



# The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Longest Lasting West Wight Potter Club in the World

August 2015

## Report: Cruiser Challenge in Monterey, CA Impressions of CC XVI

by Don Person



Photo by Carl Sundholm

Kevin Crowder's Aurora

First, thanks to Goose and Pat. They worked hard, obviously cared and arranged a very successful event. Typical weather, Thursday through Sunday, was good. The mornings were overcast with moderate winds. Race day, Saturday, there was less overcast and an almost sporting wind.

On Thursday, I arrived at noon expecting open parking. Wrong! There were just three car-trailer spaces in the overflow lot and Dan Phy and I took two of them. After rigging, launching and docking our boats, Goose, Dan, Dave Bacon and I went out and ate at the wharf.

On Friday, most of the rest of the registrants showed up. Again, thanks to Goose's arrangements, reserved parking was available. Sharon and David Soule and Phil Marcelis helped Goose patrol the spaces, keeping them free of tourists who were too bewildered to pay attention to signage. Goose and some helpers spent part of the day finding and repairing a leak in *ReGale*, his heavily modified HMS 18, hull#40. Mike Trueman was fighting sciatica and decided not to race. Under azure blue skies, the sailing

(Cruiser Challenge continued on page 10)

Sailing Dates have changed! [Check event schedule](#)

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## The Commodore's Corner


By Rob Sampson

Monterey is a magical place. Where else can you hang around with the Potter Yachter Elder Wise Men, and watch marine mammals swim by in a National Marine Sanctuary?

The Cruiser Challenge was a great success. Great wind and weather, easy course, fun racing and camaraderie. Thanks to the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club, and especially Bob and John who helped with the racing. Thanks to the Monterey Municipal Harbor for getting us slips and parking. Thanks to our corporate sponsors International Marine, Sage Marine, Montgomery Boats, Small Craft Advisor, Good Old Boat, TillerCraft, Hyde Sails and Spyderco. The biggest thanks of all goes to 'Goose' Gossman for organizing and putting it all together. Notable helpers Goose had at the event were parking guards: Dave and Sharon Soule (with canine guards Kaylee and Joker) Kevin Crowder, and Neil Dorf. Check in, liability waivers, and fee collection: Pat Brennan. Committee boat help: Dave Bacon, Don Person and Bud Kerner, and Awards MC: Eric Zilbert.

On the horizon, the Scott's Flat Reservoir Camp and Sail is coming up the weekend of August 15. [Low water levels have forced plans to change; see page 3.—*Ed.*] Scotts Flat is a lake in the Tahoe National Forest up the road from Nevada City. If the Union Valley Reservoir sail was any indication, this one should be good too. Next, on August 22 (**note date change from calendar**) is the Richmond to SF Bay Sail (Angel Island or other destination) with Jerry B. This can easily be turned into an overnighter by reserving a space at The Richmond Marina either before or after. Last but not least, on August 29 is the Lake Hennessey day sail in Napa County (small boats like P15s only). Those who have sailed in the past said it was great.

See you on the water,

Rob — 



Otter in Monterey Municipal Marina

### Club Events on the Horizon

- Aug 15 (Sat-Sun) Scotts Flat Reservoir Overnight (*Mark C.*) \* **ALERT**: low lake level \*  
new site for Potter Yachters; boat launch \$15; anchor near campsites but no sleepabouts
- Aug 22 (Sat) Richmond Sail [**rescheduled** from Aug. 8] (*Jerry B.*)  
(possible Friday overnight) intermediate depending on weather; day sail to Angel Island or  
San Rafael depending on tide; can be advanced if heading closer to Golden Gate Bridge
- Aug 29 (Sat) Lake Hennessey [**rescheduled** from June 20] (*Don P./Carl S.*)  
typically an easy day sail with a picnic at Clipper Cove, although it has been  
intermediate due to wind on occasion; picnic usually ends before wind strengthens
- Sept 12 (Sat) Alameda to Clipper Cove Daysail (*Carl S.*)  
typically an easy day sail with a picnic at Clipper Cove, although it has been  
intermediate due to wind on occasion; picnic usually ends before wind strengthens
- Sept 26 (Sat-Sun) Tomales Bay Overnight (*Eric Z.*)  
generally easy; the overnight is spent either anchoring-out off Tomales Beach or in  
the boat pulled up to the beach; parking fills up early; sporadic cellphone service
- Oct 3 (Sat-Sun) Moss Landing to Monterey Overnight (*Mike S./Bud K.*)  
intermediate to advanced, depending on the weather; again it should be noted that  
most open ocean sails are advanced and not for beginners; overnight at docks



Upcoming: Friday/Saturday, Aug 14/15, 2015

## Scotts Flat Lake – Potter Yachters’ Family Sail & Overnight

Sail Host: Mark Conry


If you’re feeling like you’d rather be sailing in cooler temperatures in a nearby mountain lake, then it’s time to mark your calendar for joining us at [Scotts Flat Reservoir/Lake](#).

