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Swan 46 Refit. Scanstrut radar pole installation.

2 August 2020

Today saw us concentrate our efforts on the important task of installing the new stern mount radar pole.

The main consideration for me was that I wanted to remove the radar from the mast and mount the new unit much lower to the deck. Taking this option removes precious weight from the rig aloft, reduces the amount of pitch and roll the radar unit has to deal with and also provides a degree of redundancy should the worst ever happen and we lose the mast at sea. In that scenario we would likely still retain full functionality of the radar giving an essential long range view of approaching vessels.

I had considered building a custom pole, however Scanstrut's purpose built stern mount radar pole offers all the answers straight out of the box. Its lightweight, beautifully engineered and thanks to its cleverly designed base plate mounting system, installation is a simple process. Furthermore, there are a range of optional extras available to suit various applications and requirements.

One option I was particularly impressed with is the high power LED deck light which mounts directly onto the pole via a purpose built stainless steel bracket.

I decided to take this option as it offers an ability to flood light the deck area at night whilst sailing. An important safety aspect which also doubles up as a convenient lighting solution for those late night in port cockpit parties after sunset.

For this job I was joined by my good friend and previous Round Britain Race co skipper Malcolm. With two of us working together we soon had the pole built and ready for a first dry fit to check everything looked correct.



Quality components make up the complete Scanstrut system.



We laid out all the fittings on the deck to check we had everything we needed to complete the job.



Fitting out the pole on the side deck.



Fitting the LED deck light



The pole assembly is light weight and easily handled by one person. although installation worked best with two people.



Lifting the pole into position for the first time. This was the dry fit. We did this a total of three times before final fit out.



Pole assembly , pulling the radar and deck light wires through the recessed conduit



Drilling the base plate mounting holes in the transom which secure the bottom of the Radar pole in position. The masking tape marks an area on the transom which must not be drilled into.



One of several mounting parts which secure the pole in position. Quality fixings and a well thought out design made installation a simple process.



The view from above the pushpit looking down at the transom face. Showing the base of the Scanstrut pole mounting and side brace support.



The finished job. The pole feels sturdy and ready for service



I decided upon the longer 2.5 Meter pole length for our installation. Scanstrut also offer a shorter pole for smaller boats or different mounting solutions ondeck rather than mounting onto the



Scanstrut radar pole with optional high power LED light. A class act and ready for service. The LED light is great for illuminating the deck at night.

So, with the radar pole fully installed we can turn our attentions to the next job, installing the new nav electronics. More news when we have it.....

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