

# Tell~Tale

NEWSLETTER FOR THE GEARY18  
FLATTIE SAILING ASSOC.



*February 2005*

Geary 18 IYRA  
P.O. Box 4763  
Federal Way, WA 98063-4763

Debra Eckrote, Executive Secretary  
E-mail: [sailsafe2@yahoo.com](mailto:sailsafe2@yahoo.com)

*From the Commodore*

I was sad to hear of the passing of Felix, and send my condolences to his family. My parents were great friends with Felix and Phyllis when I was growing up. My father and Felix sometimes had different ideas on issues concerning the Flattie and were fierce competitors on the water, but both held a deep' life-long love for our class. Felix expressed it by organizing "how -to" articles, answering questions, and yes, sometimes stirring up the pot a bit. I talked to Felix several times over these past years; his connection to my parents was very comforting. He'll be missed.

Last month I somehow missed the Tell-tale cut off date so missed the opportunity to give my condolences to Anna Belle upon the passing of Al. Again, I count myself lucky to have known such men in my life thanks to my Dad's love of the Flattie and my Mom's choice to make it part of her life also. I can see Al at many a trophy banquet (following the Internationals) being the master of ceremonies. Back in the 60's there were 40 plus boats at the championships, 5 races (no throw outs), Ladies' and Crews' races, no 360's or 720's...so you can imagine the amount of material Al had to choose from when it came to handing out the trophies. It was great. These last few years I had been able to see another side of Al...the sailing side as we battled it out when he took his Citation to the water. He and his crew Roger were a great set of guys and I really enjoyed our time together out there on the water.

My regards to all, and hope we will all treasure the times we have together.

Marsha

**Check out the Geary 18 Website:**

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

**Thanks to all who sent in  
news for this issue. It  
makes it easy to put out the  
Tell Tale**

## NOTE FROM THE SEC/TREAS.

Just a reminder that the 31<sup>st</sup> of March is the last day that you can pay your dues without a \$10 penalty. I have listed the names below of those of you that have paid this year as of 3/1/05 and I want to thank all of you for your support of the association. I would also like you to look over the list and if you see that there are members of your fleet that have not paid, please encourage them to do so.

Thanks again and Joan and I are looking forward to seeing most of you again this year.

### DISTRICT I

Robert Randall

### DISTRICT II

Colleen Cardas	Leo Fisk	Jim Gastreich	Colin Jenkins
Tim Mills	Tom Mills	Jim Paterson	Sam Roth
Bob Thomas	Robert Siewert		

### DISTRICT III

Jack Bechtold	Judy Calvy	Bob Griffiths	Shelly Scott
David Thoms	Karen VanderMeyden		Dian Wilk
David Winsor			
Edward Fox	Marsha Furman	Chris Olin	Jon Olin
Bill Roberts	Bryan Rohland	Bud Busch	Bud Everett
Scott Swanson	Robert Eckrote	Mike Gaffaney	Sharon Gee
Dell Hollinger	John Swanson	Chris Knudson	Ted Knudson

### DISTRICT IV

John Cutler

### ISOLATED

Don Brown	Tim Harrington	Michael Holland	Sherwood Jones
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### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Norma Cleveland	Robert Eckrote (Sr.)	Charles Misere
Maryann Misere	Felix Moitoret	Harold Rodde

Bud Busch  
Sec/Treas.

## 2005 INTERNATIONALS

**Huntington Lake, California**  
**July 25-28**

### ACCOMODATIONS

#### Campground Reservations:

National Recreation System – 877-444-6777 – [www.reserveusa.com](http://www.reserveusa.com)

College Creek Campground\*  
 Deer Creek Campground\*  
 Rancheria Campground\*\*  
 Billy Creek Campground\*\*  
 Catavaee Campground\*\*\*  
 Kinikinnic, Campground\*\*\*

\* On the waterfront near launch ramp, groceries, etc.

\*\* 5 to 10 minutes of driving away

\*\*\* farther away

#### Other Accommodations:

Lakeshore Resort – (559) 893-3193 – [info@lakeshoreresort.com](mailto:info@lakeshoreresort.com)  
 Rdancheria Marina – (559)-893-3234  
 Tamarack Lodge – (559) 893-3244  
 Lakeview Cottages – (562) 697-6556  
 Huntington Lake Resort- (559) 893-6750  
 Cedar Crest Resort – (559) 893-3233  
 Huntington Lake Condos- (209) 841-4000  
 Cabins For Rent – (559) 841-3377

### International's Want Ad

All of us know the importance of safety when we're out on the water, so it's with that issue in mind that I send this ad out...if anyone has a friend, or family member willing to enjoy a week in the lovely high Sierra and has a power boat, we would gladly spring for the gas for them to be our chase boat. Simple and to the point...hope to hear from someone.

