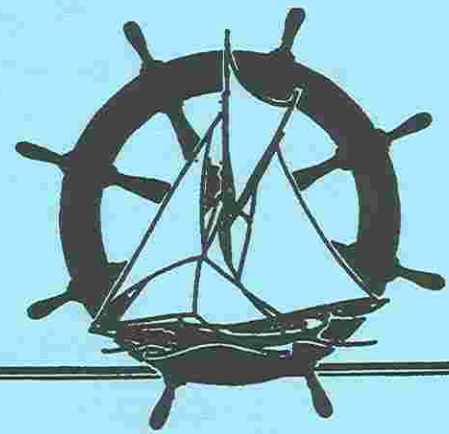


THE HELM

Fall, 2001 - Volume 19, No. 3



A PUBLICATION OF THE CLASSIC YACHT RESTORATION GUILD, INC.

Elf, past and future



President's Message

What Can You Do . . . ?

What Do You Want to Learn . . . ?

. . . by Rick Carrion

Over the years, our project has experienced as many ups and downs as the waves on the high seas. But, we are moving up to the crest with a lot of activity in the Elf workshop. With many jobs to complete before Elf will be ready to float, it is an exciting time.

As the Elf restoration project organizer, I realize that I cannot do everything, nor do I have to do so. Guild members are very helpful in volunteering their diverse skills to assist the overall project. And every effort is greatly appreciated. One day in August, fellow teacher Adam Stewart came by and, working together, we did some sanding, grouting and filling on the deck carlins and inside the hull. He had such a good time, he returned the next day, and the next! We accomplished a lot, and it was a fun and interesting experience for Adam.

With a restoration of Elf's magnitude, we need everyone's help. We all have skills and can learn new ones to help the project along. Some skills are not usually thought of as restoration skills. They may include computer graphics, web page creation and maintenance, fundraising, public relations, locating and purchasing period materials or equipment . . . and the list goes on and on. For example, Karen Everett is hard at work designing our web page, Brian McCandless has written countless letters and grants, and Greg DeCowski keeps our computer running in good order. In an exciting turn of events this summer, Hunt Stockwell (nephew of Vita and Gus VanLennep, founders of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum at St. Michael's, and past owners of Elf) put me in touch with a very generous donor. (See article re: Funding, below.)

These are just some of the folks who have generously lent assistance in various ways in the past several weeks, and their efforts are greatly appreciated! We do not all have to be in the bilge to feel as a contributor to the process. The increased interest in the restoration is great and we all can find a skill niche to help. And you may feel the need to learn or further hone a skill with some hands-on activity.

Graham, our shipwright, will be working on most Saturdays to help teach you new skills, techniques and concepts associated with traditional vessel restoration and maintenance. So please consider joining the forces any time that is convenient for your schedule. Please call ahead to announce your arrival: 410-275-2819 or e-mail me at Elf1888@earthlink.net.

Encouragement

Please consider writing an article for our news interest features. When you see your article published I will give you a gift of an official Elf T-shirt or Elf mouse Pad. We may, at times, need to edit your contribution for space considerations. Thank you!

Topics to consider:

- Historical or unique moments on Elf
- Tools or gear and their uses on traditional boats
- How-to articles
- Special Environmental moments that you enjoyed
- You and your boat adventures
- Other . . . your choice

"Arm Chair Sailor/Supporter"

We define this as anyone who has an interest in our programs and may want to be less active but sends support and encouragement. As a member you may become actively involved in restoration projects, a casual observer at workshops, or simply enjoy reading about events. At any rate, your contributions assure our continued success.

Graham's Letter

Things are moving again at the boat shop. The smell of boiling black pitch in the air is yet another link with the past. It is the same smell that has permeated wooden boats and boat shops for hundreds of years. It's how a real boat should smell.

Pitch, pine tar, oakum, wood, and iron is the unique combination that makes up humanity's most beautiful and functional invention. On a planet that is surfaced by 3/4 water, wooden boats are probably the most important invention in our short history. Someone else might say the automobile or the airplane are more important, but who the hell cares, I love boats.

Although this week doesn't exactly coincide with my flow chart, we are, at last, back in action and it feels good to be here.

