



# THE CLAIBORNE CLARION

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
CLAIBORNE COMMUNITY

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ROB AND SUZANNE TODD, NOVEMBER EDITORS

BARBARA REISERT, CLARION FOUNDER AND EDITOR EMERITA \* MARY GREGORIO, PRESIDENT, CLAIBORNE ASSOCIATION

## November Birthday's

*"Age is an issue of mind  
over matter. If you don't  
mind, it doesn't matter."*

— Mark Twain

- 4 - Bob Todd
- 7 - Jake Flory
- 10 - Janet Friedberg
- 11 - Ella Murphy
- 21 - Bernie Boos
- 21 - Leigh Anne Schaefer
- 23 - Judy Harrald
- 24 - Mimi Holt
- 29 - Rob Todd

## A VISIT WITH BOB TODD



This month's editors, Rob and Suzanne Todd, had the pleasure of recently visiting with Bob Todd (sadly no relation to us) to follow up on a chat we had with him this past winter at the Claiborne Café in the Village Hall. During that chat he mentioned something about a "Poor Man's Yacht Club" back in the 50's. This piqued our interest then, so we asked him for details.

It seems about 20 to 30 local men would gather at the Claiborne boat dock for boat races off Claiborne and on the Miles River. The boats were called

"whirlwinds", light round bottomed boats with small outboards that were capable of making the boats jump out of the water. Apparently, a hat was passed around to purchase a keg of beer. Membership cost \$5 or \$10. This group met for boat races for roughly two to three years. These men were the ones who installed the first boat ramp made of concrete slabs at

## Upcoming Events:

**Nov.10** - Village Hall work day

**Nov. 21** – Pot luck dinner followed by a sing-along led by Becky Otter's son, Jonathan.

**Dec. 13** – Concert at the Village Hall (more info. coming)

**Dec. 19** – Christmas pot luck

**Wednesday movie nights** return to the Village Hall beginning January 6, cartoons at 6:30, feature film at 7:00.

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## We Wish You Fair Winds and Following Seas.

Jim Richardson and Martha Hamlyn recently departed for warmer climates aboard the Togwotee II.



the dock. This brings to mind the escapades of our current mighty crew of sailors who just finished a very successful sailing season on their boat the Claiborne Ferry. More about that later on in this issue.

Back to Bob. Bob joined the Air Force in 1943. He was sent to Europe and spent time in Scotland, England, France, Belgium, and Germany. Bob participated in the Battle of the Bulge and was what he called “cannon fodder”. He was later transferred into the infantry in the Army and was sent to the island of Luzon in the Philippines to conduct mop-up operations. While there, he contracted malaria and came home December 24, 1945 after three years of service. Bob's two brothers were also in the service and luckily returned home safely.



After the war, Bob lived in Secretary, MD where he had been born. He worked as a mechanic at Yale Sportswear in Easton. At one point Bob also worked in Cambridge where he met his wife, Alma. Bob said they first met on a blind date that was arranged by Alma's mother's cousin. Bob and Alma later married and moved to St. Michaels in 1950. Bob became the maintenance manager at the Yale Sportswear factory. They eventually found Claiborne and moved into what is now Phil and Sarah Sayre's house on Bayside Drive. It had just been rebuilt after a fire. They lived in that house until they bought the house on Claiborne Road in which he still lives.

Bob had wanted to be a lineman or a carpenter but decided that working on the water was what he really wanted to do. So a hobby became a job for him as he became a waterman, crabbing and oystering at Tilghman Island. When we asked Bob what Alma thought about his new career, he said she was fine with it and that “she was a good girl”.

Bob also enjoys woodworking. He has made 30 to 35 miniature Chesapeake workboats. He has sold or given away most of them but still has six on display in his living room. The first one he made is named Alma, and he built his last one in 2012. Jake Flory was lucky enough to win one of Bob's boats in a Claiborne raffle a few years ago.

Bob and Alma had a daughter, Caroline who is a nurse and lives in Easton. He also has a granddaughter, Valerie. Alma passed away in January, 2009.

These days Bob likes to spend Wednesday mornings at the Senior Center

*"The only way to have a friend is be one."*

*-- Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## Calling All Aspiring Writers

The Clarion is in need of volunteer editors for upcoming issues beginning with the February issue. *If you are interested, please contact Rob Todd at [robert10431@outlook.com](mailto:robert10431@outlook.com).* The goal is to have (at a minimum) enough volunteers to each publish two consecutive editions of the Clarion per year.

in St. Michaels at what he refers to as the "old geezers club". Bob may be getting on in years, but he certainly isn't a geezer. He is always smiling, still enjoys riding his bike around Claiborne, and visits the Village Hall Wednesdays and Saturdays to get his mail. You might want to catch up with Bob there. He's sure to brighten your day with his smile.

We thank Bob for his service to our country. And we thank our other veterans as we soon celebrate Veterans' Day.

## CLAIBORNE FERRY WINS WEDNESDAY NIGHT RACING SERIES

By Kirke Harper



*Sketch by Renny Johnson*



**Claiborne Ferry**, the J30 sailboat owned by 9 local men, has won the 2015 St. Michaels Wednesday Night Racing "King of the Miles" award. Claiborne Ferry won first place in the "A" Division, and beat out the winners of the "B" Division and the



## A Surprise Might Be Waiting

Remember to check your old mailbox in the Hall. You might find a surprise there soon. The mail boxes may be used for friendly correspondence, birthdays, anniversaries, get well greetings, or just to say hi. No important correspondence or money pleases.

“Star” Division for the “King of the Miles” award. The Claiborne boat also won the “Hugh Kabler Spirit of Sailing” award, the 2015 “Most Improved” award and the “Jimmy Wilson ‘Around Herring Island’” award.

Three years ago Jake Flory, Kirke Harper, Jack Harrald, Renny Johnson, Will Murdoch, Jim Richardson, Phil Sayre, John Scott, and Bozman resident Mike Wager pooled their money to buy the 30 year old J30. Eight of the nine had raced with Claiborne sailing legend Hugh Kabler on “INKA” and wanted to

continue sailing together. Learning how to race the new (to them) boat took some time. They finished last in 2013. A new sail



and increased knowledge of the boat led to a better finish in 2014, including first place in the 3 race Herring Island Frostbite series. This year, with another new sail plus good winds in June and July, Claiborne Ferry finished first in the Wednesday night series and second in the Frostbite series. (from the editors – All hail the conquering heroes. Hip hip hooray!)

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## THE CLAIBORNE CAFÉ

**Returning for a second year**, the Claiborne Café hopes to be open for business by the beginning of December. Right now, we are looking for volunteers willing to spend a couple of hours once a week to greet people as they come into the Village Hall to get their mail. We usually schedule two people at a time. It’s a nice way to connect with your neighbors, especially through the long winter. A plate of cookies and a carafe of coffee aren’t necessary but add a special touch. If you are interested, please contact me at [suzannetodd@outlook.com](mailto:suzannetodd@outlook.com).