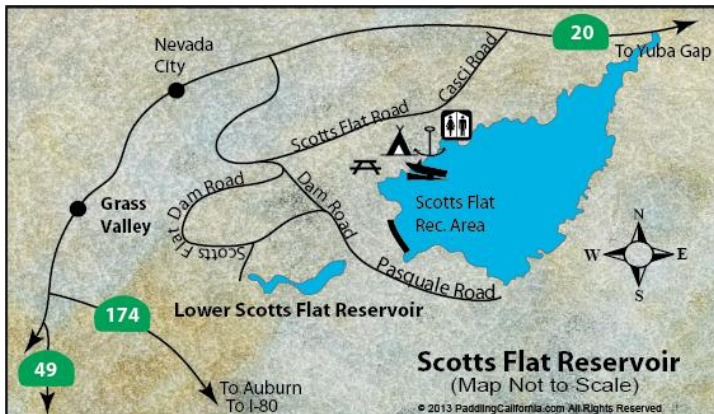
Just beyond Nevada City on CA Highway 20, Scotts Flat Lake is located at an elevation of 3,000 feet offering cooler breezes and shade among the pines. We have reserved three campsites near the water that can accommodate up to 8 people per campsite or 24 people total. Known

for “reliable” afternoon winds, Scotts Flat Lake was host to the Catalina 22 Nationals a few years ago. The boat launch area is ideal for setting up our Potters and the ramp is a gradual slope to the water. We are allowed to anchor off the shore from our campsites, but no overnighting on the boats is permitted. Facilities also include Hot Showers, Playground for the kiddies, Gas Dock, Store, Ice and Mooring. For any fisher-persons in our club, the lake is home to the fighting Rainbow Trout, Small and Large Mouth Black Bass, Brown Trout and Kokanee.

A privately owned facility, Scotts Flat Lake Recreation Area is an ideal headquarters for a complete vacation and family fun. Modern RV and trailer sites, hot showers, attractive tent sites and RV sanitary dump stations are all available. Complete boating facilities are featured including concrete boat launching ramp, buoy moorings, and gas and oil. Open land boat and trailer storage space is also available. Saturday night is Kid’s night with kid friendly movies playing! There are also plenty of hiking and biking trails nearby!

Nearby Nevada City and Grass Valley offer unique shopping among restored gold rush era surroundings. For those wanting food experiences beyond the campfire, Historic Five Mile House is just up the road from the lake and serves “Road house food from around the world.” You can check out their menu at [theold5milehouse.com](http://theold5milehouse.com) (reservations: 530.265.5155).

For questions contact your fellow Potter Yachter, Mark Conry at 530.513.7908 or [mconry3@gmail.com](mailto:mconry3@gmail.com). Looking forward to seeing you in the pines! — 



### Scotts Flat Lake Directions:

From hwy 20 heading east, pass the Uren Exit, travel 4.2 miles to [Historic Five Mile House](#), take a right on Scott's Flat Road. Travel down this road for 4.0 miles to the camp entrance gate at the intersection of Casci & Scott Flat Roads. We have reserved sites #'s 239, 236 and 234.

**BREAKING NEWS:** [This sail is cancelled as an official club event due to low lake levels and lack of dock at the boat ramp. At press time, P15s can launch but maybe not P19s. Mark and David White, with their wives, will still be at the campsite on Fri/Sat – with the *Wee Boat Bar*. Contact Mark 530.513.7908 or David 916.965.8480 or [see TSBB](#) –Ed.]





*Report: Union Valley Reservoir***The Campsail Was A Huge Success!***by David White*

**T**he event was attended by 24 people, 4 dogs, and 14 boats. Everyone had a good time and the majority feels that the event should be on next year's calendar. The wind gods were miserly, but when the light wind did blow, it made for pleasant sailing. It was certainly not white-knuckle sailing. The weather for the first two nights wasn't cold enough to require a campfire, but it added a comfortable ambience to the gathering. The campgrounds were clean



Photo by Don Person

Sunday Sunrise. Don Person, Neil Dorf, Dick Herman, Jim Smith.  
The boat beach was only about 50 yards from the camp.



Bruce McDevitt and Don Person



## *The Potter Yachter*

and roomy, and shade was abundant.

Jim Smith (P19, *Ramblin' Rose*) and my family (P19, *Wee Boat*) arrived on Thursday and took over three campsites side-by-side, making for a large "group" campsite. That worked out quite nicely for gathering the Potter "clan" for morning, afternoon and evening chats and story-telling.

