



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Club

August 2007

Cruiser Challenge VIII



Racing was back this year at the annual Cruiser Challenge, with a shorter course and hotly contested races in each of the three classes. A variety of small cruisers joined in the fun on a day of moderate wind and overcast skies. For the racing results see page 3.

The Commodore's Log

July was a great month for Potters. John Wheeler and Dan Phy returned safely from their adventure cruising down the Erie Canal to the Big Apple. Okay, so they motored, but I'm firmly convinced that Pottering is as much a state of the mind as it is about the boat. It is a neat story that I hope they'll retell at the annual meeting (hint, hint).

Things started to warm up on Sunday, July 15 when eight boats gathered for a sail from Richmond Marina to Loch Loman Marina. Dave White, Mike Swartz, and yours truly couldn't wait and arrived Saturday. The boats were away by 10 AM on Sunday for a great sail.

Without doubt, the Cruiser Challenge held on July 28 is our biggest event of the year. Dave Bacon arrived first on Thursday to coordinate with the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club Race Chair and get the actual race organized. After that, things gathered steam as Potters streamed in. Most were there by Friday evening, chomping at the bit and rarin' to go. By my count, 45 boats and over 80 Potterites were there by Saturday. The race format was changed and consisted of three races on a much shorter course. It did made for three exciting starts. We were all back safely in the Marina by 4:00 PM.

This year was the first time the race was organized by a committee. Pat Brennan handled all the paper work - no small task, Rich McDevitt the trophies, Don Person the logo ware, Dave Bacon the race committee, and Bruce Hood the coordination with MPYC. I just tried to keep out of their way and let them do their thing. The learning curve was very steep and my respect for what Commodore Judy had accomplished in the prior Cruiser Challenges went over the moon. Don Person and Allison Porter volunteered to serve on the committee boat and score the race. Rich

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UP COMING EVENTS:

August 18, Richmond Day Sail, Angel Island . Sail Host, Don Person

Sept 4 to 20, Usual Suspects to Pacific Northwest. Recommended for experienced trailer/sailors. Sail Host, Dick Herman

Sept 9, Delta Day Sail B&W Marina to Korth's

Sept 29 & 30, Tomales Bay weekend. Sail Host, Eric Zilbert

Oct 13 & 14, Monterey Overnighter. Sail Host, Mike Swartz

Nov 3, Richmond Day Sail. Sail Host, Dave Meredith

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CRUISER CHALLENGE VIII

OVERALL RESULTS

BIG BOATS

1. Hank Benjamin, Marshall Sanderling
2. Justin Pipkorn, Vagabond 20

MEDIUM BOATS

1. Rick Clark, Catalina 16
2. Dave Kautz, O'Day 19
- *3. Jerry Barrilleaux, P19
4. Eric Zilbert, P19
5. Jim Chayan, Laguna Balboa 16
6. Dick Herman, SunCat 17
7. Wes Harrison, P19
7. Mike Swartz, P19
9. Ray Lazano, P19
10. Dan Rickert, Com Pac 19
11. Greg Yu, P19
12. Bud Kerner, P19
13. John Choi, P19
14. Charlie Davidson, P19
15. Dave White, P19

SMALL BOATS

1. Dan Phy, Montgomery 15
2. Mike Trueman, Montgomery 15
- *3. Dave Bacon, P15
4. Steve Potter, P15
5. Rich McDevitt, P15
6. Oscar Koechlin, P15
7. Mitch Carnes, P15
7. Harry Gordon, P14
9. Jim Pettit, P15
10. Pat Brennan, P15
11. Jerry Kergan, P15
12. Mike Dolan, P15
13. Dory Taylor, P15
14. Keith Hubbard, P14
15. Rob Sampson, P14

Axle Grease Award: Richard Malone, Las Vegas

Guts and Glory Award: Ed Zilbert

*International Marine Award

COMMODORES LOG (Continued from page 2)

McDevitt proved to be a master of ceremonies par excellence, pirate and parrot jokes notwithstanding.

