

THE HELM

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Elf, past and future



President's Message

Fun and Frolic: Racing Aboard ELF

... by Rick Carrion

What a wonderfully easy winter many of us have experienced. The warm spring put me in high gear early. Last fall when I winterized ELF, I

used clear plastic cover, which worked very well, while keeping good air movement. As the season moved to late winter I kept a thermometer aboard. I guess what I want to say is, there is always a lot to do to keep ELF looking good. We all put in over five hundred hours to just do spring commissioning, thanks for all of your help!

I know that the best-laid plan (varnish, rig step and organize rig before shake-down) kept us extremely busy. Pete, of Eastern Shore Flagpoles, came to our rescue when the scheduled boom truck failed the day before we were to rig and step the ELF mast. Another glitch was arranging dock space to pull it off, since the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum (CBMM) has had new bulkheads, irrigation, sod and a number of upgrades going on with all nearing completion. Pete did an egg shell soft landing of the mast on May 9th, only ten days before the ELF Classic. On May 10th I sort-

ed the lines, positioned them, then bending on the main and other sails. By midday May 13 (Mother's Day) I had the main on and was prepping to shake her down. It turned out to be a beautiful sunny day with a breeze out of the Southwest. Our great crew for the afternoon sailed us out around Herring Island and back.

We departed for the National Sailing Hall Of Fame (NSHOF) on Tuesday making great time. We worked with students in the NSHOF "Math and Science through Sailing" program, taking students aboard for a traditional sail on both Thursday and Friday.

Finally, after setting dressed ship flags, getting ice, and going over everything again, we departed to anchorage off Eastport Yacht Club (EYC), thus finishing final preps for the ELF Classic Race, only hours away. We all enjoyed a nice social gathering at EYC before turning in for the evening.



Photo by
Deborah Albers

Race Day: Getting Crew Aboard, Captains Meeting, and the Start.

The row to ELF was fast, and we were first to get underway. As we sailed out of Annapolis, the fleet grew smaller and smaller on the aft

horizon. Clearly over two miles ahead of most vessels as we crossed the Bay, ELF showed off her power which just amazed me. We were leading the pack. WOW! Shortly after entering Eastern Bay we hit an area of calm, and the fleet began to pass us. We eventually started to get breeze and were able to catch and pass several vessels. About then, during a sail change, a crew member let the tail of the spinnaker halyard go and it started to go to the top of the topmast, but a coil caught at the spreaders. **ARRGH!**

What to do? I took off my shoes and climbed up the mast hoops on the windward side of the main until I could reach it and send it back down. As I started my descent, I heard a PSSSS, and was pushed away from the mast as my PFD inflated about thirty feet above deck. HOLD ON RICK, but what a photo OP. I did make it down safely.

We soon began to get some breeze and started catching up and passing the fleet during the last leg with main and headsails wing and wing. As we arrived at CBMM we doused the headsails, then the main, deployed the anchor, and I rowed to shore to sign in and complete the race. And what a race it was, full of surprises, but ELF's fine crew had risen to the call!

An annual CYRG fundraising event for the Chesapeake Maritime Museum, the second ELF Classic Race was dedicated to the memory of two great friends who had major impacts on ELF and the CYRG: John R. Griffiths, a sage craftsman who provided inspiration and expertise through every stage of ELF's restoration, and Danny Sutherland of CBMM, who built ELF's fine tender Vida and contributed his support and good spirit to the CYRG. They are in our hearts and minds this year as we sail ELF.

Looking ahead, ELF will be on display in Baltimore, MD during Sailabration, June 13-19. ELF will be docked just west of Broadway, in Fells Point. Please plan to visit us in Baltimore and throughout this season to possibly do some traditional sailing aboard ELF traveling to, or during scheduled events. Please check the schedule on our website, CYRG.ORG. I am always in need of crew members at all ability levels. I am looking forward to another tremendous season and truly want to share ELF with you!