Everyone else arrived over Friday and Saturday. Sharon & Dave Soule showed up in a trimaran! (They're taking suggestions for a name.) Dan Phy brought his trusty Monty 15, *Six*. Dick Herman came with *Klompfen*, his SCAMP, hull #1. Al Gastoni & Ralph Carlisle brought a Holder 17. Danny Ward was in a P14. Don & Judy Person showed up with their P15, the venerable *Sarah Anne*. Rob Sampson chose the P14



Photo inset by Neil Dorf

Top: the Soules are thinking of names for their trimaran.  
Below: JP on *Rio* and David White on *Wee Boat*



Photo by Don Person

David and Cheryl White, Dick Herman, Dan Phy,  
Rob Sampson (and Winnie), and Judy Person

from his multitude of boats. Neil & Becky Dorf were in *Two-Can*, a Montgomery 15. Bruce McDevitt sailed his P15 with the colorful rainbow sails, *Fungi*.

Bud & Bobbi Kerner had *Cat's Meow* with them, a P19. Gerry Nolan brought his new-to-him P15, and JP Bouquet had his P15, *Rio*.

continued on next page



Photo by Don Person



Dan Phy takes his coffee with some serenity.





Photo by Rob Sampson

Dick & Don solving the world's problems (in a portable conference room)



Judy & Don Person enjoying the ambiance of the fire.



Photo by Rob Sampson

David White's Camp Kitchen



JP Bouquet snapping photos from *Rio*



from left: Al & Ralph, Danny Ward,  
Bruce McDevitt, Dick Herman  
(photos by Don Person)



It was a widely varied crowd, with equally different approaches to the campsail. Some of the attendees camped in tents, a few anchored out & slept on their boats, and a couple slept in their RVs.

The potluck on Saturday was fantastic; lots to eat and all delicious. Thanks to everyone for contributing. — 🚩

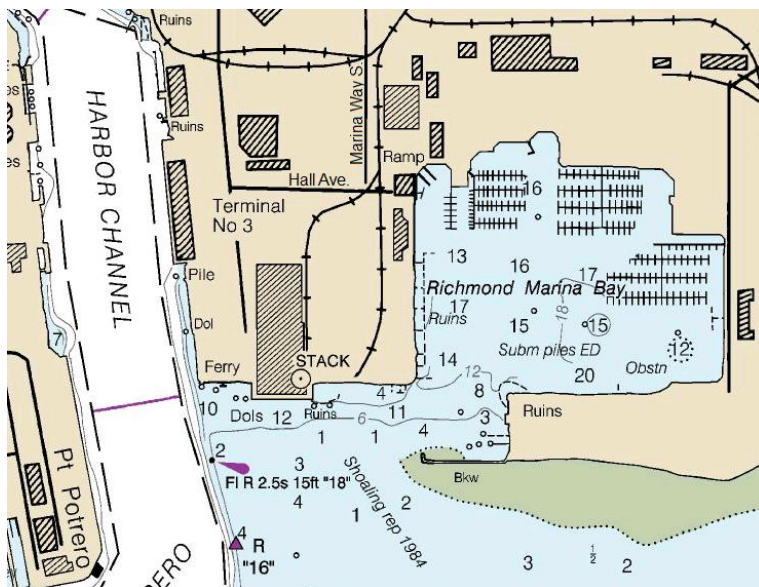


## Upcoming: Marina Bay YH – Saturday, Aug 22, 2015 Richmond Sail to Angel Island

*Sail Host: Jerry Barrilleaux*

We will be sailing over to Angel Island, weather permitting. I will be launching on Friday, Aug. 21 and getting a slip for a few days. Plan to launch around 9 AM on Saturday. If you are going to get a slip, go see the Harbormaster before you enter the parking lot. She will give you a pass key to the lot, which saves you \$10.00. The Deli at the Marina is now closed, so you need to bring food and drinks. However, the diner at Angel Island is open. I will be out of town on Sunday, but will be sailing on Friday, Saturday and Monday. If you have any questions please call me at 925 685 4577.

Jerry Barrilleaux HMS 18 *Sunshine* — 



The [NOAA Chart for the area](http://www.charts.noaa.gov/InteractiveCatalog/nrnc.shtml) is available online for free:  
<http://www.charts.noaa.gov/InteractiveCatalog/nrnc.shtml>

We launch at [Marina Bay Yacht Harbor](http://www.mbyh.com):  
1340 Marina Way South, Marina Bay, CA  
Phone: (510) 236-1013  
Hours: Monday - Sunday 9am to 5pm  
Guest slips are typically available:  
\$.50 / foot, minimum \$12 / night

**Directions to Marina Bay ([www.mbyh.com](http://www.mbyh.com))**  
Cross street: Marina Way South and Hall Ave.  
**From Marin:**

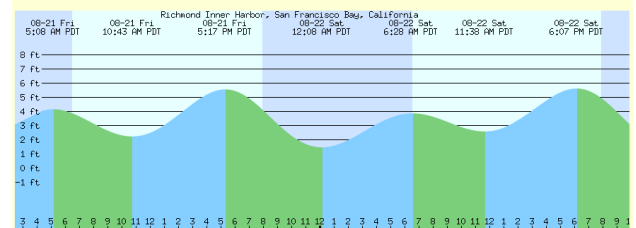
I-580E over the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge  
(towards Richmond/Oakland)  
Exit at Marina Bay Parkway  
Turn Right onto Marina Bay Parkway  
Turn Right onto Regatta Blvd.  
Turn Left onto Marina Way South