The first order of business was one stubborn keel bolt near the stern where the engine is to go. We could not get it to go in before, so we left it for later. Well later is now and we had to face it. We fully anticipated a nightmare, but to our surprise, after considerable preparation, it drove home with a few substantial blows from a 10 lb. Sledge. DONE!

You would have thought *Elf* was feeling cooperative for a change. Perhaps missing the water and finally accepting that we are actually trying to help. Am I reading too much into this?

We have also made and installed a new locust mast step. We are planning the installation of the engine next while the bilge is open and accessible. Next, bulkheads, ceilings, and sole will be installed. Then the beautiful locust deck beams and carlins which Rick has been final prepping will be set. By Christmas this boat could float.

From now until her launch there are many and varied things that need to be done. If members want to get involved there has never been a better time.



Elf's Shipwright

Elf
Off Marblehead
1888



The Classic Yacht Restoration Guild Vision

The Classic Yacht Restoration Guild is a non-profit membership organization dedicated to the preservation of traditional watercraft, both power and sail. Yacht restorations are accomplished through a combination of member donated skills and resources. A cooperative educational setting is provided by the Guild for all members who wish to acquire or sharpen boat maintenance and restoration skills. Our membership is diverse. Each member can participate either as an instructor, a student of restoration techniques, a participant in Guild sailing events and cruises or as a supporter through dues and donations. The Guild also offers a variety of resources and skilled professionals who are qualified and interested in helping you connect with the right people to assist with your project.

Work on our flagship *Elf* currently involves restoration of the original rig, deck, and cabin configurations. In addition, the Guild has received donations of many small craft which are used as demonstration and education projects. Ships carpentry, rigging, mechanics, and fine wood finishing are all topics covered by periodic workshops held while restoration projects are underway.

Once a Guild vessel is made seaworthy, the true pleasure of operating historic or significant small craft begins. Members are encouraged to sail Guild vessels with emphasis on instruction of boating safety, piloting, navigation, and the maritime history of the Chesapeake Bay. The Guild plans several cruises to maritime and waterfront festivals every season. Members serve as crew and staff displays at these events.

As a non-profit organization, the Guild always welcomes tax-deductible contributions. For example, the Guild received a 1963 vintage Lightning class racing sailboat and a large library of titles on boat building, maintenance, and maritime history. Also, donation of items used for restoration or fund raising are also tax deductible.

With a growing membership, the Classic Yacht Restoration Guild looks forward to increasing activity and good times. Please ask a member for further information and details.

Membership Update

We are still looking forward to the day when *Elf* is launched and want you to be a part of her life. With your continued support, that day will come soon. The *Elf* project is truly unique, and I thank you for being part of making it a reality.

**All contributions are tax-deductible.
Members are invited to all activities.**

Call Rick for workshop details at 410-275-2819 or
E-Mail: elf1888@earthlink.net

 **Interlux**
PROTECTION YOU CAN TRUST

MARVELOUS MARBLEHEAD!

Wednesday, July 11th through Monday, July 16, 2001

... By Cyndi McNicholas

Marblehead was spectacular, in so many ways! The town itself is exquisitely beautiful, filled with perfectly restored 17th and 18th century homes, each displaying a profusion of flowers along with a plaque stating the name and profession of the original owner and the year of construction. We thoroughly enjoyed walking around the tiny streets, up and down the hills, peeking into story-book backyards, stopping for photo opportunities of the stunning views of Marblehead harbor -- with its 2500 boats! Needless to say, we tried to sample all of the delightful seafood -- lobster, shrimp, rich and delectable clam chowder, lobster rolls that warranted a repeat performance, salmon -- even pasta (with clams, of course)! Captain Rick even enjoyed a bit of shopping -- the shops displayed everything from the unusual to the exorbitant to the nautical to the silly. His happiest purchase -- a tee shirt bearing his favorite saying: "Life is Good!"

Oh, yes..... the purpose of the trip the Lawley Boat Owners' Symposium. On Friday, July 13th, we arrived early at the Eastern Yacht Club and snagged a prime spot for Rick's extensive Elf exhibit. The Club itself was plush and impressive, sporting new renovations, but with a very easy, comfortable atmosphere. It sits on a prime spot on Marblehead Neck, overlooking Marblehead harbor, and the harborside patios and decks offered lovely viewing locations. We had lunch in the windowed dining room overlooking the harbor and watched the children cartwheeling on the lawn under the watchful eyes of their youthful nannies. We could see across the harbor to the lovely B&B that was our home for almost a week. (See the inset, below.) I could certainly get used to life at the Eastern Yacht Club!

