



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Club

August 2005

Potter Sailors Win at Monterey



Sail Calendar 2005

July 30 Richmond , Day sail

Aug.20 Richmond-Loch Lomond

Sept. 10th, 11th, Tomales Bay week-end

October 1,2, Monterey Over-nighter

October 8 fleet week, Estuary to T.I. Cove

October 29 Buckley Cove to Windmill Cove, near Stockton CA, "The Old Delta Ditch Run".

*At center above, **Dave and Francesca Kautz** duke it out (red stripe) with other old friends in the Small Boat class at the 2005 Cruiser Challenge VII on Monterey Bay. In a day of great fun and close racing, Dave and Francesca prevailed in three races to come out with the first place Trophy. Many other P-15's did well this year including Dave Bacon, Rich and Mary McDevitt, Don Person, and Steve Potter. At right above, Steve pulled out a win in Race 3.*

Here are some of the high finishing Potter P-15's and P-19's

Small Boat Class: 19 boats, 1st Dave Kautz, 4th, Dave Bacon,5th Don Person ,6th Rich McDevitt, 7th Steve Potter.

Medium Boat Class, 22 boats, 3rd Dave DiRado, 4th Bard Johnson, 5th Jerry Barrileaux, 6th, Eric Zilbert.

The Commodore's Corner

This year's Cruiser Challenge was one of the best I think many of us have ever experienced. As in past years an enormous amount of credit must go to Judy and Dave Blumhorst for a terrific job of co-ordinating all aspects of the race weekend for the more than Fifty boats, and their skippers and crews, to Alex Hubbard, and Rich McDevitt

who had so much to do with assisting at sign up, launching, etc., and a special thanks due to Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club Commodore, Don Hoover, who skippered the Committee Boat, and who also afforded Dave and Judy invaluable local knowledge. There were some very unusual, for Monterey, wind shifts on race day, and the folks on the starting line Committee boat did an excellent job of adapting and getting the three different class fleets off on time, for three successive races. Not an easy thing to do with 50 boats bobbing around the start line with a very wide level of experience among the skippers! I think the decision to move the course to three shorter triangles nearer to the harbor was a very good one, as it permitted closer racing among the wide range of boats sailing, and an ideal respite between the races for skippers and crews to prepare themselves for the next one... and finally that great final blasting beam reach back to the harbor when the wind came up at the end of the final race, will be a happy memory for me for many years to come! Thanks to fellow Potter sailor Bud Kerner, who allowed me to crew for him on his P-19. Bud is our "long distance Sailor" who sailed his P-19 out the Golden Gate and down to Monterey, and then on down the coast ,almost to Morro Bay last year, and has since sailed from Monterey to Morro Bay. I was delighted to see so many of my old friends in the Potter Yachter P-15 sailing group do so well this year.. Don Person ,and Rich and Mary McDevitt, Dave and Francesca Kautz, Dave Bacon , and Steve Potter, Jerry and Carol Barrilleaux in their P-19, and all the other friends who displayed such good sportsmanship and fine sailing skills! Three Cheers, and hats off! BH

Gps units have come down a lot in price and provide such accuracy of position, that they have become a frequent piece of equipment on even very small boats. This year at Monterey racers could enter the GPS co-ordinates for the various race marking buoys, and it was increasingly obvious that a lot of the boats in the race were finding and steering to the marks very precisely. It is still necessary to know how to use a chart, compass, and binoculars for safety's sake, but increasingly these little electronic wonders are clearly worth having!

The Officer's Club

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Woodward Reservoir: June 4 ,5, 2005



At Left... Veteran Potter Sailor, and a founding member of "The Potter Yachters", Don Bergst makes it all look easy, and in the process shows the advantages of reefing your Potter, as he sails his boat at this year's Woodward Reservoir campout. The wind levels and gusts can be very challenging at Woodward in the summer.

At right, with two in the cockpit and the mainsail and jib eased a bit, a P-15 at this summer's Woodward gathering bowls along on a broad reach. Long time members of the Potter Yachters ,Gwen and Mahendra Singh, Don Bergst, Past Commodore Rich Mcdevitt, Past Commodore Judy Blumhorst, son Jo, and husband Dave were all present to share a pleasant warm weekend at the Reservoir which has been the site of Potter Club campouts for more than twenty years.