**From San Francisco/Oakland:**

I-80 E/I-580 W  
Take the Pt. Richmond/San Rafael Exit onto  
I-580 W  
Exit at Marina Bay Pkwy/S 23rd St  
Turn Left onto Marina Bay Pkwy  
Turn Right onto Regatta Blvd.  
Turn Left onto Marina Way South

### Richmond Inner Harbor, San Francisco Bay, California Tide Chart

Requested time: 2015-08-21 Fri 12:00 AM PDT



Low tide around 2 feet. More tide/current info at:  
<http://www.sailwx.info/tides/tidemap.phtml>

Participation in Potter Yachter events is subject to the guidelines published in [March 2015 PYN](#), page 4.

## Officer's Club

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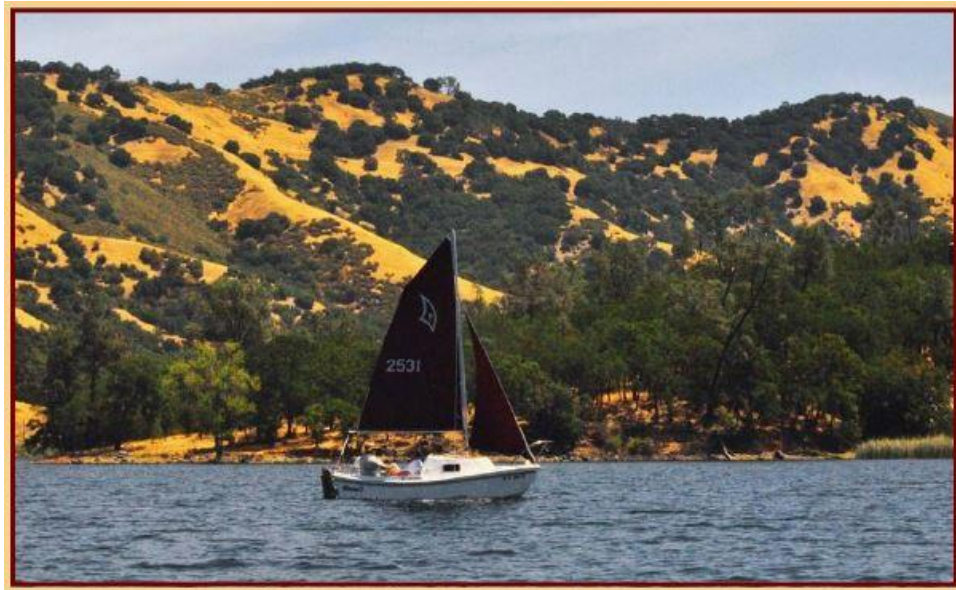
[www.potter-yachters.org](http://www.potter-yachters.org)

Upcoming: Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015

## Lake Hennessey

*Sail Hosts: Don Person & Carl Sundholm*

### Enjoy the Wine Country From Your (under 16 foot) Sailboat: Lake Hennessey Sail Set for Saturday, August 29, 2015



Towards the north end of the Napa Valley lays a hidden jewel named Lake Hennessey. The lake is a drinking water reservoir for the City of Napa, so it's got some heavy restrictions on use – max HP of 10, max boat length of 16 feet, and no water contact, like swimming or wading – but it's a beautiful place and at \$4.00 a day, hard to beat as it turns out to be a jewel off the beaten highways and byways we generally frequent.

– Rich McDevitt, *The Potter Yachter*, May-July, 2012, p. 7.

