



# The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Club

July 2005

## Sail Calendar 2005

**June 24, 25, 26** Eagle Lake Campout, Susanville CA. Don and Judy Person will be the leaders..

**July 16, 17**, The Cruiser Challenge, in Monterey. Annual fun race/social weekend, sponsored by The Potter Yachters, Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club, and Small Craft Advisor Magazine. Race Organizer is Commodore Emeritus Judy Blumhorst.

[cruiserchallenge@blumhorst.com](mailto:cruiserchallenge@blumhorst.com)

July 30 Richmond, Day sail

Aug. 20 Richmond-Loch Lomond

Sept. 10th, 11th, Tomales Bay weekend

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".

*"Foggy Morning at Monterey"*

Photo by Dan Phy



## Cruiser Challenge is on its Way!



That P-15 Skipper grinning from ear to ear above, while briskly reaching along on Monterey Bay, is a typical sight when Potter Yachters enter The Cruiser Challenge which takes place this year on Saturday and Sunday, July 16, 17th.  
( Photo by Rich McDevitt )

## How to Register for the Cruiser Challenge

If you are planning to attend whether racing or cruising ( you don't have to race in order to have fun ) have a look at [cruiserchallenge@blumhorst.com](mailto:cruiserchallenge@blumhorst.com). Then REGISTER ONLINE. If you don't have computer access, and are reading this in hard copy, just give Commodore Judy a call and register. (number is on the inside of this page. Please let us know if you are coming.

Lots of information is online..at [cruiserchallenge@blumhorst.com](mailto:cruiserchallenge@blumhorst.com) and an online registration form.. Which may be of interest to you even if you are not racing, for you can order, T-shirts, Hats, and cups, and make reservations for the award dinner at Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club.

Many of the Potter Yachters arrive Friday morning in Monterey and launch at the Monterey Yacht Harbor, so if you look for Potter sailboats in the Yacht Harbor parking lot, there will probably be a number of Potter Club members who can answer questions for you.

*The Commodore's Corner*



Thanks to Don Person for his great job of reporting the Eagle Lake Sail in this edition. The Eagle Lake sail is one of my favorites, but this year some other stuff intervened, so I missed going, and I can tell from Don's story I missed another great one.

Thanks are also in order for Dave White and his family, for the wonderful food and hospitality they have shared for several years now at Eagle Lake. Dave's beautiful P-19 "Wee Boat" with her shining

Scarlet hull, and sparkling red and white sails has always been a star in the Potter Fleet.

I'm in process of finishing off the fitting of a new smoke colored Plexiglas hatch for my P-15 "Eilidh", and will try and post a photo when I get it all done. Weather on the Oakland estuary has been just perfect for the past several weeks, so a lot of "The Usual Suspects" have been having some splendid sailing together on Wednesdays and Saturdays. I am getting pretty spoiled as I am only about five minutes from where my boat is stored in the Alameda Marina, and from the Grand Street launch ramp in the estuary.

The trailer sailor "Potter Forum" on the internet continues to be a terrific place to share information among all the Potter Brethren, new and old. A recent thread that appeared, was by a new P-15 sailor with his wife along, who got caught out in some very high winds, wisely dropped his sails completely and motored back to the dock and safety. He raised the question "was I too timid" to which the burden of all the responses was "absolutely not!". I noticed that some of the most experienced P-15 skippers all chimed in, and agreed that if your instinct tells you the winds and waves are more than you are comfortable with, it is completely proper to safeguard yourself, family and friends. I remember an occasion when I was living far from San Francisco a few years ago, and after driving three and a half hours to Coyote Point for a sail I looked out at white caps and foam blowing off wave tops, the flags standing straight out, and winds clearly in the twenty knot range... and I knew I had no business going out that day. I put the mast back down, re-packed the boat for traveling and proceeded on back the long drive home. I took a lot of comfort later on from my friends in the club, "old salts" who assured me I had done the right thing... just as all the good people did for another new Potter sailor, this week on the internet.



*For running downwind, poling out the jib on the opposite side so as to uncover the jib from the windshadow of the mainsail is a standard technique.*

*At left, Commodore Bruce and "Eilidh" poled out and coming home on the Oakland Estuary.*

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2005

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## *A Wonderful Weekend at Eagle Lake*



*At Left, Ron and Mona Reno sail their P-18 on Eagle Lake during the annual Potter Yachter Campout. Eagle is a beautiful high mountain lake at 5000ft. In the high sierras near Susanville, CA. Featuring great camping in the Pine trees, a favorite Potter outing.*

This year Eagle Lake really showed off. Warm breezy afternoon days, cool nights, and very few campers. The main RV campground is closed for remodeling by the Forest Service. They sent out 4000 letters warning previous years' campers. The notices must have been effective as even the walk-in camp sites at Aspen were mostly unoccupied. The amenities, water, restrooms, marina and store were first class as always and friendly, capable, hostess Karen welcomed us with her big smile.

Judy and I got in about five pm Thursday and were welcomed by ave and Cheryl White, their son, Theron, and daughter-in-law, Arlene. We got the two best campsites, IMHO. Close to parking, water, restrooms, good shade from the pine trees and breathtaking views of the lake. Ron and Mona Reno were rigging their HMS 18, #42, in the marina parking lot when I arrived with Sarah Anne, my P15. They planned to sleep anchored out on their boat. The lake is down nine feet but the ramp was quite usable and the few dangerous rocks well marked with buoys. Half of the slips were empty which is very unusual. After slipping my boat I checked out the store and picked up some ice. It always surprises me how complete the stock is. Practically

everything we brought was available plus a few items we were glad to find such as long sleeved Eagle Lake T shirts. What I forgot to pack this time were my extra shirts!