Others also helped. Alex Hubbard again volunteered to distribute the logo ware and sell T-shirts, Mary McDevitt was sitting too close and helped with the sign in, and Dan Rickert went in search of logistical support. Finally, Wes Harrison designed the fantastic logos for this year's event.

Our sponsors came through like gangbusters and we had some great door prizes. Many thanks to West Marine and Small Craft Advisor Magazine. SCA also published four ads in two issues promoting the race. Again, the MPYC and Monterey Harbormaster were superb hosts and seemed to enjoy seeing us. The Board held a quick meeting and the Potters Yachters donated \$500 to the MYPC as an unencumbered gift for their Junior Racing program.

The overall race results have been published on our web site and I promised Josh Colvin at Small Craft Advisor that I would write up the full story for his magazine. Until Josh publishes it, I will just have to let the story grow. But we did have a great time and I hope we can do it again next year.

Dick Herman



Medium Class Winners

A Splendid Sail to Loch Lomond.

A fog lay over the Richmond Marina on the morning of July 13, 2007 when the West Wight Potters began rolling into the parking lot for the Richmond to Loch Lomond sail. While usually outnumbered, this time the P-19s put in a good show and matched the number of P-15s at the docks. The P-19s were skippered by P-19 Fleet Captain Dave White, Mike Swartz with Vice Commodore Bruce Hood, and Carl Sundholm. The P-15s were sailed by Fleet Captain Don Person, Harry Gordon, and Ron Bell. Commodore Dick Herman along with Jerry Kergan led the fleet (as much as independent spirited Potterers can be "led") in that good looking ComPac Sun Cat "Muddy Duck."

As the fleet headed out of the marina, the fingers of low lying fog were forced by the 10 to 20 mph tail winds to release the boats to spring free into the bright sun and wind of the North Bay. "You take the high road, and I'll take the low road, and I'll be in Scotland afore ye!," so say the lyrics of the old traditional Scottish song, "Bonnie Banks O' Loch Lomond". Some, like Harry Gordon, took the "high road" to cross under the Richmond Bridge closer to Mt. Tamalpias to the West side of Red Rock, while others took the "low road" to cross to the East of Red Rock. Consistent winds made the sailing great by either route under the Richmond Bridge and all the way to the bonnie banks of Loch Lomond.



After tying up at the dock, the crew had a great lunch and relaxed conversation at Bobby's Fo'c's'le restaurant at Loch Lomond. A little research revealed that Fo'c's'le is a sort of slurred together variant of the nautical term forecastle, which is the structure in front of the mast on early tall ships which provided the crew's quarters and a defensive fortress during the days where naval combat was by boarding the ships, before cannons changed naval warfare. Clearly, the restaurant name focuses on the crew's quarters connotation.

Locals Vince and Linda introduced themselves to the Potter captains at the Fo'c's'le and showed off their beautiful new P-19 which was just delivered from International Marine.



Steve Potter joined the lunch group having sailed his P-15 down from Black Point. Fish and chips seemed to be the most popular order of the day. The conversation was lively and interesting, with the exchange of news and stories over lunch.

On the start of the return trip, just outside of Loch Lomond Marina the wind was brisk between 20 to 30 mph and whipped the rising sails of the hove-to Potters. However, once under way the wind became multi-directional fickle to non-existent in the wind shadow of Mt. Tamalpias, well before reaching the Richmond Bridge. Looking up at the masts revealed the windex arrows



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(Splendid Day, Continued from page 5)



pointing in one direction and the next moment in the opposite direction. The boats too were pointed in different directions, with each captain trying to nurse his sails into taking advantage of what little wind there was, but no one really taking off for any significant amount of time. We were in the proverbial doldrums.

