

NEWS FROM THE COCKPIT



S&S Swan 47/070

a lifetime love affair

Dear S&S Swan Association Members and Friends,

our first 2022 newsletter is about Hans and his family, and a S&S Swan dream which became true after some decades.

Here you are on Hans words:

1979 was an important year for my family in terms of sailing. It was not Fastnet but rather Russia's invasion of Afghanistan that changed everything. My father, afraid of the onset of the third world war, bought a small piece of land in the USA and a Morgan 38. Convinced, as a small family business from central Germany, we would not get the last seats on a plane, but with a stiff 38-foot yacht we would surely make it across the Atlantic. Previously, we had always chartered, 9.00 meters, always the Baltic Sea. And now a boat of our own. I was 13 years old at the time.

Long before that, I often went alone (parents had to work) to boat shows in Düsseldorf and Hamburg. In a suit! Elegant, for one reason only: I wanted to visit the Nautor's Swan stand!

At the age of 20, I had numerous Swan catalogues lying right next to my bed, but stopped sailing. Studies in Switzerland (mountains), marrying a non-sailor and then three children (with no sailing experience), meant we spent many years going on beach holidays to the German North Sea island of Norderney. Boring. Every day I was at the harbour, looking at boats.

*15 years ago I saw a Swan there, the likes of which I had never seen before. I immediately went over, "You have to show me your boat!" The Owner understood and patiently showed me his boat. Next morning, the same procedure. For a long time my firm favourite was a Swan 46, but now I knew that my heart beat exclusively for a **Sparkman&Stephens designed Swan 47**. This encounter sharpened my perception and knowledge of the **S&S Swans**. Soon no other Swans counted anymore. And this is the one I pursued.*

*13 years later the S&S Swan 47 I fell in love with years before was up for sale! Me off to Italy, just looking! I had no intention of buying a boat. I told the Owner: "1) I don't have the time and 2) she's too big to sail with my non-sailing family". A few days later, a second visit with my wife, without any purpose or serious intention. I saw her again, **two seconds later she was mine**. Nothing mattered! No test sailing, no inspecting her from below. I simply bought her!*

We have just sailed her (October-November 2021) from North Italy to the Baltic Sea with friends. Every S&S Swan Owner knows how these Swans behave in water. A sheer dream. So stiff, smooth and swift! No problems at all except for the new toilets, which broke down.

*Many thanks to the **S&S Swan Association**, website, forum, books and the Rendezvous, I was able to learn a lot about S&S Swans. It is an incredibly great feeling not to want to own any other boat in the world. **S&S Swan forever!***

Fair winds!

Hans Reckhaus

SY **Jorglin**, S&S Swan 47/070

(photo: *Julienne -the non sailor wife!- at the helm of Jorglin, sailing to the Baltic*)

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