



## ***Public Information Release***

March 12, 2010

Captain James Bauman, Public Information Officer

A Lakeport man has been reported as missing since departing in his boat on Clear Lake from the Konocti Vista Casino Resort Marina on Sunday night.

Late Monday afternoon, a friend of the missing man, Gene Bedros, contacted deputies and reported that 49 year old William Michael Farrell of Lakeport had left the Konocti Vista Marina in his 14' wooden boat to meet Bedros at his home near Rocky Point in North Lakeport to celebrate his (Farrell's) birthday. Farrell never arrived however, and Bedros apparently did not realize he had actually embarked until the following day. Bedros and Farrell's girlfriend, Roberta Perchar, reportedly spent most of the day Monday checking the shoreline between Konocti Vista and Rocky Point for Farrell or his boat but found no sign of either.

While gathering preliminary information on the missing boater Monday evening, the Sheriff's Marine Patrol was called out to commence searching the lake. Searches were conducted, spanning the waters north of the Konocti Vista marina and beyond Rocky Point, as well as to the south and east of the marina. As night time fell, a search of the open water between the west and north shores of Clear Lake continued by use of radar but neither Farrell or his boat could be located. Shortly before 9:00 pm Monday, adverse conditions on the lake prevented any further efforts and the search for Farrell was suspended for the day. Deputies continued checking with friends and acquaintances of Farrell the following day to see if anyone had heard from him but none had.

On Wednesday morning at about 8 am, the Sheriff's Marine Patrol located an object adrift on the surface of the lake about 400' off the Buckingham Peninsula. On closer inspection, the object was identified as a capsized boat, partially submerged with only 2' of the bow remaining above the surface. The boat vaguely matched the description of Farrell's boat and was towed in to the Marine Patrol facility at Braito's Marina. Friends and family members of Farrell were asked to respond to examine the boat and it was positively identified as Farrell's. Personal items found in the boat were also identified as belonging to Farrell. There were no obvious signs of a collision or other damage to the boat.

Perchar and Farrell reportedly live near the Konocti Vista Marina and she told deputies that on Sunday evening, Farrell had asked her to accompany him in his boat to go to

Bedros' home for an informal birthday celebration. Perchar declined as it was too windy and cold for her to go out on the boat. Some time between 8 and 9 pm that night, Perchar noticed Farrell's car was gone from the residence and was now parked near the resort. She went to the casino to see if he was there and after an employee told her they had seen Farrell about 40 minutes prior, she checked on his boat and it was gone.

Based on information provided by Perchar, it appears Farrell's boat had a possible leak and was underpowered with an outboard motor that had a history of mechanical problems. The boat was very old, built in 1956, and an examination of the boat by Marine Patrol personnel indicates it could have easily been swamped by the windy conditions that prevailed on the lake Sunday afternoon and evening.

Farrell is described as a 49 year old white male adult, 5'-8", 185 lbs., with brown hair, blue eyes, and a goatee style beard. He has tattoos on both forearms and a significant surgical scar at the center of his chest and abdomen. It is unknown what he was wearing Sunday night.