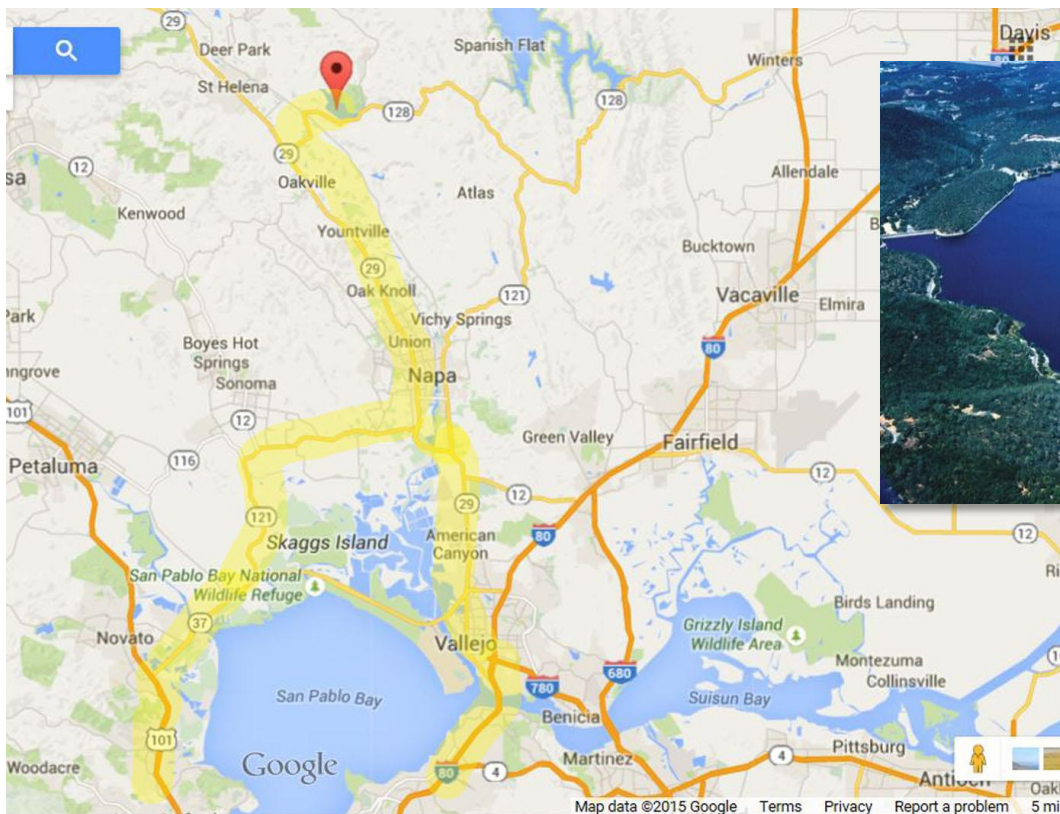
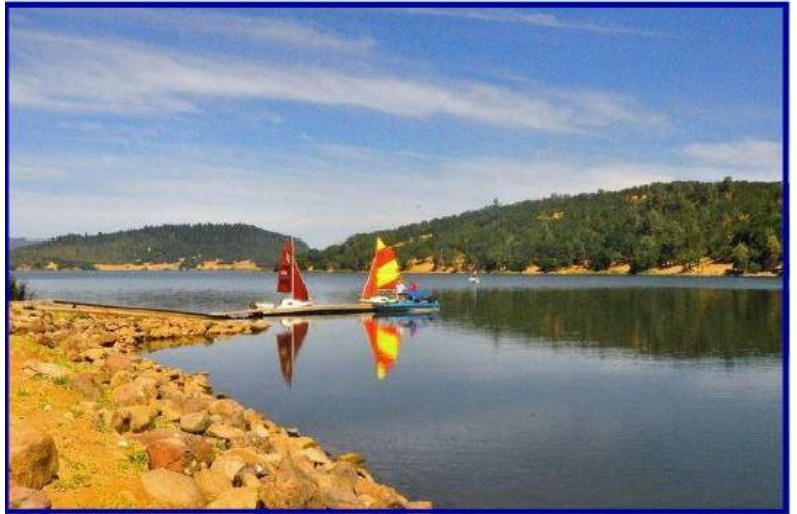


Join the Potter Yachters in the guilty pleasure of leisurely sailing in a beautiful oak woodlands setting, drifting through the tules for lunch, and enjoying one of the best kept secrets of bay area fresh water sailing: Lake Hennessey.



Aim to meet up around 10:30 am, but don't worry about being late. Since the lake is small, there will be plenty of time to kick back and relax. Be sure to bring lunch and beverages/water. Lunch can be eaten under one of the many shade trees along the shore or on your boat drifting into the tules.

We rescheduled this event from June because the boat ramp dock was being repaired and renovated; it is now back in place so we are good to go.



[Directions:](#) From the Bay Area, it is about 1:15 hours north of Berkeley. Travel on HWY 80 NORTH. Then exit and take HWY 37

WEST which you drive on until you turn off onto Highway 29. Take HWY 29 NORTH toward St. Helena, but just before reaching it, turn right onto RUTHERFORD ROAD/HWY 128 EAST. It is about five minutes until you reach the SILVERADO TRAIL, where you turn right, and then take an immediate left (east) onto HWY 128/SAGE CANYON ROAD. This takes you on about a 10 minute drive into the hinterland, so follow it past Conn Dam on the winding road around the lake until you see the boat ramp parking lot on your left. If you hit the T split in the road, you've gone too far. Turn around and it's about 100 yards behind you. —



(Cruiser Challenge continued from page 1)

was excellent. At the end of the day, we had the typical Potter Yachter dock party next to Dick Herman's *Muddy Duck* at the end of 'D' dock. I missed visiting with friends who were docked far away, at least for me. It would have been more convenient if none of



Four P19s in one 'A' dock slip between *Eldorado* and the smelly fiberglass repair of *Alicia Dawn*

