

# THE HELM



Spring/Summer, 2013 - Vol. 30, No. 1

*Elf*, past and future



## President's Message

### *ELF's* Spring Maintenance

... by Rick Carrion

This spring was a very busy season getting *ELF* ready to sail.

After careful thought last fall, The Guild determined *Elf's* deck seam compound needed to be replaced. Starting in early March, we removed the old compound and prepared the seams for a different material. This included cutting the old compound close to the seam edge without scoring the wood, raking out the old stuff, and using a small trim router to carefully finish cleaning the seam edge back to fresh wood. With great care, we then repaired seam edges and sanded the deck and the seams. The last steps included the laborious task of taping both sides of the seams and putting a ¼ inch bond breaker tape in the bottom of all seams. Finally we were ready to install the new compound!

We decided to use 3M's 5200 black seam compound. After shooting eight tubes we realized it wasn't performing properly. During several hours on the phone with 3M R&D representatives, we all concluded the temperature differences from day to night were too extreme for proper curing. We then made the decision to use 3M 4200 quick cure. It cured properly and looks great.

Next we started to sand and varnish as many coats as possible before removing the winter cover and getting underway for the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CBMM), in St. Michaels, MD. Once there,

we took the spars out of storage for varnishing and then rigged over a mile of lines! Pete from Eastern Flagpoles did a stellar job lifting the rig into place. It is a job that always gets everyone's full attention and I am glad when it is completed with such care. Bending on the sails completed the bulk of this spring's effort.

Getting *Elf* ready for another season of racing and participating in various educational activities is always a demanding task. So far this year, volunteers have donated **over one thousand hours**. That is quite a remarkable effort. As usual, it was accompanied by many learning opportunities. I want to send out a very sincere thank-you to all of you who worked so hard to make everything happen as planned!

In May, we sponsored the *3rd Annual Elf CLASSIC*. It was a tremendous success in spite of the rain. I want to thank everyone who worked hard to make it a success, including: Guild members Bill Sonntag, Deborah Albers, Rick Otis, Steven & Beth Remillard, Greg DeCowski; Ida Heelan, Langley Shook, and many other helpers from the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum; and Rick Jackson and other friends at the Eastport Yacht Club. Please see Ritchie Savini's article for many more race details.

In June, we introduced *Elf* to high school students through the National Sailing Hall of Fame's (NSHOF) STEM program to teach math & science through sailing. We had four wonderful sails across the Bay and back. Most students had a chance at the helm and helped pull lines to get *Elf* over seven knots. What a great experience to share.

We next took *Elf* up the Bay for a haul-out at Georgetown Yacht Basin (GYB), where we waited two weeks for the right weather. Once the weather changed for the better, GYB did a great job putting *Elf* in our usual shady area on the hard. It took

volunteers seven days to sand the topsides and bottom, plus taping, painting and inspecting every inch from the decks down. *Elf* looks stellar thanks to our membership's help and is proudly ready to continue celebrating her 125th year. Maryland State Delegate Jay Jacobs will soon be presenting *Elf* and CYRG with a resolution from the Maryland House of Delegates.

Before July 4th festivities, *Elf* returned to the NSHOF and worked with more young sailors associated with the Annapolis Yacht Club's Junior Youth Regatta. While dockside with dress ship flags displayed, *Elf* helped The Guild acquire several new members.

*Elf's* next portside visit was back at the CBMM where I conducted an oral presentation about *Elf* and her contribution to the Museum's mission of "inspiring

an understanding and appreciation for the rich maritime heritage of the Chesapeake Bay." More than 50 museum members learned about *Elf's* history. Since she was at the dock just outside the auditorium, they were invited to step aboard. We added a few new members to The Guild, as well.

Membership is an important part of The Guild. Your support not only helps maintain ELF, but also helps provide very unique experiences that stay memorable for a lifetime. If your membership is up for renewal, please renew as soon as you can and consider upgrading to a higher membership level.



## Thank you Marjorie Roxburgh!



*"Lawley Built"*

Rick met Marjorie late this past winter in Easton, Maryland at Butler Grafton Framing and Arts Supply Shop. She enjoyed hearing about *ELF* and stories about sailing aboard her. Marjorie decided to paint her after researching her history and nautical attire of the late 1880's. She had a variety of questions, asking Rick to validate bottom color, specific lines, etc. That done, Marjorie created a masterpiece that Mary Lou Butler framed at her shop. Marjorie then donated the painting to CYRG. The painting may be viewed at the Grille in St. Michael's, Maryland. Giclees will soon be available. All proceeds will benefit the Classic Yacht Restoration Guild.

