

I'd suggest that should you wish to take the long range cruises, that you practice capsize and righting drill under

and enough enclosed air space to float the boat if swamped, the boat should not recover the vessel from a capsize when cut well off the coast and in time to do this for the first time.

In a manner consistent with the experience of the skipper and/or crew, and ensure that appropriate safety precautions are taken when using this or any other buoyancy aids, be familiar with the area in which you are using the craft or the immediate beach area carry a coastal distress flare pack and distress flag that is expected in the area where and when you are sailing, make sure that you are planning to go and when you are expected to return.

Outside well populated areas I suggest carrying a 406 Personal Locator
yourself and your boat. One of these hand sized devices saved a
low and painful death by downing and cold and having spoken to
to winched him out of harms way I can strongly recommend them.

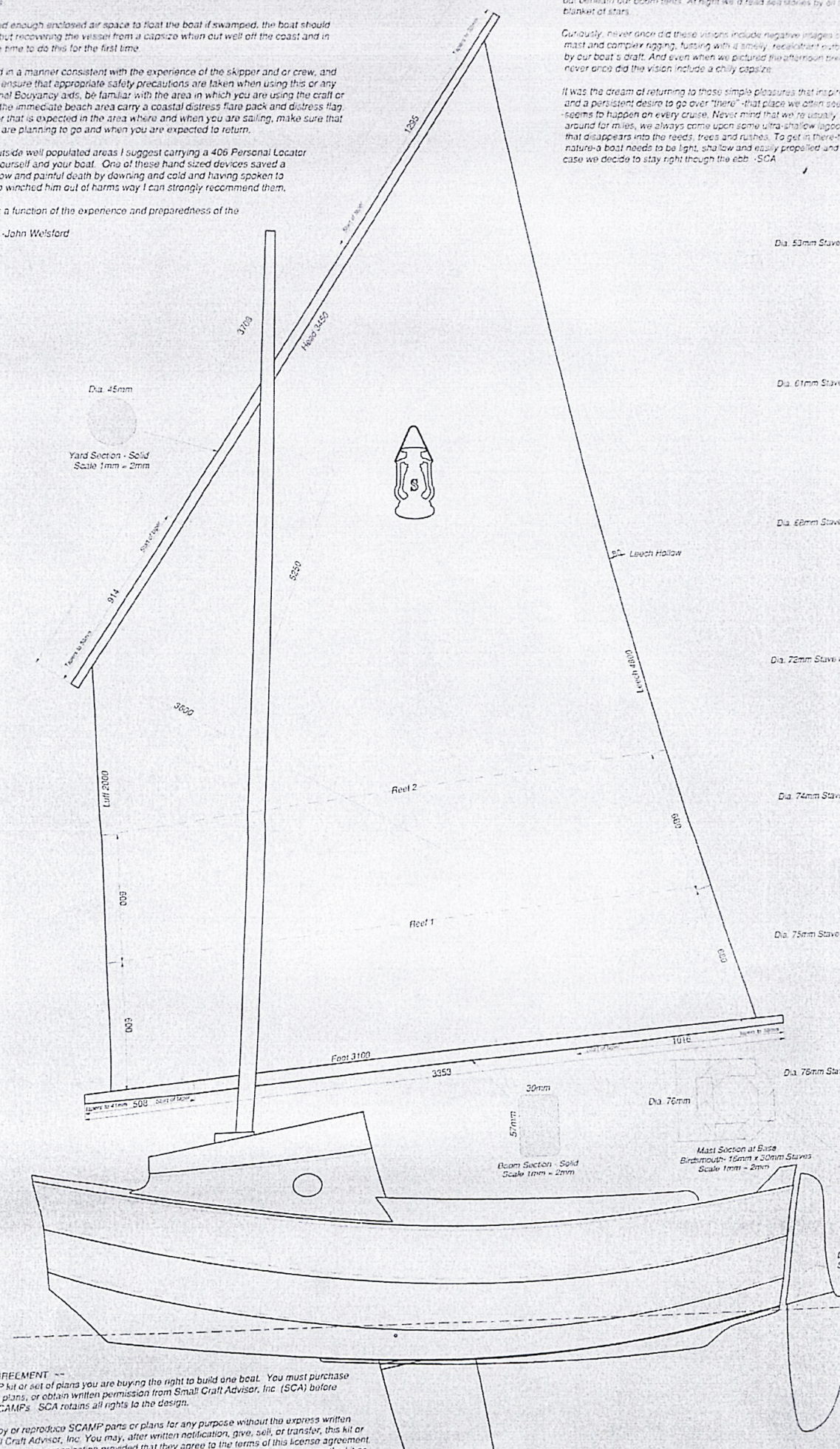
a function of the experience and preparedness of the

-John Weisford

Our own youthful dreams often materialized in small boats in shimmering saltwater little vessels we'd venture across treacherous bodies of water, shorelines or uncharted islands. We'd land, take tea, the interior, always our boats offered refuge from any threat, including summer heat out beneath our boom tents. At night we'd read sea stories by oil lamp, blanket of stars.

Curiously, never once did these visions include negative images of mast and complex rigging, fussing with a smelly, recalcitrant outboard by our boat's draft. And even when we pictured the afternoon breeze, never once did the vision include a chilly capsizing.

It was the dream of returning to those simple pleasures that inspired a persistent desire to go over "there" - that place we often seem to find ourselves returning to again and over and over. It seems to happen on every cruise. Never mind that we're usually around for miles, we always come upon some ultra-shallow lagoon that disappears into the reeds, trees and rushes. To get in there, nature's boat needs to be light, shallow and easily propelled and so we decide to stay right through the ebb. -SCA



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