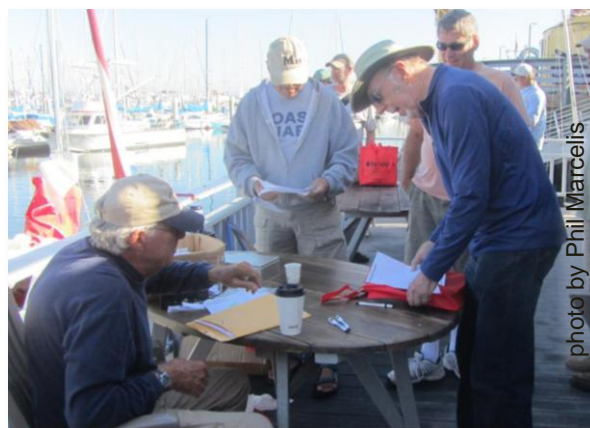


Spontaneous dock party on Friday night

the boats were out on 'A' dock. For dinner, it was back to the wharf again for clam chowder.

Saturday was race day. Breakfast at LuLu's for many. The Paris Bakery is my go-to breakfast spot. Probably the least confused race morning yet because most arrived a day early. Registration went well thanks to Pat. Pat does so much behind the scenes for our club. He is planning a new web sign-up for next year as this year there were some quirks.

As usual, the Skippers' meeting was confusing to some. Goose laid out an excellent and simple plan. He allowed some discussion about it during the meeting, which misled several skippers. Perhaps the plan should be set by the Potter race chairman and that's that. The committee boat skipper from MPYC was John Feeley and by the end of the meeting he wasn't quite sure exactly what the time intervals were. Dave Bacon, Bud Kerner and I were on the committee boat with him and thought he did



Pat (with helper, Dan Phy) registers Harry as Neil waits



Most listened as Goose explained the rules to a rowdy crowd



The Cruiser Challenge XVI participants on MPYC's deck



as well as could be expected and also enjoyed his company. Some said they couldn't hear the committee boat horn. Why not include radio instructions from the committee boat for those who would like to do that. It would be simple to arrange.

What a change. Years ago the P15 held a majority but this year there was only one P15 racing, Dana Suverkrop in *Sip*. Cheers for Dana. There was also a new-to-the-group P15, sailed by Gerry Nolan. His sailing experience is very limited but, although he didn't race, he was out sailing and looking good. From the committee boat it was fun to see Rob Sampson sailing his *Vagabond* so well. Pat Brennan was cooking in the first race but pulled out of the second as he wasn't feeling well. And, congratulations to Larry Tkach in his *Peep Hen*! His boat was not designed for the conditions, but he persevered.



Dana Suverkrop and *Sip*, representing the P15s in the race

He was a strong contender for the Guts and Glory award.

Eric Zilbert's award and raffle presentations were fun. Thanks to Eric and those who donated the prizes. The meal was fine and it seemed a good time was had by all.

This is not a race for a world championship. It is a fun race among friends. Potter Yachters are a special group. They are friendly, generous and helpful. Those qualities are far more important than winning a race.



Photo by Carl Sundholm

Wing-on-wing: *Adventure Two* (Voyager 20) vs *Nighthawk* (Balboa 21)

Monterey/Carmel is a very special venue. It is one of the premiere tourist/vacation spots in the world. The Harbor facilities suit our needs well and the harbor personnel are helpful and welcoming. Also, we are most fortunate to have MPYC host us. They provide a site, a committee boat, its skipper, a room for awards and dinner and, very importantly, insurance to cover the race. It is generous of the committee boat skippers to give us their time and we are grateful that they do.



Photo: Carl Sundholm

Special thanks to our host! Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club





Panoramic view of the yacht club as participants gather for the awards and dinner celebration. Photo credit: Mike Higgins.

Sunday was the quietest wind day of the weekend. It made the Dory Taylor race easy and cruising out to see whales very pleasant. Jerry Kergan sailed out a few miles and saw some whales and Carl Sundholm took his family on a tour boat and shot some good whale pics. Most of the boats



Humpback waves while lungefeeding from Whale Watching Tour Boat

Photo by Carl Sundholm



Jerry Kergan with Garnet on *Lazy Ka*

pulled out Sunday, braving the Garlic Festival traffic on 101. Even so there was a well-attended dock party at the end of 'D' dock. Those leaving in the evening hopefully avoided some of the traffic. Those staying over to leave Monday ate dinner at a favorite; Rosine's.

On Monday the few left were up around six and pulled out and derigged by seven. Lulu's was closed due to kitchen problems so we ate at MacDonald's. Good coffee. We were away by nine so no parking squabbles. It was as easy a trip from Monterey to Pleasanton as I have had, which was good since I was tired from all the activity. Thanks to all the attendees for a fun event. — 

#### Ship's Stores for sale. Send orders to **Pat Brennan**:

Show your colors! Fly an official Club Burgee on your next sail!

