

# Tell~Tale

NEWSLETTER FOR THE GEARY18  
FLATTIE SAILING ASSOC.



*January 2005*

Geary 18 IYRA  
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*From the Commodore*



Our Commodore on Lake Piru

**Check out the Geary 18 Website:**

**[www.geary18.org](http://www.geary18.org)**

**It has Internationals results too.**

*Happy  
New Year*

## NOTE FROM THE SEC/TREAS.

Well here we are with the start of a new year and I sure hope that you all enjoyed your holiday season as much as Joan and I enjoyed ours. We had 17 people (our whole family) at our house over Christmas. It was a little hectic but we loved it.

I just got the latest figures from Debbie and we now have 36 members and 6 associate members paid for the year. I would like to thank all of you that have paid for continuing to support the Association. However, we still have several that paid last year and have not yet paid this year. If you are not sure whether you have paid, you can contact either Deb Eckrote-email: [sailsafe@yahoo.com](mailto:sailsafe@yahoo.com), Bud Busch-email: [flatbusch@att.net](mailto:flatbusch@att.net), or Jon Olin-email: [olin191@earthlink.net](mailto:olin191@earthlink.net) to confirm.

I would also like to thank those of you who took the extra time to return your ballot. The motion passed and you should have the new revised handbook page included in this issue. Please remove the old page 7 from your Blue Hand Book and replace it with the new revised one.

Joan and I hope to be seeing you all sometime during this new sailing year.

Bud Busch  
Sec/Treas.



*Can you identify this yacht club pictured on this post card?  
Some of "the old timers" will. See page 10 for the answer.*



## FLEET NEWS

### LOS ANGELES FLEET

Tentative dates for the 2005 International Championship regatta at Huntington Lake, California are July 25 through July 28. The following page has the 2005 California racing schedule.

Chris Knudson

Chris is doing a great job getting us a sailing date...July 25-28, with hopefully a tune up race on the 24th...you may want to look into a place to stay...most of us are familiar with Huntington so know where we want to stay...if you have new members please help them out with some suggestions....any questions or need help, let me know....if you go to .... [fresnoyachtclub.org](http://fresnoyachtclub.org)....then click on High Sierra Regatta, then click on High Sierra Regatta Details, then click on either (they go the same place) camping or condos you'll get a list of just about every place and type of accommodations up there. I hope we have a good turn out, it's a great place to sail and for families to enjoy time together.

Marsha

### MISSION BAY FLEET

Just a note to let those of you that live here in Southern California know, the Mid-Winters' will be sailed Feb 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> at MBYC. We have had an unusual amount of rain so far this year but hopefully it will be over with by then and we will return to our normal beautiful weather and we expect to have the usual great weekend of sailing.

Hope to see you all,

Bud Busch

## 2005 California Geary 18 Racing Schedule

<b>Date</b>	<b>Scheduled Race</b>	<b>Host</b>	<b>Location</b>
Feb 19-20	SCYA Midwinters Regatta	Mission Bay Yacht Club	Mission Bay
Mar 5-6	EE Manning Series	Alamitos Bay Yacht Club	Alamitos Bay
Apr 10	Spring Point Fermin	Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club	San Pedro
Apr 30-May 1	Cinco de Mayo Regatta	Santa Barbara Sailing Club	Santa Barbara
Apr 30-May 1	Lake Piru Regatta	San Fernando Valley YC	Lake Piru
May 21-22?	Santa Margarita Invitational?	San Luis Fleet	Margarita Lake
June 25-26	Semana Nautica	Santa Barbara Yacht Club	Santa Barbara
July 9-10	High Sierra Regatta	Fresno Yacht Club	Huntington Lake
July 25-28	CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA	Los Angeles Fleet	Huntington Lake
Aug 6	McNish Wooden Boat Race	Pacific Corinthian YC	CI Harbor - Oxnard
Aug 27-28	Mile High Invitational	Lake Arrowhead YC	Lake Arrowhead
Sept 3-4	Labor Day Regatta	Coos Bay Yacht Club	Ten Mile Lake, OR
Sept 24-25	Mission Belle Invitational	Mission Bay Yacht Club	Mission Bay
Oct 8-9	Cachuma Regatta Informal		Lake Cachuma
Oct 29-30	Goblin Regatta	Santa Barbara Sailing Club	Santa Barbara
Nov 6	Fall Point Fermin	Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club	San Pedro
Nov 19-20	Turkey Day Regatta	Alamitos Bay Yacht Club	Alamitos Bay

Note: Some dates unconfirmed at publication. Check with local fleet captain before attending.

