Design a Cruiser Challenge
Florida 120 2013

I am going to host a boat design and building contest concurrently with the 2013 Florida 120 Challenge May 16th to the 19th. Can you design a cruising sail boat suitable for multiday cruising in events like the Florida 120, Texas 200, OBX 130, and even the Everglades Challenge? The design requirements are:

1. Light enough to be towed behind a 4 cylinder car.
2. Handy enough to be easily beach launched.
3. Roomy and stable enough to be comfortably sleep in at anchor.
4. Able to make miles regardless of what Mother Nature throws at you.
5. 500lb capacity for skipper, food, water, and gear.

In order to qualify, boats must be able to make it to the three stopping points during the Florida 120 (go to the FL120 Yahoo Group for more details). This means making 50 miles in a day despite conditions. The boats will be judged on specific criteria by a panel of experienced sailors from the FL120 and be subjected to several challenges all listed below by stop on the FL120

- Specter Island
    a. Speed Under Sail Challenge: Test speed under sail by racing both production and homebuilt boats in the Island Race.
    b. Aestetics: How good does your boat look on the water? Judged.
- Sand Island
    a. Human Powered Propulsion Challenge: Test speed during Human Propulsion race using the Island Race course.
    b. Capacity Check: Your boat is loaded with 500 lbs of sand bags and then judged on how well it handles the weight.
    c. Accomodations: How comfortable is your boat for sleeping on at anchor? Would it keep you dry and comfortable in all conditions? Judged.
- Skull Island
    a. Portability Challenge: Skull Island is really a peninsula but we are going to do an around the peninsula race. You will start fully rigged at a starting line in the water, sail to the peninsula and de-rig your boat, move your boat across the sandy peninsula, re-rig your boat, and then sail/propel your boat around the peninsula to the starting line. One side of the peninsula is very shallow and you can't get out of the boat until you are 24" from shore (simulates a muddy shore).
    b. Ease of Sailing: Judges will look at the sailing setup and test-sail the boats to see which ones have the best (least quirky) sailing qualities.

All homebuilts are welcome to participate including those built from purchased plans. However, there will be a separate categories for professionally designed and self-designed boats. Judges will determine if a boat is sufficiently modified from plans to be considered self-designed.

I am looking for sponsors who would like to donate awards and prizes to support this event.   I also want some people with experience producing plan sets to help get the best plans out there for others to build. Contact me on the FL 120 yahoo group or at swidm@yahoo.com for questions and support.