

Morris Yachts chosen to build the CGA Leadership 44

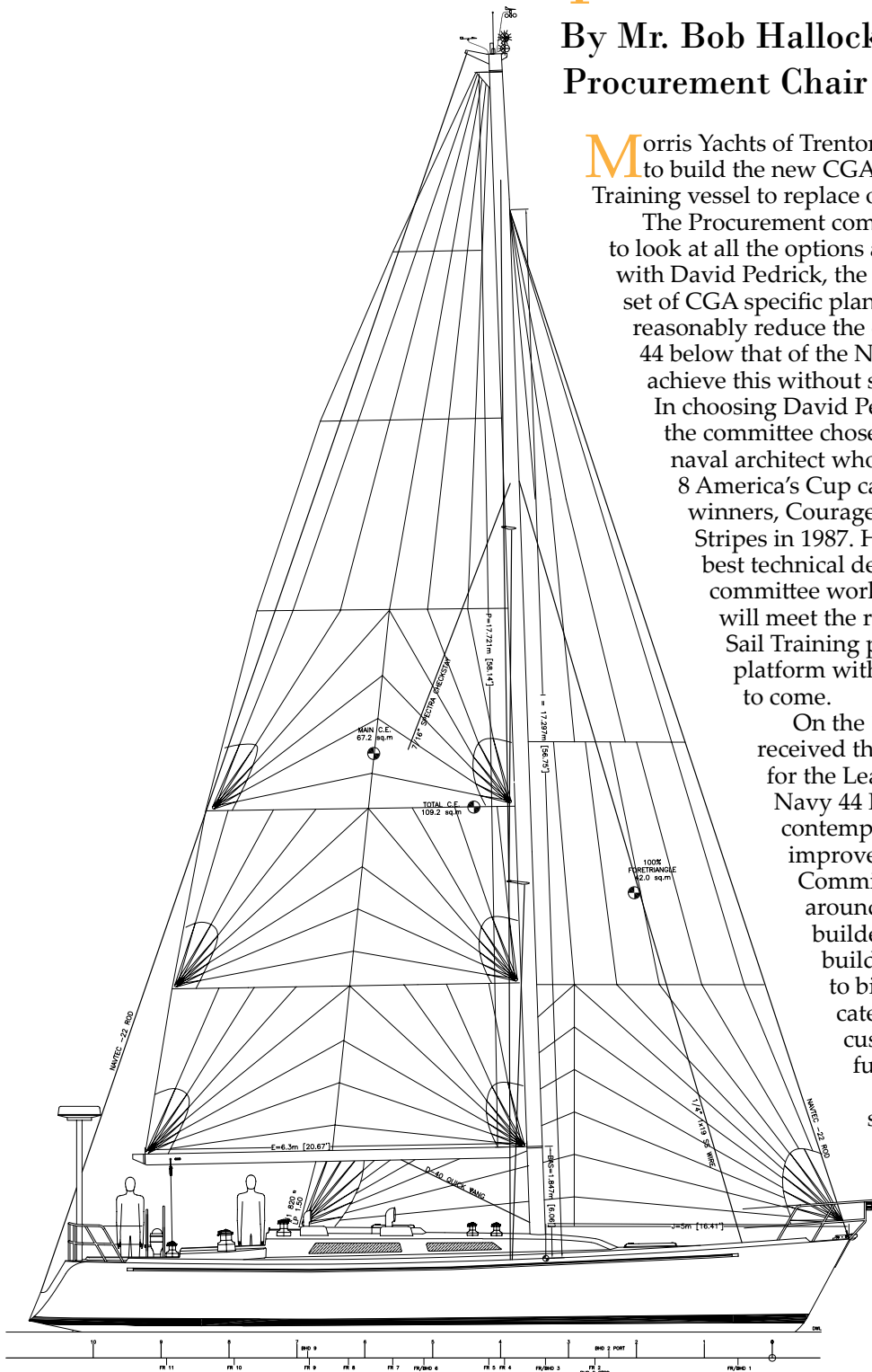
By Mr. Bob Hallock, '72,
Procurement Chair

Morris Yachts of Trenton, Maine has been chosen to build the new CGA Leadership 44 Coastal Sail Training vessel to replace our aged Luder fleet.

