

RUNNING TIDE
Sparkman & Stephens Design No. 1969

LOA 60.5', LWL 43', Beam 14'3'', Draught 9', Sail Area 1,515 Sq. Ft.

Designed in 1969 and built of aluminium plating (see drawing) which is considered by many to be the most ideal material for yacht construction (combining the extreme strength of steel with resistance to impact, light weight but somewhat prone to electrolytic corrosion). RUNNING TIDE won class honours in the 1970 Bermuda race and was placed first in the 1971 Southern Ocean racing circuit. She represents a radical development from the designs of 6 years earlier (see CORSARO and STELLA POLARE) with a comparatively narrow beam, long forward overhangs and the split keel and skeg rudder profile favoured in the late 60s and early 70s (see S&S 34/MORNING CLOUD). Although not spartan, her accommodation plan is quite simple for a vessel of this length. There are no owner state rooms, the entire forward part of the vessel is kept very simple for sail storage. Of course, compared to many of the competitive maxi yachts and Whitbread yachts of today, the accommodations are truly luxurious! Nevertheless, the contemporary yachting press in 1972 found her quite radical. Despite changing hands in 1972 and being used as a family boat, her new owners had a series of racing successes from 1973 onwards, winning the 1976 Bermuda Race outright. The new owner, Van Metres was dedicated to keeping her competitive and continually upgraded her changing the rig, the mast and finally adding a slimmer S&S design keel. The result was a win in the 1976 Bermuda race but thereafter RUNNING TIDE succumbed to the newer, lighter and faster yachts which were being developed. In many ways, she foreshadows the yachts of the 1980s and the larger Swans.