

CORSARO II and STELLA POLARE
Sparkman & Stephens Designs 1505 and 1505.1

LOA 59'4", LWL 50', Beam 16'1", Draught 9'6", Sail Area 2,231 Sq. Ft., Displacement 94,486 lbs.

CORSARO was designed for the Italian Navy as a training/racing vessel in 196???? and her close sister STELLA POLARE was designed 196????, both as classic S&S auxiliary yawls. In this they followed an established type made popular in 1953 by George Coumantaros's BACCARAT and MAH JONG but on a larger scale. The lines plans are classic S&S but marginally adapted for the RORC rule; thus one can see a small amount of tumble home in the top sides, allowing a more favourable rating which does not appear on the American CCA rated boats. The widest point of beam is also carried slightly closer towards the water line. The underwater sections and the extremely flat run aft with a relatively long counter, steeply raked transom, which more than balances the forward overhang, is both elegant to look at and practical. The boats when pressed draw almost no quarter wave.. The relative differences between boats designed between 1958 and 1964 are infinitesimal.

The cabin and construction plan shows the boat comfortably laid out with 15 berths and extensive lockers allowing for a large crew. Yet despite being a Naval vessel for sail training, there is considerable comfort with three toilet compartments for the large crew and a separate cabin for the skipper. The almost flush deck profile with sweeping sheerline to the bow and small deck house, classic yawl rig which allows a 2 % premium on rating against a similar sized sloop or cutter are all typical of S&S at this period. There are small differences between CORSARO II and STELLA POLARE although the design is numbered the same. The later boat has a CONSTELLATION type rudder that came into vogue around 1963. In addition the distribution of the lead keel is marginally different and there would appear to be the slightest additional hollowing of the forefoot just forward of the mast.

STELLA POLARE was winner of the Bermuda-Travmunda transatlantic race in 1968. She was winner of the Giraglia in 1966, she set a race record for the course which stood for 18 years. She was the 1970 winner of the Palma di Majorca-Cabera-Palma race in both corrected and real time. This is rather impressive for a boat which was built as a training vessel rather than as an out and out racer.