The Procurement committee began meeting in January to look at all the options available to the project. Working with David Pedrick, the committee set out to develop a set of CGA specific plans and specifications that would reasonably reduce the overall cost of the Leadership 44 below that of the Navy version. The goal was to achieve this without sacrificing safety or performance. In choosing David Pedrick and his outstanding staff, the committee chose an internationally renowned naval architect who has led the design teams on 8 America's Cup campaigns and produced two winners, Courageous in 1974 and Stars and Stripes in 1987. His work embodies the very best technical designs in the market today. The committee worked hard to develop a boat that will meet the rigorous demands of the Coastal Sail Training program and give the Academy a platform with excellent performance for years to come.

On the 17th of March the committee received the final specifications and designs for the Leadership 44. Pedrick updated the Navy 44 MKII and created a boat with contemporary lines, simplified rig and improved sail plan. The Procurement Committee wanted to cast a wide net around the field of candidate U.S. builders for this project. Twelve builders were eventually invited to bid, representing three distinct categories of builders – fully custom/contract, semi-custom and fully production.

Of these, eight candidates submitted quotations. Five builders were selected as being fully competent for the project and were closely evaluated on a thorough and wide-ranging set of technical criteria. Three builders were ultimately selected as finalists and were visited by the technical evaluation team. After another



CGA Leadership 44 design by Pedrick Yacht Designs

technical evaluation and an assessment by the Procurement Committee of the candidate's business and financial merits, on July 29th the committee selected Morris Yachts as the Leadership 44 builder.

The late Tom Morris launched this enterprise in 1972 and was joined by his son Cuyler in 1995. Sailing in Maine refined Tom's sense of what makes a good boat. He established several key objectives for building a "Maine" quality yacht. It starts with proper engineering and design to provide weight savings and enhanced windward sailing performance in light air, while never compromising the rugged construction and safety required to face the open ocean. Morris Yachts has grown steadily over the years building a range of semi-custom finished sail and powerboats which now number close to 300. Customer pride and satisfaction has been a primary factor in their growth and success. Today, Morris yachts range in size from 29 to 62 feet.

As Morris Yachts has grown so have their services and facilities. The family business has expanded into a complete yacht service organization including brokerage, indoor heated storage and custom yacht construction. Morris' main construction facility is newly constructed and provides a state of the art venue that was designed and laid out to optimize work efficiency through the eight phases of construction: planning and design; interior pre-build; hull and deck lamination; pre-deck installation of joiner work, mechanical

and electrical systems; post deck finish work; sea trials; customer delivery and orientation.

The Procurement Committee represented all of the major stakeholders, RADM Rube Olsen '69 (Alumni Association Board), Larry Glenn (Coast Guard Foundation), Capt John Fitzgerald '87 (Commandant of Cadets, USCGA), Allen Kruger (Chief Waterfront Branch, USCGA), Kelly Morgan (USCGA Parents Association), David Pedrick and Paul Miller Ph.D. (Head of Naval Architecture at the U.S. Naval Academy).

"This has been the most rewarding committee experience I have ever had," said Chairman Bob Hallock, '72. "The committee members were fantastic, knowledgeable, experienced in a wide range of areas. Everyone had their viewpoints considered and all were part of the final decision. To end up with a builder of Morris' reputation to build our next generation of training vessels is very exciting for all of us. This fleet of new sailboats will touch 100% of the Academy cadets at some point throughout their career and will do that for several generations."

The Procurement Committee began working on drafting a contract with Morris Yachts on the first four Leadership 44s, with an execution date anticipated around the middle of September. Fundraising has begun with the partners in the project working toward the common goal of a completed fleet in early 2011.

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