Most of the attendees were happy to sign Elf's log book and excited to hear about her renovation. We met Frank Payne's grandson, Jonathan Rice, who used to run the nautical gift and book store in St. Michael's. We met Kristen Johnson, whose father and uncle had actually worked for George Lawley himself. She had found the Symposium newsletter among her late uncle's papers and was interested in attending but hesitated, then recalled that she indeed had a Lawley boat -- an 8 foot sailing pram from which the sail had been removed, converting it to.... well, her little rowboat. She truly enjoyed hearing stories and information about the good old days in the Lawley boatyard. Bill Skinner and Viking Gustafson, with their young daughters, brought their Lawley yacht, Old Glory, a lovingly restored yacht with a large galley and a wet bar in the cockpit! Brian Cartwright, from Toronto, a novice who had done a beautiful restoration of Lawley runabout, Adelia, was able to complete the picture of his yacht's beginnings. Philip Tobey and Llewellyn Howland III, (each a new member of the CYRG) were fascinating. Llewellyn Howard is a wealth of knowledge about classic yacht racing and sailboat design, particularly in the Lawley years. And, Philip Tobey..... well, if you were stranded on a desert island with nothing but a Lawley-built yacht to get you home, you would want Philip Tobey to be there to ensure your safe return -- he knows every-

thing! Sue Connolly (Historian, Eastern Yacht Club) and her husband, Stephen Connelly (Commodore, Eastern Yacht Club), shared with us some of the history of the third oldest yacht club in the United States and, in turn, were interested to hear about Elf and her own history.

Bob Hicks, publisher of *Messing About in Boats*, was there with his camera, and promised to feature Elf in a future edition of the magazine that everyone on the Eastern Seaboard knows and loves.

And, last but certainly not least.....a word about the incomparable Albert Hickey -- founder of the Lawley Boat Owners' Association and organizer of the annual Symposium. A true gentleman, Albert could not have been more cordial and welcoming. In addition to providing a wonderful setting for the annual Symposium and promoting its future advancement, Albert videotaped the entire proceedings, as he has all of the previous symposia, thus creating an archival file of historically valuable accounts of the Lawley heritage. He also brought his restored Lawley yacht, Tamasese, to the Eastern and offered us a ride. A great round of applause is due to Albert for his efforts! (We neglected to record the history of his boat and its name, which is related to a Robert Louis Stevenson character. Perhaps he will write in and share it with all of us!)

All in all, the Symposium provided a wonderful opportunity to share thoughts and ideas about how to keep these classic yachts afloat for years. As such, it was an incomparably valuable resource for Captain Rick and for Elf!

AND, if that weren't enough..... we had the unforeseeable good fortune to be able to forge a friendship with our B&B hosts, Bob and Carol Swift, who own the exquisite *Compass Rose*, on Gregory Street in Marblehead, just across the harbor from the Eastern Yacht Club. (See inset.) Carol and Bob took an exceptional interest in Elf and, on Sunday night, hosted a gathering of their closest friends in Marblehead, inviting Rick to give a presentation about Elf. Susan Livingston, John Harkness, David and Nancy Reid, Liz and Nick Mango, Garrett and Frannie Bonnie what a delightful group of people! Comfortably perched on Bob and Carol's second floor deck overlooking the Marblehead harbor, enjoying cocktails and hors d'oeuvres Massachusetts style, we heard the story of Elf, beginning in 1971 and travelling at various times backward to 1888 and forward to 2003.*

This group of die-hard New England sailors took great pleasure in inspecting the old photographs of Elf in her early races in front of the Eastern Yacht Club but no! We learned that those early photographs showed not the Eastern but the Corinthian Yacht Club in the background! As we learned, the races started from the Eastern Yacht Club at 8 A.M. (a tradition observed even today) and continued past Corinthian Yacht Club, around the point into the ocean, eventually returning into the harbor and down to the finish line at the Eastern Yacht Club. The early photographs that you've all seen of Elf in her glorious rac-

**19th Annual Crab Feast & BBQ
September 15, 2001
(Rain Date: September 22, 2001)
Cherry Grove Farm Beach Front
Veaseys Cove On the Bohemia River**

I am very pleased to announce your invitation to our 17th annual crab feast - BBQ and day on the Bay. For all who have attended one or more in the past, you know what a wonderful treat to expect. And to all the first-timers, prepare yourselves for a most memorable day on the Bay with many wonderful new friends.

