



MY CHAT WITH *Santa Claus!*

By Managing Editor, Chris Vallone Bushee

Have you ever wanted to wear a different colored suit?

Hmmm... I did, but Mrs. Claus didn't like it, so I stayed with the RED...
Gotta keep the Mrs. Happy!

Do you carry a cell phone on the sleigh with you?

Yes, I do... need to stay in touch with my Head Elf... Willie, and of course
Mrs. Claus likes to know that I'm sticking to my schedule.

Who eats more cookies? you or the reindeer?

I do of course!

Do you wear Under Armour under your suit?

No, but I have always been a fan of fruit of the loom.

Whose cookies are best? Mrs. Claus or the elves'

Well... they all make good cookies, but Mrs. Claus' are the best...
why do you think I look like this - Ho! Ho! Ho!

Does Rudolph's nose glow all year?

No... it only glows on Christmas Eve... it's a very magical event to watch!

Do you eat all the cookies or take them home with you?

I'll be honest... I do bring some home with me!

What's the funniest thing that a kid has ever asked you for?

It was a little boy, about 4 years old... and believe it or not... he asked for an ATM
Machine!! I'll never forget that one - Ho! Ho! Ho!

What do YOU want for Christmas?

I've always wanted a little customized red and white golf cart, but after
seeing some classic cars recently, I have my eye on an old red pick-up truck
with wooden racks in the back.

What's your favorite newspaper?

Ho! Ho! Ho! - I tell Chad, and everybody else who will listen to me...
I LOVE Saratoga TODAY... the stories, the coverage, the photos...
I get more info from that paper than anything else out there!





BREAKING NEWS:

*We know how Santa KNOWS
who's on the NAUGHTY or NICE list!!*

by Chris Vallone Bushee
Saratoga TODAY

SARATOGA —
That's right,
the Elf on the Shelf
has been reporting
back to Santa on little
kids living in this area
and we have proof...
because our readers
have sent us their
photos!

Here are a few for
you to see for yourself,
just in case you don't
believe us!



Featured Stories



SANTA IS COMING!

**HOLIDAY NEWS
PAGES 16-17**

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Weekend Forecast





"Sparkle" Lucas
hard at work

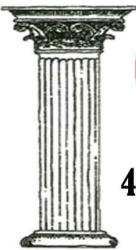


Our Scout Elf, Frisbee, likes to sit out in plain sight where he sees EVERYTHING that the kids are doing.

It drives them crazy, but I send him a Thank You note each Christmas Day!

Morgan H.

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"Elf" visits every year. He starts his journey on December 1st and shows up at our house in a mysterious way

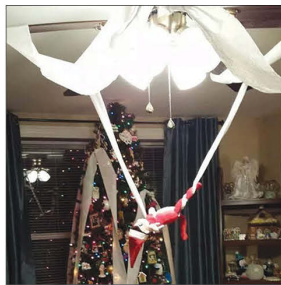
and stays until Christmas Eve. He once showed up in a candy cane striped box hanging from a tree in the yard because it seemed he parachuted in and got stuck. "Elf" switches spots every evening and when

our girls awake they enjoy finding his various hiding places and positions. The girls are getting older, but our youngest who is just turning 10 speaks of Elf frequently and is hoping he will come back again this year and visit. It is bittersweet on Christmas Day as Elf has left us but he always writes a note of good cheer for his safe return the following year. This year we were fortunate enough to get a "selfie" of Elf. It is hung on our daughters bulletin board for good luck.

Julie U.

That's our elf, Billy, zip-lining across the living room, but that is NOT the craziest thing he's done. Oh no... he's snuck into my daughter's room and written his name across her forehead (good thing she is such a deep sleeper!) and he's GIFT WRAPPED the toilet and HIDDEN in the medicine cabinet... he's quite the character! When Billy first showed up, he never left the top of the tree, I think he was teaching Shelby how this works... "I watch you, and you do NOT touch me!" She loves her little elf!

Tracy F.



I love watching my daughter run around the house every morning looking for Jingles, our elf. I couldn't imagine Christmas in our house, without Jingles! -Shelley D.

Our Elf, Snowball, caused a lot of "discussion" in our house the morning she was found in the front window... was she trying to get away from the cats? Was she learning how to zip-line? What do we do if she fell down?! - Mack K.





Every year our son anxiously awaits the return of Joseph, our Elf on the Shelf. It usually occurs right after Thanksgiving.

One story I vividly remember happened during a play date. Our son's friend touched the ELF-YIKES!

Obviously he didn't know that a human touching an Elf can ruin the Elf's Christmas magic. Our son's eyes immediately welled up and we could tell he was very upset.

Could this ruin Christmas? Would the Elf make it up to the North Pole to report to Santa?

Luckily, my husband sent a message directly to Santa and explained the situation.

Crisis averted.

-Kim K.

Make Your List!

- Milk
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- Cheese
- Butter
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My name is Nadine and this is my version of The Elf on the Shelf... and I'm sticking to it!