Campfires are the way to go when the evenings and mornings are cool, so we had one twice a day. There was plenty of wood left at our camp so all I had to do was some chopping and sawing. Theron and I are early risers and the morning fire and coffee warms the heart and soul as well as the body. The only early morning sounds are the fishermen's outboards, the breeze in the trees and the bird sounds. Enough wind for sailing usually comes up between ten and twelve so after cleaning up the camp and getting the next fire's wood ready, it is time to go sailing. Two more P15's arrived Friday. Steve Potter in one and Randy and Barbara Clark and their Golden Retriever, Harley, in their new to them '96. The Clarks live in Minden, Nevada. Randy's previous sailing was in a Hobie Cat and the P 15's heeling was a different sensation so he was being pretty careful. Steve lives in Vallejo on a bluff with a view of the Carquinez Straits. He sailed and raced a Melody (like a 10' El Toro) as a youngster and handles his P15

## *Eagle Lake, Cont'd*

as if it were a dinghy racer. Winds increased to 15 knots by four o'clock, so after a lot of fun sailing we dropped the sails and retired for the day.

Sitting around talking in the evening we were treated to marinated chicken kebabs prepared by Theron and Arlene. They are both chefs and the kebabs were scrumptious. They even made Two Buck Chuck Chardonnay taste like a prize winner. The Renos told a tale of misreading the tides and finding themselves at midnight in the middle of the strait of uan de Fuca in a dense fog being carried to sea by the current. At one point a voice on their VHS said "We have a small boat doing four knots on radar on a collision course". They changed course and never saw the ship. We all hit the sack early and from reports slept like logs.

Saturday was just another perfect day. Dan Rickert arrived with his Victory 21 so we were now six boats. The wind was up a little so we started off reefed but got bored so shook them out and played tag all afternoon. It was too windy for Randy in his new boat so he stayed around the marina. Dan kept his reef in so he would only be going twice as fast as the rest of us. Dave and Theron are big men so they kept Wee One pretty flat and going hull speed. Mona Reno had never sailed in a P15 and wanted to do that, so made a very agile transfer from their I8 to Sarah Anne in the middle of the lake. She really likes to sail and spent part of the time sitting on the windward side of the cabin trying to get us to go faster. There was enough wind that even a little extra weight was welcome. Ron single-handed their boat expertly as he always does. And of course Steve was sailing hull down like a banshee and flying around the lake. After three hours of this we gathered at the marina, exhilarated and feeling great.

Saturday evening the Whites hosted a

gathering. Theron and Arlene were again the stars as they handed out stick after stick of prawn kebabs. A busman's holiday for them but a wonderful treat for the rest of us. Thanks so much. Replete and relaxed after dinner, some more Two Buck Chuck and a wee drop of Scotch for those so inclined we visited around the crackling campfire. Dan, who lives in Clear Creek, near Lake Almanor, less than an hour's drive away, took off for home. Mona, Ron and Steve left to sleep on their boats. Steve had decided it would be warmer in the P 15 cabin than in his tent.

In the middle of the night there was a light sprinkle of rain but everything was dry by the time we got up. Sunday we found we all had Monday commitments so broke camp and retrieved our boats. Randy Clark had been fishing earlier and caught two of the beautiful Eagle Lake trout. This gave him bragging rights as Steve was skunked both days. After a fond farewell to Karen and a last, for this year, long look around we headed for home. I wish you all could have been there. Eagle Lake is always beautiful but this year the weather, and sailing wind, were perfect. Think about it for next year.

Don Person, Judy, and "Sarah Anne"



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



*At Left, Dan Rickert's "Victor E.". This boat was crushed under ten feet of snow in a huge Sierra snowstorm...Dan rescued "the wreckage", and began a long slow rebuild of the beautiful old 21 footer, which he bought for the princely sum of one dollar! Several years, and a lot of work later, and Dan sailed "Victor" at the Monterey trailer sailor Cruiser Challenge.. And ran away from the fleet. Dan lives not far from Eagle Lake, often sails with the Potters there.*

*A typical evening sky at Eagle Lake. In the campgrounds under the huge Ponderosa Pines on the south end of the lake, the Potter Yachters camp out in their tents, light the campfires, and end another day of good sailing socializing with one another and enjoying good food, drink, and conversation. Eagle is a fairly long haul from the Bay Area, but well worth taking the time to visit for three or four days. Photos by Don Person..*



*Mona Reno walked the plank from their P-18, and landed in the cockpit of Don Person's P-15 "Sara Anne", in order to experience the fun of sailing a tough, perky, West Wight Potter 15 for the first time.*

*The group at Eagle experienced the usual mild air in the morning and building wind in the afternoon, which is typical of Eagle Lake in summertime. It can be important to stay alert on Eagle, as it is possible to experience the occasional heavy gust, seeming to come out of nowhere. The Lake is almost 14 miles long, and is home of the famous "Eagle Lake Trout".*



# The Potter Yachter

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July 2005

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## Inside the Potter Yachter

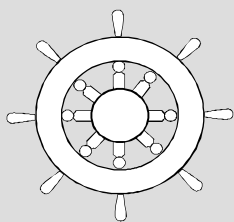
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## With a Grain of Salt

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*