Marsha



## FLEET NEWS

### LOS ANGELES FLEET

The houses still haven't stopped sliding and the lakes are at an all time high. It's been crazy down this way. Perhaps we won't have to steal as much water from up north, what with us getting more than Seattle! I hope everyone has gotten their calendars out and marked out the International's dates...July 25-28th...hopefully with a tune up race on the 24th. We'll be sending out the sign up sheets a bit down the road, but we're looking at a "bring your own meat" pot luck, breakfast and banquet. Los Angeles will host a get together also. Maybe Jon will be able to get the listing of places to stay in this month's issue...if not let me know and I'll help you find the list.

As a point of information to our out of town folks, Disneyland is celebrating its 50th birthday starting May 5, running for 18 months. July 18 is the actual 50th birthday, so maybe you'll want to combine a sailing and LA vacation into one. Anyone interested in doing so is more than welcome to leave their boat at my place...it's on the way down south.

We have a race at Cabrillo Beach YC on April 10th, the Spring Pt. Fermin...one day, one race. Hope some of you can make it out to it. Looking forward to this summer.

Marsha

### MISSION BAY FLEET

The President's Day weekend is usually the weekend of the Mid-Winters for the Southern California Geary 18 fleet. It is generally the first major regatta of the year and it gives everyone a chance to see if everything they have done to their boat works. In the past we have had some strange winds at the Mid-Winters but this year really takes the cake. They tell us that since the first of the year we have had more rain in San Diego than they have had in Seattle. We need the rain but not all at one time.

Since it had rained all week before the regatta and was supposed to be bad for the weekend, most of the Geary's decided not to come and that turned out to be a good decision. Robert and Debbie Eckrote came down and were going to sail "Harassed" which Robert has chartered from Tom Jermin Jr. for 2005. The Swanson boys also showed up but because we only had two boats and the weather was bad, they both chose not to sail. Very few of the other fleets sailed either, so unfortunately it was not a good weekend for the regatta. We spent the day with Robert, Debbie, John and Scott and really enjoyed seeing them. Hopefully we will have better weather next year.

Bud Busch



## FLEET NEWS

### LAKE ARROWHEAD FLEET

While all of us certainly hope the recent rains have not caused any problems to the Geary family, it has been a real blessing to Lake Arrowhead. When we closed our season in September the lake was down 22 feet, the lowest it has been since they started filling the lake in the early 1900's. The lake is now full! The low lake level had caused tremendous problems launching our boats and reduced the lake surface area available to sail, as well as do other water sports activities. We're all looking forward to getting our boats out of storage and start sailing again on the (full) lake . . . but that will wait until June.

Diane and Michael Burch are heading up the project to get a Geary mounted in a prominent location in the Yacht Club. The C Scow fleet and the (no longer sailed) Rainbow Skimmer all ready have boats in the Club. Certainly it's time for the "Flattie", a sailboat with a long and continuing history at Lake Arrowhead, to get its proper recognition.

Jack Bechtold

### HOUSTON FLEET

The Geary 18 fleet (two active boats) is alive and well at the Houston Yacht Club. The one-design race committee has been very supportive. John Montgomery sailing *Opportunity #1509* and I *The Other Woman #1353* sailed the Summer and Fall series and qualified for trophies in each series in spite of the fact that we had only two boats participating. John Montgomery won the Summer Series and in the Fall series we sailed at total of four races with each one of us winning two races. Fortunately *The Other Woman* won the last two races so when the Race Committee went to the third tie breaker, winning the last two races resulted in a trophy for #1353! We made a Geary 18 class flag for the Race Committee to use during the starting sequences and we are getting questions??? Is that a Flattie? I remember there used to be Geary 18's at HYC, is that one? Of course, trying to grow the fleet is an UP-HILL effort without having a readily available source of more Gearys. John has another boat, but it needs extensive work. Hopefully, one of us may try and make the trip in July to Huntington Lake..... The Good News is the Gearys are sailing and racing again at HYC after a 10-year hiatus.

John E. Cutler *#1353 - The Other Woman*



## IN MEMORY OF

*Felix Moitoret*

*1923 – 2005*

Dear Geary Fleet:

I wish I was just writing to give Harald and Jon heck for publishing a copy of the superfluous article in January's Telltale. However, I regret to inform the Geary fleet of the loss of a great Champion and friend, Felix Moitoret.

