

sailers

possibly written by Bob Ross
circa late 70's.

Red Jacket

The Red Jacket and her larger sister the 5.95 metre Red Witch are an established part of the Australian boating scene. Supplied complete with trailer and all set to go, this Swedish designed boat is making a very pronounced impact on the small boat scene in this country.

In profile the Red Jacket is not at all in the Scandinavian tradition. Quite the reverse, in fact—she bears much of the style of the early American and Continental small craft in that she is 'chunky', with moderate topsides, and a fairly high cabin rise. The hull has a most attractive line, being in effect round bilge but with a small 'planing strake' or spray rail, rather akin to normal power boat design. The underside of her hull also has longitudinal strakes.

There is moderate flare and rake at the bow, but otherwise the hull follows a fairly conventional shape, although once again tending more towards the flat-bottomed, planing-type of hull of the power craft rather than the deeper lines of the standard yacht design. This is to expedite trailering, and it is a credit to the designer that the all-round result not only trailers well, but also sails well. The 'stubby' keel has its 204 kilogram ballast packed into a 0.69 metre draft.

The cabin is neat and fits the profile of the boat well. Although somewhat high in proportion to the topsides, this is necessary and fairly conventional in small boats in order to make cabin space reasonable. A short foredeck allows sufficient room to stand, but not much room for moving around, and here we felt the designer might have taken another tip from power boat design.

A small foredeck is decidedly tricky for anyone attempting to anchor or moor, and a large forward hatch, properly located, enables the anchoring operation to be carried out successfully with the entire body, bar head, shoulder and arms, securely retained within the hatchway. The hatch on the Red Jacket would not allow this, and as a result the forward hand must make a precarious way along narrow side decking and hang on by his teeth while dropping the anchor.

The End - (apologies for missing articles).

The 1970's (hayday of t.s.) was a long time ago