

THE BIG LEAGUE

HUNT STEPS UP TO DELIVER A CRUISING MOTORYACHT



Sir Richard Branson believes that, in a crisis, companies with capital to invest will make their own opportunities. The builders at Hunt Yachts just illustrated that principle by introducing a 52-footer, the largest boat in their line of deep-V hulls. Talk about an opportunity, to date, Hunt has delivered two of the yachts with the third under contract.

Bob Prince, who took delivery of hull number one, which he named *Godspeed*, is one of a trio of previous Hunt customers who drove the company and the process to take the big jump from its previous flagship, the Harrier 36 to this 52, which has a definite big boat feel.

By **JOYCE BLACK**
PHOTOS BY **BILLY BLACK AND ONNE VAN DER WAL**



Like all the other models in the Hunt Yachts lineup, the 52 was designed by C. Raymond Hunt Associates in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and shows inspiration from its design of the 2007 Global Arrow 68 in the layout of the interior. The profile is more conservative in the Down East tradition, however, and the windows of the saloon retain features of the Harrier's profile. The boats are delivered in the owner's choice of Awlgrip colors.

In keeping with the preference of both Baby Boomers and families with young children, the saloon, helm station and aft deck open into one continuous space on a single level with big windows and lots of seating. There is sufficient freeboard to accommodate a fully motorized dinghy garage opening onto a large swim platform behind.

With all the big engineering and design challenges of getting this model into production and delivered to the first customer, it's the details that caught the attention of the large crowd at the christening on the Hunt docks in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. "The aft dining table is in itself a marvel in concept, functionality and execution," noted Hunt President Peter Van Lanker. "It converts in size and position for maximum use of the space.

"Like all our designs," he continued, "we first offer the superior Hunt hull-form that comes from more than 60 years of experience and knowledge. This design is consistent with our other boats in that the styling and details will be elegant and enduring for generations to come, yet modern and setting the new standard for yachts of this size and style. Performance also sets the standard for the market niche in which we compete."

Hunt owners expect spirited performance and the 52 does not disappoint. Equipped with standard 705 horsepower Cat C12s and shaft drives, the boat will top out at 29 knots. But Hunt owners also expect options and the builder offers two: muscular Cat C18s upping the output by almost 600 horses, or a pair of Volvo IPS 900s, which adds a double VIP stateroom



In the galley-down layout shown above, the starboard side of the saloon features a service bar. The atrium-style galley is forward below on port. This master stateroom is in the bow.

in the center of the boat. With standard bow and stern thrusters or the IPS drives, the 52 was created to be a boat that could easily be handled by a couple.

There are also many innovative features and details in the boat. These range from the furniture and its functionality, to the custom hardware that is found throughout the boat. The interior, which is typically cherry can be ordered with mahogany, teak or chestnut trim and with either Corian or real stone countertops. Owners can opt for galley up or galley down opposite an office/library space that also makes into a stateroom.

In all configurations, the master stateroom is forward with a centerline queen-size island berth and its own head. A 20-inch Sony flatscreen and iPod-ready entertainment system, air conditioning and a 16 kW Northern Lights generator are standard.

CONTACT

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SPECIFICATIONS

LOA: 52' 1"
Beam: 15' 8"
Draft: 4' 6" (props)
Displ.: 54,000 lbs.
Fuel/Water: 750/150 U.S. gals.
Power: 2 x Caterpillar C12 @ 705 hp
Top/Cruising Speed: 29/25 knots
MSRP: \$1,795,000