I want to thank all of the fine yachts that participated this year; we really appreciate that the captains and crews make time to participate in this early season fundraiser. Thanks to our sponsors, the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum, the Eastport Yacht Club, Silent Maid, Weems and Plath, our Iron Sponsors. I want to also thank the staff at the Maritime Museum for all their help, and finally to our Regatta Chair Bill Sonntag, Deborah Albers and all our CYRG volunteers who help make the event possible

Thanks,

"Lawley Built"



Photo by Pat Cooper



Photo by Deborah Albers



Photo by Dan McGrath

See more race event photos at CYRG.org

Henry Howard Nominated for Inclusion in the National Sailing Hall of Fame

Henry Howard's name was placed in nomination by Classic Yacht Restoration Guild member Dan McGrath. Dan proposed the idea to the CYRG Board at their last meeting and they heartily endorsed Mr. Howard's nomination.

Though his contributions to the sport (he called it his hobby) of American sailing have faded from history, Henry Howard's participation in, and promotion of yachting, both in cruising and racing sailboats, is well known to long time CYRG members through his association with *ELF* early in his yachting career. He was the second owner of *ELF* and much of what we know of *ELF*'s early history comes from what he wrote in his autobiography *Charting My Life*.

Henry Howard owned *ELF* for almost eight years having purchased her from William H. Wilkinson who had her built in 1888 to race in the 30 footer class off Marblehead, Massachusetts. Howard was the youngest member of the Eastern Yacht Club at the time having been admitted in 1888 at the age of 19. *ELF* was Howard's third boat having started at an early age messing about in boats. In his book he describes his life with *ELF*. He had just graduated from college and was living aboard and commuting from Marblehead to his job in Brookline. Included among his many adventures are descriptions of the Saturday afternoon races to Cape Ann. They started when the doors of the commuter train opened at the Marblehead station and the yachtsmen, who got off work at noon, scrambled down to their waiting dinghies to row out to their boats, set sail, and head off. This was the inspiration for the CYRG sponsored *ELF* Classic Yacht Race. He also described a cruise he took to Halifax on *ELF* with some young Eastern Yacht club members who achieved much notoriety in the press which he claims promoted the almost non-existent sport of cruising off shore in small boats. Howard sold *ELF* after eight years because he got married. Not owning a boat slowed him down very little. The following year he made a cruise down East aboard the 30-foot cutter *Norma* with his wife and three month old baby. George Upham who sold him his first car, an 1887 Whitney Steam Carriage, loaned *Norma* to him.

Henry Howard remained active in the Eastern Yacht Club and was named chairman of the racing committee in 1902. It was then he got the idea to organize class racing between American

and German yachtsmen. Although the reception of the powers to be in both America and Germany was cool, Howard persisted and the first races commenced at Marblehead in 1906. After negotiations with the Kaiserlicher Yacht Club in Kiel, the

Sonder Class was selected for the competitions held in Kiel in 1907. While on another business trip to Spain and visiting the Royal Yacht Club in San Sebastian, he had a fortuitous meeting with King Alphonso. This led to another international yacht race, which was organized in Spain following the races in Kiel. Howard served, often as president, on the racing committees composed of members of the hosting and visiting yacht clubs. In addition to King Alphonso, through his association with these yacht races, Howard met numerous high ranking and notable people including Prince Henry of Prussia and Teddy Roosevelt. This international competition continued until WWI.

Henry Howard did extensive cruising with friends on loaned boats and on his own vessels. He had two yachts named *Alice*. The first was the 42' LWL Stamford one-design schooner class which he bought in 1913 and sold in 1920. She was designed by Cox and Stevens. With her, Howard won many races including the Championship cup for the schooner class three years running. He cruised her down East and as far south as Beaufort, SC. "To tell the story of our cruises on the schooner *Alice* would take a book," he says in his autobiography. Three years after retiring from business, after much planning and careful study, he launched his next boat also named *Alice*, in October of 1924. She was a 52' LOA auxiliary centerboard ketch designed by John Alden and Commodore Ralph Middleton Monroe (interior designed by Cox and Stevens) and built by A.C. Brown & Sons. In the 22 years he owned her, Henry Howard cruised the entire Eastern seaboard, the Bahamas, and most of the West Indies. In March 1938, National Geographic published an article Henry Howard wrote of his "most outstanding cruise to the West Indies" entitled "Southward Ho in the 'Alice'."

