

# THE HELM

Winter, 2012 - Vol. 29, No. 2



***Elf, past and future***



## **President's Message** **Another Successful Year** **And Looking Ahead**

*... by Rick Carrion*

We have had a very successful five years since re-launching. Yes, time flies when you are having fun! We have sailed several thousand miles in the Chesapeake Bay and up the coast. Racing ELF has made several members work hard, but we have received second, third and fourth places, though we will still work hard to make a first. That may come someday, but the sheer joy of just being a part of traditional sailing is euphoric to many in today's world. I am living a dream, and know it. With that said, I want to deeply thank all who have worked so hard to help make it happen. You know who you are; you are the donors, supporters, volunteers, crew, and those of you who helped lift my spirits when I needed it. Without your help and support, we could not have realized the many goals we have completed in the last five years. I want to thank you for your contributions in helping to preserve and maintain America's oldest active racing yacht! ELF is a national maritime treasure thanks to all of your help and support. Please know that you are essential for our continued success!

During this season, we were very fortunate that we were not so battered by hurricane Sandy. We watched with dismay as Sandy came up the coast, and made many preparations. It looked like Spiderman had visited ELF. We were left with minimal damage. Our hearts and blessings go out to those in her direct path.

We count our blessings.

We now have ELF de-rigged, covered in clear plastic, with all systems winterized. It is time to take a break. Well, not really! Perhaps I should say it's only a time-out to play catch up at home. Storm Sandy knocked down several trees around home. Preparing for winter always takes some time, getting firewood in, cleaning up leaves, and the list goes on. Because of being aboard ELF from April to December, I find catching up takes a while.

To get ELF ready for her upcoming 125th birthday we have a lot to do. First and foremost, all the deck seam compound will have to be taken out and replaced. The last time we did this it took four hundred (400!) hours of volunteer time. We also completely inspect the engine, replace filters and anodes, and touch up the paint. All of the overhead rigging needs to be replaced as a safety precaution. We had a failure of our throat halyard bridle at the Squan Tri-Sail Regatta in Bay Head, NJ.

Unfortunately, we will need to make and install several mast hoops, splicing and steam bending workshops at our shop this winter. The spars will need several coats of varnish before rigging and stepping the mast. Many additional projects will also need to be accomplished by our many volunteers. By doing all of our projects together, we can pass the skills along to the next generation, something that the Classic Yacht Restoration Guild, Inc. (CYRG) wants passionately to achieve. I have always said, "If we are going to keep our boats alive, we need to teach the necessary skills."

During the cold winter days ahead, I will be going over all of our data base entries to update and make necessary corrections and additions. I may call some members to correct phone and email addresses, so

please bear with me. I will limit any calls to 7-9 PM and promise to be brief. We are also in the process of finding better ways to communicate with you. When we need crew to sail and move ELF to events, I want to be able to get the word out quickly. You can help expedite the process by letting us know if have a change in email address or phone number.

Please remember that your membership is good for 365 days from the date of your dues payment. All funds are used to keep ELF in Bristol fashion and supplied for her many voyages. All work is accomplished by volunteers who want to share America's oldest racing yacht with the world. Please keep the CYRG in mind with your end of the year donations and membership renewal. Thank you for all your help as we look forward to another fantastic season. So please plan to join us to kick off the 2013 season celebrating ELF's 125th birthday on April 13, 2013.

My personal motto is, "It is all good." Thank You!



## Sailabration Baltimore

Our late spring event, Sailabration, included many Tall and Small Ships along with beautiful yachts. ELF arrived to dock in front of Shuckers Restaurant and Bar in Fells Point. We had a ringside seat for all of the action. Several Tall Ships came into the Inner Harbor with crew in full uniform and aloft in the rigging. It was a wonderful sight. It brought back memories of Op Sail 76 when ELF, then named PAZ, was tied up at the Finger Piers. Thousands of admiring visitors boarded during each event. This year, my crew Tom Sevco, Bill Sonntag, Deborah Albers, and myself told the ELF story countless times while the Blue Angles provided an air show overhead. This was the 200-year commemoration of the War of 1812. I look forward to the 2014 celebration of the War's end, which promises to be even more exciting. I will keep you posted. Our friend Rich Savini penned a fantastic article covering the entire event and included great photos, which you can read on our website. Go to [www.cyrg.org/news.htm](http://www.cyrg.org/news.htm).

## ELF's 125th Birthday

On April 13, 2013 ELF will be celebrating her 125th birthday. Plans are being developed to have a short dockside gathering at Georgetown Yacht Basin on the Sassafras River and then move up the hill to the Kitty Knight House for hors d'oeuvres, beverages, and a silent auction. Please bring items to donate for the auction and plan to join the celebration.

