

# THE HELM



Spring/Summer 2017 - Vol. 34, No. 1

*Elf, past and future*



## President's Message The Last Mile...not there yet

Well, I must say that I surprise myself when I count the years as Captain of ELF, now that I am starting year 48. The day I purchased ELF, July 7th 1971, I was 19 and a proud owner of a derelict! But she had beautiful lines and a story to tell, which I was able to find through researching many, many leads. I am so fortunate that I was able to locate the original documentation papers in the National Archives, validating the number and giving me a name to research, ELF. The 1889-91 photos I found from the Francis Russell Hart collection at MIT, done by Nathaniel Livermore Stebbins, guided a historically accurate restoration of ELF.

With the restoration in the mirror we are in year ten of campaigning ELF at numerous events and races to share the experience of sailing an historic craft and train future crew. Students from Easton High School worked on a program at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum sailed aboard ELF on a very blustery day.

This summer, Miles River YC junior sailors were treated to a number of outings, even during heat waves! We have a few fall events that we need crew to race and/or just enjoy sailing with other members. And of course do sign up soon for the GREAT annual Crab Feast, BBQ & Silent Auction, September 30. Please start putting aside your Silent Auction donations now, and gift certificates are always appreciated.

Our last sail of the 2016 season was to "be the star" a photo shoot for Siemens hearing aids, emphasizing the need that even a Captain needs to be able to hear his crew!

The day went very well, with a nice breeze, and lots of sunshine. It was all the doing of my daughter Cassidy, who is working on a doctoral degree in audiology at Salus University in Philadelphia. She tested me and encouraged me to finally address my needs. Now I tell people "I can hear you think"...a fun acknowledgement of just how impaired my hearing was. And here's the really fun fact: the Siemens ad featuring me was just honored with one of advertising's highest awards, the Telly!! To view it please click on the link (or paste it into your browser) <https://www.signiausa.com/signia-hearing-aid-reviews/> and scroll down to the fifth video. Please contact me for dates and details to make your own video shoot aboard ELF.

As I said, this is my 48th year as captain of ELF, and I want everyone to know that I recently discussed my "END PLAN" for ELF with Kristen Greenaway, President of Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CBMM) and Peter Leshner, Curator at CBMM. Of course, I hope to be around for many years to come, but it gets harder with each passing of the full moon. The END PLAN is to donate ELF to CBMM, and for them to trade or sell her to Mystic Seaport Museum, with the restriction that she is maintained in Bristol condition, raced and campaigned. Properly done she could sail and be shared by generations yet unborn, who will be fortunate to experience authentic traditional sailing. Since ELF was built in Boston I feel good with this decision. We never know what tomorrow may bring, and that is why I want to set the stage now for ELF's future. She is in excellent shape now, and I am determined to keep her that way as long as I can. With proper care, ELF will live on forever!

In closing, many of you know I have been working on a coffee table style book about ELF and CYRG, and I invite you to add your anecdotes. Over the last 48 years, thousands of friends have sailed aboard, or helped with maintenance and repairs, and many of you have been a part of this story nearly as long as I. From

your view point, please share any story you can remember, good or harrowing, for which there have been a few. You can just email me, and it doesn't have to be lengthy. I would love to add them to the book, which I hope to have in print to mark my year 50 as captain!

It is all good!



## Visiting Yachtsmen Aboard *ELF*

Captain Rick's story of the Elf revival and walking on the deck of this magnificent yacht brought us inside a rich sailing history during our visit to St. Michaels in late May.

This was a highlight of our five-day sailing charter flotilla exploring the nooks and crannies of the Eastern Shore of the Chesapeake for fifteen sailors from Lake Norman Community Sailing near Charlotte, North Carolina. Rick graciously rearranged his schedule to accommodate our sailing itinerary and delivered a vivid and engaging recounting of his journey from derelict hull to gleaming spirit of the winds.

This is a story of incredible passion and persistence on his personal quest to bring a yachting gem back to life. It attests to the

correctness of believing that with some core talent, vision, a few critical financial partners, and bit of historical luck one can revive the product of long-ago sailing dreams. The support from donors to the CYRG over the years also speaks to the value of this part of the history of yachting which is being conveyed to the Chesapeake community.

We will be spreading the work about Captain Rick and the Elf to our sailing friends and look forward to perhaps one day stepping onboard as crew.

Herb Schuette  
Lake Norman Community Sailing



*"Lawley Built"*

*Elf is the oldest active American racing yacht.*



## International Paints, Interlux

For the past 48 years Interlux has been my paint and finish of choice for ease of application and durability. During the restoration of ELF George Dunigan visited our project from International Paints, and was able to successfully encourage the powers to donate paints and finishes to coat ELF. We hauled ELF out in June after two years in the water and found the bottom paint in excellent condition and NO barnacles. WOW! We are proud to represent such a fine product line as we show and race ELF on the East Coast. Over the years ELF has received Best in Show and Captain's Choice awards thanks due to fine finishes donated to ELF from International Paints.

THANK YOU!



