



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Club

July 2003



Sail Calendar

June 28 and 29: Eagle Lake (make it a long weekend.)

July 1 through 7: Delta anchor out and fireworks cruise. Extension up to 7 days.

July 18-20: SCA Cruiser Challenge, Monterey Bay

August 10 Redwood City Day Sail

August 23 and 24 Richmond to Loch Lomond with overnight at Richmond Harbor

Sept 6: Oakland Estuary Day Sail

September 20-21: Enchanted weekend at Tomales Bay

October 5: Daysail at Richmond

October 18-19: Monterey Harbor

Big July 18th Weekend in Monterey as Potter Sailors Head for the Cruiser Challenge

Cruiser Challenge V, sponsored by Small Craft Advisor Magazine, and The Potter Yachters, promises to be a continuation of many great Monterey weekends experienced in the past. The regular mail edition of "The Potter Yachter" contains a special four page insert with complete information. You don't have to race in order to enjoy the events, and even the races are "low key" The Monterey Yacht Club, and the Marina are wonderful hosts. (Computer users go to "SCA Cruiser Challenge V" website for more info, registration, etc.)

July 1st , Potter Skippers Launch in the Delta at Brannan Island, Will Sail to Mandeville Tip to Watch July 4th Fireworks on a Delta Cruise

Led by experienced "Delta Rat" Pete Pillsbury, Launch will be at 10 am on July 1st. From Brannan Island. The group will anchor out at Mildred Island on the 2nd and 3rd, then up anchor from Mildred and sail for Mandeville Tip to see the 4th of July Fireworks. On the 5th some will haul out and head for home, but for those who wish to, some may linger a few days more. Pete sails Santana 2023 "Kyra's Joy", and can be reached at (831) 457 8407

Ever Wonder What a P-15 Centerboard Looks Like ?



Larry Costa at Left, helps P-15 Skipper Dave Lawson, after Dave had the misfortune of hitting an underwater obstruction and having "Schatz" Centerboard come off the pin during the Woodward Sail Weekend. Undeterred, Dave fixed it and continued to sail the high winds.

Well , fellow P-15 Skippers..

Have you ever had your centerboard come off the pin? A similar thing happened to me Saturday at Woodward Reservoir. In my case the centerboard dropped right through the slot when I motored away from the shoal, and hung under the boat making horrible noises banging on the hull as I dragged it back to the campsite. (We had high winds all weekend.) Luckily I had lots of help from my friends in the Potter Yachters, and we cut the board loose and recovered it in shallow water. We raised the boom to give us clearance, then used the boom vang to lift the centerboard over the slot and lower it gently down until it could be guided back on to the pin. I re-rigged the centerboard lift and went sailing!

Many thanks to Pat Brennan and Larry Costa for helping hands, especially Larry, who made lifting and relocating the centerboard look easy, and to Mike Westfield who provided expert advice and, of course, took the pictures. Dave Lawson.

(Woodward was exceptionally Windy this year.. Story on Page five)

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Richmond Sail Weekend



Potter Yachter Skipper Dave Norris brings his beautiful green P-19 “WightCap” storming up the slot between Angel Island and Tiburon during the recent Potter Sail weekend at Richmond, CA. Fleet Captain Jerry Barrileaux reports that 15 Potter skippers showed up for some exciting sailing on S.F. bay.

Last Saturday we had 15 “Cute Little Boats” tied up to the guest docks at Angel Island. A power boat full of kids pulled up, they were going to have a birthday party on the Island. They jumped out on the dock and RAN over to get a closer look at Don's Yellow P.15 Sarah Anne. These little boats are kid magnets! After lunch some skippers wanted to sail around the Island, while others wanted to sail down towards San Quentin Prison. The guys that sailed around the Island reported that they had a rough time. Four P.19's and a gutsy Rich McDevitt in his P.15 Minnow sailed towards San Quentin. The trip took us on a ten mile reach. We were going faster than hull speed almost the whole trip. Rich did a great job sailing his P.15, and I have never seen him

sail so fast. I wish I had a camera because you wouldn't believe his bow wake. What a fantastic ride! I had a nice chance to test out my NEW P.19 performance rudder built by IM. I am very much impressed with the way she felt, and at no time did she try to round up. My old stock rudder split years ago (my fault!) and I had glued and screwed it together. What a great Weekend! 15-20 kn. On Sat. 15-30kn Sun,! Jerry B.

Here's Don Person's report:.

“After lunch at the Angel Island Deli, the Potter flotilla split up. Mike Westfield in his P15, Water Toy, convinced Dick Herman and his 19 foot catboat, Muddy Duck, Dave Kautz

and his P15 and me and my P15, Sarah Anne, to go around Angel Island. We started off into a 12 knot westerly wind doing lots of tacking and fighting a strong current of around four knots. Today the rip tide in The Slot” was very strong and really slowed us down. After 30 or 40 minutes it was apparent we were making little progress. We decided to motor. We gradually rounded the southeast end of the island and were into the 'slot' proper on a beam reach. Once out of the channel, we stopped our motors. With a 20 knot breeze, three foot chop and white caps all around, we were doing a lot of heeling and bouncing.