Burgees	\$25.00	
Bumper stickers	\$ 2.50	(just shows the burgee; no text)
Patches	\$ 2.50	(Both round and burgee shaped)
Info Packets	\$20.00	(Primarily P-15 information)

Or head over to our CafePress website and buy a Cap, Stein, or T-Shirt with the club logo on it.

Visit: <http://www.cafepress.com/potteryachters>



Calendar Committee is Accepting Photo Submissions

## Calling All Shutterbugs!

We need your photos for the Potter Yachter calendar. We'd like to have 13 photos from 13 different photographers. If you've never sent in a photo, please do! The end of the year is just four months away and the selection committee needs time to gather, review, and select the photos – and get it printed! Send your high quality, digital images to [Don Person](mailto:dnjperson@comcast.net) <dnjperson@comcast.net> (or Carl, Rob, or Phil). You can e-mail them, drop off a USB stick or send it by USPS – even if you have to use a carrier pigeon, just get us some pictures!

## Cruiser Challenge XVI!!

Photos on this page  
by Carl Sundholm





## Cruiser Challenge XVI!!

Photos on this page  
by Don Person







Wise Men: Dave Bacon, Don Person, Dick Herman



The vigilant Soules (and helpers) guard parking

## Cruiser Challenge XVI!!



Photo by Goose Gossman

Bruce McDevitt & Butch, Senior Center



Photos by

Riptide (left) and Surprise

Wooden Catboat: 1, Tree in parking lot: 0.



Phil



Photo by Don Person



Don Person

Wee Boat with David White at the helm

### Report from the June 20th Sailstice from Bud Kerner

We had four boats on June 20<sup>th</sup>: Dan Phy, Pat Brennan, a P19 (not a member, I met him at the boat show), and me. The main attraction for the day never happened. The Coast Guard was going to demonstrate a sea rescue. At 2PM, on schedule, a Coast Guard boat showed up across from the yacht club. A short time later a Coast Guard helicopter came and did four circles around the boat and then left. We decided they couldn't get anyone to jump in the cold water. The yacht club had good food and drink. There was a wooden boat building contest. In a very short time 4 boats were built. I believe they take the finished boat and have a race. We didn't stick around, the wind came up and we went sailing.





# Monterey Cruiser Challenge XVI:

## The Results

*by Carl Sundholm*



The results are in, and the winners are . . .

In the Small (M-15?) Division:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place to Jim Kirwan M15,
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place to Dan Phy M15,
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place to Tyler Backman M15,
- 4<sup>th</sup> Place to Sal Glessner M15.



Dana Suverkrop on *Sip* took First Place for the Potter 14s and 15s.



The medium boat top finishers:  
1<sup>st</sup> Place, Montgomery Sage 17,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Scobie Sage 17,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Place, McDevitt P19 and  
4<sup>th</sup> Place, Swartz P19.



The large boat finishers were 1<sup>st</sup> Place to Ken Lange and Jerry Barrilleaux in the Voyager 20, *Adventure Two*, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place to David and Sharon Soule in their Balboa 21, *Nighthawk*.

And the First Place award for the Potter 18/19s goes to Bruce McDevitt on *Senior Center*.



The most modified Potter Ingenuity Award goes to . . . Goose and *ReGale*!





And the very cool-looking **Guts and Glory** award goes to Larry Tkach and his Peep Hen 14, *Groovin*.



Many thanks to the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club, Goose, Pat, Eric, and all who helped make this event happen.

Further details from Goose are as follows:

### **Cruiser Challenge Race Detailed Results**

#### **Small Boats**

1. Kirwin (M15) 1/1
2. Phy (M15) 2/2
3. Backman (M15) 3/3
4. Glesser (M15) 4/4
5. Higgins (Custom Catboat 14) 5/5
6. Dorf (M15) 7/6
7. Suverkrop (P15) 8/7
8. Brennan (ComPac Legacy) 6/DNF

#### **Large Boats**

1. Lange/Barrilleaux (Voyager 20) 1/2
2. Soule (Balboa 21) 2/1

#### **Medium Boats**

1. Montgomery (Sage 17) 1/1
2. Scobie (Sage 17) 2/2
3. McDevitt (P19) 3/4
4. Swartz (P19) 4/6
5. Zilbert (P19) 5/5
6. Sampson (Vagabond 17) 6/3
7. Mossman (ComPac16) 9/9
8. White (P19) 12/8
9. Crowe (O'Day 19) 7/DNS
10. Marcelis (P19) 8/DNF
11. Sundholm (P19) 10/DNF
12. Crowder (ComPac19) 11/DNF

For Race 1 & 2:

DNS: Person (P15), Gordon (P14), Trueman (M15), Nolan (P15), Bacon (P15), Herman (SCAMP), Blumhorst (P19), Kerner (P19), Ricker(ComPac19)


DNF: Tkach (Peep Hen), Goose (P18).

