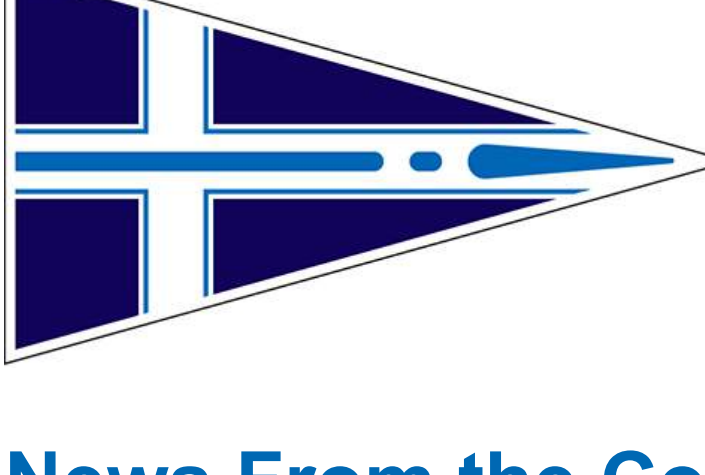




SPARKMAN & STEPHENS
SWAN ASSOCIATION

News From the Cockpit No. 439/2026

Countdown: 158 Days

...!

Rod Stephens Check List

we are now publishing the third and final chapter on this subject

After the first two newsletters (nos. 437 and 438), in which we published **Rod Stephens' 'Ideas on Construction'** and his famous **'Problem Areas'** documents, today we are pleased to present his equally renowned **"Inspection Check List"**, the list of items he meticulously verified during sea trials of yachts designed by Sparkman & Stephens, and naturally of every S&S Swan.

At first glance, many of these points may appear minor, almost obsessive in their attention to detail. In reality, they reveal a very precise philosophy of yacht design and construction, one shaped by countless offshore miles, hard experience at sea, and an uncompromising understanding that reliability and safety always come before fashion, trends, or superficial appearance.

This was the approach of Rod Stephens, widely regarded as one of the most experienced and respected offshore sailors of his time, and one of the key figures behind Sparkman & Stephens. We should not forget that he personally visited the Nautor's Swan yard in Pietarsaari more or less once a month to inspect the yachts under construction and those being prepared for delivery. When it was not possible for Rod himself to be there, someone from the Sparkman & Stephens office was sent on his behalf, because for S&S it was considered essential to personally inspect and verify the yachts they designed.

Reading this **Check List** today is extraordinarily revealing. It reminds us that a true offshore sailing boat is not defined by marketing, styling, or contemporary trends, but by the countless details that determine whether a yacht will remain safe, reliable, and seaworthy when conditions become difficult, far from any harbor.

[Here it is!](#)

Dan and Ellie Launch Their S&S Swan 43/059 Mouse!

Dan James and his wife, Ellie, are from the UK and work in the Gulf. For no less than six months each year, they live thousands of nautical miles away from home, yet their passion for Sparkman & Stephens, and for Swans in particular, has never wavered.

In 2019, they signed the papers and became the new Custodians of **S&S Swan 43/059 Mouse**, then named *Patriot*.

