



The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Club

June 2007

Sailing & Event Calendar

May 19 & 20, 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 Potter Yachters 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. Sail Host, Dave Meredith

Woodward Revisited



There is always something that makes an event memorable. This year Woodward will be remembered for the outstanding pot luck diner. Dan and Gretchen Ricker's camp was the center of attention when they started cooking chili and cornbread in dutch ovens. When it was time to eat it didn't take long for the line to form. It was a feast unparalleled in the recent past.

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While the Commodore is away

Our Commodore is on a mission to England and Europe, so I will fill this space with a reminder that there are some great events on the horizon. Eagle Lake is coming up later this month in northern, way up north, California, with Dave White as the host. It is remote and it is a beautiful setting that provides great sailing and a fantastic bar-b-que.

Then in July is a whale watching sail from Richmond to Loch Loman. Is that right, it sounds rather Scottish. And, the whales are probably gone out to sea. All is not lost, the fish and chips are worth the voyage across the treacherous shipping lanes of San Francisco's north bay.

Near the end of July, the event of the season, the one we have been waiting for, the Cruiser Challenge. Back in racing form the Cruiser Challenge is the premier small cruiser gathering along the central coast. All of the pocket cruisers come to enjoy historic Monterey, spirited sailing and great comradery.

These cruisers, should provide you with some good fun in three distinct venues. From the mountain lake of northern California to Monterey Bay. If you can't make it to any of these scheduled events then check out the unscheduled but regular outings that take place during the week in and around Alameda or Redwood City.

If you find a place that you would like to share, write to us and we will see that your letter finds a place in a future *Newsletter*. There are some Potters out there who are on the hunt for that new lake or back water that will provide a excellent sailing experience. Good or bad, share with us your adventures in writing or photos. We are eager to hear from you.

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Woodward beach
Photo by Don Person



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EAGLE LAKE SAIL & CAMPOUT JUNE 23 & 24

Eagle Lake offers really good sailing and the camp grounds are excellent, making for a truly fun outing. Our family will actually set up camp on Monday, June 18th. Do consider attending, even if you've never done so before. Like all Potter events, the more boats and people, the more fun we have.

Campsites are among tall pines, nicely shaded, with views of the lake. There are good walking and bike trails, and good fishing, so we hear (and so we've tasted - we really hope the fishermen come and join the potluck!). Also, campsites are clean and well cared-for, as are the restrooms (just close enough).



There is a beach and swim area: the water is "warm" for a high mountain lake. We will host the Saturday evening POTLUCK dinner: bring your favorite dish - no real structure here but we've always had lots of good things to eat. We never know how many will show up; last year we think there were about 32 people. The evenings can be quite cool, so dress for mountain camping.

Eagle Lake Host, Dave White and the Gaelic Horse

Regarding the sailing, the winds are usually very good. Mornings are often calm, with winds picking up in the late

morning/early afternoon, usually out of the southwest.

For most of us, the drive there is a long one, so make a long weekend of it if you can. There are a few somewhat steep climbs, so take your tow vehicle and trailer into consideration when planning the trip.

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Eagle Lake (Continued from page 3)

⌘ SPECIFICS

Campsite cost: \$18 per night, tent camping at "Aspen Grove." Sites include tables and fire rings. Restrooms nearby with sinks. No reservations; first come, first served.

Marina slips: \$12 per night. You cannot "camp" on your boat at the marina, but you can anchor out. Phone (530)825-3454 for reservations.



Firewood is for sale at the campsites. Showers are at the marina: purchase tokens inside the marina store.

⌘ The store is decently stocked for forgotten items.

RV sites available: call (530)825-3212.

