



News from the Cockpit - No. 381/2022

S&S Swan Association official newsletter

The Bottom of a Sparkman&Stephens Swan

Dear S&S Swan Association Members, and Friends,

thanks to Mats Ohlson, proud Owner of S&S Swan **57/035 Hermia**, for his beautiful words, from Gulf of Biscay:

There's no moon yet only the starry sky, very dark. The crew is in their bunks, one as stand by. It's my watch, the Dog Watch. My entry in the Log Book reads: UTC 00:37 Wind W 15-18 knots rising, Speed 8,5 knots, Heading 209°, Lat N 44°53.988, Long W2°20.636. We are in the Bay of Biscay, squarely on the edge of the continental shelf where the sea board falls from 120m. to 2500m.

I watch the graph from the barometer, it has fallen 1,5mb in the latest three hours...something's coming but not bad. I can see the starry sky ending with a dark front in the west ...

*We had left La Rochelle Vieux Port two hours before high tide, about three PM local time. The lady harbour master standing by the narrow passage under the open bridge giving us double thumbs up for the **beauty of our S&S Swan**. As you all know, we are pretty used to that, still it warms our hearts and we returned great gratitude.*

After a spin around Fort Boyard (epic place for our youngsters) it was close hauled sailing to pass the Rocher d'Antioche and we were smoking along! 16 knots of wind, 33° AWA and almost 9 knots! No one could touch us, and we see our friends boat, an X-yachts 45, going lower and slower. Maybe the bottom job I had done had something to do with it?

*"You can't sail to the Caribbean with that bottom!" It was **Mats Jonsson**, owner of the **Vindo Marin** yard on the island of Orust on the Swedish west coast letting his heart out. "It looks like a moon landscape, pieces are falling off, there's no use painting it! Imagine what it will cost you hauling out in the Caribbean when you have nowhere else to go!"*

Okay I thought, cost it will, better spend it with friends at the yard I have used since the beginning of the nineties, after all they do a bloody good job.

Shot blasting sounds brutal but these days it is done very gently and you can see every layer of paint and epoxy. My Swan 57, S/Y Hermia II is 41 years old. A perfect age: Youth mixed with experience, elegance and self-confidence. Her bottom has been black, red, green, white and blue, after that a couple of layers of epoxy (different colours so you can see the integrity of the layers). And many magnificent features appear on a S&S Swan.

You probably know the waterlines and the cove lines are painted with gelcoat in the mould before the gelcoat is applied. But maybe you don't know that the gelcoat only extends about 10 cm. below the waterline? This is in order to being able to inspect the integrity of the moulding of the frames and stringers to the hull-shell from the outside. If there are air bubbles in the laminate, or bad adhesion between outer shell and reinforcements, it can be seen from the outside. A good hand-layed laminate is almost like glass.

I would argue that there is no yard taking such care today and the disaster of the Oyster 825, Polina Star 3 in 2015 is an example of just that. The underwater photos gives a very clear picture.

We could also inspect the rudder arrangement. Again exceptional engineering on the part of S&S. Under some GRP-covers U-shaped brackets welded on the rudder stock are bolted through the rudder blade. It can easily be inspected, dismantled and worked on. You have 100% knowledge of the status of the rudders' integrity. Other boats may have some kind of welded structure inside the blade, and the blade glued or moulded over. You have no idea what's inside.

My friends at Vindo Marine faired the bottom with epoxy filler, gave it four layers of epoxy and three layers of antifouling, she is now smooth as a baby's bottom. They were a bit curious, why this level of perfection. I told them, It's not a boat, it's a weapon (old sail racers never die)!

.....I can feel the waves building, the black front in the west is drawing closer, barometer getting lower. I go on deck and shorten canvas a bit. We are in an epic spot on the Bay of Biscay where many boats and sailors have met with their destiny.

Am I worried? Not the slightest, S&S, and Rod Stephens himself, took care of that many years ago.

Have a good watch!

S/Y Hermia II, Mats Ohlsson



10th S&S Swan Rendez-vous . dedicated to Lars Ström

A quick update after our last communication dated October 1st; we have received a lot of pre.subscriptions, from different countries, by Members of the Association who would like not to miss the 2023 S&S Swan Rendez-vous, dedicated to Lars Ström.

Marciana Marina is a small and charming village, north coast of Isle of Elba, Mediterranean Sea, all S&S Swan will be moored at the pontoon of **Circolo della Vela Marciana Marina**. There is a limited number of moorings side.by.side, and a few more in the opposite pontoon.

So far there are 30 S&S Swan Owners who confirmed their participation, they are:

- 36/007 **Josian**, Eugenio Alphandery, from Italy
- 37/031 **Tikka III**, Luca Alessandrelli, from Italy
- 37/052 **Tikka**, Ezio&Mailla Lancellotti, from Italy
- 38/013 **Ann**, Giorgio Setti, from Italy
- 38/017 **Mascalzone Latino**, Vincenzo Onorato, from Italy
- 40/047 **Star Swan**, Duarte Champalimaud, from Portugal
- 41/025 **Lithian**, Matteo&Federica Cattaneo, from Italy
- 411/031 **Riff**, Massimo Nadalin, from Italy
- 43/047 **Kokkola**, Vittorio Ghizzoni, from Italy
- 44/014 **Four Winds**, Leonardo Servi, from Italy
- 44/036 **Sehkraft**, Matthias&Edith Maus, from Germany
- 44/051 **Safa**, Horace Dediou, from Finland
- 44/060 **Un Amour de Swan**, Giandomenico Iannetti, from Italy
- 44/047 **Solano**, Cesar Chuffart, from France
- 44/058 **Deneb**, Antonio Puntello, from Italy
- 47/002 **Hypatia**, Giulio&Ariane Bergamaschi, from Italy
- 47/016 **Grampus II**, Matteo&Matteo d'Agostino
- 47/017 **MyLow**, Fiamma Briziarelli, from Italy
- 47/037 **Matilda**, Peter Kohlhoff, from Germany
- 47/039 **Outrageous**, Fabrizio Saveriano, from Italy
- 47/041 **Tortuga**, Filippo&Alina Masci, from Italy
- 47/051 **Djata**, Antonio&Cristina Ortolani, from Italy
- 47/058 **Black Tie**, Massimo Crovetto, from Italy
- 47/069 **Vanessa**, Matteo&Giulia Salamon, from Italy
- 57/006 **Matchless**, Giacomo Bei, from Italy
- 57/007 **Algol V**, Yves Mendegris, from France
- 57/015 **Lintu**, Jyrki Mäki, from Finland
- 57/037 **Bianca di Navarra**, Camillo Manfredini, from Italy
- 65/020 **King's Legend**, John Vincent, from United Kingdom
- 65/039 **Mascalzone Latino**, Vincenzo Onorato, from Italy

If you are a Member of the S&S Swan Association and want to participate, please contact us:

classicswan.org



S&S Swan at the Circolo Velico Marciana Marina, 2021 S&S Swan Rendez-vous . photo courtesy James R. Taylor

