

S&S Swan . *The Perfect Sailing Boat*



SPARKMAN & STEPHENS
SWAN ASSOCIATION

News from the Cockpit . No. 408/2023

Builder's Plaque

All S&S Swan have a Builder's Plaque, with model, hull number and delivery date, it was anodized aluminum up to circa 1973, casted in bronze from 1973 onwards

If you are a member of the S&S Swan Association, and your plaque is not online in your classicswan webpage, you are invited to send us a good photograph, and we will upload it!



Anodized aluminum builder's plaque (first type) and bronze one (S&S Swan launched from circa 1973 onwards)

S&S Swan. A Legend (*the book*)

The original edition of 1,000 copies is now sold out; the good news is we printed a limited edition of 100 numbered copies, at the end of 2022.

There are a few copies left, if you want to buy it, and need it before Christmas, we invite you to order it now. It's Euro 95 (*Euro 85 for members of the S&S Swan Association*) plus shipping. Details on [classicswan](#)

38/001 Celeste was born to sail the oceans of the world

Everything about her strength, her poise, her durability, her grace under sail and her willingness to meet the elements head-on demands oceans and the rhythm of offshore sailing.

On 25 May, 2024, Celeste is registered for another grand adventure, this time, sailing 1100nm from Sydney Australia across the Pacific Ocean to Noumea in French New Caledonia. Uniquely, this time, she will be crewed by just two, my fellow co-skipper Maud, and me.

In preparing for the 2024 "Ponant Sydney to Noumea" race, we have much to do to prepare our mothership, Celeste. Already, five weeks on the hard resulted in the completion of a long jobs list - completely refurbishing the mast, a new boom housing triple reef lines, a new below decks mid-foredeck support strut, running the reefing lines and main halyard back to the cockpit, replacing all her instruments including the auto-pilot computer, pulling the rudder and checking the stock and replacing bearings, new furling line and new lashed on genoa sheets, and lastly, a new antifoul and keel inspection. It was a big tick list.

The next tick list is tackling the qualifier - 600nm of offshore Category 1 sailing. On 1 December 2023, Maud and I will depart from Brisbane with the ebb tide around noon to head north to Caloundra, and then 200nm directly east. When we get to the edge of Australian sovereign waters, we will then head 50nm north or south, depending on the wind, and then the 250nm home again.





In getting ready, while I have sailed many parts of the world, this is gearing up towards major new experiences for me in terms of longer ocean crossings. Thankfully, I am in great company. A yachtmaster, Maud has already sailed the oceans from France to Australia two-handed on her blue-water classic, Blue Bonnet, a Rustler 36. We found each other through a mutual friend and as two women who love sailing classic sea-going yachts, each with a non-sailing husband, it's a rare find and one we are both enjoying immensely.

As I write, it's November 20th, so we have ten days to go before we depart. We're keeping a keen eye on the topsy-turvy weather hoping the random craziness that has engulfed Australia's east coast in recent months finally breaks for some nice sailing conditions.

This qualifier trip aboard our mothership Celeste, will be useful for us - both in terms of getting into our seagoing rhythm and also in terms of creating the next preparation tick list.

You see, we're are playing a long game here. Following our qualifier, we need to sail Celeste 450nm south to Sydney to be ready for the start of the race in May, and once we are back, our plan is to then tackle the 2024 "Sydney to Hobart" two-handed, prior to bringing Celeste around the bottom of Australia to Melbourne ready for the 9 March 2025 start of the "Melbourne to Osaka" (Japan) two-handed race - some 5500nm.

And in amongst all that, the most exciting part of all.. we have one very be tick to mark on the to-do list - in February 2024, Maud's son, currently affectionately known as GaryNed is due to be born. As a mother of son's myself, I am so proud of Maud's seamanship, fierce independence and deep desire to sail her way through her pregnancy - literally. And hence, between the two of us and what will be our three sons, Celeste is indeed our mothership and this is the beginning of many an adventure together.

Saskia Groen-in-Woud

(Saskia is S&S Swan Association ambassador Down Under)

NB: Celeste is looking for a sponsor: Look at their project and proposal!