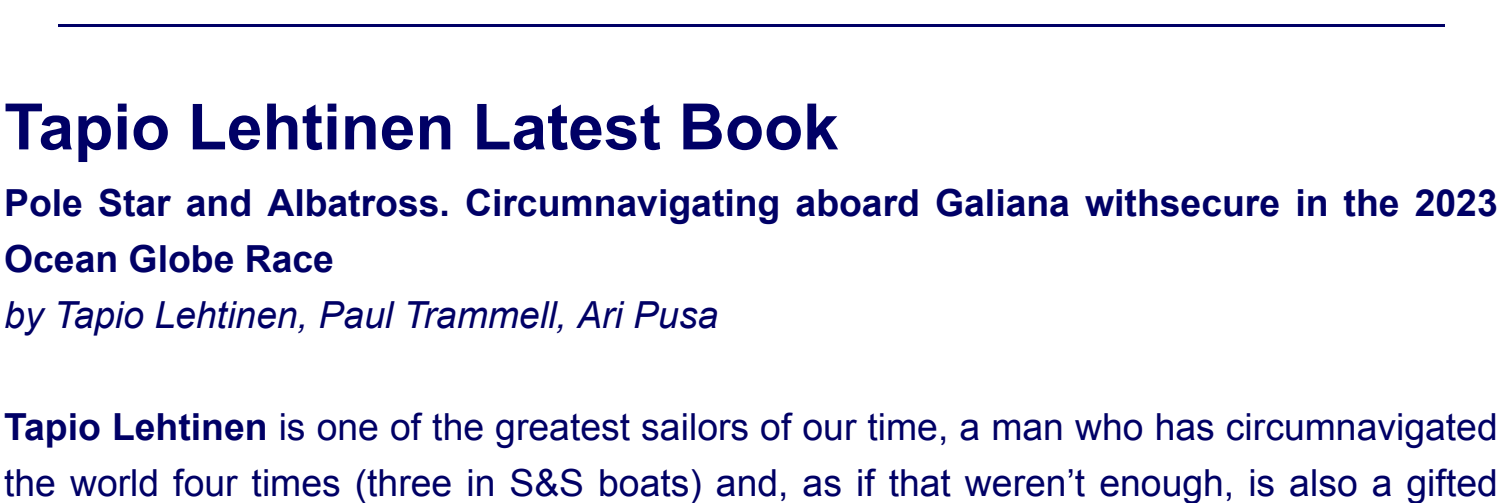
She needed some TLC, together with major cosmetic work, but above all, as one of the lucky S&S Swans still equipped with a working **Trim Tab**, both this extraordinary mechanism and the pedestal required a complete overhaul!

Today, it is almost impossible to obtain knowledge or support from the builder, but fortunately Lars Ström was still with us at the time and was of great support. Dan, an engineer, did a remarkable job dismantling and rebuilding the entire mechanism, carefully measuring every component and redesigning the whole system in 3D. These drawings are, of course, now available to all S&S Swan Association Members.

After eight years, on May 18, Dan and Ellie finally launched *Mouse* again, and from Dan's smile alone, one can understand what happiness truly means.

Congratulations, Dan and Ellie!

A final note: Dan is also our "man in the UK." Whatever an S&S Swan owner may need in the United Kingdom, Dan is always happy to help. Among his many contributions, he is also the person who designed and cast the new Rod Stephens fairleads for the S&S Swan 43 (see "News from the Cockpit" no. 438).



Dan at the helm of S&S Swan 43/059 Mouse, minutes after launching!

Tapio Lehtinen Latest Book

Pole Star and Albatross. Circumnavigating aboard Galiana with secure in the 2023 Ocean Globe Race

by Tapio Lehtinen, Paul Trammell, Ari Pusa

Tapio Lehtinen is one of the greatest sailors of our time, a man who has circumnavigated the world four times (three in S&S boats) and, as if that weren't enough, is also a gifted writer with a remarkable sense of humor. Many of you will already have read his first two books, ***On the Belt of Foaming Seas*** and ***The Last Voyage of Asteria***; if not, they are highly recommended.

His latest, ***Pole Star and Albatross***, tells the story of his 2023 **Ocean Globe Race** aboard his **S&S Swan 55/002 Galiana With Secure**, and it is every bit as compelling. The book is never dull, quite the opposite, once started, it is almost impossible to put it down. What emerges throughout its pages is not only Tapio's extraordinary humanity and wit, but also the incredible attention he constantly devotes to the safety of both his crew and his S&S Swan.

Read it, you will enjoy every page!

(You can order it on Amazon)



New Plastic Drawers for 411/028

(and all Classic Swans)

If you are not among the few lucky Owners whose S&S Swan is fitted with wooden drawers, such as the Owner of **S&S Swan 47/040 Sweet Mama**, you will probably, sooner or later, have to repair, or even replace, the plastic drawers usually found at the chart table.

Until now, this was not easy. The original molds no longer exist, as happened with many items related to the S&S Swan.