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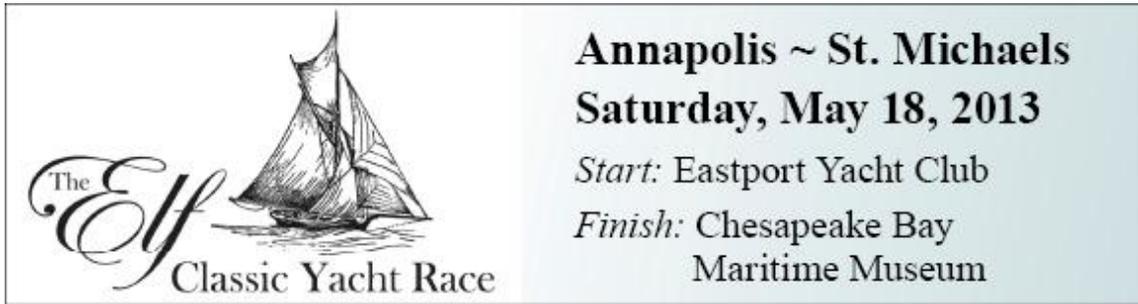
## Guidelines for HELM Article Submission

Articles for HELM are invited. They should be submitted, preferably in Word with .doc appended so they may be edited, if necessary. They may also be sent as a text file. Photographs are also encouraged, if available, as a jpg. Please send to Richard D. Otis, Jr. at [rdotis@yahoo.com](mailto:rdotis@yahoo.com).



# 3rd Annual Elf Classic Yacht Race - May 17 -18, 2013

.... By Rich Savini



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Elf Classic got underway at the Eastport Yacht Club Annapolis in the early afternoon on the beautiful sunny day of Friday May 17<sup>th</sup> with the prize for “Best Dressed Ship” going to the most beautiful 1952 Ralph Wiley sloop “Berwyn” owned by Carolyn & Samuel Abernethy from Stamford, Connecticut. And what a nice way to get things started!



The festivities then continued on Friday at the Eastport Yacht Club in Annapolis, MD with the 5 PM Cocktail Reception and Dinner. The members of Classic Yacht Restoration Guild would like to thank the Eastport Yacht Club for their wonderful hospitality with providing the venue, the great drinks, and the wonderful menu that was enjoyed by all of the Elf

Classic Yacht Race attendee's. It was a truly pleasurable evening. Also, special thanks to Bill Sonntag and his wife Deborah Albers for all of their hard work and effort in getting both this wonderful evening and the incredible race event planned and then scheduled and executed. We all know that none of this would have happened without their efforts.



The actual race activities commenced early on Saturday morning with the Captains' Meeting which started promptly at 8:30 AM. Bill Sonntag then reviewed the race rules and the race route with the participating captains. Again, a special thanks to the Eastport Yacht Club for providing the venue and also a nice cup of hot coffee for the participating captains.





Photo by Bernadette Savini

Then promptly at 9 AM the starting gun sounded and the race was underway with captains rowing out to their anchored yachts. Again this year, Captain Rick Carrion was in his special tender "Vida" first, and rowed out to Elf with strong powerful strokes which allowed ELF to win the award for "First Underway". Good job Captain Rick!!!!



