

## Schooner *Maggie B* Returns from Circumnavigation; Praises Yard

After 38,400 nautical miles of heavy, non-stop off-shore sailing, the captain/ owner of 62' Nigel Irens schooner **Maggie B** was asked what he would change on the boat. Frank Blair's answer: "Nothing."

The vessel, dubbed a 'fusion schooner' by the owner for her combination of traditional design and modern technologies, was built by Covey Island in 2006.

few repairs due to 'bumping' into hard spots along the way, but not many.

All her systems will be given an overhaul and servicing. The rig will be stripped, repainted and re-installed.

There are no redesigns or reconfigurations.

**Maggie B** circled the globe at a fast sailing pace that included frequent daily runs of over 200 nautical miles! She left Nova Scotia in March, 2006, and the voyage included passing Cape of Good Hope and Cape Horn.

Frank Blair praised the support from the yard throughout the voyage. In a message to Covey Island president John Steele late in the voyage, he wrote:

*You and Covey have been the 'information central' for our challenges. An obscure pump for a remote system, you find it and FedEx has it wherever we are in a few days. A little crack in the fore gaff and you connect me with the*

*See SUPPORT, p. 4*



*At journey's end in Lunenburg*



Expansion to Lunenburg?



Where's Tree of Life?

She has returned to the yard for full cosmetic refit — essentially a repainting of the boat inside and out. She needs a

# Summer08

### PROJECT LOG

#### *Under Construction*

62' Jim Taylor sailing yacht for a Nova Scotia customer

#### *Current Refits*

62' Nigel Irens schooner **Maggie B** for Frank Blair, Chicago

C&C 27' **Summer Place** for a Nova Scotia customer

#### *Recent Refits*

57' Herreshoff ketch **Elemiah** (formerly "Elsie") for U.K. customers

38' Spencer Lincoln lobster boat **Orion** for Irish customers

## New Construction: 62' Jim Taylor Schooner

Planning is well underway for a 62' schooner designed by Jim Taylor (preliminary drawing, below).

The Nova Scotia customer will use the vessel as a day sailer.



## Where are They Now?

### Tree of Life

John and Sheri Laramée, circumnavigators on board their schooner **Tree of Life** between 2001 and 2004, are planning extensive blue water sailing over the next couple of years.

The Newport, Rhode Island couple had put the 70' Ted Brewer gaff schooner on the market, but after a recent refit they decided "the Tree needed a bit more of us and we needed a bit more of the Tree in our lives."



Plans for this year include sailing along the Maine coast in early fall, then "taking the Tree south in late October after hurricane season, to revisit the Caribbean Islands we so much enjoyed last time around... If all goes according to plan, we will cross the Atlantic and spend the next two seasons in the Mediterranean."

Covey Island's John Steele discussed the Tree's construction details with Mr. Laramée last fall in Newport prior to the refit.

**Tree of Life** was built by Covey Island in 1991 for Kelly Kellogg, who sailed her round the globe, before selling her to the Laramées in 2000. The Tree was voted "One of the 100 Greatest Yachts in North America" by a SAIL Magazine panel in 1993.

### Moonbeam



Ed Curtis, owner of 42' Dave Gerr shoal draft motoryacht **Moonbeam** sent the yard an update — and some artwork — in February:

*This will be our third season with **Moonbeam** and we expect to spend about half of our time aboard during our five months in Maine, as we have the last two seasons.*

*She is a remarkable, all-weather cruiser averaging 9+ knots at under 4 gal/hr.*

Ed sent a giclee print of **Moonbeam** (detail at left) that he'd made from a photo of the boat in the Merchant Islands of Maine last August. He explained that it's rendered

See **WHERE ARE THEY NOW**, opposite page

## Covey Island Brokerage



For sale: Nigel Irens Westernman 51 **Eleanor Mary**. Built in 1998. Meticulously maintained and ready sail. Available for viewing at Cowes, Isle of Wight. £345,000 VAT paid. Visit [www.coveyisland.com/brokerage.html](http://www.coveyisland.com/brokerage.html)



Sold

For sale: 48' L. Francis Herreshoff motorsailer ketch **Kelly B**. Built by Covey Island 1997. Available for viewing in North Carolina.