Compiled by Chris Knudson, any questions: ph: (805) 450-0819 / email: cknudson@dupontdisplays.com

## IN MEMORY OF ALBERT GABBS

For those of you that don't already know, the Geary 18 family lost another long time member. Al passed away in his sleep at home on the night of December the 5<sup>th</sup>. He was 90 years old but still raced his Geary (Citation} two or three times a year.

Al joined Mission Bay Yacht Club and the Geary 18 fleet in the mid-fifties and raced his Geary named A Belle (after his wife Anna Belle) very competitively for many years. He also was a member of San Diego Yacht Club where he kept and sailed a Coronado 30.

Al was known and loved in the San Diego area. He was in business here until he retired in 1988 and participated in many civic and charitable activities. He and Anna Belle loved to dance and he played his trombone with many bands (particularly Dixie Land) all over town.

Al's friendly personality and wit will be missed by all who knew him. Our hearts and prayers go out to Anna Belle.

Bud Busch

*The following are excerpts from the obituary by Jack Williams printed in the December 13,2004 edition of The San Diego Union-Tribune – Ed.*

To see him dance, sail and coax notes out of his trombone and string Christmas lights, you might have thought that Albert Gabbs had a special pact with Father Time. Or, perhaps, he discovered a private fountain of youth while planting all those shade trees in his Mission Hills canyon. "Al was the kind of person people half his age envied because of his enthusiasm and verve," said Gene King, a long time friend.

Mr. Gabbs, who celebrated his 90th birthday in Paris in July, died in his sleep Sunday in his Mission Hills home. "His energy was boundless," said his wife, Anna Belle. "He seemed about 60 or 65. He was a true dynamo. He could dance for four hours at a time."

For "Mr. Christmas," as Mr. Gabbs came to be known for his community lighting projects, the spirit of giving was year-round. Over the years he had spear-headed fund-raising for the March of Dimes, Meals on Wheels, and the Salk Institute. Yet to many, he was best known for annually transforming an ordinary cedar tree at Balboa Park into a shimmering symbol of the holiday season during December Nights, previously called Christmas on the Prado.

Ballroom dancing, competitive sailing and playing the trombone, often in Dixieland bands, occupied much of his leisure time. He raced his Geary 18 sloop, A Belle, as a longtime member of the Mission Bay Yacht Club. "He would sail like a maniac," his wife said, "but after the race, he didn't care whether he won or lost."

## THE HISTORY PAGE

By Marsha Furman

*We received the following e-mail from Bob Cook, former member of the Los Angeles fleet during the 1960's. He left the west coast and sailing for Colorado many years ago. -Ed.*

Dear Jon Olin:

My name is Bob Cook. I sailed # 815 for many years I do remember your mother and Dad and a lot of great times at regattas they were at. Wanda, your mother, used to refer Bill Darnell and I as the Bobsy twins of the L.A. fleet. I saw the picture of # 810 in the November Tell-Tale wanting to know something about this boat. This boat was built in Santa Monica Calif. with # 815 and # 818. These three boats were all built at the same time by Milton Peeples, Bob Cook , and Joe Melill. When the hulls were structurally complete we each drew straws to determine which hull went to which person. When these boats hit the water they all performed very well. As a result Milton and I were asked to jig many more hulls for other members of the L.A. Feet at CBYC. (Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club)



— Photo by Chad Reimer

Dean Ratzlaff (left) and Chris Watson with the Geary trophy.

## Cultus crew conquers south

by Chad Reimer

First the Aussies took the America Cup away, then the Canadians took the Geary International.

That was the story as Dean Ratzlaff and Chris Watson left the competition in their wake at the International Geary 18 Sailing Championships held on Lake Arrowhead, Calif., Aug. 3-9.

In the stiff and wild winds of the Californian lake, skipper Ratzlaff and crewman Watson, both members of the Cultus Lake Yacht Club (CLYC), piloted their boat 'Whippet III' to victory five times in the six-race venue.

The international championships have been held yearly since 1935 and, except for the early years, they have been dominated by American boats.

The Geary 18-class boat itself was designed in 1928 as a light and responsive, 18-foot, two-sail craft. The Cultus Lake crew's booty for the win, the 'Flattie' trophy, bears the marks of its age.

Under a dramatic, silver scale-model of the Geary-class boat, names from the past dignify the wooden base.

The Vancouver crew of Phil and Sid Miller dominated the first three years of the competition, 1935-38.

A drought of 22 years was broken in 1960 when Vancouver's Dave Miller graced the 'Flattie' with his name. Miller went on to win a bronze medal in the 1972 Olympics.

He was the last Canadian before

Ratzlaff and Watson to win the Geary International.

Ratzlaff noted that the competition was the year's biggest for him and his crewman.

