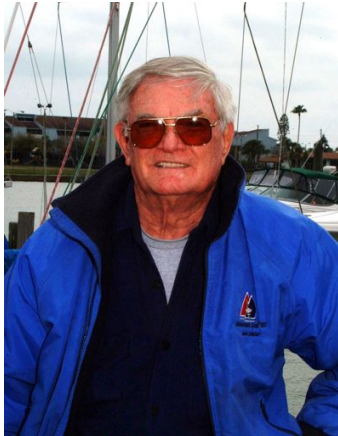


Charles E. Morgan, Jr. ... profile



Charles E. (Charley) Morgan, born November 17, 1929, was raised and educated in the public schools of Tampa, Florida and The University of Tampa.

His early employment was in the engineering department of the local Peninsular Telephone Company until resigning to open a yacht sail making business at St. Petersburg, Florida's Albert Whitted Airport's "Hanger One".

Later, Morgan entered the Yacht Designing business winning international recognition for himself and to "Our Town" with successes of the ocean-racing yacht, "Paper Tiger" that embarrassed the established yacht design community by winning championships of the Southern Ocean Racing Conference series of off-shore yacht racing for 1961 and 1962. Additional winning designs earned Morgan a berth aboard COLUMBIA in the America's Cup trials of 1962 and a long-term friendship with famed yacht designer, Olin Stephens, who kindly offered advice and guidance to the young designer over ensuing years.

Encouraged by success, Charley founded The Morgan Yacht Corporation beginning operations at St. Petersburg in 1962. The business grew rapidly and moved to larger facilities in Tyrone Industrial Park. Morgan together with his partner, schooldays sailing chum Bruce Bidwell, directed growth and development of the business, its product lines and dealer organization. Continued growth required larger facilities on a 20-acre tract in Largo, Florida; Morgan Yacht was for a time one of Pinellas County's larger employers. Charley designed numerous production sail, power yachts, and many "custom" yachts; he and Bidwell led the design and construction

team, which designed and produced over one hundred vessels for “Disney World’s” original watercraft Navy three of which were over 120 feet in length.

In 1970 Morgan designed, supervised construction of, financed and helmed the unsuccessful America’s Cup defense contender, HERITAGE, the last wooden 12-meter racing yacht to be launched in the United States. This effort was the subject of DUAL IN THE WIND the “Alcoa Hour” documentary film that focused the world on the challenge from “Our Town”, St. Petersburg, Florida.

Morgan has been a member of the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers since 1967 is a distinguished international yachtsman, a champion yacht-racing helmsman having won regional, national and international regattas. He is noted for his long-term support of organized sailing and boating activities through service on national and international yachting organizations and associations.

After retiring, Morgan engaged in yacht design, marine business consulting and expert witness appearances. He is often guest speaker at yacht clubs and civic organizations and is always an ambassador for Tampa Bay and “Our Town” of St. Petersburg, Fl.

Widowed 10 years ago Charley entered an Art History program at St. Petersburg College and is an avid oil painter. He is a member of The Portrait Society of America and The American Society of Marine Artists.

Today, at age 81, Morgan devotes himself to painting and staying in touch with owners and sailors of the large fleet of Morgan Yachts afloat around the world.

Charley and his wife Maurine, both active artists, reside on Key Capri, Treasure Island, Florida

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