

# POPULAR MECHANICS

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## 28 PAGES ON BOATING

*Offshore Cruising by Outboard*

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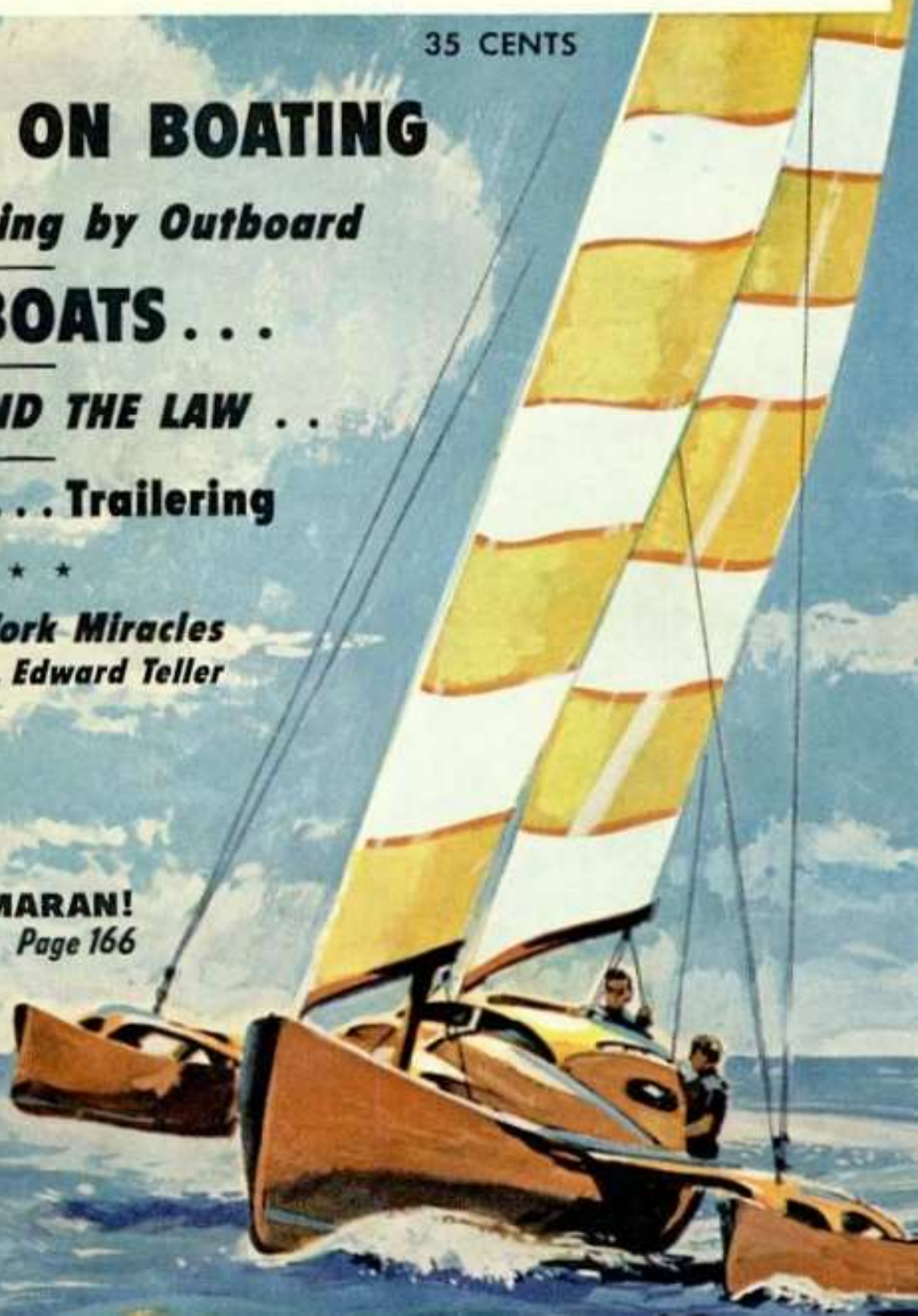