For sale: 36' Spencer Lincoln lobster yacht **Nautilus**. Built as **Hollandaise** by Covey Island in 1997. Available for viewing in the Chesapeake Bay. Asking US\$185,000. Visit [www.coveyisland.com/brokerage.html](http://www.coveyisland.com/brokerage.html)



40' Spencer Lincoln lobster yacht **Pilgrim** was built by Covey Island Boatworks in 1990. Asking US \$275,000. Lying in Rhode Island. Visit [www.coveyisland.com/brokerage.html](http://www.coveyisland.com/brokerage.html)



25' V-bottom motoryacht **Irenic**. Built by Covey Island, 1993. Asking CA\$60,000. Visit [www.coveyisland.com/brokerage.html](http://www.coveyisland.com/brokerage.html).



Sale Pending

For sale: Nigel Irens *Westernman 40* **Chance**. An able, comfortable offshore cruising yacht. Built Year 2000. Available for viewing in the United Kingdom. Asking £220,000. Visit [www.coveyisland.com/brokerage.html](http://www.coveyisland.com/brokerage.html)



W/D from Market

For sale: 70' Ted Brewer gaff schooner **Tree of Life**. Built by Covey Island 1991. A proven circumnavigator and racer.

## Expansion to Lunenburg...?



Covey Island Boatworks is in the late stages of considering an expansion to the historic Lunenburg waterfront.

A market feasibility study has concluded the company will benefit from larger facilities with haul-out and launch capabilities and possibly a marina.

The new facilities will allow Covey Island to expand their product range to include the “mega yacht” segment. This segment has been experiencing tremendous growth and is a very profitable niche for boat builders.

Lunenburg is an attractive location for the yard. The town is a UNESCO World Heritage Centre, and its effort to maintain

its marine traditions (through its “Working Waterfront Initiative”) has tremendous appeal to Covey Island.

Plans include upgrades to the two building sheds and one office building on the former Smith & Rhuland property, an observation gallery and marina support facilities.

A business plan has been developed by the yard’s general manager, Al Hutchinson, and the process of lining up public and private investment is underway.

“We’re optimistic that this will happen and view it as a win/win project: good for Covey Island and good for the town of Lunenburg,” says president John Steele.

### WHERE ARE THEY NOW, from opposite page

with a digital watercolor effect and hangs on the wall in his study at his winter home in Florida. A detail of work is on display as part of the Covey Island exhibit booth at the WoodenBoat Show in Mystic.

**Moonbeam** was (originally built as “Twombly” by Covey Island Boatworks in 2000.



Rain Dog III

### Rain Dog III

Mark and Paula Jakan of Connecticut are the new owners of 37’ Spencer Lincoln lobster yacht **Rain Dog III**.

They purchased the former “Cardigan Bay,” (built by Covey Island in 2000) last

fall.

Mark reports, “We are enjoying the boat immensely and are duly impressed with the craftsmanship and attention to detail your company put into the construction of this fine vessel.”

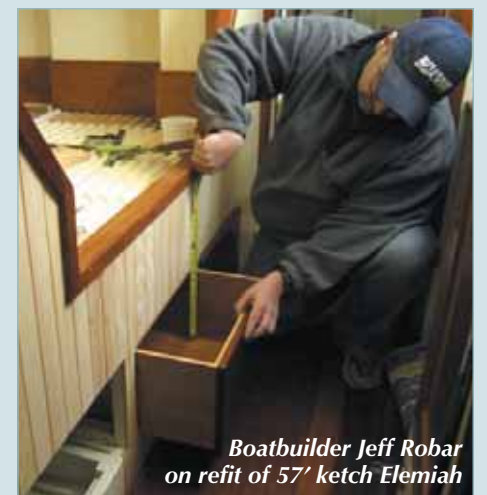
**Al Hutchinson** became General Manager of Covey Island Boatworks in January of this year.

Al, who has a background in Information Technology and sales and marketing, also became a senior partner on the company’s board of directors, with John Steele and Colin O’Toole. (A fourth director, elected biannually, represents shop floor employees.)

He has been heavily involved with the potential expansion to Lunenburg.

A resident of Tantallon, Al sails a Mirage 30.

In other staff news, **Margie Dafoe** became Office Manager in April after transitional help with the position from **Marion Garklick** and **Jan Anthony**. **Bill Morton** has become Purchaser after four years of general duties at the yard. And in October, **Danielle McCarthy** joined the company as Marketing Assistant. (Her design talents are evident in this newsletter. Boatbuilder **Jeff Robar** is currently serving the second year of his term as employee rep on the Board of Directors.



