

Tom Morris, 1940-2008

Tom D.C. Morris, founder of Morris Yachts, died Dec. 7, 2008. Morris was diagnosed with cancer in the summer of 2007.

Morris forged a long relationship with designer Chuck Paine that began with the production of the lovely *Frances 26* in 1974. The succession of well-built, semi-custom boats that came after *Frances* embodied Tom's philosophy that building a boat also involves building a bond with the customer. The M36 featured on page 36 embodies the high level of workmanship for which Morris was known.

Although the current breed of Morris yachts are pound-for-pound among the most expensive American-built



boats, Tom always maintained an understated, down-to-earth manner. Last time *PS* checked, the black Volkswagen he used to drive to work had more than 100,000 miles on it. Many of his boats will no doubt accrue much more.

Tom's son, Cuyler, who was named company president in 2001, will carry on Morris Yachts' lofty mission.