Maud and Saskia (from left) onboard S&S Swan 38/001 Celeste (have you ever seen a happier smile?)

S&S Swan 47/045 Mallemuk, fulfilling a teenage dream

...as covid was still around in 2021 it was tricky to find a way to buy a boat in New Zealand and get it to Singapore where me and my family were based. I then came in contact with a guy in Australia. He had a boat in Phuket, Thailand and was offering to deliver Mallemuk from New Zealand to Singapore. I went into negotiations with him. The plan was that the owner of Mallemuk, the S&S Swan 47 I found in New Zealand, hull no. 045, would sail her to Australia, and then the skipper would sail Mallemuk from Australia to Singapore. Based on that I signed the purchase contract for Mallemuk and bought the boat!

Then, the next thing happened, the skipper pulled out! He just overnight decided he didn't want to do it. In the same time, New Zealand closed down completely due to covid. No one could travel in or out – just closed.

So – now I have bought a boat but no chance to get her. Then I got in contact with another experienced and professional delivery skipper. He was in New Zealand. He offered to sail Mallemuk to Fiji for me. First, I couldn't see the perspective. But he told me that Fiji is open for yachts so at least Mallemuk would be a place that was accessible. Still far from Singapore, though.

Then I had a second thought. My job in Singapore was about to be completed. This was maybe the call? This could be the perfect opportunity to fulfil my old teenage dream, to sail on the blue oceans long distances!

In that way we started to prepare for the big change. Completing our jobs in Singapore. We packed all our belongings we didn't need on the boat and sent them to our new base in Thailand. I already had some ideas of what upgrade I wanted to do onboard, so I brought with me a lot of boat equipment and parts. Then – just after Christmas 2021 – one way ticket to Fiji with all four of us! (The boys had just turned 7).

Niels B. Rasmussen

Mallemuk Blog (work in progress)

Looking for a S&S Swan to sail in the Caribbean

Flavia is 25 years old, she is Italian, fluent in English and the daughter of S&S Swan 41/004 Cial II owner, and she would love to sail (onboard a S&S Swan would be her dream!) in the Caribbean for the coming season. Please do not hesitate to contact us to be in touch with her.

Ultra Anchors, special offer to S&S Swan Association Members

Ultra Anchor are renown to be among the best available anchors, designed and built in Turkey in stainless steel.

S&S Swan Association has now an agreement with Ultra European distributor, and members of the Association can buy their anchors and swivels with a 20% discount, shipping included (within Europe, to the rest of the world shipping will be quoted separately).

Ultra is available to personalize anchors with boat name and/or S&S Swan Association burgee.



S&S Swan Racing Calendar . 2024/2025

- **S&S Swan at Classic Channel Regatta, UK, 17-21 June 2024**

S&S Swan (unfortunately only those designed up to 1975) are eligible to participate to Classic Channel Regatta. Contact [Bruce](#) to receive more details.

1st Capraia S&S Swan Rally, 21 . 22-23 June 2024

it will be a sailing week end (no races), dedicated to S&S Swan in the charming Capraia Island, Tyrrhenian Sea, organized in collaboration with Porto di Capraia, and two local restaurants. Over the next few months we will be able to send more details, participation costs, etc.

23 S&S Swan Owners already confirmed their participation, they are:

36/007 Josian, from Italy

36/010 Isabella, from Germany

37/052 Tikka, from Italy

40/047 Star Swan, from Portugal

41/025 Lithian, from Italy

41/026 Freya, from Canary Is.
411/034 Hirondelle, from Italy
41/047 Maje, from Ireland
43/043 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
47/017 MyLow, from Italy
47/039 Outrageous, from Italy
47/041 Tortuga, from Italy
47/051 Djata, from Italy
47/056 Black Tie, from Italy
47/069 Vanessa, from Italy
48/015 Rendezvous, from Spain
65/035 Eve, from Australia

- **11th S&S Swan Rendez-vous**

Marciana Marina, Elba Island, 16 - 23 June 2025



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