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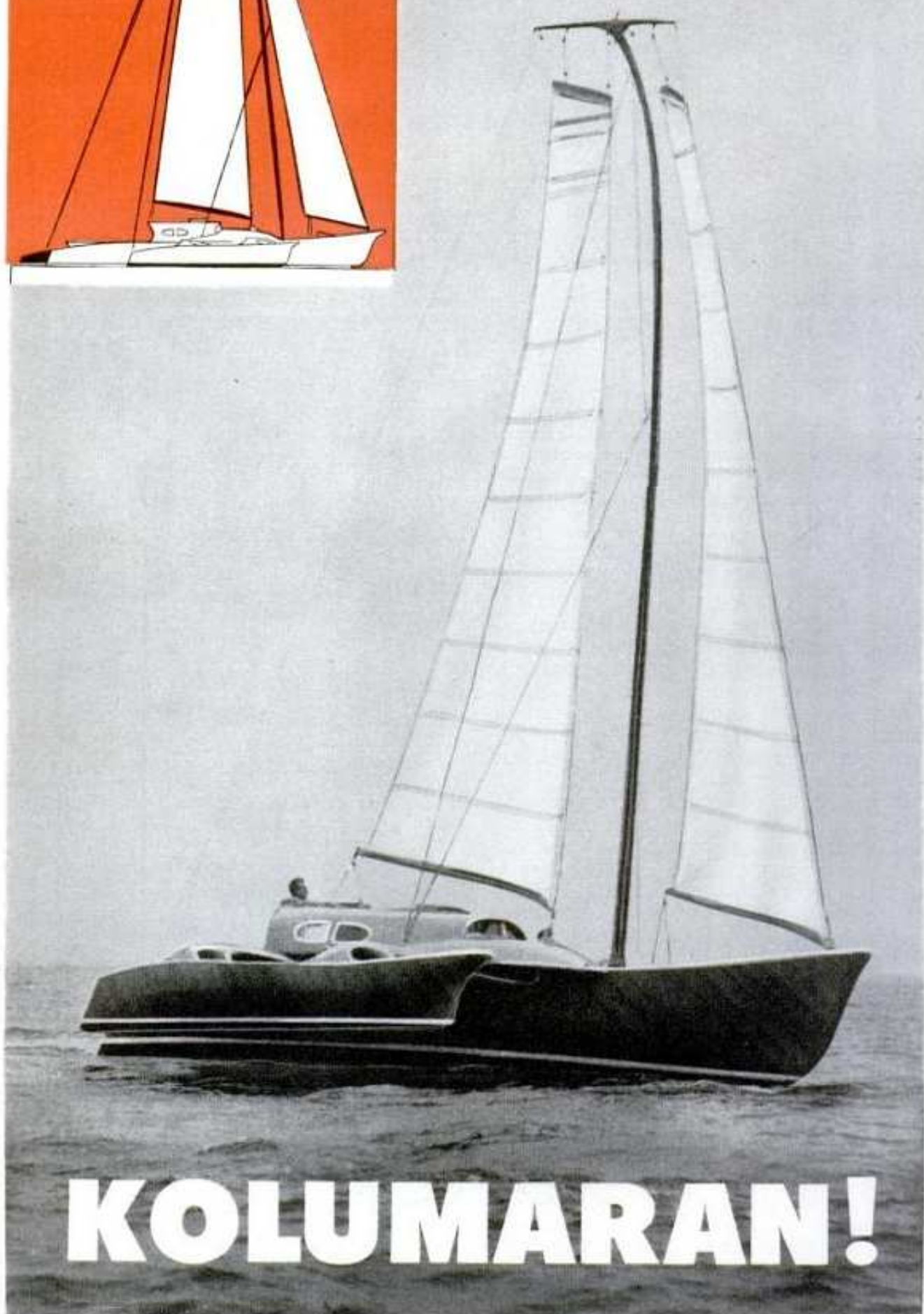
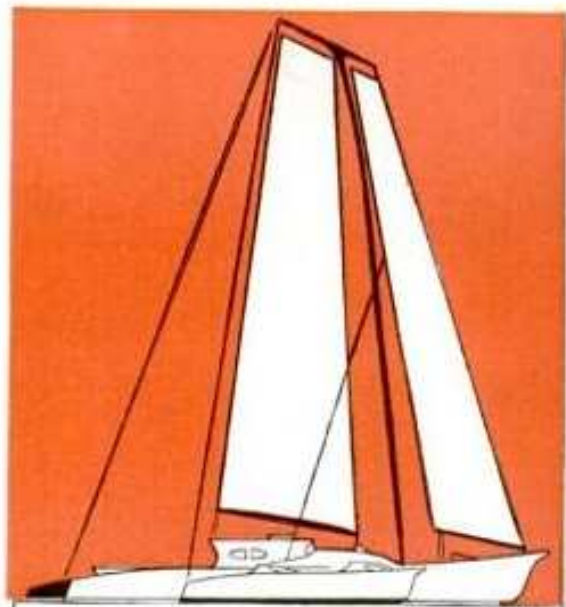
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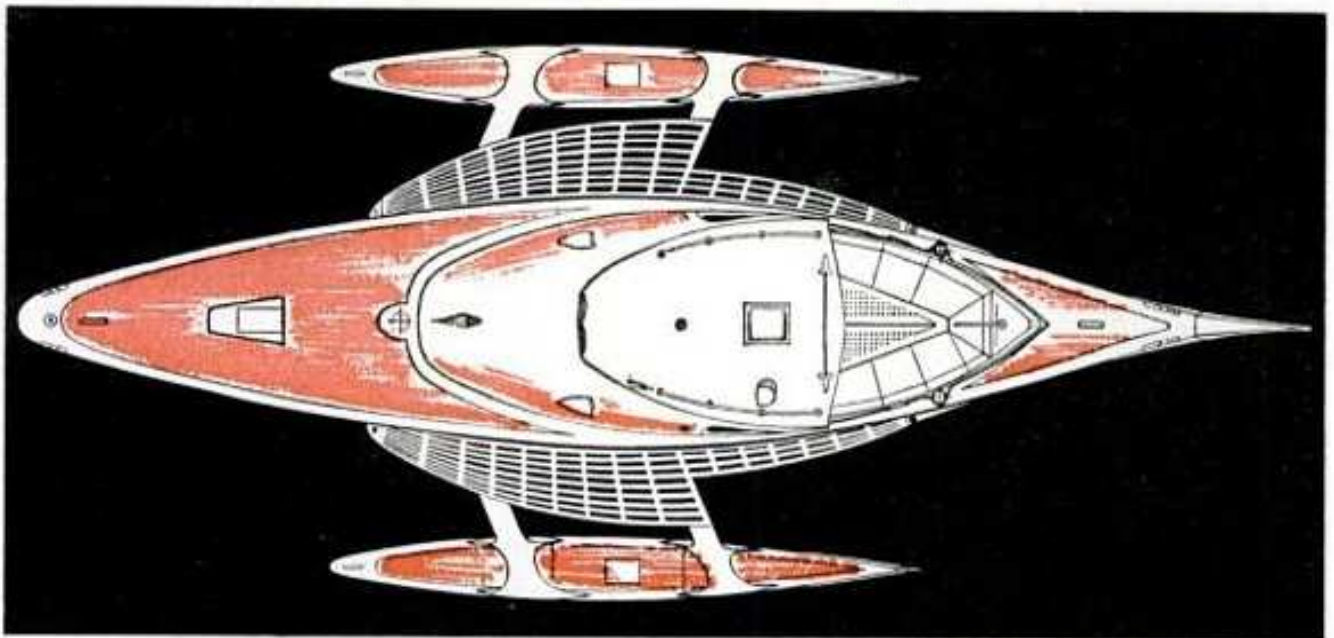