"The Elf came to me when I was just 5 year's old. To be honest, I was very upset when she showed up; in fact, I cried. I had heard from friends that she watches everything you do and reports back to Santa every night. Come on, I'm in kindergarten...I'm into everything...I find everything interesting and I like to investigate. Mom is always yelling, "Get out of that" or "Don't touch that" and the last thing I need is some spy elf telling Santa all my business.

Mom assured me everything would be ok, because as the Elf gets to know you, a relationship grows and she understands that you're young and just curious. I felt a little better about that and Mom said my next task was to name her...and I named her Suzie. Then the unthinkable happened...Mom said, "YOU MAY NEVER TOUCH SUZIE!"

I thought WHAT...? I already had a new outfit I picked out in my head for her including a beret from Paris!

Oh well...Mom set her on the mantel of the fireplace and I found myself eyeballing her each time I walked by, wondering how this was really going to play out.

The next morning when I got up Suzie was not on the mantel. Mom said each night when Suzie returns from the North Pole she lands in a different spot in the house. How cool is that...now I'm in search of Suzie. Yelling "SUZIE...SUZIE WHERE ARE YOU?" You would never believe where I found her...hanging from the Christmas Tree Star! I laughed and laughed and thought her landing was kinda like Moms driving. Maybe she needs a little more practice. The next day I found her in the dog food bin; I think she was shooting to land on the kitchen table AND MISSED. LOL! I've found her on the washing machine, a picture frame, the dining room table, hanging off the light switch, in the wreath looking in the front door and in my stocking.

It is so much fun to see where she will land each morning. I now can't wait for Thanksgiving because I know, Suzie will show up the next morning. I have a blast searching for her every day until Christmas Eve when Suzie leaves for the North Pole with her last report to Santa. All I can say is, I have an awesome Christmas every year so...

I guess I'm not so bad after all.

...as told to Grandma



Starting the morning of December 1st through Christmas Day our elves (yes we have two) always find creative and mischievous ways to surprise my three children each morning. I'm really not sure who loves it more, the kids or me?! They are not to be moved or touched (if anyone has a 3 year old, you know how hard this can be) or they will lose their magical powers. The elves "report" back to Santa every night with their daily report of the kiddos, so they always try extra hard to be good and if they're slipping, I just remind them of who's watching their every move. We are all looking forward to this upcoming Holiday season and for the return of Chuckles and Ginger. -Christina

Our Elf, Jax, caused quite the stir the morning that the kids could not find him ANYWHERE!

After running through the whole house - twice - my daughter fell to the floor and started crying thinking that Jax was gone forever. Luckily her big brother told her to open her eyes and look UP... and there was Jax, hanging out watching everything from the ceiling fan!

-Lisa M.

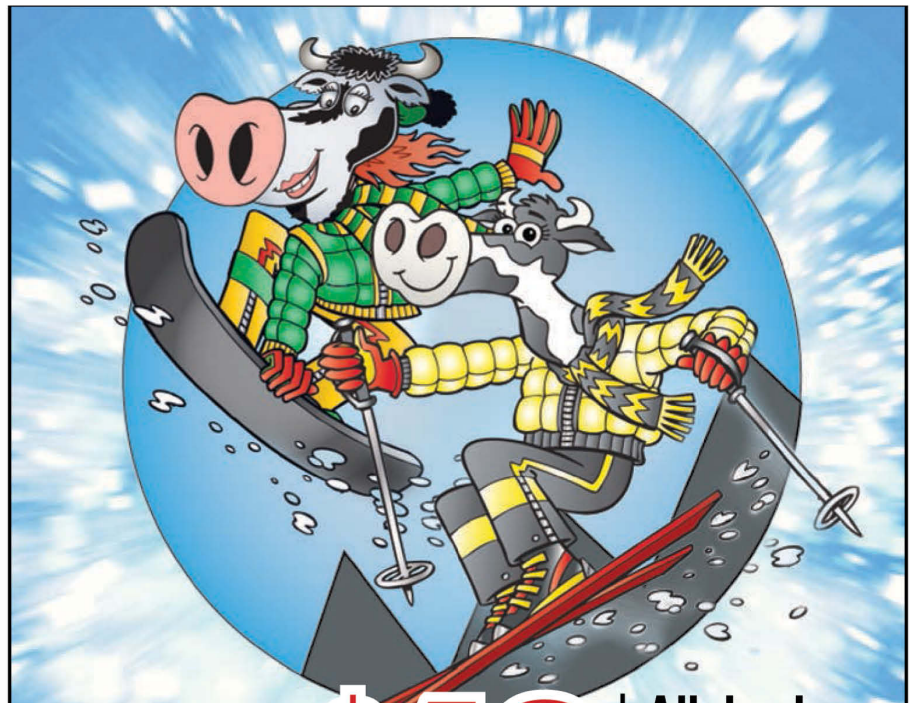


Our elf went sightseeing in Saratoga when he realized my daughter was spending the night at a friend's!!

-Cathy G.



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