After a while, some terminated their wait for wind in the hot sun by starting their motors and heading off, while other more dedicated sailors continued in their attempts to sail out of the doldrums. The wind finally picked up again on the south side of the Richmond Bridge and made for a fine sail back to the docks. The sail back made you forget about the time served in the doldrums, and a great time was had by all.

Carl Sundholm



Photos by the author

Monterey Overnighter

October 13 and 14

Allison Porter is living proof that once a Potter, always a Potter. She was kind enough to volunteer to serve on the committee boat for the Cruiser Challenge and, as a member of the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club, volunteered her services to help with the October Monterey overnighter. She suggested that maybe we do what micro cruisers are suppose to do and sail up the coast to Moss Landing, 12 nm away to spend the night.

Mike Swartz is the sail host for the overnighter and really likes the idea. But he gave it a different twist; launch at Moss Landing on Saturday and sail down to Monterey to spend the night, then sail back on Sunday. That way, we get the best of both locations. The good part is that Moss Landing is close enough that we can organize a caravan if the weather doesn't cooperate and need to fetch our vehicles rather than sail back. Or we can make a decision at Moss Landing on Saturday and trailer down to Monterey. For those that don't want to make the cruise, we can meet you in Monterey.

This will take some coordination, so please let Mike Swartz or Dick Herman know if you are interested. If we get enough interest we can make it happen. You can contact Mike on his cell phone at 831-801-1788 or swartz@hollinet.com or Dick at dickherman@comcast.net.

The Captain's Locker

By Dick Herman

I love to sail at night and never miss the chance when I'm at Monterey. In fact, I went out three times during the Cruiser Challenge. I always check the weather on the VHF and make sure all my lights are working before I cast off just after sunset. The wind usually cooperates and is a gentle off shore breeze. Once clear of the harbor, I sail along Cannery Row and enjoy the lights. I always look back and pick out familiar landmarks for the return leg.

I do take some extra precautions and make sure my GPS is on with the harbor entrance entered as a way point. I also keep a close watch on the ceiling and am alert for fog. I always have a flashlight handy and when any boat comes close, shine a light on the sail. I never stay out long, maybe an hour at the most, and always take friends along. On Saturday night, Allison Porter and Bruce Hood went along to see the fireworks at Lover's Point. It was a rare night as we ghosted along the coast. I asked Bruce "Where's the Poetry?" He responded by reciting "Now is the winter of our discontent" from Richard III. It is one of the joys of sailing on Monterey Bay.



Got a tidbit about sailing you'd like to share? This is the place. It doesn't matter what it is, somewhere you've sailed, a technique you've learned the hard way, or just something neat. Write up a paragraph or two and send it along.

Notes from the Editor:

There is more than just racing on Monterey Bay. Like most marine environments the typical wildlife make their presents known. Seagulls and seals are the most noisy especially around the piers. Hanging out under the pier and on most anything that floats, the seals can be quite raucous. And so we were greeted by the familiar. Once on the Bay we usually leave gulls and seals behind only to find the occasional otter, floating on its back, snacking on some shell fish. On race day some of us were treated to encounters with wildlife that was surprising and amazing to see.

While Janet and I were waiting for the races to begin, milling about near the starting line, a seal came right up to the transom of our boat. The seal swam with its mouth wide open, as if it was begging for a fish. You see them at Marine World, after they do a trick, it's the fish reward. It swam from boat to boat looking for a handout, then it would swim just under the surface and spin like a propeller. Jerry Kergan took a number of photos, commenting that it was hard to get a picture of moving seal. This photo is by Carl Sundholm.

When we finally got off the starting line, in the first race, chasing Pat Brennan towards the divers rubber boat, Janet let out a cry of excitement, there was a pod of porpoises right there in front and then beside us. There must have been at least ten or more leaping and diving their way towards the beach. We just watched them ignoring the action of the race. The wildlife of Monterey is expected but sometimes you will see the spectacular.



Mike Dolan

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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*