# KOLUMARAN!





No, not a space ship, but the flowing lines of *Kolu Naia's* deck plan. Stern and faired rudder are at right

### Story and photos by Thomas E. Stimson, Jr.

**H**ERE'S A NEW WORD for your boating vocabulary — kolumaran, meaning a three-hulled boat. And here's a fine example, the *Kolu Naia*, Polynesian for "three porpoises."

Designed and owned by Dean Kennedy of San Diego, a Convair aircraft engineering illustrator, the *Kolu Naia* was intended to combine the speed, stability and shallow draft of multi-hulled sailing craft with the roomy utility of a cruising sailboat. The result is shown here and on the cover.

Deck length is 38 feet; beam is 19 feet across the outriggers. The 44-foot mast supports 550 square feet of sail, designed in this unusual high aspect-ratio shape for high-speed sailing even in light, high breezes that conventional boats can't reach.

Inside, the 8 by 16-foot cabin, with 6 foot, 8-inch headroom, provides plenty of room for four sailors. The ride is a comfortable

one, top, since the outrigger design keeps the craft from rolling. Tank tests show that she won't capsize even in 100-mile winds, but she sails well in light air.

Hull construction is cross-laminated mahogany plywood, covered with glass fiber, in an aircraft-style construction, which puts the strength in the skin and minimizes heavy internal bracing. The sails shown here are working test shapes of Mylar plastic; later sails will be Dacron.

The whole project boils down to a trim sailboat that'll go anywhere with its eight-inch draft, slide through surf and over beaches, ride a trailer, and scoot along at 25 or 30 knots with the right wind.

Kennedy plans to market a 26-foot scaled-down version, the *Kolu 26*, in plan form for backyard construction, and regards this as the first of a long line of kolumarans. ★ ★ ★

Left, photo and sail plan both reflect the unusual high aspect-ratio sails and tall, gaff-topped mast design. Clean design cuts water resistance to a minimum; boat here is ghosting along at 12 to 15 knots, but leaves only a riffled wake. At right, dock view shows molded glass fiber cabin trunk and topsides. Mast and outrigger spars are box spars covered with glass fiber. Outriggers have a total of seven compartments

