

Refit

Scorpio 35 refit

Hard work (plus cash) saves a classic from the scrapheap

by Barry Hammerberg



STRIDER'S CLEAN WHITE DECK AND THE rich red paint job attracted our attention as she floated in her slip at Sugarloaf Marina in Port Colborne, Ontario. She looked new, yet she displayed classic lines. Intrigued, we wandered over to talk to Dave MacMillan, the owner, and learned that she had gone through a major refit.

Dave's brother, Joe, frequently cruised to the marina in Dover, Ontario. As many sailors are, he was interested in orphaned boats, those that were sitting on cradles while others were sailing. Lost souls. He returned often to a flashy red-hulled sailboat that had been sitting in the parking lot for several years. He mentioned to Dave that this could be a very nice project boat; it just needed a little work. As Joe kept an eye on the boat, the price dropped annually from \$69,000 through \$29,000

to \$20,000 (all prices in Canadian dollars). Dave decided to take a look.

He and Joe headed to Dover one rainy day. As they pulled into the yard, Joe pointed out the boat. Even in the rain, the hull glistened, beckoning. She was bright red with a gold stripe accentuating her burgundy cap stripe, a nice paint job. This was not exactly Dave's choice of colors, but she was attractive. He and Joe climbed her lad-

der. There they found a dirty, spongy deck with areas that flexed to the point that Dave feared falling through. Inside the cabin it was raining just as hard as it was outside; water was dripping from the overhead. The broker agreed that the boat was about a

Made an offer

Dave brought his wife, Diane, to look at the boat. After some thought, they

made an offer and bought the boat for \$12,000, about the cost of the paint job on the hull. They were now the new owners of a Scorpio 35, vintage 1981.

It sorely needed attention. Undaunted, Dave figured others had done it, and he could too. He had space in a heated building built for his earth-moving equipment. He had the boat hauled to his shop to begin the restoration.

The first thing on his list of projects

“The broker agreed that the boat was about a season from becoming a total scrap, yet it appealed to Dave.”