Fortunately, Christian, one of the Members of the S&S Swan Association has designed a perfectly matching replacement drawer and had it 3D printed in Germany. The new drawer is slightly thicker than the original, stronger, and can also be personalized with name and hull number of your S&S Swan.

The 3D drawings are available to all members of the S&S Swan Association.

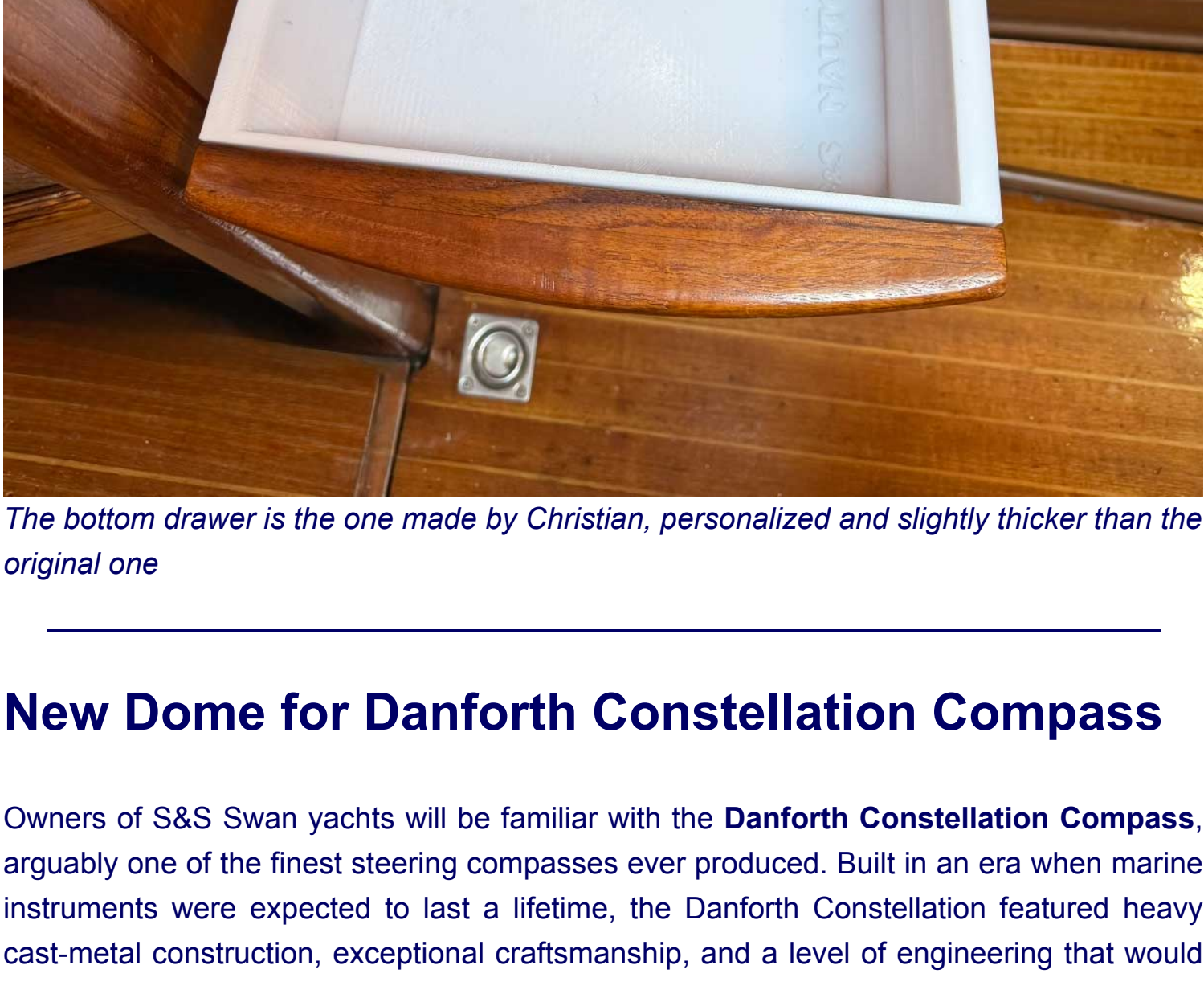
Here is what he kindly sent us:

I have used the freely available program OpenSCAD to create a digital model for the plastic drawers at the navigation station and the pantry, whereby the wall thickness was increased from 3 to 4mm, to make it more robust, and a text in Nautor font was added at the bottom to personalize it to our boat (S&S NAUTOR'S SWAN 411/028). It is easily possible to also add compartments inside the drawer, for instance for the cutlery, but in the end I decided against this because I did not really need it. I worked with a printing shop to have the drawer printed - they tested multiple materials, in the end they went with PETG, since this gave the best results. The result is a bit heavier than the original, largely because of the added thickness, and has a sturdier feel to it when operating it. Regarding the task cover, I used paper and pen to create a template of the drilling holes, and applied that to the drawer, so that no new holes needed to be drilled into the wood. Overall the result is very satisfying.*

There is likely only one type of drawer for the S&S Swans. At the top it is 475mm x 257mm, and it is 90mm high. If these are the measurements of your drawers, and if they look like the drawing below, you can use the STL file in the maintenance section of the association web site to have it printed by a shop of your choice. Alternatively I can point you to the shop that I have been using. This STL file comes with a neutral text at the bottom of the drawer (S&S NAUTOR'S SWAN).*

Feel free to create your own version of the drawer by using OpenSCAD and the .scad file in the maintenance section as starting point. Also, you may try other materials than PETG. If you just want custom text in the drawer, I am happy to send you a personalized STL file. If you have proposals to improve the model, I am happy to discuss that with you and provide new versions of the files.

I can be reached at christian(at)nille-galle.org.



The bottom drawer is the one made by Christian, personalized and slightly thicker than the original one

New Dome for Danforth Constellation Compass

Owners of S&S Swan yachts will be familiar with the **Danforth Constellation Compass**, arguably one of the finest steering compasses ever produced. Built in an era when marine instruments were expected to last a lifetime, the Danforth Constellation featured heavy cast-metal construction, exceptional craftsmanship, and a level of engineering that would be prohibitively expensive to reproduce today.

Looking at a Danforth Constellation today, you immediately understand why these compasses have become so sought after among owners of classic yachts all over the world. Much like the original Sparkman & Stephens Swans, they were built without compromise, with durability, reliability, and seaworthiness as the primary objectives. They were not intended to be replaced after a few decades, but to serve generation after generation.

Their substantial bronze construction, precision engineering, and timeless design stand in sharp contrast to many modern marine instruments, which are often conceived around lightweight materials and limited service lives. **More than half a century later, both the Danforth Constellation and the S&S Swan continue to prove that true quality is measured not in years, but in generations.**

One of the challenges faced by Owners has always been the replacement of damaged, deteriorated or lost domes, a component that has long been unavailable. Thanks to the determination of **G.B., Owner of S&S Swan 47 Hypatia**, and his close collaboration with **Fuselli** in Genoa, this problem has now been solved.

After a long and demanding development process, Fuselli is now able to manufacture replacement domes for the Danforth Constellation Compass. Owners wishing to replace their dome are strongly encouraged to send the complete compass to Fuselli, ensuring a perfect fit between the new dome and the original base.

This is excellent news not only for Danforth owners, but for everyone who believes that preserving a well-engineered piece of equipment is preferable to replacing it with a modern equivalent of lesser quality. The ability to restore these remarkable compasses ensures that they will continue guiding yachts for decades to come.

We congratulate G.B. for his perseverance and dedication in bringing this project to fruition and making this solution available to the entire community of Danforth Constellation Compass owners.

It is also worth noting that Fuselli continues the tradition of fine marine instrument making, producing beautiful hand-crafted bronze compasses, built one at a time and designed to provide generations of service.

You can find Fuselli among the S&S Swan Selected Shipyards



A new dome for a timeless instrument. Thanks to the efforts of G.B. and Fuselli, owners of Danforth Constellation Compasses can once again restore these legendary instruments rather than replace them.

2026 Swan Heritage Reunion

Capraia Island, 19 . 20 . 21 June 2026

Three weeks from now, on **June 20 . 21. 22, Swan Heritage Reunion** will finally become reality.