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### Boats for Sale

We have a wooden Lightning with trailer, two sets of sails in good condition for a reduced price of \$1,500. This vessel's interior was stripped of varnish and has had several coats built up.

Another sailboat, very similar to a lightning with trailer, though a handyman's special is available for \$500.

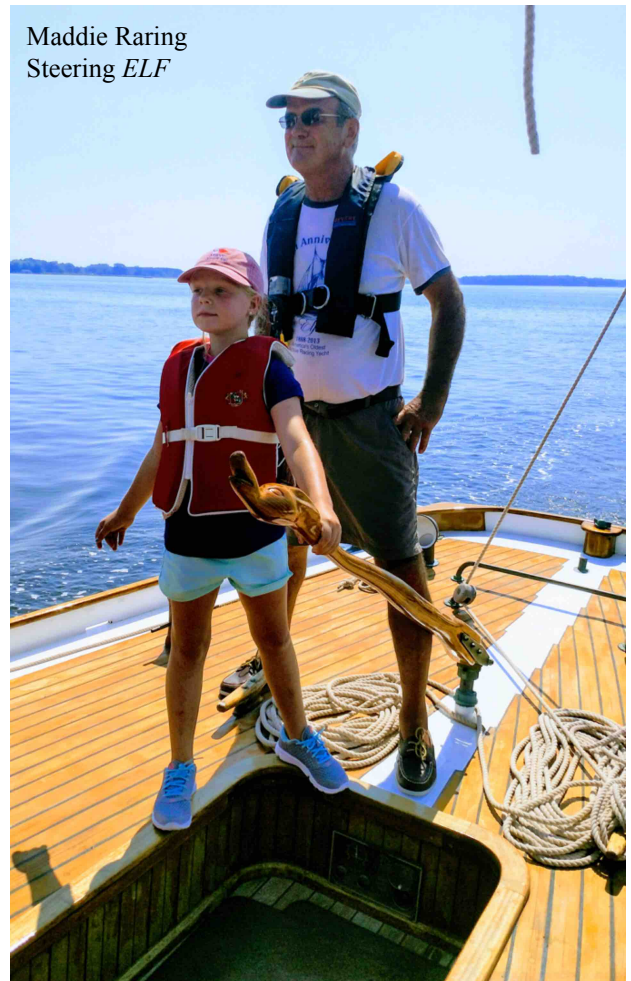
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### CYRG Membership

As you know a membership organization counts on everyone's continued support to grow and move forward into future endeavors. I am proud to say that your support, financially and through volunteering, helps make many programs run smoothly. I am very happy to report the CYRG is in good financial condition due to your help and hope you continue your support. Membership is good for 365 days from the time you join, though it does create some book keeping issues. You may soon receive a reminder that membership is due or will soon be. I appreciate your help and thank you for your continued support.

## Miles River YC Junior Sailors sailing ELF

Over the past few years I watched the Miles River YC Junior Sailors practicing on the Miles River Near the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CBMM). Last year I presented a program about ELF's restoration to club members. At the end of the program I offered to take junior sailors aboard ELF as a special treat. The club liked the idea and we took a combined 58 children aboard last year in several different outings. The children all took the helm with ear-to-ear smiles. This year we continue to invite children aboard and also extended the invitation to parents and grand parents. At the end of sailing we gave each sailor a race T-shirt, a certificate of participation, and invite their families to join CYRG.



Maddie Raring  
Steering ELF

## 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 Rick Carrion at [cyrq.elf@gmail.com](mailto:cyrq.elf@gmail.com). (New address)

## 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Elf Classic, May 13, 2017

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By Marlin Plymette, II, member of the Elf rigging and crew

Elf's 2017 season started as it ended, with ongoing engine sensor troubles. As Captain Rick Carrion and Emily Knudsen-Hanson motored down from Georgetown on Monday, May 1, the engine quit and they had to be towed in from the Eastern Bay. Rick arranged for his mechanic friend, Jay Aigeltinger, to come assist with repairs.

Meanwhile, Rick, Carl Pergler, and Marlin Plymette began work on sanding and varnishing the spars. Sanding the mast, top mast, bow sprits, boom, and gaffe boom started on Tuesday, May 2, in the hopes the engine would soon be remedied in plenty of time to move the Elf in position to step the mast and complete the rigging process. We hoped to get rigged and prepared ahead of the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Elf Classic with time for one or more shake down cruises.

The engine sensor troubles proved to be a difficult rabbit hole with one obstruction after another. BUT, the good news is, the engine was running like a top on Wednesday evening, May 10. The spars were completed Tuesday and



moved to the area next to the CBMM boat shop for rigging. All was completed and the mast was stepped on Thursday before noon, amid heavy rains. Friday morning, Captain Rick, Emily, and Marlin set out from CBMM for Annapolis. We were accompanied by winds and rain. We docked in Annapolis at National Sailing Hall of Fame around 1630 and enjoyed an evening of food and beverages and camaraderie with the other crews who had arrived for the race in spite of the expected unpleasant weather conditions.