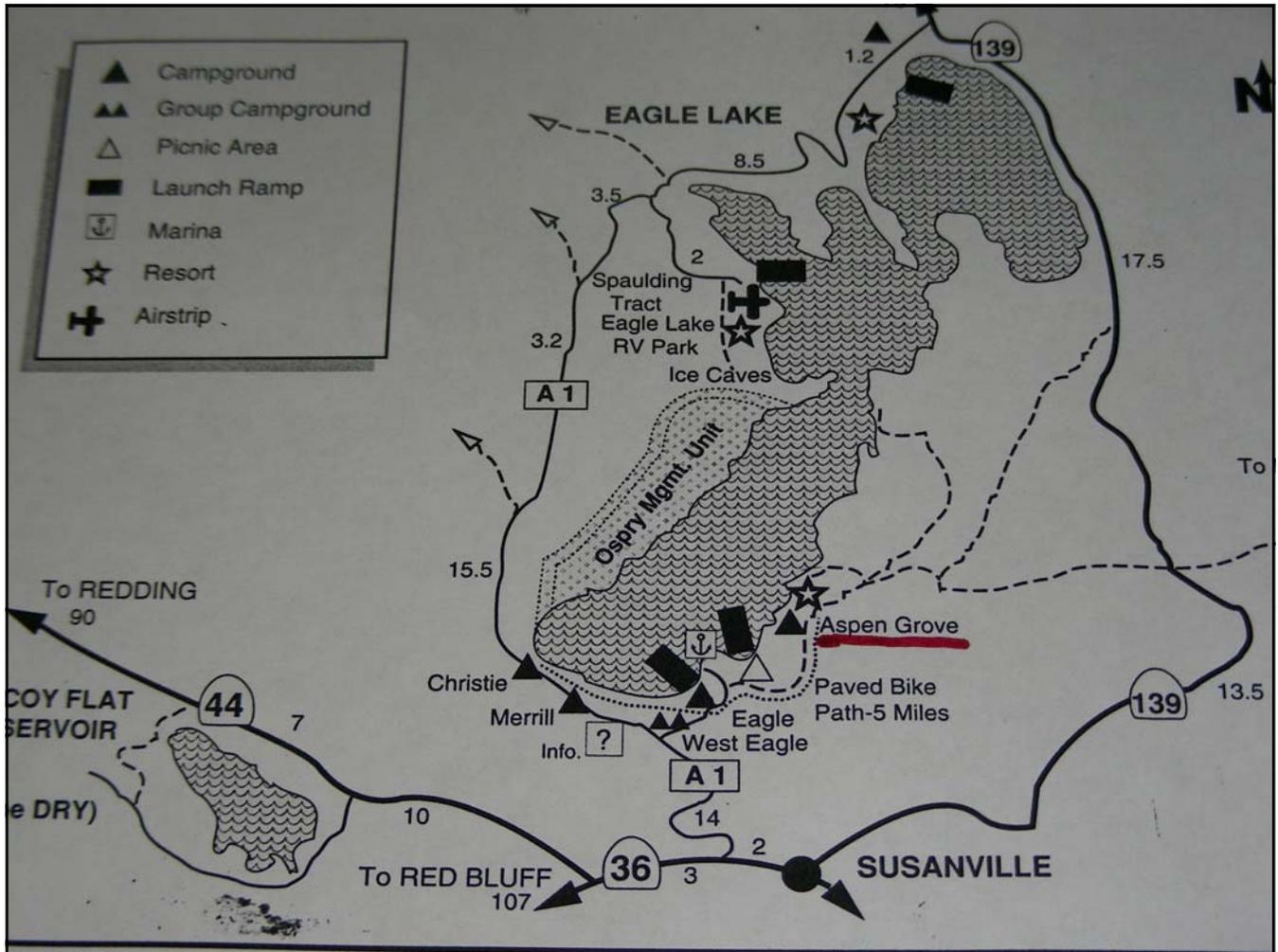
ROUTES

There are several ways to arrive at Eagle Lake. Here are the basics, but grab a map if you are unfamiliar with the area.

Way #1: take I-5 to Red Bluff; use Highway 36 to Road A1 to Eagle Lake.

Way #2: take I-5 to Redding; use Highway 44 east to Highway 36 to Road A1 to Eagle Lake.

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Eagle Lake

Way#3: take I-80 to Highway 395 north to Susanville; take Highway 36 west to Road A1 to Eagle Lake.

David & Cheryl White
Theron & Arlene White
Wee Boat P19 out of Fair Oaks, CA

Contact us: (916)965-8480, available June 4th through June 17th. email at weeboatl@aol.com

(The Commodores Log, Continued from page 1)

Then we settled into tall stories around the camp fire. It was told the next morning that all of the worlds problems were solved in the wee hours of the morning, by those who kept the fire alive by the use of friendly spirits.



Twelve Potters, a Montgomery, a Venture and a wind surfing Steve Potter, made up the fleet of new and seasoned PY's . We took up more of the lake front than ever before, with each of us taking an improved (sic) camp site. The winds varied through the day, skies were clear. Steve Potter who always has something new brought two wind surf boards, then he rode the board across the lake and back without getting his clothes wet. It was great to have some new Potter owners join this year.

Dan and Gretchen have joined some recent outings, (Gretchen wrote an article for the *May Newsletter*) came with their classic Potter. Pam and her husband, whose name eludes me, were also a welcome addition.