In addition to his autobiography *Charting My Life*, Merrymount Press, Boston 1948 Howard also wrote *The Yacht "Alice" Twenty Years After and A Cruise in the West Indies*, Dodd Mead & Co., New York, 1944. He also contributed numerous magazine articles to such publications as *Yachting Magazine* and *Yachting Monthly*.

Henry Howard, 1888
Courtesy MIT Museum



Racing Crew Development for 2013

During the 2013 season we plan to sail as much as possible on the Chesapeake Bay, and enter as many races as we can fit into the schedule. We need to develop a significant crew to learn how to really make ELF move. As you may know, ELF was designed and built for light air racing, something that the Bay is known for in the summertime. Make no mistake she also handles heavy weather well, but just with less sail flying.

For serious racing we need 12 people to handle lines, steer, and

navigate the best course. One thought that recently came to mind was to contact the area college's sailing teams and offer them the unique opportunity to "learn the ropes." For the record there is over a half mile of lines aboard ELF, and it is important to instinctively get them used correctly.

I am starting to organize a training schedule so **please sign up ASAP and tell your friends.**



Elf Classic
Crew

The 2012 ELF Classic Race was Dedicated to the Memory of John Griffiths and Dan Sutherland



John Griffiths



Dan Sutherland

In Cabin'd Ships at Sea

From the preface to *Leaves of Grass*

. . . by Walt Whitman

In cabin'd ships at sea,
The boundless blue on every side expanding,
With whistling winds and music of the waves, the large imperious waves,
Or some lone bark buoy'd on the dense marine,
Where joyous full of faith, spreading white sails,
She cleaves the ether mid the sparkle and the foam of day, or under
many a star at night,
By sailors young and old haply will I, a reminiscence of the land, be read,
In full rapport at last.

Here are our thoughts, voyagers' thoughts,
Here not the land, firm land, alone appears, may then by them be said,
The sky o'erarches here, we feel the undulating deck beneath our feet,
We feel the long pulsation, ebb and flow of endless motion,
The tones of unseen mystery, the vague and vast suggestions of the
briny world, the liquid-flowing syllables,
The perfume, the faint creaking of the cordage, the melancholy rhythm,
The boundless vista and the horizon far and dim are all here,
And this is ocean's poem.

Then falter not O book, fulfil your destiny,
You not a reminiscence of the land alone,
You too as a lone bark cleaving the ether, purpos'd I know not
whither, yet ever full of faith,
Consort to every ship that sails, sail you!
Bear forth to them folded my love, (dear mariners, for you I fold it
here in every leaf;)
Speed on my book! spread your white sails my little bark athwart the
imperious waves,
Chant on, sail on, bear o'er the boundless blue from me to every sea,
This song for mariners and all their ships.

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ELF Classic Race Day

... by Cassidy Carrion

Today was the 2nd Annual ELF Classic Race! I arrived at Eastport at 08:00, and was greeted with, "Hurry up, we have to get you aboard".

Once I got aboard, I met the amazing crew for today's race. We laughed and made jokes about how my dad will be 5 minutes in front of all the other captains rowing out at the start of the race.

"BANG"- the starting gun signaled the start of the race! Sure enough, 2 seconds later dad comes around the corner (5 minutes ahead of all the other captains), bellowing commands to the crew!

After stepping aboard and standing, tipping his hat, "anchor up, sails up, engine on..." and "who in tar nation put a locking hitch on that!" In addition, we were the first underway! Such a great start to a great day.

Midway through the trip the perspective of our competition got looking smaller aft of us. At one moment, I looked over to see Captain Rick climbing the mast hoops barefooted. He was retrieving a spinnaker halyard from aloft. When he was descending to the deck, his PFD inflated unexpectedly. At first, we were not sure what was happening...but we had a good laugh in the end.

Finally after 5 1/2 hours of racing, tacking, laughing, pulling lines, and getting sunburned we arrived in St. Michaels. Lots of friends and spectators welcomed us at the finish. Overall, we placed third and received the "First Underway Award". Not a bad way to finish the day with the awards and a great reception at CBMM. I cannot wait to do it again next year! PS: fastest speed...8.2 Kn



Photo by Deborah Albers

**A Beautiful
Day for the
2012 ELF
Classic Race!**



Photo by Dan McGrath



Photo by Deborah Albers

Math & Science through Sailing... what a great idea!