Photo by Rich Savini



Photo by Bernadette Savini



Photo by Bernadette Savini



Photo by Bernadette Savini

Elf was first underway starting the race that was truly a fantastic collection of classic racing yachts. Also joining the Elf Classic fleet for the first time this year was SILENT MAID (Captain/Owner: Peter Kellogg) that was built by John Brady at the Independence Seaport Museum of Philadelphia. In addition, the fleet was joined by several Hinckley's which included ANYTIME (40' 9" Hinckley/Bill Tripp yawl 1972 - Captain/Owner: Walt Shoemaker, York, Pennsylvania), ESPERANZA (40' Hinckley/Bill Tripp yawl 1963 - Captain/Owner: Virginia Albert, St. Michaels, Maryland / Mariana Leshner and Michael Albert), SOMEDAY (40' Hinckley/Bill Tripp sloop 1980 - Captain: Richard R. Rosenthal, Great Falls, Virginia), TUSITALA (40' Hinckley/Bill Tripp yawl 1971- Captain/Owner: Dick Cooper, St. Michaels, Maryland), and HUNTRESS (40' 9" Hinckley/Bill Tripp yawl 1959 [Hull No.1] - /Owner: Paul W. Dale, Mililani, Hawaii / David H. Dale). Elf was also joined in the fleet by CRISHEL (37' Chris Craft/SS sloop 1967 - Captain/Owner: Moe Giguere, Vienna, Virginia), ÇA IRA (28' Pearson Triton/Alberg sloop 1961 - Captain/Owner: Kristin White, Annapolis, Maryland), LADY PATTY (45' Phillip Rhodes ketch 1935 - Captain/Owner: Jeffrey Mathias, Tilghman Island, MD), BERWYN (38' Ralph Wiley sloop 1952 - Captain/Owner: Carolyn & Samuel Abernethy, Stamford, Connecticut) and BULL & BEAR 58' (Sandbaggers 1997) Campaigned on the Chesapeake and sailed by the National Sailing Hall of Fame, Bull & Bear Sailing, Annapolis, Maryland).

At the start of the race there was a decent breeze blowing in Annapolis harbor, and under these conditions Elf just took off across the bay. As it were, Elf was well ahead of the eventual race winner Silent Maid for a period of time. Unfortunately as the race progressed, Elf tacked across the bay into an area where there was no wind. At that point the race was then over for Elf, and she retired. Then Silent Maid passed by Elf with ease.



Photo by Rich Savini



Photo by Rich Savini



Photo by Rich Savini

As luck would have it, and almost immediately after Elf retired from the race, it began to rain, and it continued to rain for nearly the rest of the race.



Photo by Rich Savini



Photo by Rich Savini

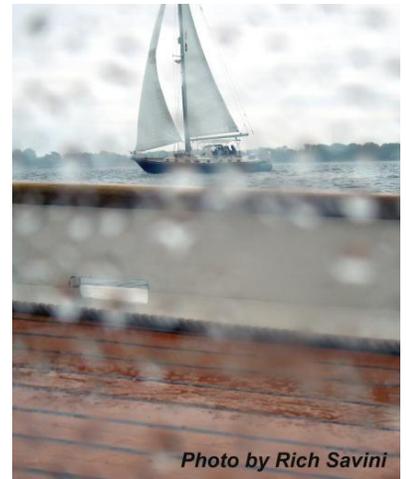


Photo by Rich Savini



Photo by Rich Savini

At 3PM the race was called and the final results are as follows:

- 1st To Finish, Cruising Class - Silent Maid
- 2nd To Finish, Cruising Class – Someday
- 3rd To Finish, Cruising Class – Crishel
- 1st To Finish, Dayboat Class – Bull
- 2nd To Finish, Dayboat Class – Bear
- Captains Choice - Silent Maid



Photo by Rich Savini



Photo by Rich Savini

*The Ship's Log*

Ship Name	Captain
Almost Crazy (Hurtacree)	Dr. Paul Dale
ELF	Capt. Rich Savini
LADY PAST	[Signature]
ESPERANZA	Virginia Albert
Chusell	MOE GIBBEE
ANYTIME	[Signature]
Silent Maid	Peter Kellogg

Photo by Rich Savini

Not only was Silent Maid the first to finish the race, but she also was selected by the other captain's as "Captains Choice", and I personally could not agree more. Nice job captains!

Over the years, Mr. Peter Kellogg has certainly been a wonderful friend to Elf. He has also been very much involved with bringing other classic wooden boats to life including Silent Maid and both the Bull and Bear, which finished first and second in the Dayboat Class respectively.

All of us in the CYRG who have had, and will continue to have, the privilege of sailing on Elf both now and long into the future, certainly owe Mr. Peter Kellogg a huge "Thank You" for all he has done for Elf.



Photo by Rich Savini



Photo by Rich Savini

As it approached 5PM Bill Sonntag called the award ceremony to order and the first to speak was Mr. Langley Shook, President of The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum. President Shook spoke for a few minutes congratulating the members of the guild and all of the race participants. He then introduced Bill Sonntag to continue with the presentation of the awards. After the presentation of the awards was concluded, Captain Rick Carrion also thanked all the race participants and especially Bill Sonntag and his wife Deborah Albers for all of their hard work and effort. The the superb party started and it was just a great time had by everyone and the food and drinks were perfect.