We will host this year's event again at Cherry Grove Farm's waterfront at Veaseys Cove. We are very happy that the Ward family has graciously extended an invitation to enjoy their wonderful Bohemia River beach front.

Please bring your favorite dish to share, and please, please, please bring a copy of the recipe for our boater's cookbook. Be proud of your creation! We want to develop a cookbook of tasty, easy-to-do recipes that everyone will crave. So give it your best shot and you will help with the success of the crab feast and the Elf restoration.

Also bring your favorite beach toy to share in between bites of crab and BBQ, and while enjoying the crab cake cook off. Musical instruments are also welcome. Come by boat, by horse, by car, scooter, bicycle, or whatever, but please just come.

For planning purposes, please let me know by Monday, September 10 that you and your family or friends plan to attend.

Cost this year will be \$30 (members) or \$45 (non-members). Children Free.

This is a fund raising event for the Elf restoration project.

Please RSVP by September 10:

Phone: 410-275-2819

E-Mail: elf1888@earthlink.net

Please mail your check ASAP to:

Classic Yacht Restoration Guild, Inc.

PO Box 237

Earleville, MD 21919

Wood for Wooden Boats

The heart and soul of a wooden boat starts with a long slow development and growth in the forests of the world. To perpetuate these lovely wooden vessels we must first appreciate and value the vast natural resources that our forests provide: the timber. Shortly after purchasing ELF in 1971, I had to do repairs that required finding top quality wood (WHAT A PROJECT, JUST FINDING THE WOOD!). Try going to your local lumber yard and ask for a 2"x12"x12' piece of air dried flawless white oak. Watch the response. Over the years I have harvested thousands of board feet of boat quality wood for the ELF restoration, and made excess available for other vessels. This year is no exception. A new member, Ralph Hooper, gave me a 40" diameter chestnut oak with 40 feet of straight trunk, which Guild members cut into boat timber. The timber was cut only for the eventual restoration of 3 different wooden vessels, one being John Eaton's 1928, fifty foot ELCO SUNBEAM.

John is writing an article for the next issue of the HELM.

If you need wood for a wooden boat restoration, or new construction call me first!!!



ing days actually depict the Corinthian Yacht Club in the background and not the Eastern, where William H. Wilkinson and Henry Howard were members. We are sure, however, that all of the yacht clubs in the area were graced, at one time or another, by the presence of these early Elf owners!

* The next Marblehead to Halifax race is scheduled for 2003, and everyone we met would like Elf to be part of the race!



If you go to Marblehead, or Boston, make plans to stay at Compass Rose. There are two locations: in town at 61 Atlantic Street and "The Studio by the Sea" at 36 Gregory Street, where we stayed. Call Carol at 781-631-7599. The sole guest room at our location was carved out of part of their exquisite home, which has been featured in decorating and travel magazines. It consisted of one great room, containing a Queen-sized bed, breakfast table, kitchenette (including full-sized refrigerator, stocked for breakfast and beyond, and stove and sink, all enclosed by French doors), and a separate bathroom, all decorated in a historic nautical theme, complete with interesting photographs and books. Our little stone patio with big, comfortable wicker chairs, underneath their back deck, had a wonderful view of Marblehead harbor, as well as Carol's sumptuous flower garden. It was private and beautiful. In the room Carol provided everything that you might need, including a TV, phone, radio with tape player, extra supplies, iron, playing cards, writing paper, etc. As she explained, these were the things that she would like to see in the B&B's that she would visit.

Bob and Carol are gracious hosts, allowing their guests as much privacy as they like, but ensuring that every need is met. We loved everything from the home-made cranberry bread to the quiet and relaxed atmosphere — the two night minimum stay is simply not enough!