... by Rick Carrion

The National Sailing Hall of Fame (NSHOF) is working with high school students to turn on the creative, thinking student to learn through the challenges of sailing. They are partners in programs with the US Naval Academy. I had the pleasure of taking four groups aboard *ELF* for some fantastic sailing. Tom Sevco crewed quite well at the helm while teaching students to watch the wind direction from the waves while steering *ELF* across the Chesapeake Bay and back. Since *ELF* is rigged traditionally with block and tackle, our new crew learned a lot about the physics of sailing. Several were turned on by being immersed into living history while sailing aboard *ELF* and learn-

ing first-hand on a National Maritime Treasure which was restored to museum specifications.

It was a wonderful field trip sailing the real deal. All participants absolutely loved their adventures; I know I really did! It's the teacher in me. It was real life, real time, stand-on-your-feet thinking with hands-on learning. Does it get any better?

I am thrilled to be able to work with the NSHOF, enlisting *ELF* to help facilitate this unique learning experience for some of tomorrow's movers and shakers. We are planning more activities for youth aboard *ELF* in August.

StewardShip

You know the old saw: “A boat is a hole in the water into which you pour money.” Just like every well-known expression – it has a modicum of truth! It does take money to run a boat – especially one built in 1888!

Therefore, we need your help. We are all proud of ELF and of the not-for-profit organization whose mission is boat preservation and support of maritime education.

We rely on membership dues and donations for the promotion of our goals. Your continued membership enables us to show our dedication to the restoration of ELF, and to reach out to many. The Guild welcomes members of all interests and backgrounds to participate in the mission of traditional American wooden boat restoration and sailing techniques.

Time passes rapidly and it may have been a year since you renewed your membership. If you believe your dues are current – thank you! Unfortunately, you are amongst a minority. Please take time now and renew. We need you and your financial support.

Our website makes it as easy to make payments by credit card or Paypal. Go to www.cyrg.org and open the MEMBERSHIP link on the left. Please be generous. Checks mailed to the CYRG headquarters are always welcomed! Remember that all donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

Membership renewal is required every year. Annual membership in the Classic Yacht Restoration Guild is highly encouraged to support the restoration projects and campaigning Elf!

Please pick a membership level that fits your interests and degree of support:

Basic members receive “The Helm” newsletter, a sticker, and announcements of all CYRG events.

Crew members receive, in addition to the benefits of Basic membership, a CYRG t-shirt.

Bosun/Family members receive all of the above, plus family/spouse benefits for sailing on ELF.

Navigator members, in addition to all the above benefits, receive an 11 x14 sepia-toned print of ELF.

Voyager members receive all of the above and a crew member polo shirt.

All donations made to the Guild are tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.

The Classic Yacht Restoration Guild is registered federally and in the state of Maryland as a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization. Our tax ID number is 23-2240518.

Thank you for your support.
Steven Remillard, CYRG Treasurer



Annual Membership Form

Classic Yacht Restoration Guild
P O. Box 237
Earleville, MD 21919-0237
(410) 275-2819
Tax ID#: 23-2240518

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Phone (other) _____ Email _____

Membership levels:	
Basic	<input type="checkbox"/> \$25
Crew	<input type="checkbox"/> \$65
Bosun/family	<input type="checkbox"/> \$125
Navigator	<input type="checkbox"/> \$250
Voyager	<input type="checkbox"/> \$500

T- shirt size:
<input type="checkbox"/> Small
<input type="checkbox"/> Medium
<input type="checkbox"/> Large
<input type="checkbox"/> X Large
<input type="checkbox"/> XX Large

Membership Contribution:	\$ _____
Additional Contribution	\$ _____
Total:	\$ _____
Make your check payable to the: Classic Yacht Restoration Guild or go to www.cyrg.org to donate securely online.	

Briefly state you nautical experience and areas of interest: _____

I am interested in volunteer opportunities: Elf maintenance crew positions events other _____

The CYRG is a registered 501(C) 3 nonprofit institution. All donations are tax-deductable to the full extent of the law.



2nd Annual ELF Classic Sponsors



SILENT MAID



1924

THE HELM



**The Classic Yacht Restoration Guild, Inc.
P.O. Box 237
683 Pond Neck Road
Earleville, MD 21919-0237**