Woodward Reservoir, June 4,5, 2005



L. to R. Don Bergst, Gwen Singh, Mahendra Singh, and Dave Blumhorst enjoy a chat on the Woodward Reservoir shore while waiting for the barbecues to fire up. Although the grass is dry, the heavy spring rains had filled the reservoir to capacity, so the sailing was good, with strong winds and plenty of water under the centerboards. Unlike previous years the sun was bright but not hot.. Another fine annual gathering.

Dave white, at the helm of "Wee Boat" on Woodward. His beautiful scarlet P-19 sports a Celtic depiction of a water-horse on her bow. Dave and his family have been regulars at many Potter sails for the past several years...



Do you have a Potter Adventure to tell? Some great photos? E-mail your story and pictures to : bhooda@yahoo.com

Monterey, and The Cruiser Challenge, July 16, 2005



Harry Gordon, Francesca and Dave Kautz, Steve Potter, and Rich McDevitt are all smiles, at the conclusion of this year's Cruiser Challenge Race.... Congratulations were very much in order for Dave and Francesca , who sailed to a first place over-all in the small boat division.



At left, a number of "The Usual Suspects" congregate on Dave Lawson's boat after the races. This group of old friends towed their boats North this summer for a ten day circumnavigation of Salt Spring Island in Canada. Here they are at Monterey for some more fine sailing on a great weekend. At left, Don Person, Dave Lawson, foreground John Wheeler, at rear regarding the Potato Chips, Dan Phy, and at far right an unknown Potato chip reacher.. The Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club were great hosts, as were the staff at Monterey Yacht Harbor.

Cruiser Challenge at Monterey, 2005



There were fifty-some boats at the Cruiser Challenge this year, which made for an impressive sight out on the water. At Left various Potter Club members get going on the final leg of one of the three races completed. Pat Brennan, L. foreground gives a number of Montgomerys a run for their money in his P-15 "Eaglet".

At right, Bud Kerner's "Cat's Meow" with the Commodore as crew gets off to a good start... there were a lot of well sailed Potter 19's in the medium sized boat fleet taking 3rd, 4th, 5th and sixth places. The number 1 over-all boat was a beautiful Marshall Catboat, "Jack Tar" and she can be seen sailing away on the opposite tack at the center of the picture. On Friday, a number of us who were out practicing soon learned that if you saw that magnificent enormous gaff Mainsail on Jack Tar looming up behind you, you were soon going to get a look at her transom!



And there's that huge Catboat mainsail in the center again! At right and hard on the heels of Jack Tar, Dave Di Rado's P-19 "Strega Del Mare" was ultimately the third place over-all winner in the medium size boats. There must be something to the choice of just one great big sail.. The picture at left was taken by honorary Potterer Dick Herman from the cockpit of his ComPac Catboat, "Muddy Duck". Dick had his best ever finish at Monterey. He is writing a race story about this Year's Monterey Cruiser Challenge which will appear in Small Craft Advisor Magazine.

Riding the Monterey Roller Coaster !

Steve Potter Reports:

The day of the Cruiser Challenge in Monterey started out foggy with light winds, but by 11:00 the wind started increasing . The Challenge Race consisted of three races starting at around 11:00, 1:30 and 3:30. Each race was made-up of three classes: "A" Class--large boats, "B" Class--medium boats (mostly P-19's), and "C" Class--small boats (mostly P-15's). I was in the "C" class with my P-15. I sailed over to the committee boat and said, "What course are the "C" Class boats on?" A voice came back, "The same course as the "B" Class boats." That's when I took a closer look at the board, and noticed that the "B" was followed by a slash, and the letter "C." I wrote down which side I was to pass the buoys on, when Judy Blumhorst on the committee boat said, "By the way, your race started 4 minutes ago!" By the time I got past the committee boat, which was a little difficult because of an unexpected 1 to 2 knot current, I cleared the starting line another 4 minutes late.