Rains continued to fall at 0830 Saturday as the cannon fired at the Eastport Yacht Club signaling the start of the Seventh Annual Elf Classic. Captains gingerly made their way to waiting tenders to row to their anchored boats and crew. Several crew members, including three of the Elf crew, Marlin Plymette, Tom Lawrence, and Mike Oh were onboard the launch that was delivering them to their waiting boats as the cannon fired. The three Elf crew boarded the starboard side as Captain Rick was rowing Vida to the port side stern and tying off. Many boats and/or crew members had withdrawn due to the anticipated rains and wind. Nine boats of the original 25 registered started the race. Elf set sail with only a skeleton crew of five of the normal racing crew of 12. As you will see, this made the trip more difficult to handle the likes of Elf, even with the expert Captain Rick.



As we got underway, Rick inched his way out on the bowsprit to attach and adjust the flying jib. With the mainsail and the staysail set Elf joined the other seven boats sailing out of Annapolis Harbor. We were sailing well and at one point making 9 knots with a strong but not overpowering wind. The rains continued to torment us. Sailing was going relatively well and we were making good time as we





approached Eastern Bay. As we made the turn up the bay, we quickly reset the mainsail for the change in wind direction. That is when the troubles began. With our skeleton crew, we had difficulty setting the staysail due to the heavy wind into the sail. While three of the crew pulled on the lines, Captain Rick tried to maintain course. However, when the crew was unable to pull in the sail, Captain Rick, in his primary focus on safety of the crew, elected to start the engine to assist with the turn in order to relieve the wind pressure on the sail. At that point, Elf was officially out of the race for the day. We continued under sail, but with the motor supplementing our power until we



2 Elf crew under engine power

arrived at St. Michaels Chesapeake Bay

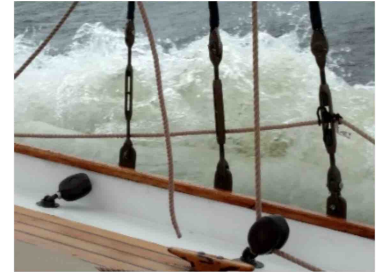


1 Tom Lawrence relaxing as we motored into CBMM



3 The author as we motored into St. Michaels harbor

and the Maritime



Museum. Captain Rick expertly handled the tiller and brought Elf and her crew into CBMM. We joined the other crews at the awards ceremony and the excellent spread of foods and drinks. Once again, as Rick says, any day you arrive safely, with no injuries, and no damage to the boat is a good day. This was indeed a great day of sailing in spite of the weather and the disappointment of not being able to finish the race under full sail. I look forward to the 8<sup>th</sup> Elf Classic when ELF WILL finish.

Race summary

<b>Cruising Class Prize</b>	<b>Yacht</b>	<b>Finish time</b>
First to Finish	Entropic	12:38
Second to Finish	Silent Maid	12:46
Third to Finish	Thistle	12:48

<b>Dayboat Class Prize</b>	<b>Yacht</b>	<b>Finish Time</b>
First to Finish	Exotic Material	12:17

<b>Other Prizes</b>	<b>Yacht</b>
Best Dressed Yacht	White Cap
First Underway at Start	Skylark
Captain's Choice	Skylark

For all the race results, visit the [Classic Yacht Restoration Guild](http://ClassicYachtRestorationGuild.com) site.

# 36th ANNUAL CYRG CRAB FEAST - September 30 (Rain Date: October 1)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Children under 12 admitted free.

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

**Registration Deadline: September 25**

I have to report that our long-used Cherry Grove Farm waterfront is under new ownership. I have asked the new owners permission to hold our Crab Feast there, but no decision yet. We do have an alternate location, and will keep you posted and send out the necessary directions.

### **New Shirts and Carry Bags are Available Now**

We have both short and long sleeve shirts in Navy Blue with white printing. All sizes, Small to xx Large can be purchased at the Crab Feast for \$15 each or mailed (+\$5 S&H).

We also have carry bags that are grey with blue printing of the CYRG logo and web site that will be available priced as above.

***Elf, past and future***



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

**P.O. Box 237**

**687 Pond Neck Road**

**Earleville, MD 21919-0237**



September 5, 2017

Classic Yacht Restoration Guild, Inc.  
PO Box 237, 687 Pond Neck Road  
Earleville, MD 21919

Note to members:

Best intentions do not always go as planned! So I am sending you this important correction and clarification of a portion of my President's Message in the last issue of the Helm. It's important because it is the part that deals with the matter of Elf's future and the policies of one of our most important supporters, the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.

Quite simply, I am happy to provide the following correction regarding donation of historic vessels. Contrary to what I suggested in my message, it is the decision of any museum's Board of Governors what tangible donations (vessels) can be accepted, and what to eventually do with them. In addition, museums are invariably constrained in not accepting a vessel accompanied with restrictions for the future uses. Our friends and supporters at the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum wanted to be sure I made this point clear.

Again, my apologies for any confusion. In life, I have always had the dreams first, and then chased them.

Thank you!

Rick