Boatbuilder Jeff Robar on refit of 57’ ketch Elemiah

## Construction Images on the Website

Follow the progress of Covey Island construction projects on a weekly basis through the “Current Projects” link in the navigation bar of our website:

[www.coveyisland.com](http://www.coveyisland.com)

New images are usually posted by Thursday afternoon.

## Two Covey Island Boats Launch New Careers

In June, 57' Herreshoff *Tioga* ketch **Elemiah** was launched by travel lift at Lunenburg Foundry for her U.K. owners following a Covey Island refit that included a new diesel-powered generator, a CE approved engine, a switch to 220v shore power, electronics, canvas work and some interior modifications.

Following sea trials, her owners will sail her across the Atlantic. Her owners plan to sail the vessel (built by the yard as "Elsie" in 2002) to her new base in Croatia.

June also saw the completion of refit that transformed 38' Spencer Lincoln commercial vessel **Orion** (built by Covey Island in 1984) into lobster yacht **Orion**. Her Irish owners plan to cruise Nova Scotia shores before shipping the vessel across the Atlantic.



Continued...

### SUPPORT, from p. 1

*product manager of the spar maker. A puzzling fuel supply problem in the generator and you have an email response from the Canadian Onan specialist in less than 24 hours.*

*But more than the very valuable connection to 'the right person, the first time,' I value your advice and insight from your experience in building boats, in sailing them and in helping the people who are out there, breaking them.*

On the day of arrival back in Lunenburg at journey's end, captain and crew stepped off **Maggie B** and made their way to a reception in their honour.

Lunenburg Mayor Laurence Mawhinney extended an official welcome and local schooner captain Tom Gallant presented Frank Blair with a plaque commemorating the vessel's circumnavigation. John Steele, representing Covey Island Boatworks, offered congratulations to captain and crew.

### Would You Like to Stay On Our Newsletter List?

When you contacted the yard for information, we put you on our newsletter mailing for about a year (two issues).

We don't share this list with anyone.

If you would like to continue to receive the newsletter beyond the two issues, you will need to contact us — if you haven't already — to keep the 'subscription' going.

If you are currently receiving the newsletter by post but would prefer to receive it electronically, please let us know at:

[communications@coveyisland.com](mailto:communications@coveyisland.com)

The newsletter is also available through our website.

## Cap'n Tom's Corner One Man's Schooner Dreams

Frank Blair had a dream... to build a schooner and sail her around the world. An experienced sailor, he had the wisdom to choose Nigel Irens to design "Maggie B", his "fusion schooner" and to have Covey Island Boatworks build the boat. To say the project was a success is a profound understatement. The boat turned out to be fast, beautiful and strong. Frank took her around the world in well under two years, rounding both Cape Horn and the Cape of Good Hope. He maintained a fine website and sent back emails describing the trip. And there's the rub.

I sail a fine old schooner myself, one designed and built by David Stevens in the mid-sixties. I have made many ocean passages. I don't recognize what Frank Blair describes of his voyage as anything resembling passagemaking. It would seem he was dry, warm and comfortable all the way. The food was good, the boat regularly spun out two hundred mile plus days, and he rounded the horn in a "light breeze". Gear problems were few, and always remedied with alacrity. This is heresy! Where's the terror? Where's the madness?

Turns out there needn't be any. Frank had a great boat from a brilliant designer and a fine yard. He had all of the best modern communications gear, the best in weather information, and he planned and executed his voyage carefully. You'll remember my last column's remarks about custom built boats. This is further proof of the point. You see, it goes both ways. If you have the wisdom and courage to go your own way, create your dream schooner, chances are you're the kind of sailor who will be prudent at sea. Building a boat from scratch is a great way to educate yourself regarding all of the possibilities. Covey Island's "Circumnavigator's Club" is a small group of wise sailors. All of them had good trips around the blue planet.

The "road less taken" grows ever more attractive in these times. Here's to Frank Blair and the lovely "Maggie B". May his voyage and vessel inspire other's with the resources and the dream to cause more beautiful, unique and heartfelt expressions of the boatbuilder's art.

— Tom Gallant