Boats for Sale

- Lightning, fiberglass, need some work (Best Offer)
- Lightning, wood, need minor work (B.O. above \$2,500)
- 15' Runabout 35hp Johnson, needs work (B.O.)
- Pringell 16' Catamaran, needs minor work (B.O.)
- FJ (Flying Junior) minor work (B.O.)
- Catalina 22 (B.O. above \$2000)

Funding: Keeping the Boats Afloat

As you can understand, the issue of funding is always critical to any organization. We are constantly trying to find new and painless ways to generate funding for our many projects. Your continued membership contributions are very important, so please continue. If you are not a current member, please consider rejoining or joining as a new member.

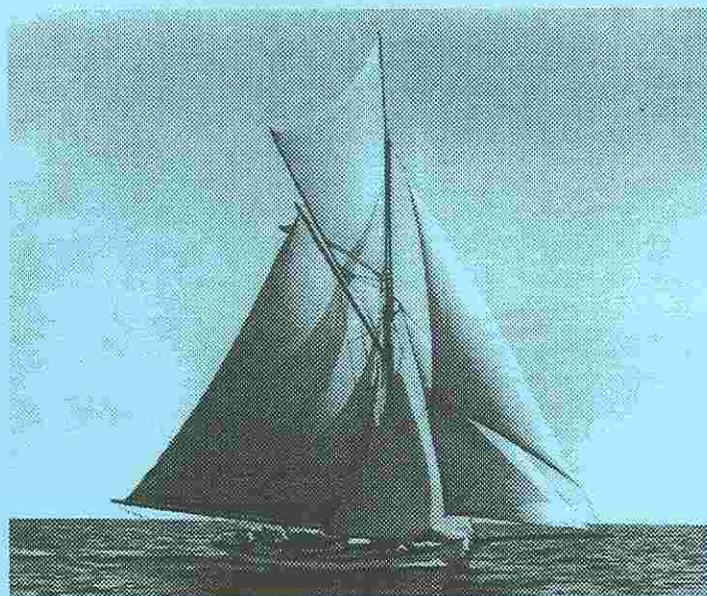
Another source of funding has, in the past, been grants. Over the years we have received grants from the National Historic Trust, the Maryland Historical Trust, the Cecil County Historic Trust, and others. Grant writing is sometimes a long and tedious effort and very competitive. This year's grant application to the Maryland Historical Trust for Elf's sails and rigging was not successful. (Back to the drawing board . . . Oh well . . .)

Other funding comes from the sale of donated boats and materials which we have available. You can donate your vessel and gear and/or buy your next boat and equipment from the Guild.

Other sources of funding come from the sale of T-Shirts, sweat-shirts, mouse pads, and other collectibles along with our crab feast and sale of wood.

We are delighted to announce a recent large contribution of \$10,000 from a new member which will be very helpful with the deck and interior layout work. Many thanks! This new member also had many very specific and useful suggestions to expand our funding base. We are currently exploring his thoughts and ideas with an eye toward implementation.

If we were to buy our way into finishing the project, we would need approximately \$80,000. However, many of the expenses associated with Elf's completion can be covered with volunteer efforts. The needs are diverse. This brings us back to the President's Message on the front page: What Can You Do? What Do You Want To Learn?



Stebbins, *ELF* photo courtesy of:
Hart Nautical Collections, MIT Museum

19th ANNUAL CYRG CRAB FEAST DIRECTIONS

Directions:

From the North:

Take I 95 or US 40 to Elkton. Then take 213 South. Cross the second major bridge (Bohemia River). Take immediate right on Glebe Road, then see below*.

From the South:

Cross the Bay Bridge at US 50 & 301 split. Take 301 North for about 25 miles. Take left on Maryland 313 toward Galena (at yellow flasher). 313 becomes Maryland 213 North in Galena. Follow until just before Bohemia River Bridge (second major bridge). Take a left before bridge on Glebe Road.

* Follow Glebe Road for about 1.5 miles to Cherry Grove Road. Turn Right. Follow for about 1.7 miles and turn right again onto a dirt road. This will be marked for the Crab Feast. Follow straight for about 1.2 miles to the beach.

Please drive slowly; we will be guests on private property.