#### **Sunday's Dory Taylor Cup Race**

1. Montgomery (Sage 17)
2. Scobie (Sage 17)
3. Backman (M15)
4. Soule (Balboa 21)
5. Swartz (P19)
6. Rob (Vagabond 17)
7. Crowder (ComPac19)
8. Herman (ComPac17)
9. Glesser (M15)
10. Gordon (P14)



Jerry Montgomery was the Rabbit starter this year for the Dory Taylor Cup since Goose, who has been the Rabbit starter for the past few years, had to pump *ReGale's* bilge – again!

Wind was light; no boats flew spinnakers. And, everyone had a good time! — 



## A VIEW FROM THE COMMITTEE BOAT

by Bud Kerner

This year I sailed to the Cruiser Challenge. When I left Rio Vista I was having some back trouble. The tossing and turning on the ocean in my Potter really did my back in. Because of this I decided not to participate in this year's race. Don Person invited me to join the race committee on the Monterey Yacht Club's committee boat.

John Feeley, Monterey Yacht Club member and captain of the committee boat, graciously invited me aboard. Besides John and myself, the crew consisted of Don Person, Dave Bacon, and John's friend Harry. Harry was the youngest and was assigned to anchor duty.


Once the boat was in position and the anchor was set, we were given different assignments. Don Person went up on the bridge to take pictures. Dave Bacon and John Feeley took care of the timing; John handled the horn and radio. Harry was to sight the start/finish line. I was to record the boats as they crossed the finish line.

This year Goose our event chairman had decided on using the horn instead of flags. The horn seemed like a much easier way to communicate with the racing boats. I don't know about you, but I only race once a year and have no idea what the different color flags mean. The problem with the horn was that not everyone heard it. There was some disagreement on the committee boat as to the sequence of horn soundings, however not one boat crossed the starting line early.

John handled the radio and responded to every transmission we received. We did not actually *hear* that many transmissions. It was pointed out after the race that he didn't always identify himself as the committee boat. We could hear Goose from time to time giving orders. To make this work as smoothly as possible there can only be one control point, and that should be the committee boat.

Being able to see first-hand how a committee boat functions gave me a much better feel for the work involved. I have always been impressed with the enthusiasm of the Monterey Yacht Club in its support of the Cruiser Challenge. The use of their facilities, the great dinners they serve us and now, for me, a much better understanding of the cost and effort of the committee boat.

From the number of skippers that came by the committee boat at the end of each race to thank us, and the conversations with the participants after the event, I think everyone had a good time – and that's the goal.

Goose and his crew did an outstanding job. If I were to change anything I would go back to the flags, but use Goose's idea and do the following: 1 flag showing 10 minutes to start, 2 flags showing 5 minutes to start, 3 flags showing 1 minute to start, all flags down start. [along with a horn and radio call each time – *Ed.*] The color of the flags would have no meaning. An old guy like me might be able to remember that. — 



### Potter Yachter Membership

Join the *Potter Yachters* – the club that has been around since 1978 and, with your participation, will continue to withstand the test of time. We're really a bunch of nice folks who would just love to have other nice folks join us. Your dues help support club activities and publish the newsletter, so you'll be sure to know when we're out sailing, whether that's in the San Juan Islands, Monterey, the SF Bay, or elsewhere. Annual dues are \$25. Make checks payable to "Pat Brennan".



Or see us online at:  
[www.potter-yachters.org](http://www.potter-yachters.org)

Send your payment (with  
your name and address) to: Pat Brennan  
1305 Webster Street #C205  
Alameda CA, 94501

**Organized in Northern California in 1978, the *Potter Yachters* is the longest running West Wight Potter club. Membership is open to anyone interested in West Wight Potters and other trailerable microcruiser sailboats.**





Patrick Brennan  
1305 Webster St., C205  
Alameda, CA 94501

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## With a Grain of Salt

The **Potter Yachter** is a forum for exchange of ideas and information among West Wight Potter (and other mini-yacht) sailors. But we Potter Yachters are mostly a bunch of amateurs finding our way by trial and error and luck.

You will probably find some very helpful tips or ideas in the **Potter Yachter** that will enhance your sailing experience, but you may also find some ill-advised suggestions or ideas that just don't work for your particular boat, your sailing environment, your level of sailing experience, or your boat-working skills. So please understand that any sailing tutorials, suggested boat modifications, recommended cruises, etc., are the opinion of the author, based presumably on his or her personal experience and judgment at the time the article or letter was written.

If a Potter Yachter believes s/he has a good idea and submits it to the newsletter for publication, we will usually pass it on to the rest of you in the newsletter, but take it "with a grain of salt" and a large portion of your own good judgment, and perhaps get a second opinion before undertaking a modification or cruise or sailing technique you read about in the **Potter Yachter** (or any other publication).

- The Editor