For the 100th celebration, Maryland Delegate, Ron Ron Guns had a resolution read on the floor of the House of Delegates and made a very thoughtful presentation. We are working on a similar presentation for our 125th.



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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).

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## Educational Workshops

We are planning several educational workshops for apprentices. Topics such as splicing, & whipping lines, varnishing techniques, sail inspection and repairs, and techniques used in steam bending mast hoops. The workshop dates, times, and places will be posted on our website soon. Plan to join the action and have fun learning boat preservation



# Elf Participation in the National Sailing Hall of Fame 3rd Annual Classic Wooden Boat Rendezvous and Race on September 22nd in Annapolis Harbor

.... By Rich Savini

When my wife and I noticed that the weather predicted for Annapolis, MD seemed to be perfect for the weekend of September 22-24, we decided we would sail our boat over to Annapolis for the scheduled National Sailing Hall of Fame 3rd Annual Classic Wooden Boat Rendezvous and Race on September 22nd in Annapolis Harbor. Those of us who are lucky enough to have sailboats on the Chesapeake Bay know and understand how wonderful the weather can be on the water at this time of year. My wife and I had previously talked to Captain Rick Carrion and he told us he would be bringing Elf over to the National Sailing Hall of Fame in Annapolis from St. Michaels on Friday, September 21<sup>st</sup> for the race scheduled on Sunday. Since my wife and I are both retired and have the time, we decided to also sail our boat to Annapolis that same day from our home port in Rock Hall to join up with Captain Rick. Upon arriving in Annapolis at around 2 PM that Friday we noticed something that I considered to be very bizarre. All of the slips on the City Dock were occupied at 2 PM on a Friday at the end of September. We then decided to pick up a mooring about fifty yards outside of the National Sailing Hall of Fame dock, which was where Elf would be docking in a few hours. We were a little cautious about picking up a mooring because we had planned to stay in Annapolis for three nights and we had never really spent three concurrent nights on a mooring or anchored with this boat, but we were really willing to try it.

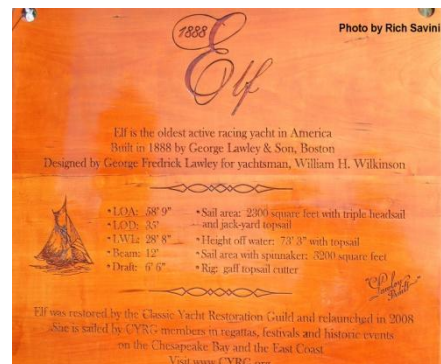


The weather seemed perfect with low 70's during the day and low 50's at night and no humidity, with just a slight chance of a shower on Saturday evening. After we got the boat tied up we dropped the dingy into the water and we went into town to find more people in Annapolis than we have ever seen, even on the fourth of July. It seems that it was "Parents Weekend" at the Naval Academy and there was also a football game scheduled for Saturday afternoon.



At around 5 PM Elf arrived and docked at the National Sailing Hall of Fame and we went over to chat with Captain Rick. We decided it was indeed time for dinner at Maria's. Later that evening we returned back to Elf. We were then greeted by the very nice people on LeCerta, who had tied up immediately next to Elf and Witchcraft was just across the dock. A very nice evening was had by all sharing a few laughs and some "Dark and Stormy's".

On Saturday there were countless visitors on Elf as this wonderful boat seems to attract a crowd no matter where she is, and rightfully so, as she is just a stunning boat and she looked especially grand thanks to some new varnish that Captain Rick had just applied. Also on Saturday Captain Rick joined up with his videographer John to discuss filming more cooking shows and also shooting video of the upcoming race on Sunday from the chase boat. In addition, Captain Rick was interviewed by a local Annapolis reporter. Also on Saturday, the Elf banshee received a new set of teeth. Then on Saturday evening there was the captains meeting where the starting times and the race course were discussed and snacks and beverages were served. Thanks to the National Sailing Hall of Fame for a very pleasant event and evening.



And Sunday was race day. The crew reported, sail covers were removed, sheets and halyards attached, lifejackets donned, and Elf left the National Sailing Hall of Fame dock at around 10 AM.





To be honest, words cannot adequately describe what a glorious day it really was. At the outset of the race there seemed to be an ample amount of wind to move Elf along, and the weather itself was absolutely beautiful with lots of sun and low temperature with no humidity. Once Elf was out in the harbor the crew began raising sails, getting responsibilities assigned for the race, and just overall preparing for the 11:56 AM start time. The crew went through some practice



Photo by Rich Savini



Photo by Rich Savini

tacks with both Captain Rick and Captain Bill at the helm. At the beginning of the race Elf had an almost picture perfect start to what was to be three laps around the race course in Annapolis Harbor. Elf then headed for the first mark with ease and rounded it and proceeded toward the next mark which was Green #5 in Annapolis Harbor. As unfortunately sometimes happens in sailboat racing, the wind did not fully cooperate for this leg of the race and forward progress did slow down a bit. So the crew took this opportunity to have a little break with a favorite beverage or two, as having fun while racing on Elf is a stated requirement of the Captain.