Photo by Rich Savini



Photo by Rich Savini



Photo by Rich Savini



Photo by Rich Savini



Photo by Rich Savini

The members of the Classic Yacht Restoration Guild would also like to thank The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum for providing the use of the grounds and buildings for the event.

If you are not currently a Guild member, please consider going to the website located at [www.cyrg.org](http://www.cyrg.org) and becoming a Guild member. You can also renew your membership and continue supporting this beautiful boat and enjoying all of the benefits of being a Guild member. Please keep in mind that Guild membership does include sailing privileges on this magnificent ship, which was originally launched in the spring of 1888, and today is considered the oldest active racing yacht in the USA. Please also keep in mind that on a day with wind, this is a sailing experience like no other sailing experience that you can ever have. So go ahead and sign up or renew that CYRG membership today! I guarantee that you will be glad you did!

# Volunteer! There's a place for you!!

... by Steven Valihura

It takes a "boat load" of work to keep Elf true to its mission for The Classic Yacht Restoration Guild, and you are invited to come on board!

Over the course of a year, there is an enormous amount of work and coordination needed to perform regular maintenance, as well as time for those "little unexpected things" that can often lead to delays. Over the years Captain Rick has been orchestrating most of these efforts and can always use more help. This is a great opportunity for CYRG members to contribute by matching their schedule, interests, and skills. I would



like to share a few of my experiences with the hopes that you or someone you know may also find time to contribute to The Guild and enjoy it the way I do.

Always interested in learning more about wooden sailboats, I have worked on Elf where I believe I would be the most useful, while also learning the things that interest me about wooden boat construction. For my efforts I am always rewarded with rare and invaluable education, good camaraderie, great sailing, and maybe even a gourmet meal! This is not a sailing club, but when the conditions and weather are right, we absolutely enjoy some world class traditional yacht sailing and racing!

Scraping varnish and sanding wood is not for everyone, but I enjoy it very much. A great place to shake off winter in early March, after long being away from the water and summer sun, is at Georgetown Yacht Basin working on Elf under the winter greenhouse where it can get up to a tropical 90 degrees in the bright sunshine! We are undoubtedly the first ones to kick off the summer sailing season on the Sassafras River in the shadow of the beautiful Historical Kitty Knight House. The spectacular clear winter sunsets on the Sassafras and the sleepy harbor with

abounding wildlife make it all worthwhile. A volunteer not interested in woodworking could still join us in the greenhouse and help with delivering supplies or with various other needs of The Guild. With a little imagination, the possibilities to enjoy volunteering are endless.

This spring we worked on restoring the deck and seams of Elf with new products. Maybe you have, or know someone with, woodworking or painting and varnishing skills, who would enjoy these projects the way we do. Not all of it is physical labor. We also put in many hours off the boat researching products and vendors online and by telephone, always seeking top quality items. As The Guild grows in size, there also is a need for office assistance, event planning and membership coordination.

Each Spring, Captain Rick delivers Elf by motor down the Bay from Georgetown to The Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michaels, MD, where her spars and rigging have spent the winter. We were delighted to have several volunteers help sort through the mile of lines in Elf's rigging, deliver some supplies and then enjoy the waterfront museum followed by a seafood dinner!

This year Carl volunteered to meet us at the museum



dock to drive us back to Georgetown which was well appreciated. We picked up some Guild supplies for the upcoming race and swapped some good stories on the ride home.

It requires substantial coordination and support for The Guild to participate in the several races and events that Elf enters over the season. The Elf

Classic Yacht Race and the annual Membership Drive always need volunteers with good social, management, and computer skills. There is always a job to do, but it might involve nothing more than handling a dock line at the races in Annapolis, truly a world class sailing town!

In other words, you can be an active CYRG member and never even touch sandpaper or paint! Come help out where you believe you can contribute and enjoy the experience!

# 33rd ANNUAL CYRG CRAB FEAST - September 14 (Rain Date: September 15)

## 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 & 30 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.

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## Crab Feast, BBQ, and Silent Auction Guest Registration Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Number adults: \_\_\_\_\_

Members: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$45

Number Children: \_\_\_\_\_

Non-Members \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$60

Children under 16 admitted free.

Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send before September 1**

# THE HELM



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**The Classic Yacht Restoration Guild, Inc.**

**P.O. Box 237**

**683 Pond Neck Road**

**Earleville, MD 21919-0237**