



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Club

February 2007

Annual Brunch and Business Meeting

Sailing & Event Calendar

March 24, Day Sail. "USS Thompson," Redwood City. Sail Host, Dave Kautz

April 14, Oakland Estuary Day Sail, launch at Grand St. Alameda. Sail Host, Bruce Hood

April 18 & 22, Strictly Sail, Jack London Square, Oakland.

May 12 & 13, Delta Cruise, Overnight, Brannon Island to Lundborg Landing. Sail Host, Jerry Barrilleaux

June 2 & 3, Woodward Annual Campout, near Oakdale, CA. Sail Host, Rich McDevitt

June 24 & 25, Eagle Lake Campout, near Susanville, CA. Sail Host, Dave White

July 15, Richmond Day Sail, to Loch Loman

July 28 & 29, Cruiser Challenge VIII, Monterey. Annual fun race/social Weekend, sponsored by PotterYachters and MPYC.

August 18, Richmond Day Sail, Angel Island Circumnavigation. 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

January 7, 2007

The number of Potter Yachters climbing the stairs to the dining room for their annual Sunday brunch and business meeting surprised the hostess of the Oakland Yacht Club. It was one of the largest turnouts in recent years, and by ten o'clock, at least 45 members and guests were gathered at the tables and making good use of the buffet and dessert table. The room vibrated with the warm greetings and easy conversations of the old and new sailing buddies as they enjoyed the clear, crisp weather and great view of the Oakland Estuary.

The well-fed members finally deserted the dining room at eleven o'clock and headed downstairs to crowd into the Regatta Room for their annual meeting. Pat Brennan called the meeting to order and opened with the Treasurer's Report. The club is in good shape financially and has ample reserves for the coming year's activities. Pat quickly recapped the membership. At present we have 73 members. This number counts couples as a single member. This is approximately the same number as last year and down from close to 100 before that. About 60% of members live in the greater Bay Area as far south as Monterey. Another 25% live in the rest of Northern California. The remaining 15% are from out-of-state. The members have reported ownership of a fleet of 68 boats. Ninety percent of these are Potters.

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Archive photo of an Annual Meeting.

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Pat Brennan announced the names of members who had agreed to put their names forward to serve as club officers, to include the new office of vice commodore. He then opened the floor to nominations, and the membership rapidly voted the unopposed candidates in, before they could escape. The new officers are: Commodore, Dick Herman; Vice Commodore, Bruce Hood; Secretary-Treasurer, Pat Brennan; Newsletter Editors, Mike and Janet Dolan; P19 Fleet Captain, Dave White; P15 Fleet Captain, Don Person; Webmaster, Mike Westfield..

Pat turned the meeting over to the new commodore, Dick Herman. After a few comments (see The Commodore's Log), he introduced the eight new members in attendance. Don Person took the floor to present the "Potter Yachter of the Year" award to Pat Brennan for his service to the club as Secretary/Treasurer. Pat graciously received the plaque to loud applause. Without doubt, Pat's quiet and dedicated efforts are the glue that binds the club together. Don also acknowledged Judy Blumhorst and Jerry Barrileaux as Potter Yachters of the decade. Their dedication to, and work for our club has been instrumental in making it a success.

The first order of new business was Cruiser Challenge VIII. Dick explained how an ad hoc committee had explored the feasibility of reintroducing a racing format into the Cruiser Challenge and had secured a tentative race date of Saturday, July 28, with the Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club. After a brief discussion, the membership voted to sponsor the event and for the committee to move forward.

Dave Bacon has agreed to chair the race committee. Wes Harrison has designed the Cruiser Challenge logos in the past. They have always been eye catchers and he has some terrific ones ready for this year. Don asked the membership to look them over and vote for the ones they liked the best. So put the annual fun race and social event on your calendar for the weekend of 28 & 29 July 2007, at Monterey, Ca.

After a brief discussion, it was agreed to continue the annual dues at twenty-five dollars per year and keep the newsletter open to all on the web. A brief discussion was held about publicity and promoting the clubs activities, and holding a training seminar on safety and trailering. Bruce Hood agreed to explore the latter to see if something could be arranged.

After a short recess, Dick recognized Dory Taylor with a show of appreciation for all that he has done for the Potter Yachters. Dory was one of the founding members in April 1978, and one of the sparkplugs animating the Potter Yachters. The membership responded with a loud round of applause and well wishes. The meeting ended with the traditional gift exchange as everyone looked forward to another great Potter sailing year.

The Officer's Club

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Muddy Duck

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Sailing Hosts Help

The key to a successful Potter sailing event is the host. A prime example is the Tomales overnighter in September, which is one of our more popular events. Eric Zilbert puts it together every year and the Potters keep coming back. If you've sailed much with the Potters, you'll notice that the same stalwarts keep hosting or helping with the same events. Jerry Barrileaux, Rich McDevitt, Dave Kautz, Dave White, Don Person, Bruce Hood, and Pat Brennan come quickly to mind.

Maybe you've noticed that three of this year's sailing events are asterisked. That's because we haven't been able to line up a host. It doesn't take much to be a sailing host. Do a little homework; work out directions to get there, check the tides, devise a tentative sailing plan, make sure the event is publicized in the preceding newsletter (Mike and Janet Dolan are more than willing to help); and be there when people show up. Then it is just a matter of getting everyone talking to each other. Things pretty much take care of themselves after that. If you feel like it, write up an after action report for the newsletter.

It's pretty simple and can be fun. Hey, folks, help if you can. It is one of the things that make the Potter Yachters work.



Commodore Dick Herman in Muddy Duck

The Captain's Locker

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. Here's one to start things rolling.

GPS's are wonderful things and I used mine to swing my compass. I discovered that I could get a magnetic heading readout off my Garmin, so when I was sailing on Lake Folsom, I turned to 090 on my compass and checked it against the GPS. The compass was reading 095, or five degrees high. I then turned to 180 and did the same. This time it was pretty accurate. When I turned to 270, the compass was reading 260 degrees, or ten degrees low. I had to start the engine to make 360, and again, the compass was pretty accurate. I made a mental note of the differences and apply them when I turn to a heading in the eastern or western quadrant. If my desired heading is between 045 and 135, I subtract five degrees. If my desired heading is between 225 and 315, I add ten degrees. Piece of cake.

Dick Herman

Good Sailing to All !!!

Patrick Brennan
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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*