



# The Potter Yachter

Newsletter of the Northern California West Wight Potter Club

March 2006

## Sailing & Event Calendar 2006

March 5, 'Secrets of Sails' Oakland Yacht Club

March 19, Day sail. "USS Thompson", Redwood City.

April 8 & 9, Launch at B&W Marina in the Delta, sail to Korth's Pirate's Lair .

April 23, Sail Expo, Jack London Square, on the Estuary , Launch at Grand St. Alameda.

May 6 & 7. "The Delta Cruise, overnight. Launch and Venue TBA.

(TBA). Usual Suspects North to Puget Sound. (FYI) recommended for experienced sailors only.

June 3 & 4, Woodward Annual campout near Oakdale, CA.

June 24 & 25, Eagle Lake Campout, Susanville CA.

July "The Cruiser Challenge" in Monterey. Annual fun race/social weekend, sponsored by Potter Yachters/MPYC. (TBA)

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

Sept. 2, Day sail, Richmond to Pier 39.

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

Oct. 14 & 15, Monterey Overnighter

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

## Hi-Tech Sails or not?

Most Potter owners of older boats at some point or another, will begin to wonder if purchasing a new set of sail will make a significant improvement in ( 1.) The boat's performance (2.) The skipper's performance! (3.) A little of both! I wish I had a clear answer to the question.. and a number of years back when I invested in a new set of North Sails for my P-15 "Aillte", I could definitely detect a slight increase in speed, and definitely could get the boat to point a few degrees higher without stalling for at least the first two or three years use of those sails.. However... that said, over the years, in racing for the windward mark with a number of my "Old Salt" friends in the Potter yachters, all it took was one bad tack or slow decision, and sometimes not even that, to see other boats well ahead of me. On other occasions sailing with friends

like Harry Gordon, Jerry Barrileaux, and Pat Brennan, all of whom sail P-15's some thirty years old, and with sails that were far from brand new, both while riding along with them, and chasing them, I have learned that the little Potter's speed and sailing efficiency has a lot more to do with the degree of experience of the skipper, rather than any special "high tech" equipment. Jerry B. credits "tiller time" as the key ingredient in creating a good Potter Sailor, and there is little doubt that lots of experience on the water is the real "secret", if there can be said to be such a thing. Having good sails, your boat set up and rigged well, is very satisfying and rewarding, and then the other key ingredient to remember is... make some plans to get out on the water this weekend, and the weekend after that.. because that is where the fun is! Cheers, "The Scotsman"

## Security Information for San Francisco Bay and Surrounding

The following URL will get a great two-page brochure from the California Department Of Boating and Waterways giving most all of the security regulations related to Airports, Bridges, Oil Refinery Piers, the Suisun "Mothball" Naval Fleet and much more.

It is only two pages of a well done color brochure but it is a lengthy 4.66 MB download

< <http://dbw.ca.gov/PDF/AWWBrochure.pdf> >

Capt. Dave Norris

P-19 "Wight Cap"

## From the Editor

Our P-15 is sitting in the driveway. Its time to get her ready for another year of sailing, not that there is that much do. One major decision was made and that was naming her. After almost two years we decided to name her "Lizzie D", after my Grandmother. I think my Grandmother would approve of the Potters attributes.

The battery needed charging, and the battery box hold down is broken, so I need a strap to hold the box down. Then there is that stiff batten in the sail. I want to try one that is more flexible. I am going to the Sail Clinic on March 5, to find out more about sails. I don't have years of experience, so I might get something out new sails. I just want to keep the Alameda regulars in sight.

That is another thing, getting more experience sailing on San Francisco Bay, and Monterey Bay. Since most of our sailing is on Anderson Lake, being so close to where we live, sailing on the Bays are a challenge. With currents and tides and all of those sea lions. So, we are going to start at the end of the month with the USS Thompson day sail out of Redwood City. A very interest article about the *USS Thompson* was published in *The Potter Yachter*, May 2003.

So it goes, as you know, there are always the little things that need to be done. I am trying to get a few little things done in time for that first sail on San Francisco Bay in our Lizzie D.



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## **Anchoring Practice & Sail to the Thompson**

Join the Potter Yachters for the first organized sail of the season at the Port of Redwood City. The present plan is to launch at 10AM and sail out the channel and across the Bay to the flats off Union City and visit the remains of the USS Thompson. The Thompson is a navy ship from the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that was scuttled in the South Bay during WWII and used for target practice by pilots from nearby Moffett Field.



**Anchoring Practice:** The shallow, muddy bottom is an easy place to anchor so let's stop adjacent to the Thompson, practice our anchoring skills and stop long enough to enjoy a **picnic lunch**.

**Directions to the Redwood City launch ramp:** Take Highway 101 to the Woodside Road / Seaport Boulevard exit and follow the signs onto Seaport Blvd. Proceed on Seaport to the second traffic signal at Chesapeake. Make a left into the industrial park and go straight to the end of the street – you should see the ramp on your right and the parking lot on your left. The launch fee is \$5.00 deposited in a self-serve envelope, so bring exact change.

**Hope to see you there!**

Dave Kautz

## **Secrets of the Sails**

On Sunday March 5th, Kame Richards of Pineapple Sails will offer some insight into sail design/building, and specifically into his new Mylar film sails for the Potter Yachts. This discussion will be held on Dock #3 at the Oakland Yacht Club Marina, starting at 11:15am. The Potter Yachters are coordinating this lecture, and one of their members, Dave Bacon, will have his West Wight Potter 15 on display with his new Mylar Pineapple Sails. Sunday buffet Brunch in the Oakland Yacht Club will be available in the dining room from 9am to 11:00am. Be sure and sign in as "Potter Yachters



# *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*