



## Vanguard Nomad

WHILE MANY dinghies, skiffs, small keelboats, and even beach cats can be called performance daysailers (depending on your perspective), the folks at Vanguard Performance Sailboats believe there is a hole in the market for sailors looking for a family-friendly dayboat that also provides a thrill. Designer Bob Ames has come up with the Vanguard Nomad to fill the void.

Just as you would expect from a daysailer that's designed to be stable, comfortable, and exciting to sail, the Nomad is an interesting amalgamation of features. To satisfy the requirement for family-friendliness, the cockpit is roomy enough for four to six adults and boasts comfortable seatbacks and stowage hatches for lunches and extra gear. A swim ladder and an outboard bracket are options. In an attempt to keep the cockpit free of clutter, the mainsheet runs through a bridle on the stern, and a high-performance compression vang on the top of the boom is used instead of a conventional vang that would dead-end

close to the base of the mast. The hull is built of hand-laid fiberglass, and the hull-to-deck joint forms an outward-turned flange that will help to keep the cockpit dry. If water does get in, the cockpit empties through a drain rather than through a more racy open transom.

Like the rest of the boat, the sailplan is designed to be all things to all people. The main and jib are North 3DL; the main is set on a tapered, prebent anodized aluminum mast, and the jib comes with roller-furling gear. The sailplan is bolstered with a 160-square-foot asymmetrical spinnaker that sets on a retractable aluminum bowsprit. The A-sail is a big part of the Nomad's mission to be exciting, and it's easy to handle. It hoists out of a mesh launcher in the cockpit, and you don't need to be a rock star (or even have any crew) to get it (and the boat) flying.

Under sail the Nomad performed well with a crew of two in wind that never topped 15 knots. Maneuverability was excellent, and the hull had enough form

### SPECIFICATIONS

## Vanguard Nomad

**Price:** \$12,500 MSRP, includes North 3DL main, jib, spinnaker, and trailer

**Designer:** Bob Ames

**Builder:** Vanguard Sailboats, Portsmouth, RI; tel. 401-683-0960, [www.teamvanguard.com](http://www.teamvanguard.com)

**LOA** 17'2"

**Beam** 8'

**Draft** 6"/4'2"

(board up/down)

**Hull weight** 560 lbs

**Upwind sail area** 173 sq ft



stability to keep the boat upright even if a tack was not as crisp as it could have been. In the right conditions, sailing with just the main and jib (or even just the main) is nonthreatening and could be a perfect way for kids or anyone new to sailing to cut their teeth. That said, you would not want to flip this boat. It will take a lot to capsize and will bounce back from a knockdown if the crew is quick enough to jump on to the daggerboard, but if it turtles you may need assistance to get it back over.

When we eased the main, popped the chute, and rolled up the jib, the boat was peppy and responsive. Acceleration was good, and it was relatively easy to keep the boat flat in the puffs. I did find myself looking for hiking straps; they don't come standard (the idea is to sail from the comfort of the cockpit), but they are an available option. This is a fun boat to sail and accomplishes the difficult mission of being declawed enough to be a trainer, powerful enough to keep neophytes challenged as they progress up the learning curve, and big enough for the whole family. **BILL SPRINGER**



The Nomad is a blast to sail off the wind