

RHONA

PRESS INFO

sailing



RHONASAILING
info@rhonasailing.com

K-7 GmbH
+41 79 213 24 46

RHONA



PREFACE

Five years ago, I stumbled upon a true gem from the turn of the century in my search for a classic sailing yacht: Rhona, a 12mR Class International, 2 Rule. Designed and built by William Fife III, arguably the most famous yacht designer of all time from Scotland.

Today, Rhona is the last of a handful of remaining 12mR William Fife yachts undergoing restoration worldwide. Behind Rhona lies a long history that nearly came to an end here in the province of Girona.

The yacht, neglected for years and improperly modified, presented a sad sight. Only its lines revealed its origin, and I immediately realized that the effort to bring her back to life would be enormous.

However, once immersed in her history, enthusiasm and passion pushed aside all doubts and made way for the rebirth of Rhona.

So, five years ago on a rainy morning, I began the restoration of Rhona. At that time, Rhona was in the water, barely afloat thanks to a polyester coating. The harbor master wanted to get rid of Rhona as quickly as possible, berated me, and even suggested sinking the shipwreck.

The boat builders in the village also wanted to scrap Rhona and advised me to sell the lead to make some money. Nevertheless, I looked forward to the restoration and embarked on the long journey.

Soon, I received help from old and new friends who, like me, were enthralled by this historic yacht, and with each milestone we reached, the general interest in my project grew.

From the beginning, I had a clear vision of how I wanted to restore this maritime heirloom.

The rules were simple: all original elements were to be restored, and new parts were to be faithfully recreated.

I decided to keep only the teak deck and deck edging from the 1970s.

Piece by piece, Rhona is transforming back into the gem she once was. I did not have a fixed schedule because I knew I could invest an average of one week per month. I had to continuously earn money and time, and depending on help and support, the restoration time would shorten.

It was always my top priority from the start that all work be done meticulously and with attention to detail, without stress. So many unforeseen tasks and events have arisen in the last five years, yet not once have I regretted undertaking the rescue of this maritime heritage.

Not least because of all the acquaintances I have made through it.

Rhona opens the door to the turn of the century, the heyday of the most beautiful sailing yachts, for every visitor.

I warmly welcome you aboard, Capt. Dan Meury.

ABOUT ME

Born in 1965 in Switzerland and raised by the lake, I started windsurfing at the age of 10, igniting my passion for wind and water. This led me to travel the world from Europe to South America, Asia, and Hawaii to enjoy wind and waves.

I have sailed thousands of nautical miles on various sailboats and participated in numerous regattas on different boat classes.

For the past 35 years, I have been working as a designer, architect, and boat builder in my own companies Swell and K7-Yachting, which are internationally active.

Through repairs and construction on various yacht projects in Europe, I have gained a vast amount of experience, which has been incredibly helpful to me during the restoration of this unique project, Rhona.

1975 - 1985	Windsurfing / Internationale Regattas
1985 - 1990	HobbyCat, Dart, Tornado / Switzerland Regattas
1990 - 1995	1/4 Tonner, Trias, Skiff 18fuss / Europacup
1996 - 2000	France 3, UBF, La Poste / Co-Captain, Race Charter
2000 - 2004	Dynamic 56, Catamaran 30m / Co-Captain, Charter
2004 - 2011	Orkun 28m, Ketch Classic / Captain, Charter
2018 - 2019	Mikado / Captain, Charter
2019 -	Restoration Rhona

Published press articles can be found at:

<https://rhonasailing.com/index.php/presse/>



Was macht eigentlich...

...Dan Meury?

März 2008, Regatta

HISTORY

RHONA

International Rule/Second Rule

Designer & Builder / W. & R.B. Fife

Construction/Hull# 748

Length Overall 21 m

Waterline 12.95 m

Beam 3.76 m / Draft 2.60

Sail Area 190 sq.m. (1947)

1927 - 1929 J. Lauriston Lewis - name Rhona - home port: Greenock (Great Britain).

Mr. Lauriston was the owner also of Lucilla. She had good results in the 1929 Cowes Week with a third overall placement (first Mouette, second Moyana) and 1 first in one of the six races.

1930 - 1932 Earl of Essex - home port: Greenwich (Great Britain).