Fire fighters, sheriffs officers and emergency services personnel were active near our camp. Fires are becoming a part of the annual event at Woodward. This year it appeared to be a downed plane that was the cause. Radio controlled plane, ok. Emergency services responded to a nearby camp to air lift a camper out, and the usual sheriff routs of annoying campers.



If there was anything that could have made the weekend better it would have been a little more wind in the afternoon. As it was, the wind calmed and it warmed up, send some to the shade of the trees. The improved part on the camp ground is that it was mowed all the way to the water, which did cut down on the bugs.

Breakfast in Alameda, on a wintery day

by Jerry Kergan

I left Concord for the Potter Yachters' scheduled sail of Saturday April 14th, with some concerns for the forecast calling for morning rain which was expected to be heavy at times. But our host for the day, Bruce Hood, had floated a plan-B by way of the Trailer Sailor Bulletin Board, suggesting if conditions didn't look good for sailing, we might adjourn to a local eatery for breakfast, and to wait for the expected clearing for better conditions around noon. This enticing option made the trip worthwhile whether I managed to get out on the water or not.



Under gray skies, I was on the road to be at the Grand Street ramp, Alameda, around 9:00 AM for a projected launching by 10:00. Along the way changing conditions demanded wipers to clear away the occasional mist from the windshield. Upon arrival, the lot was dry, and I was alone to wait to see how many others would brave to forecast and make a showing.

Mike Swartz was next, arriving with the beginnings of a significant downpour. He grabbed his raincoat from the back of his truck, and joined me in my Explorer to share the thermos of hot coffee I had brought along. In no time we were joined by Dave Kautz to swap tall tales of recent sails and drink more coffee while we waited for Bruce Hood to show.

Just before 10:00 AM Bruce slid into the remaining back-seat space where it was quickly agreed that breakfast in dry indoor environs would be welcome by all. While Bruce left to further coordinate with Dan Phy, John Wheeler and Pat Brennan who would be joining up at breakfast, his seat was taken by Mike's nephew, Greg Ocano, who would be crewing with Mike for the day.

Following a leisurely Breakfast at the South Shore Café (Mike and Greg raved about the Eggs Benedict & Corned Beef Hash,) skies were still



Breakfast at South Shore Cafe, Alameda

dark with falling rain. Dave suggested killing still a bit more time with a visit to Svendsen's Marine. This was a first for me, and certainly won't be my last visit. With the recent changes in West Marine's marketing plan we are seeing dwindling support for sailing at the inland storefronts that I frequent. Display space dedicated to sailing has been cut by half, if not more, in favor of the power boaters that dominate local waters. I encourage any who have not yet visited Svendsen's to do so sooner rather than later. You will be amazed at the extensive inventory displayed in such an orderly manor as to make shopping for sailing solutions an absolute pleasure.

Back at the lot, Mike had his P-19, Burgundy Splash, rigged and ready to go. Dave shared his Svendsen's treasures with Mike and Greg; then we



turned to our P-15s while Mike sailed off to secure a berth for the night at Fortman Marina. By 1:00 pm, our little fleet, now joined by Dan Phy on his Montgomery 15 with Bruce Hood as crew, was on the water tacking down the Estuary into 6-10 knot winds.

With blue skies peeking through dominant gray clouds, conditions were beginning to look much better. Fifteen minutes out of Grand Street, as Mike and I made traded frequent passes on opposite tacks, I made the fatal blunder of commenting on Mike and Greg's foul-weather dress. It couldn't have been ten minutes later that the skies opened up. I'm covered up in no time, but the wind driven rain is somehow finding every opening in my gear. I was miserable!

By the time I had questioned myself thoroughly on the likes of "why are you doing this?" and "What part of this is fun?" the rains had past leaving us to dry out under an overcast that didn't seem too threatening. The rest of the day was spent making multiple trips down to the Inner Harbor Turning Basin and back to Grand Street.

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Throughout the day the winds, which were coming straight up the Estuary from the northwest, continued to build. We had white-caps and all the expected indices of high winds; conditions not often found on the Estuary by my experience. I estimated the winds at 25 knots, but kept shaking that conclusion off as unlikely or imposable on these sheltered waters. On meeting up with Mike and Greg back at the Grand Street lot, I learned that Mike had taken one measurement of a 25 knot blow with 30 knot gusts. By all expectations, we were seeing late afternoon winds gusting to the 35 knot range. What a ride it was!

At days end, the hearty holdouts, who stayed out later than we should, marveled at our growing skills and the events of the day. All made it home safely to sail again with the Potter Yachters very soon.

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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*