

FC News

Editor: Ron Walton

Summer 1997

Welcome to the Summer 1997 edition of the **FC News**, a newsletter for owners of the Lyle Hess designed Falmouth Cutter 22. My name is Ron Walton and I have volunteered to be the editor.

If you have received this newsletter it is because I have found your name and address in the master list of Falmouth Cutter owners on file at the Sam L. Morse Co., builders of the Falmouth Cutter. I hope the information in the master list is current, but it may not be. Therefore, if you have sold your boat, could you please provide me with the name and address of the new owner or pass this newsletter on to the new owners and urge them to contact me. My address and telephone number is listed below. I will see to it that the master list at Sam L. Morse Co. is updated and provide the fleet with a copy of this list in an upcoming issue of **FC News**.

The main purpose of the **FC News** is to provide you, the owners of Falmouth Cutter 22s, with news about the fleet. Presently, the Falmouth Cutter fleet consists of 35 vessels. And, so far as I know, the last newsletter was sent out to the fleet over two years ago. That means there are over 70 years worth of sailing experience in Falmouth Cutters that have accumulated without a newsletter. In those 70 years of experience I know there must be some good stories, some interesting boat modifications, some vexing problems, etc. which the fleet would love to hear about. As the volunteer editor of this newsletter I therefore remind the fleet to “write home”. If you don’t, the **FC News** will not exist.

Thank you.

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Mijita and Me

Your volunteer editor is a Ph.D. theoretical physicist by training. Thus, in this “virtual reality” age I need to do something that is old-fashioned “real reality”. With little hard science to do,

owning and sailing a boat fills that need.

I became interested in sailing about 20 years ago after reading several books by cruisers, including Cruising in Serraffyn by Lin and Larry Pardey. But it was only a few years ago that I began to look for a boat. I bought my Falmouth Cutter, *Mijita*, in 1995 in Newport Beach, California. Currently I have *Mijita* berthed in Alameda, California, an island city on the east shore of San Francisco Bay. I live nearby.

Mijita is a Spanish familial word pronounced “me-heat-uh” and meaning “my little girl”. This name was given to her by her second owner, an Australian by the name of Grant Todd. *Mijita*’s first owners, Will O’Brien and B. Kendall of Seattle, had named her *Tomaquag*, a Native American word meaning “beaver”. I think *Mijita* suits her much better and I have kept that name since I became her third owner her two years ago.

Grant Todd sailed *Mijita* twice to Mexico. As I recall, he took her as far south as Puerto Vallarta. I do not know if *Mijita*’s first owners did any long distance cruises in her. Eventually, I hope to go cruising in *Mijita*. But, right now I am just daysailing her and upgrading her systems from their c. 1980 vintage. My current project is new standing rigging.

Since *Mijita* is based in Alameda, California, we do our sailing mainly on San Francisco Bay. Anything you have heard about sailing on San Francisco Bay is probably true, unless you heard the sailing is boring. In the afternoons during spring and summer the wind easily blows over 25 knots in the “slot” between the Golden Gate Bridge and Berkeley. Combine that with the strong bay tides makes very exciting, and wet, sailing. But, with the benefit of some spectacular views of San Francisco and vicinity.

Sam L. Morse Co. Briefs

Last year George Hylkema retired as President of the Sam L. Morse Co. and Roger Olson assumed that position. I have had many telephone conversations with Roger during the past two years about sailing, maintaining, and modifying *Mijita*. In all cases Roger has been very helpful to me and I wish to thank him for that support. Roger also encouraged me to start this newsletter. The previous newsletter has been missing for the past two years and is presumed lost at sea.

If you haven’t yet introduced yourselves to Roger Olson, his telephone number at Sam L. Morse Co. is (714) 645-1843. Roger’s credentials include owning and cruising the beautiful Bristol Channel Cutter *Xiphias* that appears on the cover of Ferenc Mate’s book Best Boats. And, Roger currently owns *Serraffyn*, the Pardey’s first boat.