**Photo by Rich Savini**

But it was an entirely different story as Elf rounded Green #5 and headed back toward the start-finish line. With both Captain Rick and Captain Bill at the helm, Elf masterfully tacked its way back and forth to the start-finish line and rounded Green #13 to start the second lap of the race. It was just about at this point we were told via marine radio by the event command that due to a decrease in wind speed, the race had been shortened to two laps. So as we rounded the mark at the start-finish line again we were aware that this was to be the final lap. We were again slowed down during this leg of the race. But it was at this point where we encountered Witchcraft, and we were attempting to pass. The race with Witchcraft continued on this leg. After Green #5 was rounded, and Elf was moving toward the start-finish line with tacking back and forth and finally passing Witchcraft for the last time. I have to say that this part of the race for me was the most exciting, as we came very close to Witchcraft on several occasions.



**Photo by Bernadette Savini**



Photo by Rich Savini



Photo by Rich Savini



Photo by Rich Savini



As we were rounding Green # 13 for the final time, the current from the Severn River pushed us very close to the buoy, but due to some very expert crew work, Elf never touched the mark. Then after one more additional tack Elf proceeded through the start-finish line for the last time to the end of the race. What an amazing time we had this day on Elf. I truly consider it a privilege to be a part of all of this. Between the boat itself, the event, and the weather, it was one of the finest days that I have personally ever spent on Elf. We finished fourth in the "Cruising Fleet" division, but in retrospect where we finished did not matter at all as this was just a beautiful day and an incredible experience on a spectacular boat. It was also a remarkable sight to see all of these classic wooden sailboats racing against each other in Annapolis Harbor on that perfect day.



Again, our Captain Rick, Captain Bill, and the crew represented Elf flawlessly. Thanks again Captain Rick and Captain Bill for a magnificent time and another great event sailing on Elf. Also, a special thanks to Pete and the chase boat crew, which did include my wife, for a job well done and for what I am sure will be some amazing video and still pictures. And also again, many thanks to The National Sailing Hall of Fame, the event sponsor, for a really marvelous day.



If you are not currently a Guild member and would like to become a part of these truly amazing experiences, please consider going to the Classic Yacht Restoration Guild website ([www.cyrg.org](http://www.cyrg.org)) and becoming a Guild member and 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. And on a day with enough wind, this is an experience like no other sailing experience that you can ever have.

# StewardSHIP

During the holiday season we are inundated by annual giving campaigns and solicitations. Most are worthwhile and deserve consideration. In our household they seem to come in a blur and it is arduous to evaluate their merit. The rush seems to be about end-of-year deadlines for our charitable tax donations.

## Why the rush?

Here at Classic Yacht Restoration Guild (reminder: we are a not-for-profit – 501 C (3) organization) we are getting started on the 2013 cycle! We need your money, er,...support.... and appreciate consideration of our mission. Some would say times are tough after holiday spending; never-the-less, we are hopeful there is some cash remaining to help us. Unlike some big charities, we have a shoestring budget and every donation is spent for worthwhile purposes. Although they deserve it, our Captain and mates are not paid a cent. Strictly voluntary. Please help us by:

- Renewing your membership. See our website.
- Holding the date for Elf's 125th Birthday Party, April 13, 2013 in Georgetown.
- Planning to attend the CYRG Crab Feast in September.
- Sending a donation.

We serve an important mission for the preservation of maritime vessels and educational programs both for sailing and environmental stewardship. Please help us.

Thank you in advance,  
Stevens Remillard, 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.cyr.org](http://www.cyr.org) to donate securely online.

Briefly state your 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.



# **The ELF Classic, a True Yachtsman's Race!**

## **Annapolis to St. Michaels ~ Saturday, May 18, 2013**

**H**ave you ever seen a cloud of sail aboard a fleet of classic yachts? Do you know that in the 1880s when Elf was built that races began with a Le Mans-style start that featured the captains rowing to their yachts on mooring then raising sail? When our research during the restoration showed that this was how Elf was raced, we knew we had to recreate this unique start!



For the last two years, a fleet of 15 or so beautiful classic yachts has competed for honors in the Elf Classic Yacht Race with funds raised to benefit the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum and the CYRG. This year's ELF Classic promises to be bigger and better with additional participating yachts and festivities over two days in Annapolis and St. Michaels. The race will be creating new memories for people young and old.

So watch the CYRG website, your email and the HELM for more details, but save the date in May – it will be spring time soon! If you have a yacht that you would like to enter, please get in touch at [elf1888@earthlink.net](mailto:elf1888@earthlink.net).

# **THE HELM**



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