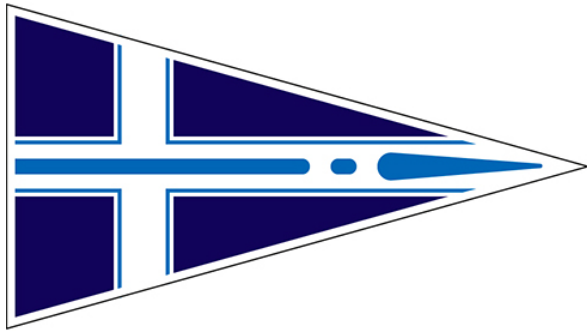




**SPARKMAN & STEPHENS
SWAN ASSOCIATION**

News From the Cockpit No. 421/2024

11th S&S Swan Rendez-vous

Invitational Event

17 - 22 June 2025

Marciana Marina, Elba Island (42° 48.479'N 10° 12.020'E)

Introducing the first pre-subscribed participant list (*NOR will be available shortly*):

36/007 Josian, from Italy
36/010 Isabella, from Germany
38/067 Only You, from France
41/025 Lithian, from Italy
41/026 Freya, from France
41/047 Maje, from Ireland
411/034 Hirondelle, from Italy
43/045 Magia II, from Italy
43/047 Kokkola, from Italy
44/014 Four Winds, from Italy
44/016 Selene, from Italy
44/036 Sehkraft, from Germany
44/047 Solano, from France
44/056 Deneb, from Italy
47/002 Hypatia, from Italy
47/004 Dream, from Italy
47/015 My Low, from Italy
47/016 Grampus, from Italy

47/036 Lazy Duck, from Malta
47/037 Matilda, from Germany
47/041 Tortuga, from Italy
47/051 Djata, from Italy
47/056 Black Tie, from Italy
47/069 Vanessa, from Italy
55/001 Pamalia, from France
57/006 Matchless, from Italy
57/007 Algol V, from France
57/025 Yellowdrama, from UK
57/037 Bianca di Navarra, from Italy
65/001 Peak, from Italy
65/035 Eve, from Australia
65/040 Une Joie de Vivre, from Brasil

Provisional schedule:

17 June: *Arrival Day, Welcome Cocktail*
18 June: *Costal Race*
19 June: *Costal Race*
20 June: *Costal Race*
21 June: *Short race, Prizegiving&Dinner Party*
22 June: *Bye Bye Day!*



our generous Main Sponsors

John and Tom Ripard at the Middle Sea Race

In 2023/4 my son Thomas and I decided on doing quite an extensive refit on our S&S Swan 47/036 Lazy Duck, in the family since 1995, which entailed renewing the deck and redesigning the deck layout. I offered that if we managed to finish the project in time we would enter the Rolex Middle Sea Race in the double handed class. I saw this as a challenge to get the boat ready, as well as a challenge to myself to tick this off my bucket list, having already clocked up 30 Middle Sea Races but always fully crewed. I was pleased to see that Tom was eager to carry his Dad around the 600mile challenging

course.

Whilst I was reluctant to make too many changes to the original, Thomas was determined to clean the busy deck layout, remove four winches and lead most halyards towards the cockpit. In addition we decided to reconfigure the sail plan which allowed for the removal of the cumbersome stainless steel genoa tracks and instead go for some sophisticated single point Ubi Maior leads with tweakers (barber haulers). With a view to short handed sailing I decided on going for an electric Reckmann furler for the Genoa and Tom arranged for the inner forestay to be PBO rigged on a Karver tensioning jammer deck fitting - KSJK - which allows for applying plenty of tension and thereby rigging an upwind staysail for heavy windward work. On Tom's advice we engaged Zaoli Sails of San Remo to build our new wardrobe which consisted of an S2, a code zero, a Genoa #2 furling to a #3, an upwind staysail and a downwind staysail.

By the morning of the start of the race on October 19th 2024 we just about finished getting the boat ready but had no chance to even go for a trial sail – our testing ground was to be the race itself and the forecast was not going to make our life any easier. There was an extensive low pressure centred over Sicily which in theory made for fresh South Easterlies up the East Coast of Sicily turning to the East on the North Coast and then backing and strengthening to the SE for the final half of the race (in other words a 250 mile beat). What was not clear from the forecast was the cloud, rain and thunder interspersed throughout the course, causing some very severe squalls with wind speeds reaching 50 knots resulting in over 30 boats retiring from the race.

On Lazy Duck we persevered very happy with the way the boat was handling the conditions and very happy with the way we had rigged her up for short handed sailing. We had all weather conditions thrown at us, from many hours becalmed in a steep SE'ly swell to fresh downwind to fresh upwind. We finished the race on Friday at 06.03hrs after 6 days and 6 nights at sea and managed to achieve a 2nd place in the double handed class and a 2nd place in Class 6. Quite an achievement for a 47 year old boat and testament to the pedigree of this and all S&S Swans!

John Ripard
s.y. Lazy Duck
Swan 47/036





Tom and John Ripard at the 2024 Rolex Middle Sea Race prizegiving

S&S Swan 38/087 Madeleine in Porto Santo

Michel G., owner of S&S Swan 38/087 Madeleine, after sailing for a few thousand miles in the European side of the Big Pond, is now in Porto Santo (PT) and ready to cross the Atlantic Ocean!

Your "murales" is beautiful dear Michel!





Michel, proud of his "signature" in Porto Santo

S&S Swan 44/022 Floortje across the Atlantic

Willem van L. with his girlfriend and friends across the Atlantic in 2024, onboard their beloved 44/022 Floortje:



S&S Swan . The Original Swan

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