



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Club

August 2006

August 19 Richmond

Sailing & Event Calendar 2006

Aug. 19, Day sail, Richmond-Loch Lomond.

Sept. 2, Day sail, Richmond to Angel Island

Sept. 5 to 20. Usual Suspects North to Puget Sound. (FYI) for experienced sailors only.

Sept. 30 & Oct. 1, Tomales Bay weekend.

Oct. 14 & 15, Monterey Overnight

Nov. 11, Day sail, Emeryville, day on the Bay.

Our Richmond day sail is scheduled for August 19th. The "Richmond Riviera" is a nice place to sail in the summer because much of it lies somewhat in the lee of Angel Island. This means wind and wave action is more moderate than it is on the west side of Angel, but it can still give you a learning experience on many summer afternoons. Richmond also offers even more protected sailing inside the breakwater. A deli is within walking distance of the launch ramp. There is a \$10.00 charge for launching and parking which is paid via a feisty machine. It is wise to have a couple fives and a ten in case it's acting up. Exit the 580 freeway in Richmond at Harbor Way South; proceed south to a left (east) on Hall Ave. and it will dead end at the parking lot entrance gate.

Our plans call for making the trip past Red Rock and under the Richmond-San Rafael bridge and then on to Loch Lomond Marina in San Rafael for lunch before our return. Two lunch options exist within a quick walk. Bobby's Fo'c'sle is a nice little restaurant with fantastic fish n' chips or there is a grocery store with a BIG deli. Currents run swift on much of this trip and we try to use them to our advantage so departure times are a little more critical. Be ready to cast off close to 9:30. A good working motor is necessary also and radios, charts, and GPS are a good thing to have along. If conditions are a little too sporting some folks may opt to sail within the harbor and breakwater area. There is a fantastic bird sanctuary but watch for verboten areas where boating is not allowed. Also you are likely to see tug activity and an old liberty ship. Rosie the Riveter park is a short walk also and offers an

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WILDERNESS WEEKEND

The Eagle Lake Experience

What has everything? The Eagle Lake Messabout. This year there were four P15's, a P 14, four P19's, two Monty 15's, a Suncat, a Victory, a canoe and a kayak. Of the 27 participants about half were first timers, seven were women, two were young teens, and one a dog.

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Monterey

Sun, Wind and Friends



After two years of less than spectacular performance in my racing I was ready to get my name on the finishing list. Two years ago in preparing to leave the dock I decided to top off the outboards tank. That's when I lost the outboard gas cap overboard. Last year I succumbed to sea sickness, so this year was going to be the year to be in the race. Needless to say, I was shut out again.

It wasn't the racing that brought the Potters Yachters and other small yacht cruisers to Monterey this year, it was a time for some lively sailing on the open sea and a time to spend with friends. Some of the Potter Yachters who don't punch a time clock any longer came to Monterey on Thursday and stayed in slips at the marina until Sunday, while others came for a day or two. Lunch and dinner always afforded a time for a group to gather and to tell stories and talk about Steve Potters new additions to his P-15.

Janet and I were there on Saturday and it was a day that we enjoyed very much, except for the new batten that slid out of its pocket and slipped into the sea without a splash. We were in luck with the old one stored in the cabin. We didn't get to race, but we did go out and take a turn round the red buoy just for the turns we didn't take before.

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The scenery is magnificent, the weather was fine. The Eagle Lake Marina, store, showers and laundromat are much more than adequate, as are the launch ramp and slips.

We arrived Monday afternoon to a warm welcome from Karen, the gracious and helpful camp host. Dave White and family in their impressive compound and the Fort Bragg/ Redding fishing contingent, Dan Phy, Brad Evans, Jim Kirwan plus John Wheeler had staked out the best sites at Aspen campground for the Potters and helped us settle into our favorite. There were few other campers in the area and all week we had Aspen much to ourselves.