When I got out into the ocean, the wind picked up enough to take the hat off my head and fling it 10 feet behind the boat. Lesson #1: There is a strong wind out in the ocean. Lesson #2: There is a current that runs from Northwest to Southeast. Lesson #3: Turn your radio on Ch. 68, and leave it on!

The start of the 2nd race was an improvement. I listened to the radio, and the courses for all three Classes were given very slowly and clearly. Because I knew where I was going, I started 2nd over the line, but took a course where I remember the wind was very strong, that is, out in the ocean. Lesson #4: There is a shore breeze, a lull, and then an ocean breeze. I sailed right into the lull and lost 6 places.

Before the 3rd race, I sailed near the shore where there was a stiff wind, and tightened my jib halyard, pulled the boom down 2 inches and tightened the outhaul 1 inch. Because I had at least 6 cases of my jib sheets fouling around the cleats on the mast, I took a roll of masking tape and put what looked like a beehive around the cleats. I quickly practiced tacking and didn't have a single foul.

At the start of the 3rd race, the pin end (buoy) was further up-wind and closer to the first mark, but only Dave Bacon and I decided to start there. The majority of the fleet appeared to be in the area of the committee boat. I think I was first over the line, but was soon overtaken by Dave. We tacked a couple of times, and I couldn't get over the crackling sound of his Pineapple lapper. I have-

n't heard a sound like that since the last Americas Cup races. In contrast, the trailing edges of my Odyssey jib, and main sail (between the battens), were flapping like the wings of a humming bird. Eventually we broke off, and I headed over to the area where I had been practicing. Dave went out toward the ocean, and in the area of the lull I had discovered in the 2nd race.

As I approached the 1st mark, Jerry Barrilleaux was on a down-wind leg . As we passed each other, he had a clear view of the relationship between my boat, the buoy and the other P-15's and yelled, "You got it Buddy! Go!!!," To my delight, I wound up rounding the first mark 30 yards ahead of the 2nd place boat. The next leg was down-wind, so I immediately loosened the outhaul, placed the whisker pole in the jib, raised the center board completely, swung the rudder up about 30 degrees, and because I had seen Francesca on the foredeck/cabin of Dave Kautz' boat when he was going down-wind in race #2..., I grabbed everything I could find in my cabin and threw it as far forward as possible. Two-thirds of the way down the leg, the wind started shifting to the port side. I removed the whisker pole, let the centerboard down a foot, and was on a power reach. When I looked back, the guys behind me were still going wing-and-wing.

All I had to do was round the last mark and head for the finish line. The finish should have been a tacking leg, but the wind had shifted 40 degrees and doubled in strength, so it was a straight high-speed shot to the finish. To keep from taking on water, I had to go get my 138 pounds up on the rail, and lean out using the mainsheet as my lifeline. The Potter was heeling 40 degrees most of the time, and with a 2 to 3 foot swell, it was like riding a roller coaster. What a thrill!!! Every five minutes I had to put the mainsheet between my teeth, in order to shake out my numb fingers. Dave Bacon was using his hiking strap, sailing much flatter and gaining on me slightly, but by now, I just had too much of a lead.

After the race, walking back to the Yacht Club, I don't know what was more sore... , the backside of my thighs due to riding the rail, or my shoulder from sailors slapping me in congratulations! Dave Bacon, as well as all the top contenders, were unbelievably good sports. To paraphrase a line from a song I heard a long time ago, --- I never heard a discouraging word. What a great bunch of sailors! As I recall, the last instruction at the pre-race meeting was to have a safe and fun race, in--that--order. I would say that the Potter Yachters, and guests, did a good job of meeting the second objective. (Race scoring is based on pts. gained in each of the 3 P-15 races, so as Steve notes, his lower places in race 1 and 2, dropped him to 7th. Still a great achievement !... ed.)



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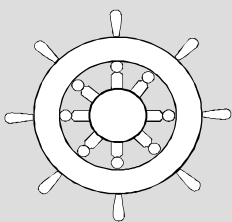
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With a Grain of Salt

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 ex-

perience 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*