With last year's third-place finish under his belt, Ratzlaff said, "we knew we had a chance (for first).

"But we were surprised we won five races. Usually you can win (the title) by placing in the top five in each of the races, but the southern Californians are usually quite hot."

But Ratzlaff and Watson's five firsts and one third-place left little doubt that northerners could play ball on southern turf. Six races around the four- to six-mile course were run with each boat's lowest placing not counting in the final overall standings.

Ratzlaff painted a verbal picture of the tempestuous conditions in which he attained glory.

"It was really gusty with a pretty wild wind shift. Cultus Lake has pretty heavy winds, but they're steady. Arrowhead was harder sailing."

Ratzlaff and Watson have been sailing together for two years.

At present, they are preparing for a competition in Mission Bay, near San Diego, in September. The crew took third in the event last year.

Another CLYC crew showed the flag in American waters. Skipper Dan Frye and crewman Chris Frye placed eighth in the Geary 18 class.

The clipping above, from *The Chilliwack Progress*, August 20, 1986, was sent by Harald Rodde of Cultus Lake. It reports the results of the Internationals of that year won by Dean Ratzlaff at Lake Arrowhead, California.

Southern California Geary sailors saw Dean Ratzlaff last November at the Mission Bell Invitational on Mission Bay. He was vacationing in San Diego and came out to work on the Race Committee with Bud and Joan Busch. He had a good time and said that he was thinking about getting another Geary.

## Boats For Sale

### **Lisa Campolmi needs your help!**

After so many losses in the past 18 months, it is time for me to move on and try to start over. I will be moving from Poverty Boat Farm to Pismo Beach on March 1<sup>st</sup>. I definitely intend to keep the Flattie that Giancarlo and I worked so hard on, Fleet Wings, and hope to sail her sometime soon. Those of you who have visited here, know it's a Flattie halfway house. I have 2 boats that I need to donate or they will go to Flattie heaven. Ruffian is in full working order and ready to sail, needing only cosmetic work. An old mast is with her, but I'm not really sure if it fits. Tiger is also here, fully rigged and ready to go. She leaks and needs some TLC. Both are free to a good home. Trailers included. I also have a ton of old sails and rigging if anyone is interested. The only problem is they must be moved within the next 6 weeks. If you know anyone who could help, please call at 805 543-8712.

### ***STORMY***

"STORMY"( 5 time champion) is going to be sold, since my knee is not going to allow me to sail her any more. The hull is ready for a new deck, after finishing the inside to the natural finish it has now. The price is negotiable depending on equipment wanted in the purchase. Please call to talk if you are interested.

Ted Knudson, (805) 964-3477.

## Classic Geary #1099

Last raced at 1972 Worlds on Lake Washington. Has been nicely stored all this time. Just refinished, now at Leschi, and sailing well. Really nice condition. Hull built in 1960. Sides one piece of clear cedar, decks 1/4" Philippine mahogany finished bright, bottom glassed over to chine. Last official weight 526 lbs. Moitoret sails. Has brand new trailer, brand new custom cover. You cannot find one like this. Best offer gets it and the sentiment. Call to discuss & get pictures. John Baker, Issaquah, WA 425-392-1030/C 206-595-1590. (Vacation home number 541-886-3302, Wallowa, OR).

Folks.

This boat is VERY nice! the blue paint looks super. I saw it on the float at Leschi (North float) and didn't know whose it was. No idea what the sails are like but the boat is awesome - esp the hull. Could use very little except a little updating of the vintage lines. It is at the optimum weight too. Call John Baker and BUY this boat.

Charlie Hanson





#1099

I have a wooden hulled Geary 18 located in Lake Arrowhead that I am trying to sell. The boat is in excellent shape - totally refinished in 1990 and been in the garage ever since. Aluminum mast and new style, cut-down centerboard. Number is 777. Trailer and all running gear is in good condition, 2 sets of sails, one almost new. Please let me know if you are aware of anyone interested in a Geary. I can get pictures if needed. Thanks

BRENT R. MCMANIGAL Entitlements Manager  
GRESHAM SAVAGE NOLAN & TILDEN, A Professional Corporation  
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San Bernardino, CA 92508-4205  
(909) 890-4499  
(909) 890-9877 (Fax)



Two Geary's on Maple Bay, Vancouver Island, BC. One is sailed by the late John Barltrop, who passed away in 2001. The photo is from Harald Rodde.

*The Houston Yacht Club is pictured on page 2. The photo is from a post card sent to us by Elsa La Baw, director of the Tell-Tale Graphics and Technical Support Department. The photo is from 1958, and boasts the largest regatta in the region, with 100 boats competing.*



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