

USCGA EMBARKING ON SAILBOAT ACQUISITION TO SUPPORT CADET COASTAL SAIL TRAINING PROGRAM

The Academy is committed to having all second class cadets participate in the Coastal Sail Training Program (a.k.a. Luders) during their 2/c summer training period. The program is 12 days in length where groups of 5-6 cadets per vessel sail throughout New England on one of the Academy's four Luder Yawls or a comparable donated sailing vessel. A qualified officer, senior enlisted, or CGA staff/faculty member is assigned as a Safety Officer, providing oversight and guidance as the cadets practice navigation, seamanship and sailing; gain experience in a small unit command environment; and gain valuable insight and contact with the boating public — one of the Coast Guard's biggest customers — all while on the open waters of the New England coast. The hands on leadership experience, including serving as "mast captain," brings many important opportunities to "learn at sea" just as early cadets did on *Dobbin* and *Chase*. Combining their navigational, seamanship and leadership skills during the trip is an ideal experience for all the 2/c cadets involved as they begin their last two years at the Academy in a senior leadership role within the Corps of Cadets.

[Editor's Note: For details of the Coastal Sail Training Program and its impact on cadet leadership and professional development, please see the article by Cadet Ryan Mowbray, '09, on page 39 of this issue.]

Dr. James S. Tyler, '58, an avid sailor whose generous gift has created the Institute

for Leadership and endowed Distinguished Chair in Leadership (currently served by ADM Jim Loy (Ret), '64), has been highly supportive of the program along with the Institute the past two summers. The Institute provides financial support for the Coastal Sail Training Program by sponsoring mid-program dinners that provide opportunities to discuss leadership principles while at sea. On several occasions, ADM Loy has joined the cadets during their sailing program to discuss leadership and their future roles as Coast Guard officers. RADM Burhoe and the Academy are committed to having every 2/c cadet participate in the Coastal Sail Training Program, learning, practicing seamanship, and practicing valuable leadership lessons about responsibility and accountability. This is one of the Academy's most important summer development programs.

The current fleet of sailing yachts for the Academy consists of four 44' Luder Yawls built in 1965. For more than 40 years, these boats have served the Academy well but are extremely 'tired' and the maintenance for their upkeep continues to grow each year. The four Luders are augmented by Coast Guard Foundation donated vessels (i.e., *Verve*, *Aries* and *Glory*) to support the program but these vessels are not ideal and have maintenance/lifecycle issues of their own. To ensure every 2/c cadet participates in the traditional "Luders Program" during their 2/c summer, a minimum of eight vessels is needed.

On the USCGA Margin of Excellence needs list is a project to replace the four Luder yawls and add four additional boats. The cost to acquire eight new ocean sailboats is approximately \$6M. The Naval Academy, which also purchased Luders in the '60s, is about to purchase a third generation sail training craft — a new 44' Pedrick-designed and Pearson-built craft (Navy 44 MKII) — to replace their current fleet of boats (1987 Navy 44 MKI). They just received their first boat of what will eventually be 24 new sailing vessels over the next 2 years. The Navy's effort to replace their fleet provides several great opportunities for the Coast Guard Academy to achieve significant progress in its pursuit of an eight vessel sailing fleet desired at CGA.

The Alumni Association and the Coast Guard Foundation are seeking to raise funds to purchase one or more of these new 44-ft MKII hulls from Pearson to support the Academy's Coastal Sailing Program. The Coast Guard Foundation has recently approved a project to raise enough funds to purchase at least one new hull to add to the fleet and if more funds are raised, there is the possibility of purchasing more boats since the Pearson contract with the Navy will actually span the next couple years.

Additionally, through the efforts CAPT Dan May, '79, the CGA Assistant Superintendent and the CGA sailing staff, the Naval Academy has agreed to give CGA the option to take some of their existing sailboats



Existing USCGA Luder Yawl under sail



Existing Navy 44-foot MKI sail training boat

(at no cost) once they are replaced by the new Navy MKIIs. These boats will need some updating and refurbishment but will be far superior to the Luders and combined with any new hull(s) purchased, will allow the Academy to immediately increase the fleet to the eight boats needed to operate the sail training program for all 2/c cadets within the next two years.

Ideally, enough interest among the Alumni and the Foundation could result in the eventual purchase of eight new boats. The cadets and Sailing Team will also be using the sailing vessels during the fall and spring academic semesters as part of an increased emphasis in cadet waterfront training in order to better connect cadet military training to the operational Coast Guard. The fall and spring sailing experience during the school year will also yield a more advanced

training opportunity during the summer program due to the increased familiarity with the sail training craft.

CDR Jim Sylvester, President of the USCGA Alumni Association, Mr. Larry Glenn, Vice Chairman of the Board of the Coast Guard Foundation, and Dr. Tyler are excited and enthusiastic about this new project and are looking for all alumni (Class Presidents/ Agents, are you reading this?) and members of the Foundation to support this campaign in addition to the outstanding support already provided.



New 44' Pedrick-designed and Pearson-built craft (Navy 44 MKII); drawing at left

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