1933 - 1958 Arnfinn Heje - new name: Hei II - home port: Oslo (Norway). He was a producer of margarine. She entered the KNS Jubileums regatta in Hanko in July 1933 and she was first in one race but was not placed in the other four races.

1961 - 1969 Jan Arthur Iversen - new name: Frisco VI - home port: Sarpsborg (Norway). Engine installed in 1960. In 1961 she has been restored with the construction of a big doghouse and she has been converted to auxiliary yawl.

1969 - 1970 Urban Strom, an artist specialized in composition of tin on on black oak who wanted to use the boat as a studio. He transported the boat to a place just outside Gothenburg

1971 Disappeared from the Lloyd's Register

1971 Jan. - **1974** Sept. Stig Westberg and friends. In spring, Hei II was brought to Dragsmark (on the west coast of Sweden) at the Broderna Jacobsson yard, where she underwent a complete refit with, by others, had the engine changed and a new iron structure under the mast; new sails from Bruce Bank Sails were added. For four years, she sailed in Scandinavia and in northern Germany.

1974 new Swedish owners - new name: Golum - home port: Stockholm (Sweden)

The latest news (May **2013**) report that she is ashore in not very fine conditions in a yard close to Cadaques (Spain); her mast was broken in 2011 and her owner does not even know who is William Fife; a big cockpit has been added on deck and the hull has been partially coated with polyester.

2018 the Boat is onshore in Escala a new swiss owner Dan Meury (Yacht Company K7) started the restoration. the ship get restored according to the original plans. Rhona will sail again in the mediterranean sea probably in 2025, fore exclusive charter and classic regattas.

FACTSHEET

Project Description:

Project Name:	Restoration of the Sailing Yacht "Rhona"
Year Built:	1927
Builder:	William Fife III, Fairlie Shipyard Scotland
Restoration Duration:	6 years
Planned Re-launch:	Spring 2025 Restoration Location: L'Escala / Spain (Costa Brava)
Home Port / Club:	Port Estartit, Club Nautic Estartit CNE
Flag:	Spain
Restoration Goal:	Restoration of the original beauty and functionality of the yacht.
Historical Significance:	Rhona is currently the last remaining 12class William Fife yacht in the world that is still undergoing restoration. Classic wooden yachts from the turn of the nineteenth century are important cultural and historical artifacts that provide insight into maritime history and craftsmanship of bygone eras. Preserving them helps safeguard maritime heritage and allows future generations to admire and study these unique vessels. Moreover, they are masterpieces of design and engineering that deserve to be preserved for their elegance.

Restoration Process:

2018:	Purchase of Rhona on Sept 29. Commencement of work. Step-masting.
2019:	Rhona is in the water. Obtainment of original plans from Scotland, dismantling of superstructures, removal of cockpit. Step-out. Removal of polyester coating. Removal of furnishings.
2020:	Construction of new stem and beginning of deck restoration. Restoration of existing hatches and skylights. Replace deck frames. Renew port top stringer.
2021:	Restoration of frames in the bow area. Removal of steel reinforcement in the bow area. Reconstruction of the lower deck. Removal of non-original steel bow and stern.
2022:	Installation of a new wooden stern, lower decks, and rebuilding of teak deck. Removal of engine (total overhaul) deck edging restoration.
2023:	Initiation of plank renewal and renovation, painting of edging. Renovation and reconstruction of stern structure. Removal of shaft and rudder construction. Hollowing out in the stern keel area. Reconstruction of all steel reinforcements. Sanding and painting of mast.
2024:	Installation of new underwater stern construction. New keel bolts. Completion of planking up to the waterline. Engine mount installation and motor assembly. Completion of underwater planking by the end of summer. Mast reparations.
2025:	Painting, caulking, re-launch, completion of interior finishing and rigging.

