



December, 2018

## President's Message

It is hard to tell where to start, but I must say that I am sorry to have been so out of touch this year. Friends know that I am not a complainer – I am very upbeat and positive. That said, I want you to know that I am now seriously disabled due to a second knee operation that damaged lymph nodes. What a wake-up call! I'm now awaiting a December 20<sup>th</sup> second opinion on whether this is a permanent disability – MERRY CHRISTMAS! Now, my entire life has changed and every step I take hurts with no improvement in sight.

My life has been turned upside down. This is the 48<sup>th</sup> year that I have been captain of ELF something I have basically worked all my life to enjoy in my GOLDEN YEARS. Now I am faced with the possibility that my days of active captain's duties may be coming to an end due to my handicap.. What to do next? I am not sure, but will keep you posted.

I do find now that I have more time to sit and type because I have daily self-administered treatments to reduce fluids and swelling. A silver lining... I guess it is a fine time to finish the book I have been working on for years. I told myself that I wanted it finished for year 50 as captain. I just finished making a cherry lap desk that I will use for this task, in part, during future hours of treatment. I am sure many of you may have a fond memory, an anecdotal story to share about your experiences aboard ELF. Please send along anything you think will be of interest.

I also want to thank all who attended the 130<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for ELF at Mount Harmon Plantation. The weather was picture perfect, sunny and in the mid-seventies. John Eaton brewed a tasty ELF Porter that went down quite well. The gardens around the plantation house were simply beautiful. Guided tours of the mansion were very interesting and greatly appreciated. I am sure I will not see the 200 celebration, but properly cared for ELF will! A true testament to a most historic vessel.

As I reflect on the past season, I am thrilled to have had a very successful 8<sup>th</sup> Annual ELF Classic Race. I am thankful to all that helped. We could not have made it work without the tireless help of Emilie Knud-Hansen, thanks to all. Please take some time and [read Emilie's race notes here.](#) And spread the word the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual ELF Classic Race will sail September 28, 2019. MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

This past August I was contacted by a member of the Friendship sloop association doing research on the reported seven vessels in the Chesapeake Bay area. We are the keepers of Departure, one of the smallest and very old, possible 99 years old Friendship sloop. We arranged for a visit to see Departure, and share stories and contacts. Interest in Departure grew which led to an article writing about a trip out of the Finger Lakes, down the Hudson. They completed the 1600-mile journey in time for the Friendship Sloop Rendezvous the summer of

1979. An interesting note in the article it was reported that at that time Departure was 60 years old. If that is correct next year she will have a 100-year golden anniversary. You can [read the complete article here.](#)

As I mentioned, Departure is only 15 feet long and generally in good shape, most in need of cosmetics, and a dose of TLC. I am currently trying to acquire a suitably, road worthy trailer to load her onto before restoring her. Her iron ballast keel is reported to be 800 pounds, and I would guess gross weight to be less than 2,000 pounds. Once she is on a good trailer we will wheel her into the shop for restoration. Please let me know if you have any ideas on locating a trailer.

Communications are vital, and please understand that if you send anything through the US Postal Service to me you must list PO BOX 237, if not it is returned to sender or trashed by the postal clerk. And, if you call me (C- 443-566-2212) please leave me a voicemail, and I will return your call. You can also text me and I will respond.

I want to thank all our CYRG members, sponsors, volunteers, and friends that have stepped up to the plate to help during the year. I appreciate it now more than ever. You are the core for keeping maritime history alive, the restoration skills, events, races and working with youth to pass on the passion. Maintaining the forward momentum is a challenge, but a very important calling.

Please consider a year-end donation to the Guild and/or membership renewal to help us maintain our mission and support for Elf. I look forward to sailing with many of you next season. Until then please accept my best wishes for a happy, healthy Holiday Season for you, your families and friends.

Thank You!  
Captain Rick