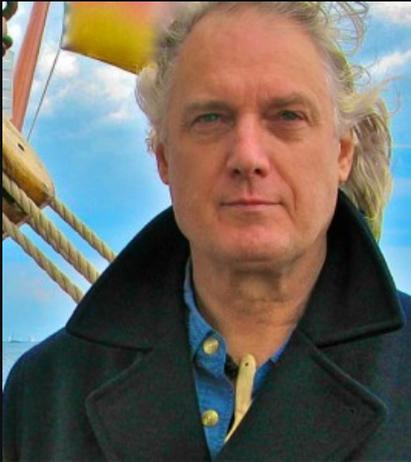




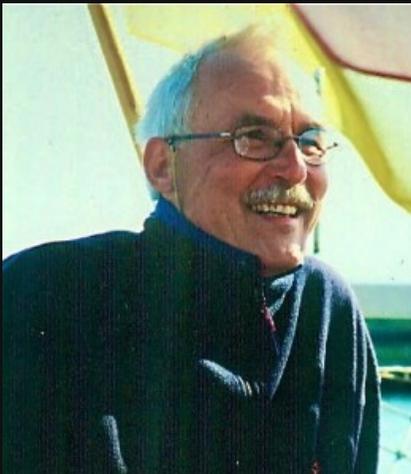
CREW



Skipper: Veteran Explorer: Earl de Blonville, FRGS.

Earl is Australia's pre-eminent Arctic explorer and an Australian sea kayaking pioneer. In 1986, Earl conceived, mounted and led Australia's first expedition to the Arctic, a complex \$2 million project with HRH The Prince of Wales as patron and Lord Shackleton as his British Advisor.

He has explored more than half of Greenland's navigable coastline in his own 50' steel ketch. In 1979 he made headlines following his unexpectedly successful first sea kayak circumnavigation of Tasmania's rugged 1,600km coastline. Earl also led the first northerly sea kayak crossing of Bass Strait, one of the world's most dangerous navigable waterways. In 1988, Earl was Director of the Tall Ships spectacular where the Prime Minister officially launched Australia's year of Bicentenary celebrations before an international television audience. This was the first time the Tall Ships international fleet had sailed south of the equator. For many years Earl has been involved in traditional gaff sailing as crew, club official, classic restorer and prizewinning skipper.



Sailing Master: Senior Commander Jürgen Zimmermann (Retired).

Jürgen is a highly experienced and qualified classic yacht skipper with voyages on a wide range of traditional vessels around the Baltic, North Sea, Mediterranean and Atlantic. Joining the German Navy in 1964, he served on destroyers and frigates before becoming a Senior Commander, with experience as tactical fighter pilot and instructor with the German Navy and Air Force. Jürgen was part of the NATO tactical fighter leadership program and served as staff officer at NATO headquarters in

Belgium. He began sailing dinghies at the age of 13 in Kiel and during active duty across Europe and the USA always managed to sail with national and international crews as skipper on naval yachts and traditional wooden vessels. From 1998 he has skippered traditional cutters, schooners, galeasses and barkentines. For several years Jürgen skippered the schooner Zuversicht (33m) and the galeasse Carola (26m) around the Baltic on sail-training tours with youth crews.

First Mate & Navigator: Captain Tor Vestlie (Retired).

Tor is an expert navigator with a lifetime of professional seamanship. He joined the Norwegian Navy submarine service in 1975 sailing the most silent and maneuverable submarines in the world as a Commanding Officer. Later, he was appointed as an Instructor for the famous five-month 'Perisher' program – the most intense military training scheme in the world – to select new submarine Commanding Officers. Tor moved up to become Director of Staff at NATO HQ in Stavanger, Norway, and later, Commandant at the Norwegian Naval Academy. During his Naval career, Tor frequently sailed aboard the Norwegian sail training Tall Ship 'Statsraad Lehmkuhl' (98m) and since then has sailed extensively with our Sailing Master, Jürgen. As our First Mate, Tor brings his highly specialized military-grade skills in coastal navigation, radio communications and maritime first aid.



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