

# Bull Session

News and comment for the El Toro Class

March #324

[www.eltoroyra.org](http://www.eltoroyra.org)

## EIGHT BELLS

Very few people can boast about "being there" when the first El Toros were built. Gordy Miller was one of the last who could say that. Gordy crossed the bar Tuesday after almost 102 years of sailing. His first El Toro was #4, his son's Fred and Steve sailed that boat in the Richmond Yacht Club Junior Program for decades. #4 and Gordy went sailing during the 1999 El Toro Nationals held at RYC.

Gordy has raced El Toro, OK Dinghy, FJ, Snipe, Cal 25', Ericson 27', crewed on many RYC keel boats and became a great competitor in the 'thumb boat' class and still sailed after two new knees.

\*\*\*\*\*"Gordy Miller was a "Character". To earn that title it takes a life time and he had a lot of time to do just that. Every moment of his very long life was filled with passion for sailing and anything he attempted. From El Toros to keel boats to model boats, he did it all.

He just missed his 102nd birthday by three weeks. You might recall that he actually sailed his El Toro # 4 at RYC during the 60th anniversary of the El Toro class and Nationals a decade ago. Having been a long time out of practice in his woody, he capsized his "sinker" in front of the crowd of National Championship sailors and others gathered at the club. The whole time he had a smile on his face and was heard chuckling "I wasn't ready for that!" as we hauled him out of the water. Hull # 4, fully restored, is still in sailing condition. It was on display upstairs during the regatta.

In his later years he had to give up sailing "ride on" boats in favor of remote control sail boats. He even kept sailing those after having both knees replaced during his late seventies and eighties but still marched up and down the pond on his "new knees". Life did take its toll yet he still showed up to watch the races while sitting in his lawn chair.

His twinkling eyes and grin will be remembered by many adoring women he insisted on hugging every Sunday night before dinner at RYC just so he could press their breast into his chest. Gordy never lost his spark and enjoyed every moment and opportunity life presented to him until the end.

On his 100th birthday he drove a race car at 104 mph and a racing powerboat at 105 mph.

Our condolences go out from all El Toro sailors to his wife Margaret and two sons. His enthusiasm and continued support of our quirky little class will live on with all of us.\*\*\*\*\*

John Amen

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# Lake Merritt Sunday

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From Elkhorn Yacht Club, Monterey Bay,

We have a monthly Sailboat Jamboree and would like to invite

El Toro's to come join us. We would like to also invite you to our 3rd annual Running of the Bulls, Nov 14th 2010.

More information can be found at Elkhornyc.com

Hope to see you all on the water

Mark Pastick

Commodore Elkhorn Yacht Club

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20010 schedule so far

## LMSC Midwinter's March 14 Lake Merritt #4

<b>BullShip will be</b>	<b>April 10</b>
<b>Big Dinghy RYC</b>	<b>April 17 fleet race inside the Channel on <u>Saturday</u></b>
<b>Big Dinghy RYC</b>	<b>April 18 around Brooks Island <u>Sunday</u></b>
<b>Flight of the Bulls</b>	<b>May 8</b>
<b>Fremont Relay</b>	<b>May 16</b>
<b>Pinto Lake</b>	<b>June 6</b>
<b><u>Clear Lake National Championship Series will be June 18-19-20</u></b>	
<b>Mayor's Cup LMSC</b>	<b>June 27</b>
<b>Pinecrest Worlds</b>	<b>August 7-8</b>
<b>Totally Dinghy RYC</b>	<b>September 25-26</b>
<b>El Toro Stampede</b>	<b>October 3</b>
<b>Cork Screw Redwood City</b>	<b>October 9</b>

## Clear Lake National Championship Regatta

**June 18-19-20**  
**Friday, Saturday and Sunday**  
**Thursday 17, tune-up**

**Reserving resort cabins can be made now**

**This resort is on Lake Shore Drive with a beach and dock, with the best sailing right in front of the beach**

**all El Toros are welcome**

**Sunset Fishing Resort**

**707:994:6642**

**[www.sunsetfishingresort.com](http://www.sunsetfishingresort.com)**