

THE EVEN KEEL

Volume 1 Cover Story

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Steve Black Has West Marine 50' Ready For B.O.C. Race

Few boats become household names but 'Courageous' is a dramatic title that conjure up treasured memories, among sailors and non-sailors alike.

The Museum of Yachting in Newport, Rhode Island, has created the Courageous Foundation. Courageous was recently acquired by Craig Millard for the Foundation and the famed 12 meter is currently undergoing a major restoration at Hinckle Yacht Services in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. Along with a new keel, supplied by Mars, mast, spars, rigging, and sails, the yacht's deck and transom will be restored to their 1977 configuration.

Refurbishing Courageous to her 1977 form is significant because in that year, like the America's Cup winners, Columbia and Intrepid before her, Courageous became the third defender to win back-to-back America's Cup matches. The 1974, Courageous winner was skippered by the famed Ted Hood. In 1977, it was the flamboyant Ted Turner at the helm, having bested two new boats in the defender trials.

Aussie Skipper Alan Bond was back in 1977, with his new Australia, which emerged atop a fleet of five challenging sailboats that also included the well known, Baron Bich's France II, Sweden's Sverige and Australia's Gretel II.

The '77 match, however, was a replay of 1974, when Courageous defeated, Australia's Southern Cross four to nil.

In 2002, David Pedrick, of Pedrick Yacht Design, in Newport, Rhode Island, is leading the refurbishing assisted by St. Catherines, Onfario's, Hali Barber.

Just five weeks after providing the drawings to Mars Metal the new 42,170 lb. (design weight) keel and 1310 lb. trim tab were ready to be shipped. The 'as cast' weight of the 16' long by 5' high Keel was 42,018 lbs., a mere 152 lbs. below target weight. This extremely low 0.360/o deviation is typical of Mars' precision casting expertise.

The trim tab had an integrally cast 316 stainless shaft and internal structure that insured that it was ready for easy installation.

Another component, supplied by Mars, was the deadwood plug for the forward end of the keel. This mahogany piece was laid up with 55 layers of sized, bidirectional E-glass, epoxied and vacuum bagged. This component needs to be super strong as it is one of the lifting points when the boat is removed from the water.

The keel was shipped to Portsmouth, where it will be fitted to the 'new' Courageous under the watchful direction of Hinckley's Bob Hood.

Courageous' current Captain, Niccolo Porzio, liaised with Mars President, Kevin Milne, over the course of the project, proving that good communication is the foundation of **"Success being Built from the Bottom UP"**.