Crewing for Harald in '78 I caught my first glimpse of 1111's stern as Felix kept horizoning a large competitive fleet only to lose the regatta after a sheared centerboard pin and subsequent capsizing on a wild reach. For us younger guys Felix was one of the sailing gods we aspired to reach. Years later he taught me how to cut sails, play shifts and make boats go fast.

Felix leaves a great heritage with the fleet – fervent passion for Gearys and the people who sail them, ingenuity to bring innovative yet always budget-conscious rigging and sail designs, and endearing promotion of the class and its roots as a low-cost Seattle YC Junior fleet racing trainer and later what we referred to as a 'poor-man's' Star. As CYC Commodore he had his pick of classes and opportunities to race with the 'Big Boys', aka Olympic and 6&12M sailors, yet he remained loyal to the Geary fleet. Studying Star and 12M sails I realized that the 'ole genius' was ahead of his time with sail designs (e.g. open 'venturi' leeches and then those slick zippered jib luffs). I often wondered if he would have given Seattle's legendary Buchan a run for his Silver and Gold Stars had he not been economically-constrained like most of us (for those who don't know, Dennis Conners learned how to race under Buchan).

Racing Gearys was a great part of my life and befriending Felix made it even better. While Austin taught me a 'lesson or two' in tides, and Olympian Dave Miller gave 'humility' lessons in an old beat up boat, and the two Buds taught me the value of having tip-top boats and race prep, back then your first step into sailing 'manhood' was the first time you beat Felix.

More recent memories include Felix grading my wife's tacking abilities on his Newport 41 and then a phone call about a year ago asking to charter one of my Gearys. After first thinking 'are you nuts – you're 80+', I more diplomatically asked him "What for?". He then explained that without a boat he was denied active status for voting and he also wanted to get the fleet going again in the Northwest. He really missed the action.

Felix devoted a lot to keeping the fleet afloat and along with his Geary wisdom he'll be sorely missed.

Regards,

Dean Ratzlaff  
#317 & #1244

Soon after I agreed to become editor of the Tell-Tale I received a letter from Felix Moitoret. The letter contained quite a bit of anger, not directed at me but at the “powers that be” that denied him the post. Later that year, the association was considering a rules change to allow Mylar windows. Felix sent me a very opinionated piece against allowing Mylar to be used. It was published in the next issue, and he may have been surprised that I printed it. Shortly after, we began e-mailing each other about the Tell-Tale. He was constructively critical, and very often complimentary. Eventually, I asked him if he would become a regular contributor, and pitched the idea of the “Ask Felix” page. He was happy to do anything to help. He designed his own page heading and it appeared in several issues. I wish we would have had more questions for him to answer. He also sent a complimentary copy of his “How-To” book and gave me permission to use the articles in the Tell-Tale.

I grew up sailing Flatties in the Los Angeles fleet. Felix Moitoret was “*the* competition” from the north at Internationals time for many a year. (Actually, he was a transplanted Californian, born in Sacramento and raised in the Bay area.) We always rooted for our best sailor, Austin Peeples, to beat him.

Felix was often the subject of controversy for us in the south. I was there at Lake Arrowhead in 1961, standing by *Whippet* with others, when he was told to disconnect the bottom bending apparatus he had below the deck. And there was always the question of his illegally altering his sails at night between races. (Of course, we ignored the notion that our sail maker Austin probably did it too!) In the end I have come to realize that Felix was very competitive and monumental in what made racing our class so much more fun and interesting. He must be considered, along with Fred Harley and Austin Peeples, one of the Geary association’s icons.

I will miss him.

Jon Olin, Tell-Tale editor

## Boats For Sale

Mike Gaffaney of the Los Angeles fleet is selling Geary 18 #874. It is a wooden hull built in 1960 and has a full centerboard. It was refinished a few years ago and has been stored in a garage. It has an aluminum mast and a full set of sails. He is looking for any offer, otherwise it goes to the Sea Scouts.

Contact Mike at 310-261-3197 or e-mail [mgaffaney@yahoo.com](mailto:mgaffaney@yahoo.com)



Rounding the leeward mark at Lake Piru in May of 2004

Marsha and Tammy Furman – Chris Knudson and one of his crews – Jon and Chris Olin

**Please send us some action pictures for future editions. We would like to include one or two in each**



Jon Olin - Editor  
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**In This Issue...**

Remembering Felix Moitoret – Fleet News - Internationals Dates

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