The ritual evening snack and gab fest starts between four and five and we were soon in the middle of catching up on all our boating activities and making plans. With this group plans are to think about, not necessarily to act upon. Jim Kirwan suggested we motor up the lake Wednesday morning and sail down wind back in the afternoon. Most mornings the wind is light and picks up in the afternoon. This met with general approval. Brad opted out to get up about four and go fishing instead. We decided Tuesday would be a free sailing day. After a chilly night, it's good planning to bring some warm clothes, we were quick to get the morning fire and coffee going. Our camps are on a rise about a quarter mile from the lake and watching the sun come up over the hills and lake is a delight. By noon we were sailing in light to moderate

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educational perspective on women's roles in building the WWII liberty ships. There's a lot going on here, I guess that's why we were planning on coming back on Sept. 2. Hope to see you there.

More information on Rosie the Riveter Park and Memorial can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/rori/>

Real time winds of the area can be viewed at <http://sfports.wr.usgs.gov/cgi-bin/wind/windbin.cgi>

More information about the Loch Lomond Marina is at <http://www.lochlomondmarina.com/>



Sept. 2 Richmond to Angel Island

Due to dredging and construction projects, Pier 39 Marina has no hourly or overnight guest docking available this season so the destination of our Sept. 2 sail has been changed from Pier 39 to Angel Island. Docking is \$10.00 per boat and there is a snack bar/ lunch counter available in Ayala Cove.

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wind which held up until evening. Tim Derry and Mary had arrived, in their new to them P 19 Morning Dove, in the afternoon, They are long time kayaking buddies of Jim and Dan and a very welcome addition to the group.

By ten the next morning Dave White and John Dalton in Wee Boat, Tim and Mary in Morn-

to



ing Dove, Dan Phy in his P15 Geezer, Jim in his Monty 15 Surprise and Don Person with daughter Marthe Dalton in P15 Sarah Anne were putting up the lake. The vistas and wind surroundings are so beautiful even the lack of didn't seem matter. At noon we rafted up for lunch and shared cookies. Led by the intrepid Mary, she and several of the others had dived into the lake and were happily swimming. The swimmers claimed the water was not too cold and they didn't seem in a hurry to get back into the boats. The water is clear with good visibility down about twelve feet. Betrayed by the afternoon wind we leisurely motored back to the marina under clear skies. Another balmy evening. Back at camp Brad had two nice Eagle Lake trout. Around eight, after a few hours of most entertaining stories, the happy hour would wind down and those who hadn't

filled up on cheese and crackers went back to their camps, started wood fires, ate dinner and enjoyed the rest of the evening. It is so dark at night after the fires are out, that the stars are amazingly bright in the deep blackness of the sky. . The silhouettes of the pine trees seemed to reach out and almost touch them.

The wind came up about noon on Thursday and we spent the rest of the day enjoying good sailing. John had taken the canoe for a long paddle and Tim had inflated a new double kayak which he and Mary took for a maiden voyage. They reported it worked just fine. Don and Lynn Hunter from Minden, Nevada had arrived in their P19 with grandchildren Tristan, ten, and Andrea, 12, helping out. The Hunters are very experienced sailors having cruised sailboats in the San Juans and Baja California. In the morning some of us drove up to an overlook of an



osprey nest. We saw the parents feeding the chicks and could hear them screeching for more food. There is plenty of wildlife. animals and birds, around the campsites. Gulls, terns, pelicans and western grebes are common water birds. In camp we saw mountain blue birds, woodpeckers, warblers and several other "little grey birds". Bald eagles were

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seen frequently, too. A small family of mule deer wandered through the camp in the morning. There were plenty of chipmunks, grey squirrels and ground squirrels. The evening gathering found Brad frying up and serving boneless bite size chunks of Eagle Lake Trout. DELICIOUS! He is a man of many talents and cooking fish is one of his most appreciated.