What began as a simple idea, bringing together the Classic Swan owners that shaped the history of Nautor's Swan, is now taking form in the best possible way. Owners from different countries have already confirmed their participation, with or without their Swans, representing three generations of legendary Swan design: the Sparkman & Stephens Swans, the Ron Holland generation, and the German Frers Swans built through the end of the 1990s.

Over the past twenty-six years, we have exclusively organized gatherings dedicated to the Sparkman & Stephens Swans. However, over the years, many owners of Ron Holland and German Frers Swans, friends who share the very same spirit and passion, repeatedly asked us if one day it might be possible to create something bringing together all the Classic Swans.

It is precisely from those conversations, suggestions, and friendships that the **Swan Heritage Reunion** was born, and we are truly delighted that this idea is now becoming reality.

What makes this gathering truly special is not competition, but the shared spirit that has always united Classic Swan Owners: a passion for beautiful yachts, proper seamanship, offshore sailing, and the preservation of a unique heritage.

The following Swan and Owners have already confirmed their participation:

S&S Swan 36/010 Isabella
S&S Swan 38/090 Cutti **
S&S Swan 40/047 Star Swan **
S&S Swan 41/003 Diana ***
S&S Swan 41/004 Ciala II
S&S Swan 41/020 Something
S&S Swan 41/025 Lithian
S&S Swan 43/019 Manurau
S&S Swan 43/047 Mokkola
S&S Swan 44/014 Four Winds
S&S Swan 44/014 Typoon****
S&S Swan 47/016 Grampus
S&S Swan 47/029 Sarabande *****
S&S Swan 47/039 Outrageous *****
S&S Swan 47/041 Tortuga
S&S Swan 47/051 Bjata
S&S Swan 47/056 Black Tie
S&S Swan 47/069 Vanessa
S&S Swan 55/016 Valhalla *****
S&S Swan 57/006 Matchless
S&S Swan 57/037 Blanchia di Navarra
S&S Swan 65/040 Une Joie de Vivre

RH Swan 39/029 Katia
RH Swan 43/111 Fidibu'

GF Swan 40/048 Solenia
GF Swan 44/012 Windekind
GF Swan 46/019 Assiduous
GF Swan 46/090 Twilight
GF Swan 51/010 Cartouche
GF Swan 51/012 Formosa
GF Swan 53/046 Galadriel
GF Swan 65/007 Lunz am Meer
GF Swan 77/010 Blue Itaca

*Owner is cycling to Capraia to join us from Milan
**Owner is flying to Capraia to join us from Portugal
***Owners are flying to Capraia to join us from Finland
****Owners are flying to Capraia to join us from San Francisco, USA
*****Owners are swimming to Capraia to join us from Rome
*****Owner is flying to Capraia to join us from the UK
*****Owner is flying to Capraia to join us from the UK

Provisional schedule:

Friday, 19 June 2026

Arrival, welcome cocktail (kindly offered by Nautor)

Saturday, 20 June 2026

Fleet sailing around the island, followed by dinner for all Owners and their Crew

Sunday, 21 June 2026

Farewell day

22 June:

Following the **Swan Heritage Reunion**, several participating Swan will continue their voyage together toward Argentario peninsula to take part in the 2026 edition of the **Argentario Sailing Week**, organized by our friends at the **Yacht Club Santo Stefano** from **June 24 to 28**.

A friendly and informal sail from Capraia to Porto Santo Stefano is also being promoted for those heading toward Argentario after the **Swan Heritage Reunion**. The passage will be entirely self-managed, with each owner recording their own departure and arrival times, very much in the true Corinthian spirit that has always characterized Classic Swan Owners.

The following Swans are expected to take part in the Capraia - Argentario passage and in the Argentario Sailing Week:

S&S Swan 37/051 Tikka III
S&S Swan 42/025 Lithian
S&S Swan 47/004 Dream
S&S Swan 47/016 Grampus
S&S Swan 57/006 Matchless
GF 65/007 Lunz am Meer

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S&S Swan - The Original Swan



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