-0"  
DRAFT (on up) 5'-11 1/2"  
DRAFT (on down) 8'-5"

