

Harp Song of the Sane Women

A sailor is grateful for her fellow bold sailing women.

BY LISA LIVEZEY

It was mid-March in Rock Hall, Maryland, and boaters were emerging from hibernation to prep for the upcoming season. Our newly acquired Beneteau 411 was sitting on jackstands near the docks, having recently completed its sea trial. My husband was painting the hull while I spruced up the interior. Our teenage son was oiling the teak trim.

Needing a break, I descended the ladder and met a woman passing by named Teri. She and her husband, Craig, had sold their sizable horse farm in Canada and had bought a gorgeous 2011 Hunter 50 CC. They had purchased it virtually, via the Internet and a FaceTime tour, and now were busily outfitting the boat. Teri invited us to their renaming ceremony planned for later that afternoon.

"So nice to see another woman here," Teri said. "It's mostly been guys working on their boats. They tell me their wives aren't into sailing; one guy said his wife divorced him because of it."

This wasn't a new refrain, and while I've wondered if there weren't other untold factors at play in these stories, it brought to mind a recent conversation I'd had with a woman who fit this description. She had harped about her husband's boat, calling it his mistress because of the amount of time he devoted to it.

Then there was the sleek black racing yacht that my husband had pointed out last fall, its glossy hull inscribed with the name *Widow Maker*. We had laughed, assuming that the owner's sailing passion might leave his partner feeling like a widow. It called to mind Rudyard Kipling's poem "Harp Song of the Dane Women" that begins:

*What is a woman that you forsake her,
And the hearth-fire and the home-acre,
To go with the old grey Widow-maker?*

Told from the perspective of the women whose Viking mates each spring would "steal away to the lapping waters," the poem's speaker laments the loss of the men who would rather go to sea than enjoy home with its creature comforts and domestic pursuits.

Admittedly, recreational sailing bears little comparison to the wild and woolly lives of Viking men. But I couldn't help thinking that women like Teri and me are more like the men of the poem than the bereft women left at home; unlike some, we understand the draw of the water and the desire to escape from everyday routines.

Even as I was mulling these thoughts standing in the marina, our two-story brick colonial was 94 miles away on a wooded acre, the demands of its annual spring cleanup unmet as we drove happily to Rock Hall to prep our boat for the season instead. The maintenance requirements of a 42-foot sailboat—all to get her out on the blissful water—were deeply appealing compared with the "home-acre" and its endless chores.

Later that afternoon, we gathered to rename Teri and Craig's boat, and we all toasted as *Sanctuary* was laid to rest and *Cala II* was initiated. The champagne flowed freely.

As we hung out afterwards talking and sipping, I met another kindred spirit, Liliia, who was there with her husband, José, and their two daughters. They were preparing to sail south on their Hunter 34. Liliia was

describing how they had hiked to Mt. Everest base camp with a baby and toddler.

Here I sat, in the cockpit of a gorgeous yacht, meeting fascinating, ambitious people, while a crimson sunset graced the Chesapeake sky. Surely we aren't the Dane women, I mused. You know what? We are the *sane* women! A counter to Kipling's first stanza came to mind:

*What is the lure, you Home-maker
O laundress, maid and baker
When you could go with the Spinnaker?*

The next afternoon, Teri stopped by to chat. We glanced across the boatyard and saw someone in a bosun's chair high up the Hunter 34's mast.

"Is that José up there?" Teri wondered. But a couple of hours later, when I bumped into Liliia, she set me straight.

"That was me," she said. "I wasn't strong enough to hoist him, so I went up instead." And in true "sane" woman fashion, she added, "At first I was scared, but then I looked around...and wow, what a view!" 🌊



ILLUSTRATION BY FRITZ SEIGERS

*Lisa Livezey is a freelance writer and spiritual blogger who lives in the Philadelphia suburbs, but escapes whenever possible to sail the Chesapeake Bay or to kayak in Maine. Her spiritual musings can be found at: likeagree-nolivetree.blogspot.com, or read her devotionals in *Strength* and *Grace* magazine, published by *Guideposts*.*

Electric Propulsion Issue *starting on pg16* | Catalina Island *pg38* | Pearson 39 *pg8*

GOOD OLD BOAT

Inspiring hands-on sailors



GoodOldBoat.com

\$8.00 US \$8.00 CAN



0 62825 97035 7

Issue 143: March/April 2022

GOOD OLD BOAT

CEO / CFO / PUBLISHER
Karla Sandness

EDITOR
Andy Cross
andy@goodoldboat.com

SENIOR EDITOR
Wendy Mitman Clarke

BOAT REVIEW EDITOR
Dan Spurr

TECHNICAL EDITORS
Drew Frye | Rob Mazza

ELECTRONICS EDITOR
David Lynn

COPY EDITOR
Marcia Landskroener

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Kelley Gudahl

ILLUSTRATORS
Tom Payne | Fritz Seegers

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Connie McBride | Cliff Moore | Fiona McGlynn
Allen Penticoff | Bert Vermeer | Ed Zacko