IMAGES

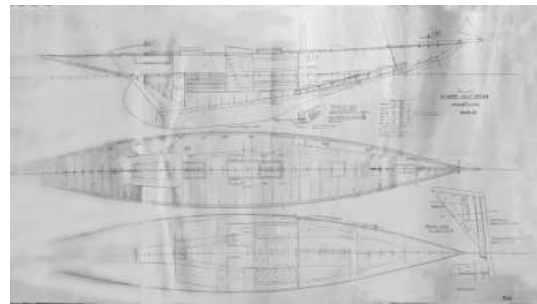
Original pics and Plans 1927



1-1927



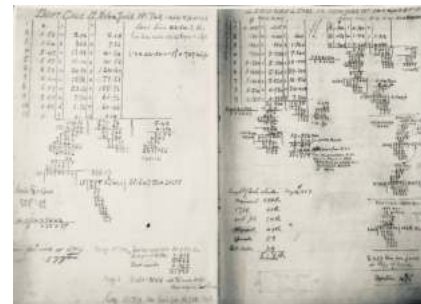
3-1927



5-Plan-1927



8-Schnitzerei-1927



7-Plan-1927

IMAGES

Start Restoration Sept. 2018



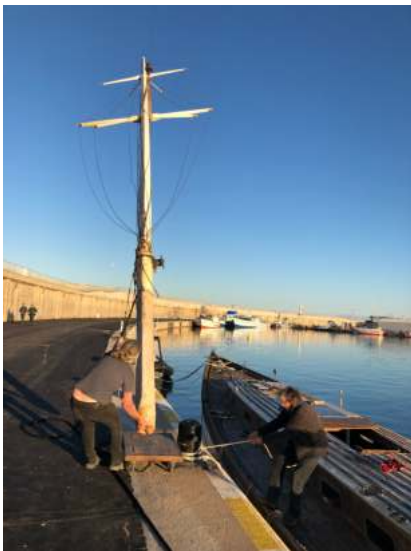
1-2018



2-2018



3-2018



4-2018



5-2018



6-2018



7-2018



8-2018

IMAGES

Restoration 2019



1-2019



2-2019



3-2019



4-2019



5-2019



6-2019



7-2019



8-2019

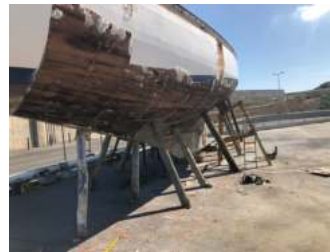


IMAGES

Restoration 2020



1-2020



3-2020



4-2020



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8-2020

IMAGES

Restoration 2020



9-2020



10-2020



11-2020



12-2020



13-2020



14-2020



15-2020



16-2020

IMAGES

Restoration 2020



17-2020



18-2020



20-2020



19-2020



21-2020



22-2020



23-2020

IMAGES

Restoration 2020



24-2020



25-2020



26-2020



27-2020



28-2020



29-2020



30-2020

IMAGES

Restoration 2021



1-2021



2-2021



3-2021



4-2021



5-2021



6-2021



7-2021



8-2021



9-2021



10-2021



11-2021



12-2021

IMAGES

Restoration 2021



1-2021-2



2-2021-2



3-2021-2



4-2021-2



5-2021-2



6-2021-2



7-2021-2



8-2021-2



9-2021-2



10-2021-2



11-2021-2



12-2021-2

IMAGES

Restoration 2022



1-2022



2-2022



3-2022



4-2022



5-2022



6-2022



9-2022



10-2022



12-2022

IMAGES

Restoration 2022



13-2022



14-2022



15-2022



16-2022



17-2021



18-2021



19-2021



20-2021



21-2021



22-2021



23-2021



24-2021

IMAGES

Restoration 2023



1-2023



2-2023



3-2023



4-2023



5-2023



6-2023



7-2023



8-2023



9-2023



10-2023



11-2023



12-2023

IMAGES

Restoration 2023



13-2023



14-2023



15-2023



16-2023



17-2023



18-2023



19-2023



20-2023



21-2023



22-2023



23-2023



24-2023

IMAGES

Restoration 2024



1-2024



2-2024



3-2024



4-2024



5-2024



6-2024



7-2024



8-2024



9-2024



10-2024



11-2024



12-2024

IMAGES

Restoration 2024



13-2024

IMAGES

The Rhona Family



1-people



2-people



3-people



4-people



5-people



6-people



7-people



8-people



9-people

IMAGES

The Rhona Family



10-people



11-people



13-people



12-people



14-people



15-people



16-people



17-people

CONTACT

RHONASAILING



www.rhonasailing.com

Switzerland:
Holzmühleweg 20
3303 Jegenstorf

Spain:
Torroella de Montgrí
17257 Girona

Dan Meury
info@rhonasailing.com
+41 79 213 24 46