Reports from the marina started coming in Friday morning that three new boats had arrived. , Pat Morrissey in his P15 from Foster City, Ron and Mona Reno in their P19 and Dick Herman with his Suncat, Muddy Duck. When the ATUS, those who had served in the three expeditions to Puget Sound, heard Admiral Herman had arrived they smartly made the camp shipshape and prepared to salute. John Wheeler had a family gathering honoring his wife's birthday so sadly had to leave. Around these comings and goings the wind was fair and we had another afternoon of very pleasant sailing. David Wood in his Monty 15 arrived from Ashland, Oregon in time for the evening gathering which was now getting pretty substantial. With the addition of the Admiral the tales were flowing faster and longer. David's experiences touring through Viet Nam on a small motorcycle were a high spot. Brad, Jim and Dan had caught enough fish to serve up plenty at tomorrow's pot luck. They had taken Tristan who had caught a two pounder. Lynn reported he told her " I am born to fish".



More good sailing Saturday with lots of our pretty boats on the lake.

Keith and Alex Hubbard and their small dog Tiki made it with their new to them P14. Keith has it fitted out with a lateen sail ala Harry Gordon. The super sleek Victory, Victor E, skippered by Dan Rickert came up from Lake Almanor to a warm welcome. We played tag with the wind and each other until the wind picked up then chased boats the rest of the afternoon. Pat looked very relaxed riding along on his recumbent bicycle.

Saturday evening's potlach was a really grand affair. Everyone contributed splendidly and ended up stuffed. Theron and Sheryl White again produced copious numbers of delectable shrimp kabobs, Ron and Mona brought a platter of zestful avocado/cheese dip, Brads fish were gobbled up to the last bit and the Hunters and Dan Rickert



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served some mighty tasty beans. I lost track of who brought what after a while but know it was all very welcome. To top it all off Don and Lynn produced a huge dutch oven full of too good to be true peach cobbler. Vanilla ice cream appeared so we all had two servings of peach cobbler ala mode. Eagle Lake is a long drive but it was worth it just for the food.

Most of the group left Sunday morning, which as it turned out was just as well as far as the sailing was concerned. Those left set sail



about noon into what turned out to be an ominous calm. Dick, Keith, Alex and Tiki, Don Hunter, Lynn, Andrea and Tristan, Dan and John and Don Person and Marthe were drifting a half mile off the marina wishing for a breeze. Keith was reclining with his feet crossed on the gunwale and a fishing line off the stern. Lynn, Andrea and Tristan were catching some rays on the bow of their P19. The rest of us were not paying much attention to anything when "kerbam" out of nowhere came about 25 mile per hour winds. Wow, did that get our attention. By the time Don Hunter got his main uncleated his P19 was recovering

from a knockdown. The bow riders hung on so no one fell off but Tristan lost his sandals. The other boats got their wildly flogging sails under control. We could have sailed under reefed main but that would have meant long tacks so we decided to motor back to the marina. This was fine for all except Dan and John, their mainsail shackle had taken that moment to fail so the main was out of order. Also Dan had only a small electric trolling motor with not enough power to push them against the strong wind. They were now drifting and with frequent lightning strikes hitting nearby the Sheriff went out in his power boat and towed them in. Of course upon their safe return Dan and John were the target of considerable comment. The Admiral announced this was the time for the "cheated death again" mantra which we all then intoned. Dan decided this was a good time to take out and make the short ride home so we wished him luck bid him fond adieu.



Sunday evening was somewhat subdued knowing the next day all except Don Person, Marthe and John were leaving and a

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magical week was about over. Don, Martha and John stayed two more days waiting for their car to be repaired. Both days there were afternoon squalls with thunder, lightning and showers so no sailing but morning canoeing and hanging out around the camp were still a treat. Tuesday the winds were over 40 mph. Every year I wish all the Potters who couldn't make it could have. Plan to be there next year.

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Eagle Lake Photos by
Tim Derry

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*