ADVERTISING SALES
Behan Gifford
advertising@goodoldboat.com

DIRECTOR OF CIRCULATION & BOAT CLASSIFIEDS
Brenda Ellingsen
brenda@goodoldboat.com | 701-840-6137

FOUNDERS
Karen Larson and Jerry Powlas

143 – VOLUME 25 NUMBER 2
GOOD OLD BOAT (ISSN 1099-6354; USPS 019327)

PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY BY
Good Old Boat, Inc.

BUSINESS OFFICE:
1300 Evergreen Dr. N.W. | Jamestown, ND 58401-2204
701-952-9433 | karla@goodoldboat.com
GoodOldBoat.com

SUBSCRIPTION RATES (1, 2, 3 YEARS):
US and Canada – \$39.95/\$74.95/\$110.00 US
Overseas – \$49.95/\$94.95/\$139.95 US
DIGITAL-ONLY SUBSCRIPTION RATES
US, Canada, and Overseas – \$29.95/\$54.95/\$79.95 US

© 2022 BY GOOD OLD BOAT, INC.

All rights reserved. Reprinting in whole or part
forbidden except by permission of the publisher.

Printed in the USA.

Editorial submissions are handled with care,
but no liability is accepted. Opinions expressed by the writers
are not necessarily those of *Good Old Boat* magazine.

Periodicals postage paid at Jamestown, ND 58401
and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER, SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:

Good Old Boat
1300 Evergreen Dr. N.W.
Jamestown, ND 58401-2204



The sailing magazine for the rest of us.

Contributing Boats

A few boats behind the stories in this issue.

Ben-Varrey, 1969 Allied Luders 33

“*Ben-Varrey* is an amazing R&D platform. We have experimented on nearly every front and will continue to play with new ideas to satisfy our curiosity. Her modified full keel also makes her a perfect match for sailing effortlessly through the Maine lobster pot fields.”

Read about the boat's propulsion evolution on page 32.

Designer: Bill Luders

Owner: Adam Cove

Home Port: New Bedford, Massachusetts

Fun Fact: She's named after what Isle of Man legend says is a friendly variety of mermaids.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY FRITZ SEEGERS

Hwyl, 1999 Beneteau 411

“After 20 years of dreaming, five years of research, and 23 showings, we knew this boat was the one for us. On our maiden voyage, we sailed the entire course on a broad reach in 25- to 30-knot winds hitting 10 knots when the boat was surfing. It was exhilarating!”

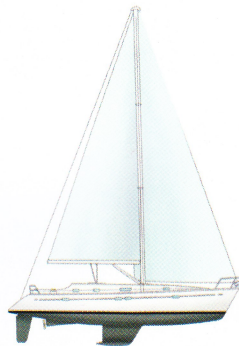
Reflect on *Rudyard Kipling, Vikings, and women who love sailing* on page 61.

Designer: Group Finot

Owners: David and Lisa Livezey

Home Port: Chesapeake City, Maryland

Fun Fact: Hwyl, pronounced “hoil,” is a Welsh word with two meanings: passion and sail.



Yahtzee, 1984 Grand Soleil 39

“We love *Yahtzee*'s combination of performance, seakindliness, and functional space down below. We've won races with her; endured heavy winds and seas, and had many magical days of sailing.”

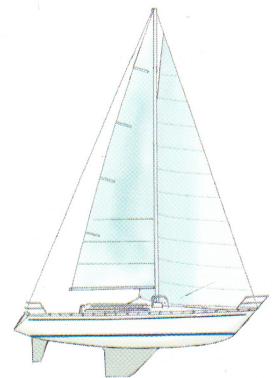
Yup, this good old boat belongs to Good Old Boat's new editor, Andy Cross!

Designer: Alain Jezequel

Owners: Andy and Jill Cross

Home Port: Seward, Alaska

Fun Fact: Yes, she's named after the game.



Delilah, 1972 Cape Dory 25

“I love the modest minimalism, the subtle overhangs, that swooped little stern, and the stability that comes from a full keel with attached rudder. I love the clean look of no lifelines, a green hull, and all that teak! And I appreciate that the boat's powered by a small (but unseen) outboard. And...”

Take a vicarious newbie ocean cruise to Catalina Island on page 38.

Designer: George Stadel

Owners: David and Emily Blake Fischer

Home Port: Marina del Ray, California

Fun Fact: A 3,600-mile road trip from California to Washington and back brought her home.

