

## Microcruising Catboat



**T**he Sun Cat is a throw-back to the days when sailing a “cat” meant sailing a catboat. While it can be hard to improve on a classic, the Clark Mills–designed Sun Cat is on the right track. This shoal-draft daysailer/micro-cruiser is easily trailered, rigged, and sailed and provides more room than seems possible in its well-finished cabin for an overnight gunkhole adventure.

Traditional lines, 7-foot, 3-inch beam, elliptical “cat eye” ports, and boom gallows along with an aluminum gaff show off this 17-footer’s pedigree. Three adults fit relatively comfortably in the cockpit (it’s better suited for two), and two adults could spend a night below on the cabin’s 6-foot, 6-

### The Sun Cat is the next generation of catboat

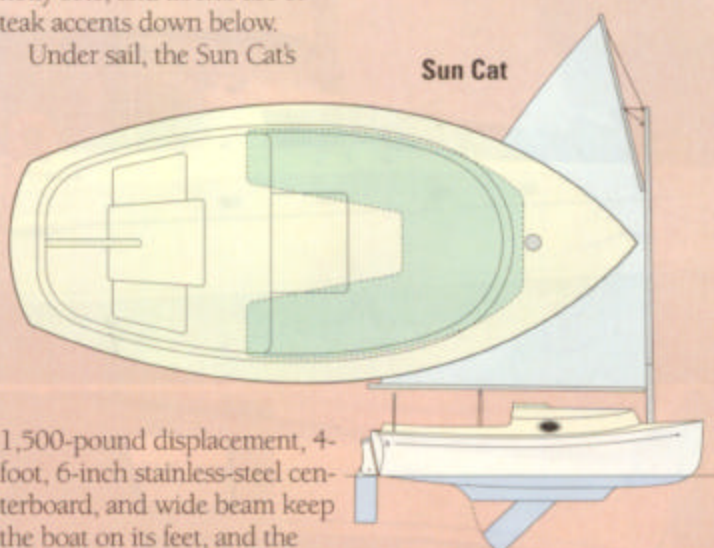
inch berths. There’s a small anchor locker forward, storage under the berths, a teak-and-holly sole, and liberal use of teak accents down below.

Under sail, the Sun Cat’s

gaff rig’s 150 square feet of sail provides ample power. Testing the Sun Cat in light air, I found the boat had a wide groove. The Mastendr quick-rig sailing system made the boat easy to rig. The system incorporates a hinge built into the mast 2 feet above the deck that allows the mast to pivot, so the mast, gaff, boom, and sail can be easily lowered and laid aft onto the boom gallows for trailering; it’s a one-person job.

If you like the feel of speed and spray, a catboat won’t cut it. But if you’re looking for a comfortable, handsome daysailer for relaxing gunkhole expeditions, check out the Sun Cat. *Com-Pac Yachts*, tel. 727-443-4408, [www.boatshow.com/Com-Pac.html](http://www.boatshow.com/Com-Pac.html).

—Bill Springer



1,500-pound displacement, 4-foot, 6-inch stainless-steel centerboard, and wide beam keep the boat on its feet, and the