Richmond Sail , Continued

Dick reefed that very large catboat sail and I dropped my lapper. This made things comfortable.

My experience with sailing the P15 with main only is that it handles and tacks well when the wind is up. We did notice a beached and abandoned Catalina 19 in a small cove on the south shore of Angel Island. It was a reminder to pay attention and not get too close to that lee shore.

The reach around the southwest side of Angel was pure fun sailing. I guess we were doing close to hull speed, Muddy Duck reefed and Sarah Anne with just the main. We had lost sight of Dave and Mike and didn't see Mike again until we were back at the Richmond Marina, with Dave behind us.

After rounding the southeast tip of Angel Island we were somewhat in its lee and the wind slacked off to 12 to 15 knots. Dick shook out his reef and I put up the lapper and we flew back to Richmond. Dave arrived a little later and Mike quite some time later. Mike had decided to turn around and battle his way back up the channel and then cross to Richmond, which took a long time.

It was now dinner time, so some grilled steaks on their boats while the rest ate at the 'snooty' marina restaurant. A very exhilarating, adventurous day. **Don Person**

Using a GPS and Wind Gauge to Test P-15 Sail Trim and Sailing Skills

My friend Peter Allison and I went sailing a few days ago out at Black Butte Lake near Orland, California. Black Butte, is a reservoir lake created by the Army Corps of Engineers surrounded by rolling grassy hills, and some seven miles long, with a striking black basalt Butte looming over the shore near the Eagle Pass launch ramp. As we launched "Eilidh" my 1996 P-15, we took along Pete's Magellan hand held GPS, and my simple plastic "pitot tube" wind gauge. Our main goal was to have a fun afternoon of sailing, but as a secondary goal we wanted to get more familiar with how to use all the "Bells and Whistles" on the GPS. We soon were away from the shore, running downwind with a very nice steady breeze from the Northwest, tweaking the main and jib halyards, checking luff tension on the mainsail, and in general, making sure that everything was in order. As we were cruising around, we turned on the hand held GPS and set it in the cabin where it was easy to glance at, set the boat speed function to read in Knots, and got out the wind gauge. To our delight, as the day progressed the wind on the lake, which we had measured at the dock as 8 knots gusting gently to 10 and back again to 8, remained remarkably consistent over the next four or five hours. It seemed to be one of those "Perfect Wind" days. We were able to bear off on a very long beam reach with the main let out just short of luffing, and the lapper jib let out rather full and just

short of a luff,. Pete and I took turns at the helm, and would watch the GPS and call out boat speed from the reading... "3.8... 3.8... 4.1.. 4.2, 4.5," etc. We found that we were able to very precisely see the difference small variations in sail trim would make. Now, all small boat sailors, develop a very good "seat of the pants" feel for speed and trim as they gain experience. What we were finding on this day from the electronic instrument, was confirmation of when we were doing things "exactly right", and when we were making mistakes. It was very clear when we were "over sheeting" or tightening things down a tiny bit too much, or trying to "pinch" upwind a little too much... and this was often when "the seat of the pants" was not telling us soon enough. We also were learning about apparent wind vs. true wind. Under sail, the wind gauge was reading a very steady 13 knots most of the time... and on occasion we were getting readings as high as 5.1, to 5.3 knots on the GPS... by subtracting the 5kn from 13kn we get 8 knots... Which seems to confirm that both the wind gauge and the GPS speeds were pretty accurate. We went on sailing for four or five hours, enjoyed a superb sailing day, and the fun of learning more about the "gadgets". At days end, Pete, who is an, exceptional Mechanic and Sailor, Olive Grower, and Micro-Brewery owner, brought out some of his best Ale, for a toast to learning to sail better! **Bruce Hood, Ed.**

Woodward Reservoir 2003 Was a Test In HIGH Wind Sailing



Greg and Rosita Yu, and daughter shelter on the leeward side of their P-19 "Sampan" during one of the windiest Woodwards ever. Greg is the Secretary-Treasurer of "The Potter Yachters." (Mike Westfield photo)

The Potter Yachters Woodward sail had a nice turn out with about a dozen boats showing up. There was more wind than I have ever seen there. Sat was blowing 15 to 20 knots all day and it made for some fine sailing. Carlos and his family showed up with their beautiful NEW P.19. I was

amazed at how well he was able to handle his Potter in these wind conditions. Way to go Carlos! We had the usual mishaps, A person fell overboard, a centerboard came off, and a line wrapped around a prop. Everyone enjoyed the evening campfire.. Sunday it was blowing like stink! 30

gusting to 35 knots. We decided to call it a day and pull out early. The highlight of the day was seeing Dr. Judy and David's new baby little Jo Jo. He will make a fine little sailor some day. Judy is presently designing a gimbaled boat seat to put him in while sailing. Jerry B.





The Potter Yachter

July 2003

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Inside the Potter Yachter

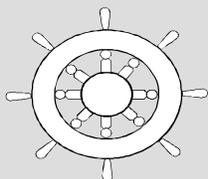
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With a Grain of Salt

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*

